

A Box Full of Tales: More information

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Why Story Boxes?

- Story Boxes save you time.
- Story Boxes give you new perspectives.
- Story Boxes bridge the gap between staff members.
- Story Boxes provide thematic unity for your programs.
- Story Boxes set a programming standard for your system.
- Story Boxes increase your program quality.
- Story Boxes are perfect for training and cross-training.
- Story Boxes change and grow with your needs.

The Big Picture: Things to Think About

- Who will participate?
- How many weeks will your Story Box cycle encompass?
- How many Story Boxes will you need?
- Who will be responsible for creating Story Boxes?
- How will you rotate the Story Boxes?
- How will you get buy-in from other staff (librarians, circulation staff, delivery staff)

A Sample Season Timeline Using Story Boxes

Fall Session (September-November)

May 10: Story Box topics due to scheduler

May 15: Scheduler send out box rotation schedule

June 1: Publicity information due to PR department

June-August: Staff members create Story Boxes.

August 1: Craft/coloring sheet samples due to other branches so that volunteers and staff can begin preparing craft materials for the season.

Last week of August: Fall Story Box rotation begins

First week of December: Boxes are returned to their creators, who dismantle them, check in books and materials, and look at feedback

For more information about setting up a Story Box system, including 50 ready-to-go box themes, see *A Box Full of Tales: Easy Ways to Share Library Resources Using Story Boxes* by Kathy MacMillan (ALA Editions, 2008, ISBN 0838909604).

A Box Full of Tales

MLA Conference

May 15, 2009

Participant Generated Ideas for Story Boxes

Theme: Sounds All Around

Search terms: animal sounds, music, noise, musical instruments, onomatopoeia

Books:

Can You Growl Like a Bear by John Butler (nice illustrations, animal sounds)

Everywhere the Cow Says Moo by Weinstein (international focus)

Peek a Choo Choo by Cimarusti (guess the transportation behind flap, good for toddlers)

Mice Squeak, We Speak by Tomie dePaola (animal sounds, nice pictures, simple language, good for toddlers)

Snow Sounds by Johnson (beautiful illustrations)

Who Hoots? By Davis (colorful, animal sounds, good for toddlers)

Flannelboards

Bertie and the Bear by Allen (good for flannelboard)

Too Much Noise by McGovern

Fingerplay:

Two little dickeybirds sat on a cloud

One named soft and one named LOUD

Fly away soft! Fly away LOUD!

Come back soft! Come back LOUD!

Music:

Seals on the Bus by Hort

Boy on the Bus by Dale (use tune while reading book)

Playing musical instruments: loud, soft, fast, slow, etc

“Old McDonald” with puppets

Soft and loud game: Make a giant arrow out of cardboard and use it to control the volume while everyone sings. Have them sing a song everyone knows. When you put the arrow up, they sing loudly. When you point it down, they sing softly. When it's in the middle, they sing at a normal volume.

Craft: instruments made from paper plates or toilet paper tubes, then have parade

Theme: Eric Carle

The Very Hungry Caterpillar with props

From Head to Toe with actions (follow with “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes”)

Brown Bear, Brown Bear with flannelboard

Ten Little Ducks (follow up with a pool full of plastic ducks to count, acting like ducks, singing “6 Little Ducks”)

The Mixed-Up Chameleon flannelboard (pattern can be found in Storytime Magic by MacMillan and Kirker)—mixed up chameleon craft
My Apron using apron
The Very Busy Spider (follow with “The Itsy Bitsy Spider”, make a spider web with yarn, “There’s a Spider on My Head” by Raffi)
The Grouchy Ladybug (follow with ladybug rhyme, give each child a sticker to be a ladybug on their finger, guess how many ladybugs in the jar)
Talk about Eric Carle—trivia and author info mixed in with activities
Rooster’s Off to See the World—act out the story

Theme: Hop, Skip, and Jump

Search terms: hop, skip, jump, frog, bounce, bunny, kangaroo, stop, leap, turn, twist, dance, movement

Books:

Jump Frog Jump by Kalan (big book)
Boing by Bruel
Bounce by Cronin
Ready, set, Skip by O’Connor
Hop Jump by Walsh
Emily Loves to Bounce by King (with stuffed animals or puppets)

Flannelboards:

5 Little monkeys
1, 2, 3 Jump by Lively
I Went Walking with hopping/jumping animals

Fingerplays/music:

Sign language Simon Says game with signs JUMP, DANCE, STOP
Little frog
Pop Goes the Weasel
See How I Jump
Simon Says
Jumping and Counting by Jim Gill
The Bunny Hop
See the sleeping bunnies
Sammy by Hap Palmer
“Stop and Go” by Ella Jenkins
Jump by Milkshake
Freeze Dance
Jump High, Jump Low
If You’re Happy and You Know it
“Jack Be Nimble”—bring candlestick for children to jump over and call them by name

Theme: At the Zoo

Search terms: zoo, animals, jungle, animal sounds, specific animals

Books:

Seals on the Bus by Hort

Dear Zoo by Campbell (with puppets or stuffed animals)

Peek-a-Zoo by Cimarusti (good for toddlers)

Do Monkeys Tweet? By Walsh

Do Zebras Have Stripes? By Walsh

Zoo Parade by Ziefert (with actions)

Zoo Poo by Morgan

At the Zoo by Florian (teach signs for animals)

1, 2, 3 to the Zoo by Carle (teach signs for numbers, animals)

Good Night, Gorilla by Rathmann

Baby Beebee Bird by Massie

Wild About Books by Sierra

Flannelboards:

Sam Who Never Forgets by Rice

My Camera at the Zoo by Marshall

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? By Carle

Caps for Sale

Fingerplays/songs:

1001 Rhymes and Fingerplays p. 158-164

Animal Opposites in Storytime Magic p 56

Raffi—Going to the Zoo, Animal Antics

5 little monkeys

Elephant Hokey Pokey

The Elephant goes like this and that

Rumble rumble in the jungle

If you want to be an (animal)...(tune of "If You're happy and you know it")

I Went to Visit the Zoo One Day (tune of "I took a walk to town...")

Crafts:

Lunchbag puppets or paper plate masks

Craft stick puppets