

# Let's READ FOR FUN



Despite our high hopes of resuming home visits early this fall, Covid-19 seems to be putting up roadblocks! Since we won't be doing our storytelling in person in the near future, we thought we would send you a newsletter. In addition to our reading suggestions, you'll find ideas for activities for parents and children and information on a variety of topics related to reading and/or deafness.

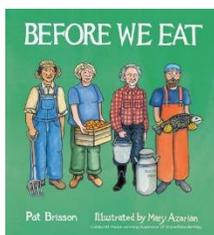
The spirit of the AQEPA *Read for Fun* program is to support you in inspiring your children to become life-long readers and lovers of language.

As you peruse these suggestions at your own pace, keep in mind that the important thing is to have fun and share good times with your family!

## Our tips for good reads and activities

The finery of fall may be fading, but there's nothing stopping us from prolonging the pleasure by plunging into the books below! Get out your blankies, snuggle down on your porch or park bench, and immerse yourselves in a good book!

First, a look at what's been growing all summer long:



**Before We Eat**, by Pat Brisson and Mary Azarian, Tilbury House, 2014 (ages 0-4)

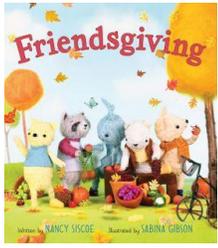
As the earth serves up the bounty of a summer's worth of work, this book reminds us that many people are involved in getting food to our tables. With detailed and colourful illustrations, the authors take us from farm (and ocean) to table with a gentle reminder to be thankful to those behind the scenes. Younger children can name the animals and vehicles, older ones will likely be more interested in the workers and what they do.

- ♥ A springboard for a discussion on food and where it comes from, what you planted and harvested in your gardens or on your balconies this fall, what you plan to seed when spring (finally!) announces its return... In the meantime, take advantage of rainy day to spend some time in the kitchen with your children. Or take your children on a guided tour of the produce section at the grocery store to admire the offerings and name the fruits and vegetables, maybe try out some unfamiliar ones.

And while you have your aprons on, check out these ideas with your junior chefs:

- ♥ [Autumn cooking with kids](#) (Rainy Day Mum)
- ♥ [Cooking with kids](#) (Dairy Farmers of Canada) and a tasty pumpkin soup [recipe](#)

Thanksgiving may be over, but “friendsgiving” can go on and on!



**Friendsgiving**, by Nancy Siscoe and Sabina Gibson, HarperCollins, 2020 (ages 3 and up)

In unusual photo format, three furry friends enjoy all the activities that fall has to offer: biking, farmers’ markets, apple picking, jumping in leaves and more! Although the parties will have to wait, there’s no reason why you can’t do a test run with your family. Lots of dialogue to help you model expression - read it often enough and you’ll be able share the “script” with your children!

- ♥ Head outside to collect leaves for your fall craft and decorating projects. Don’t forget to talk about the different colours. Which are dark or pale, have smooth or jagged edges? Get out your forest guides and identify some different types of trees. Glue the leaves in a home-made herbarium and write the names under the different species – you can leaf (☺) through it as you wait for spring! Cut leaves out of paper to make your own “thankful” tree. ...

Learn some new rhymes that will warm you up in the crisp autumn air:

- ♥ [Apple Picking Song](#) (dance along with this one!)
- ♥ [Autumn leaves are falling down!](#) (action song)

And lastly, a story about team spirit and what winning really means:



**The Golden Acorn**, by Katy Hudson, Capstone, 2019 (ages 4 and up)

On a backdrop of golden leaves, this fast-paced story will have you rooting for the team! Squirrel is the competitive sort but quickly learns that not all his friends have the same talents. Read about how this resourceful team makes it to the finish line... and wins without coming first!

- ♥ A whole host of verbs to help you expand your child’s vocabulary: *gather, overtake, pace, plop, untangle, moan, groan, pry, heave...* Make a point of using them whenever you get a chance. Talk about the range of emotions that Squirrel experiences: excitement at the start of the race, impatience with her slower friends, determination to succeed, loneliness and loyalty.

While we’re talking about emotions, here’s an article that expands on the topic:

- ♥ [How to help children understand and cope with their emotions](#) (AboutKidsHealth)
- ♥ [Feelings in ASL](#) (ASL Nook)

Here are some classics that children have loved over the years:

- ♥ **The Itsy Bitsy Pumpkin**, by Sonali Fry and Sanja Rešček, Simon & Schuster, 2014
- ♥ **Apples and Pumpkins**, by Anne Rockwell and Lizzy Rockwell, Simon & Schuster, 1989
- ♥ **We’re Going on a Leaf Hunt**, by Steve Metzger and Miki Sakamoto, Scholastic, 2005
- ♥ **Leaves**, by David Ezra Stein, Scholastic, 2007
- ♥ **Bear Says Thanks**, by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman, Simon & Schuster, 2012
- ♥ **Little Goose’s Autumn**, by Elli Woollard and Briony May Smith, Macmillan, 2020 – so not technically a classic yet, but I bet it will be!
- ♥ **Room on the Broom**, by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, Macmillan, 2017
- ♥ **The Fox and the Falling Leaves**, by Julia Rawlinson and Tiphonie Beeke, Scholastic, 2006

## Remember...

As we've said before: **If you have to read them 100 times, you'd better make sure you love them!** To find these books and so many others, visit your local library or a bookstore in your area. Whether you visit in person or online, whether you borrow hard copy or digital books, you'll see that the joy of reading is waiting for you with open arms!

Take note that if you'd like to refresh your stock of books, you can also request a *Read for Fun* shipment. Just let us know and we'll pop a box in the mail! **The books listed above are among those available – first come, first serve...!**

Remember that as parents, you are the most important reading role models for your children. What are you reading these days? The *Read for Fun* team reads for fun too – here's a sample of what we're into now:

- ♥ *LAB Girl*, Hope Jahren, Vintage Books, 2017
- ♥ *Obsidian*, Thomas King, Dead Dog Café Productions, 2020
- ♥ *This is How You Lose Her*, Junot Diaz, Riverhead Books, 2012
- ♥ *Beyond the Trees*, Adam Shoalts, Allen Lane, 2019

Share your suggestions with us too!

## Fun in other forms

Observe and create:

- ♥ [7 fun fall activities for kids](#) (CBC Parents)
- ♥ [Fall scavenger hunt](#) (CBC Parents)

Watch:

- ♥ [Make reading a conversation](#) (Dialogic Reading)
- ♥ Online children's theatre, Saturdays LIVE on video at 10:30am: [Centaur Theatre](#)

Listen:

- ♥ Podcast for children aged 3 and up: [Goodnight Meditation](#) (hearing devices required, and perhaps a little parental modelling for younger children)
- ♥ Podcast for parents: [The Habits of Happiness](#) with Matthieu Ricard (TED Ideas Worth Spreading) – not recent but certainly relevant!

Other reading suggestions:

- ♥ COVID-19: [Coping strategies](#) (Montreal Gazette article)
- ♥ [Create a cozy reading nook](#) (OttawaLife Magazine)
- ♥ [Create the perfect reading nook](#) (AlloProf article)
- ♥ [Why some people become lifelong readers](#) (The Atlantic article)



## Did you know that...

Toddlers who leaf through books on their own every day are more motivated to read for pleasure in elementary school... and that motivation leads to better academic results in high school!<sup>1</sup>

But to get there, you need to read *with* your children, to generate that interest. So read, read, read with your children! Make sure that books are within reach of you little ones: create a reading corner, put books on the table or the highchair tray while you make supper, have a book in your bag or in the car for whenever you need to wait. You only have a few years before your child starts school – and we know time flies!

<sup>1</sup>Source: [Reading motivation and academic performance in the teaching language in high school](#)

## Quebec Public Libraries Week takes place from October 17 to 24.

Libraries are not open for visits this month in the red zones, but contact-free loans are still available, as are digital book loans and online registration, for parents and children who have yet to get a library card.

♥ Visit your library's website to find out about the virtual services offered, such as online story time.

## What about you... ?

How are you managing?

Do you have more time or less time to read?

Have you been able to visit your neighbourhood library this summer?

Have you tried borrowing and reading digital books with your children?

♥ Tell us about your adventures in reading over the past few months. Your ideas may be a source of inspiration for other families!

Do your children have a favourite book?

♥ Tell us what they think about it so others can discover it too.

Do you have any questions for us?

♥ Let us know what we can do to help you.

## To reach us and share your comments:

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