

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>How to Use This Handbook</i>	<i>ix</i>
1. Acting Out! Drama & Charades	1
2. Who Am I? Using Stories for Self-Discovery	7
3. Recycle and Be an Inventor	11
4. Non-Fiction Fun	13
5. Imagination Lessons	15
6. Hands-On Illustrations	19
7. Inspired Paint Projects	21
8. Rhyming & Alliteration	23
9. Jumping-Off Places for Discussion	27
10. Comics and Cartoons	33
Templates for Drawing Cartoons	36
Tips for Reading with Your Child	39
<i>Resources: Books Featured in the Activities, Reference Books, Websites</i>	<i>43</i>

How to Use This Handbook

At Raising Readers, we draw inspiration from a book and then choose a complementary exercise to extend the experience of the story. In this guide you will find ten general areas of activity that can be used to complement a story or genre. Whether you are reading with one child or with a group of children, these ideas and activities can be used to help bring books alive.

The chapters are broken down by age group, ranging from preschool to preteen. I am extremely reluctant to pigeonhole a child into a category because there are always exceptions. Therefore, please use the recommended book and activity level as a guide only. At Raising Readers, instead of having a different activity for each age category, we simply modify the level of complexity. The complexity will also depend on how much time you have.

Books we use in our programs are mentioned by title throughout. However, there are hundreds of other books that may also work perfectly. We add new books to our library all the time. As you read through the activities, your own and your children's favourites will probably come to mind. You may want to use those books instead of the ones listed here: I wholly encourage it!

Full publication details for all books mentioned in this handbook are found in the resources list (p. 43).

Most activities begin with reading a picture book. Obviously, older children (usually around Grade 3) are reading chapter books, but I feel that picture books continue to have a place in older children's lives—if only because they still enjoy them so much! The books listed in this handbook were chosen because they provide great inspiration, not because they indicate a specific literacy level.

I would be very happy to hear your ideas and comments. I'm sure that many of you have invented wonderful ways to extend the joy of a favourite book. If you would like to share these, please contact me.

E-mail: michellek@raisingreaders.ca

Web: www.raisingreaders.ca

Mail: Raising Readers, 493 Carlaw Ave., Toronto, ON M4K 3H9