

Welcome to the
CANDLEWICK PRESS
Read to Us!
STORY-HOUR KIT

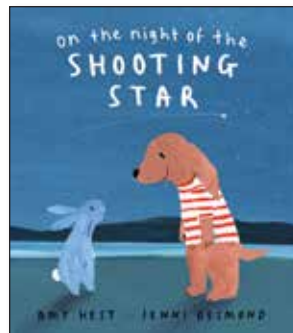
A Shortcut to Your Story Hour

It is our pleasure to present our latest Candlewick Read to Us! Story-Hour Kit. This kit contains simple and entertaining activities to be used in conjunction with our books. Each activity is designed to foster the skills that lead to early reading success in children.

Our fall 2017 story-hour kit showcases four delightful books filled with themes of nature, friendship, exploration, and discovery. For each title we offer two activities aimed at boosting children's narrative skills, letter knowledge, print awareness, vocabulary, print motivation, or phonological awareness — but most of all, their enthusiasm for literature. Because the caregiver's role is essential in a child's readiness to read, we have included a handout at the end of this kit that explains these six specific early literacy skills. Passing this out to caregivers will assist them in getting their child ready to read.

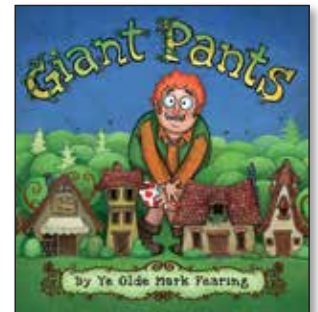
Have fun!

Books to be used with this Candlewick Read to Us! Story-Hour Kit



On the Night of the Shooting Star

by Amy Hest
illustrated by Jenni Desmond
978-0-7636-9154-7
Ages 2–5



Giant Pants

by Mark Fearing
978-0-7636-8984-1
Ages 3–7



Thank You, Bees

by Toni Yuly
978-0-7636-9261-2
Ages 2–5



Windows

by Julia Denos
illustrated by E. B. Goodale
978-0-7636-9035-9
Ages 3–7

Directions

On the Night of the Shooting Star

Bunny and Dog

This is a sweet story about neighbors who discover they would make perfect friends. Bunny and Dog live on opposite sides of the fence and go about their daily lives without ever saying hello, until one night a shooting star brings them together. After reading the story aloud, ask the children if they think Bunny and Dog care about each other. Have them give examples from the story to support their answer. Then ask more questions, such as: What happens on the night of the shooting star? Why do you think they both decided that was the night to become friends? What do they share with each other? Do you have a favorite treat or toy that you like to share with a friend? Using the attached reproducible, help the children cut out the pictures to complete the sentences. Then have them write about what they would share with a friend and illustrate it. Young children may need to dictate their response to an adult.

This activity fosters narrative skills, vocabulary, and phonological awareness.

Shooting Stars

After reading the story, ask the children if they have ever seen a shooting star. Ask: Do you think shooting stars are magical? If so, what makes them so magical? Do you think that is what sparked Bunny and Dog to reach out to each other? Have you ever wanted to be friends with someone but were too shy to say hello? Play a game where the children become shooting stars and “shoot” to other children in the room to introduce themselves. Have them sit in a circle. Select a child at random to introduce him- or herself to another child directly across the circle. After everyone has had a turn, help the children cut out the images of Bunny and Dog on the attached reproducible and give each child a piece of blue construction paper. Have them glue

Bunny and Dog at either end of the paper. Then, using white crayons or chalk, have the children color a path connecting the two friends.

This activity boosts narrative skills and print motivation.

Giant Pants

Where Are My Pants?

This charming tale is about a giant named Belbum who has misplaced his pants! After reading the story aloud, ask the children what Belbum did to find his pants. Did getting angry help him? Were his friends able to help? What did they do to try to help? How did Belbum solve the problem of having no pants? Was it wise to have the tailor make more than one pair? What did Belbum do with the extra pairs of pants? Did he ever find his pants? Where were they? Using the attached reproducible, have the children help Belbum through the maze to find his pants.

This activity promotes print motivation.

Belbum Color-by-Number

Giant Pants might prove to be a familiar story for children, as they, too, may have misplaced items—and then found them exactly where they were supposed to be. After reading the story, ask the children if they have ever misplaced something, like a coat, a shirt, or shoes. Ask: What do you do when that happens? Do you get angry like Belbum did? What can you do to ensure it doesn't get lost again? Do you think Belbum felt silly at the end of the story because he found his old pants in his dresser? Then have the children color Belbum on the attached reproducible.

This activity fosters letter and number knowledge and phonological awareness.



Directions

Thank You, Bees

Bees Give Us Honey

Thank You, Bees is an ecological tribute to planet Earth, showing us that there is so much to be grateful for. Each page pays homage to what the world has to offer, from sunshine and rain to plants and honey. After reading the story aloud, ask the children if they have ever thought about where honey comes from or what our winter hats are made from. Reread the book, but this time only turn to the “Thank you” pages and review what each item provides for us. For example, read aloud “Thank you, sun” and open the book to that page. Ask the children: What are we thanking the sun for? After going through the whole book, have the children fill out the attached reproducible by completing the sentences. They can use examples from the story or create their own. You could also brainstorm various answers to this activity as a group. Younger children might need to dictate their answers to an adult. The children can illustrate their response as well.

This activity builds vocabulary and phonological awareness.

Thank-You Cards

After reading *Thank You, Bees*, hold a discussion about the importance of bees. They give us honey, but what else do they do? Ask the children if they know what pollination is. Explain that pollen is what bees eat and is found on flowers. After a bee collects pollen from a flower, it may drop some in flight or when it lands on another flower. The dropped pollen can help new flowers and plants to grow. See how special bees are? They deserve thank-you cards! Using the attached reproducible, have the children design and illustrate thank-you cards for bees. If you have a yellow stamp pad, have each child press his or her thumb onto the ink and then onto the paper. Then they can decorate the yellow thumbprints with black markers to turn them into thumbprint bees. You could also use bee stickers or have them just draw bees. An adult may need to help transcribe younger children’s thank-you messages.

This activity promotes vocabulary and letter knowledge.

Windows

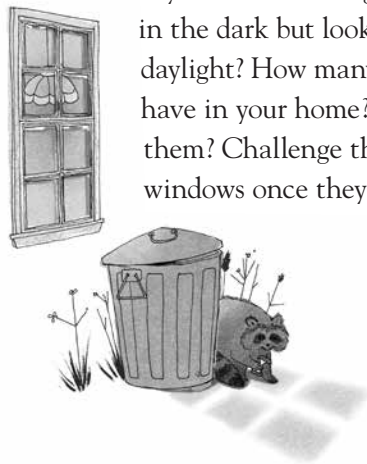
My Window

This urban story takes us on a walk with a child and dog through the city as dusk turns to night. The child encounters a variety of activities going on behind the windows in the neighborhood. After reading the story aloud, ask the children questions, such as: Do you ever look out the windows of your home? What do you see? Why does this child see so many things through all the windows at night if it’s dark outside? Does this story take place in the city or the country? Do you think the sights would be different if the child lived elsewhere? If someone were to look through your window at night, what might they see inside? Using the attached reproducible, have children draw themselves behind their own windows at night. Then help the children cut out their windows and glue them onto black construction paper, which represents the night. Children can share their pictures if there is time.

This activity encourages narrative skills.

Window Connect the Dots

There are quite a diverse group of windows on this walk, from tall with curtains drawn to bright and round like the moon. Some are dark and others are lit up. Some are filled with activity and others are empty and leave you to fill them up with stories. Ask the children if they have ever used their imaginations to make up a story about a creepy old house or an abandoned building. Ask: Do objects look different at night than they do during the day? Can something like an old house seem scary in the dark but look completely normal in the daylight? How many windows do you think you have in your home? Have you ever tried counting them? Challenge the children to count their windows once they get home to see if their guesses were right. Then, using the attached reproducible, have children connect the dots to complete the picture.



This activity enhances letter knowledge.

On the Night of the Shooting Star

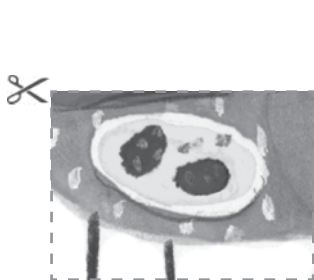
Bunny and Dog

Cut out the pictures below to complete the sentences. Then write what you like to share with your friends and draw a picture of you and a friend sharing.

_____ likes _____.

_____ likes _____.

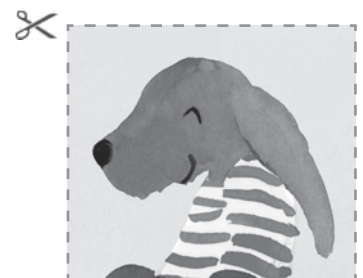
I like _____.



biscuits



cocoa



On the Night of the Shooting Star

Shooting Stars

Cut out the pictures of Bunny and Dog. Glue them to a piece of blue construction paper and draw a line connecting the two friends.



Where Are My Pants?

Help Belbum find his pants!



start



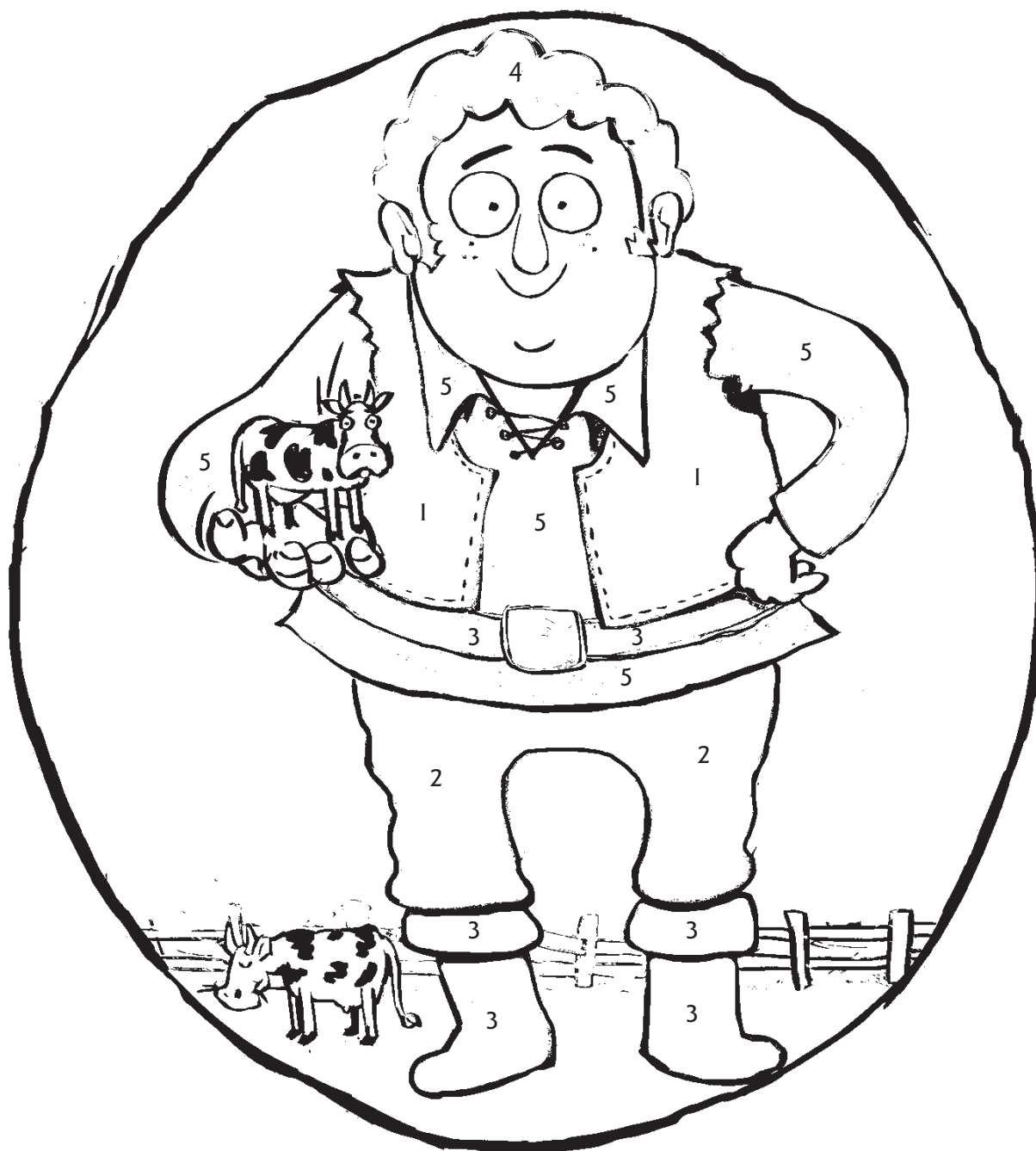
end



Belbum Color-by-Number

Color the picture of Belbum using the key below.

1—green 2—red 3—black 4—orange 5—brown



Thank You, Bees

Bees Give Us Honey

Complete the sentences below using examples from *Thank You, Bees* or your own ideas.

_____ give(s) us _____.

Thank you, _____.

_____ give(s) us _____.

Thank you, _____.



Thank You, Bees

Thank-You Cards

Create a thank-you card for bees. Cut out, fold, and decorate the card below, or make your own card on a separate piece of paper.



**Thank
you
Bees**



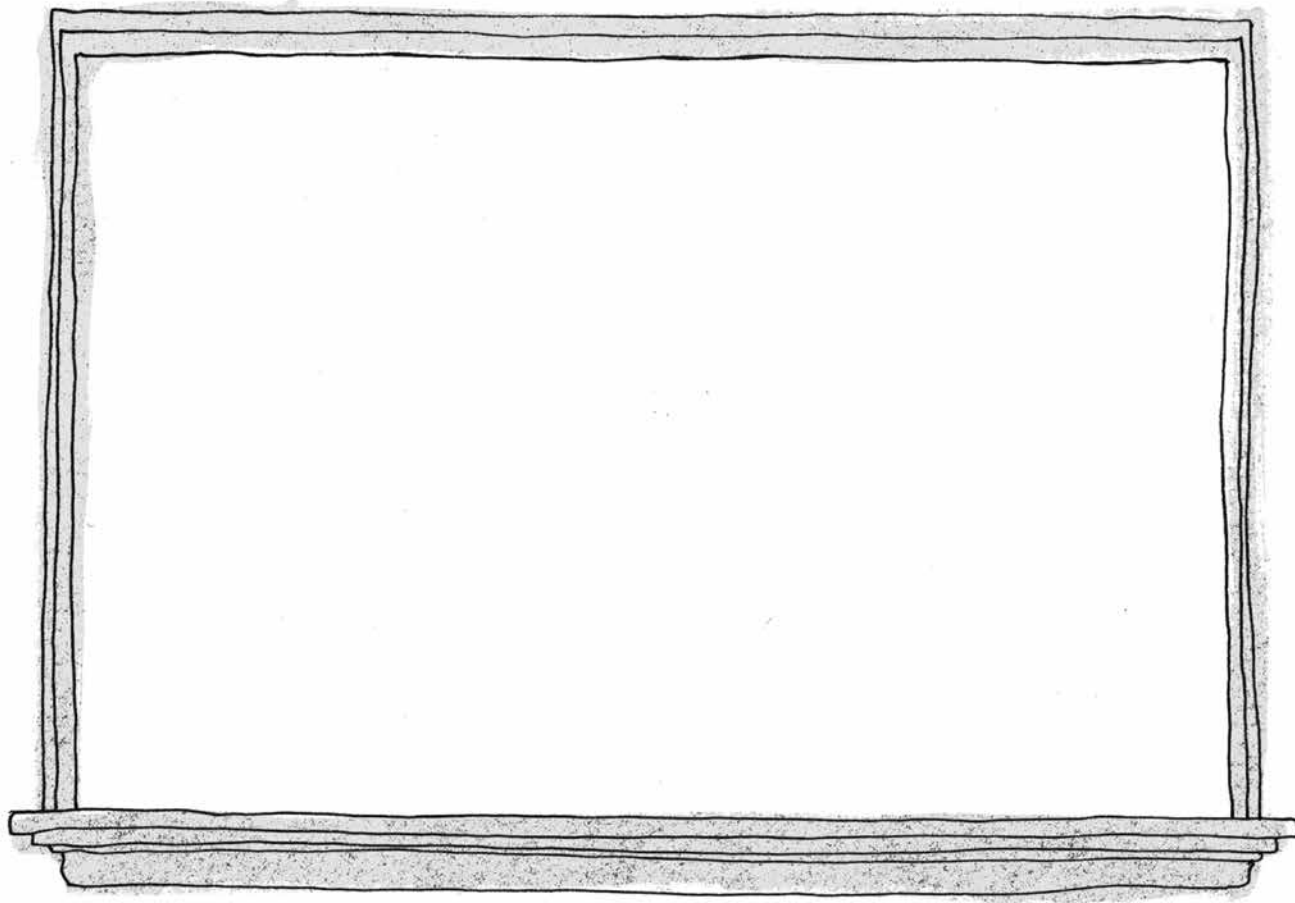
Illustrations © 2017 by Toni Yuly



Windows

My Window

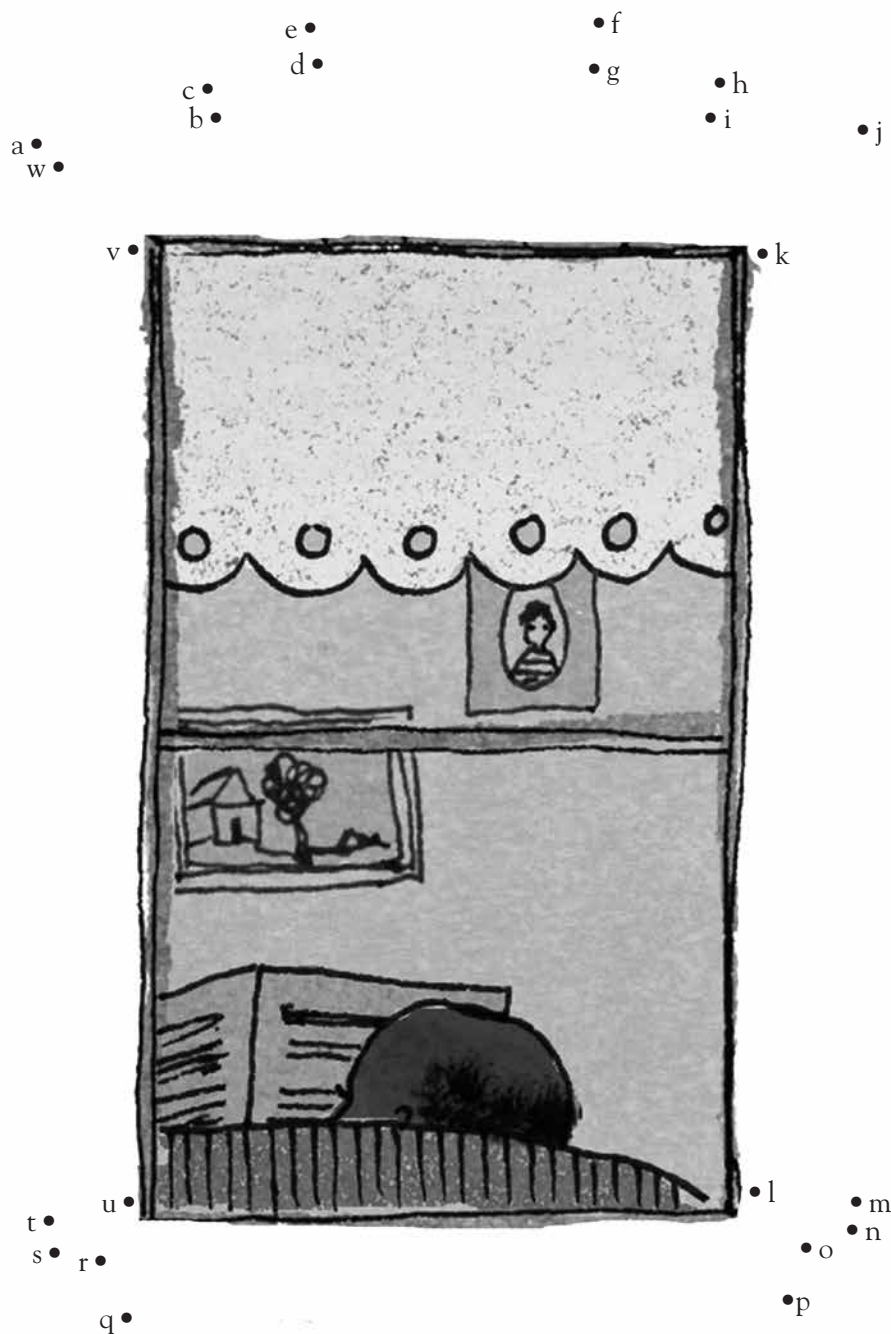
Draw a picture of yourself as seen through one of your windows.



Windows

Window Connect the Dots

Connect the dots in alphabetical order to complete the picture.



Help Your Child Get Ready to Read

Narrative Skills

Tell stories together, encourage pretend play, and let your child be a storyteller.

Letter Knowledge

Help your child identify the first letter in his or her name and find it in books, on street signs, and on package labels.

Print Awareness

Help your child discover how to hold a book and turn the pages.

Vocabulary

Teach your child the specific names for things, such as vegetables in the grocery store.

Print Motivation

Find books that speak to your child's interests, and share them often.

Phonological Awareness

Sing songs, play games, and share rhymes to help your child play with the smaller sounds in words.

Copyright © 2003 by Multnomah County Library (Oregon)

