

Time

Adventures in Reading:

Family Literacy Bags from Reading Rockets

Contents:

- Two books – one fiction, one nonfiction
- Parent information sheet
- Three activity sheets
- Bookmark
- Parent survey



for teachers and librarians

This Reading Rockets Activity Packet is designed to support reading activities at home. We've chosen a fiction and nonfiction book about time, appropriate for a first grade listening level, and included related activities to encourage some hands-on fun and learning. Just assemble the packet in a two-gallon zip top bag, and send home with your students.

Reading Rockets carefully chose books that are widely available and appealing to young readers. The titles selected should be available in your school library. If the two featured titles are not available, or you prefer another title, feel free to substitute books related to the theme. You'll find a list of alternative titles included in the bookmark.

The featured books for the Time Activity Packet are ***The Very Grouchy Ladybug*** by Eric Carle and ***Telling Time: How to Tell Time on Digital and Analog Clocks!*** by Jules Older, illustrated by Megan Halsey. ***The Very Grouchy Ladybug*** follows a cranky bug through the hours of the day, as she argues with many animals. Classic Carle illustrations include beautiful animals as well as a clock showing each hour and the sun moving across the sky. ***Telling Time*** provides a fun explanation of time concepts and how to read clocks.

The parent information sheet includes an introductory note that you can personalize, instructions about how to use the packet, and tips for sharing fiction and non-fiction books with children.

The activities are designed to encourage further exploration and learning at home:

- >> the Creativity Activity is a hands-on craft project
- >> the Imagination Activity encourages imaginative play, writing, or drawing
- >> the Get Real Activity focuses on real-world experiences for parent and child
- >> The bookmark lists both the featured titles and additional titles

Putting it all together

Print out copies of the parent information sheet, the activities, the survey, and a master for making bookmarks. Cut the bookmark page into strips. You may wish to print the activity pages and bookmark on card stock for durability.

Into a two-gallon zip top bag, place:

- >> two books – one fiction and one nonfiction
- >> parent information sheet
- >> three themed activity pages
- >> bookmark
- >> survey for parents

Send the packet home with your student. Encourage parents to keep the parent information sheet, the activities, and bookmark, and return the books and survey to you by the date you specify.

Let Reading Rockets know what you think of the family activity packets by e-mailing us through our website: www.readingrockets.org/sitecontact. Click on "Family Literacy Bags."

ADVENTURES IN READING!

Welcome

Dear _____

Exploring new ideas and enjoying books with you sends a powerful message to your child: Reading and learning are fun, and happen everywhere – not just at school. This Reading Rockets Activity Packet about _____ was created to help you and your child enjoy reading and learning together.

Start your learning adventure by reading some books with your child about this popular topic. Then explore the topic with three activities. Enclosed you'll find what you need:

- >> two books to share with your child
- >> three related activities
- >> bookmark with a list of other books to extend the fun, if you wish
- >> short survey to tell me if you enjoyed using the packet

The simple steps on the back explain how to use the packet.

The bookmark, this parent information sheet, and the activities are yours to keep.

When you've finished with the materials, please return the books and the completed survey to school in your child's backpack. Please return the Reading Rockets Activity Packet by _____.

I hope you'll enjoy reading and learning together!

To learn more about children's books, reading with your child, and information about helping kids become confident readers, please visit www.ReadingRockets.org

ADVENTURES IN READING!

Instructions

How to use your Reading Rockets Activity Packet

Getting ready

1. Before you read the books to your child, be sure to read them yourself. One book is fiction – a “make-believe” story. The other book is nonfiction, or informational and true. Reading the books first will give you the “inside scoop” to the twists and turns of the story, the interesting information inside, and the parts of the books that will appeal most to your child.

2. Next, read the three activities to see which of them you think your child will enjoy most, and which one you have the time and materials on-hand to do right away. Chances are, after you read one (or both) of the books with your child, he or she may want to do an activity right away.

Start the fun

3. When you know you’ll have at least enough time to read and talk about one of the books, grab your child and a book, and dive right in. Start with the fiction selection. Talk about the cover of the book with your child – can he guess what it is about? Have they ever read a book by the same author or illustrator or about the same topic?

Read the book to your child. Take time to ask and answer questions, explore the pictures, and wonder what will happen next. Read it again, if your child asks you to. Then, try the nonfiction book or one of the activities.

4. When you read the nonfiction book, take a moment to explain to your child the difference between the two types of books. The first book told a made-up, make-believe story, and a nonfiction book is about real people, places, and things. The information in nonfiction books can answer lots of questions.

5. Feel free to pick and choose from the activities, or change them to suit your child’s interests. Read the books again over the next few days and try different activities. Most important: have fun!

When you’re done...

6. Keep the bookmark, the activities, and this page. Complete the survey and return it with the books to your child’s school.

Make the most of the excitement the books create, and try some hands-on learning or make-believe fun. Exploring new ideas alongside you lets your child see you learning – and reading – too, and gives your child personal experiences to support her growing knowledge.

Tips for reading nonfiction books with kids:

- >> *Wonder out loud. As you are reading, or afterward, talk about facts you find interesting or questions you have.*
- >> *Show your child how to use the table of contents, section headings, index, and word list (glossary) to find the answer to a specific question.*
- >> *Don’t be afraid to jump around, reading pages that especially interest your child. You don’t have to read a nonfiction book straight through.*

Tips for reading fiction books with kids:

- >> *Take your time and talk about the story with your child. Ask your child questions.*
- >> *Explore the pictures with your child.*
- >> *Read with expression. Change your voice or how fast you read to create excitement. Ham it up!*
- >> *You don’t need to read every word. Keeping your child interested is the goal.*

make a clock

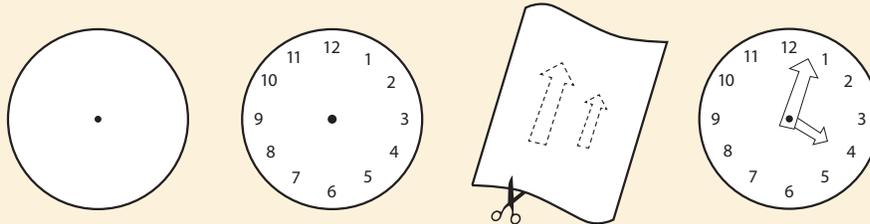


Learn about the hours of the day by making your own clock

Supplies

- >> scissors
- >> two strips of colored construction paper for the hands (or white paper that you color with markers)
- >> paper clip or paper fastener (brad)
- >> paper plate (or a circle cut out of paper)
- >> marker

Instructions



1. Mark the center of the circle with a dot.
2. Write the hours of the clock on the circle, starting with 12 at the top and 6 at the bottom, 9 and 3 on the left and right sides. Fill in 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11.
3. Cut one strip of the paper to the length from the center to the edge of the plate (the hour hand) and the second strip of paper to be a little shorter (the minute hand).
4. Cut one end of each strip into a triangle to make a point.
5. Make a small hole in the center of the plate with the scissor or the end of a paper clip.
6. Attach the hands to the face of the clock with the paper fastener or by pushing one end of the paper clip through the hands. Be sure to have the pointed ends of the hands pointing toward the numbers.

Move the hands of your clock to show different times and talk about them with your child. Ask questions. What time do we usually eat dinner? What time do we leave for school?

Variation *Time is measured in bigger pieces too. Make a week chart with your child to track days.*

Supplies

- >> paper
 - >> ruler
 - >> markers
1. Turn the paper on its side so that it is wider than it is tall
 2. Using the ruler, divide the paper into seven equal columns
 3. Draw lines from the top of the page to the bottom, marking off the seven sections.
 4. Write the days of the week across the top, one day in each section

Talk with your child about things that happen every week on a certain day. For example, say that on Saturdays you have pancakes for breakfast. On Tuesdays and Thursdays you feed your goldfish. Have your child draw pictures of pancakes in the Saturday section, and fish on Tuesday and Thursday.



keep your eye on the clock

There are “signs of the time” everywhere. Just look around!

Look for clocks or times everywhere – in your house, at the grocery store, on the street:

- >> store or library opening times, bus schedules
- >> calendars or dates on posters or flyers
- >> clocks in train stations, doctor’s offices, or on office buildings
- >> make a list

Play “beat the clock”

Set a timer and see how fast your child can clean his room, unload the dishwasher, or fold the laundry! It makes the chores go faster. Remember: Time flies when you are having fun!

Look for signs of changing seasons – nature has her own clock and she shows it through weather, stars, plants and animals.

- >> What is the temperature?
- >> Is it different from yesterday?
- >> Are there animals around?
- >> What are they doing?
- >> What are the plants you see doing?
- >> Which stars can you see in the sky?

Watch how the sun moves across the sky during the day. Use a tree or something in your neighborhood that casts a shadow as a sun dial.

Take a look in the phone book for the diagram of time zones and then talk about what time it is where friends or relatives (or favorite out-of-town sports teams) are. Use this time zone chart to see if you are right: www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/

Or check out the NASA Kids Science News segment on time zones:

<http://tinyurl.com/3l9qhp> - 50k

Make your own time capsule or “year box”

In the picture book, *When This Box Is Full* by Patricia Lillie, pictures by Donald Crews, a child places an item that represents each month in a box. You can make a “year box” with your child using an empty shoe box.

You can also make a traditional time capsule where you gather items from a particular day, week or month – say your child’s birthday – and put them in the container. Encourage your child to write or draw something to add to the box. Then put it away, and pull it out at the next birthday and talk about the memories the items bring up.



time travel

Travel through time with your imagination!

Play “time machine” and encourage your child to use his imagination to travel through time to the past or the future.

- >> Grab a chair or a big laundry basket and turn it into a time machine. Climb in, close your eyes, and use your imagination!
- >> Go back to breakfast and have something different. Go back 200 years and explore the frontier. Go forward in time to your child’s next birthday or 150 years to when we can live on the moon.
- >> You can even pretend to go back in time and meet famous people – like George Washington – or romp with the dinosaurs. Pretend with your child, taking turns being the explorer, the dinosaur, or the famous person. Ask questions on your trip!

Try reading some of the books from *The Magic Tree House* series by Mary Pope Osborne or from the *Time Warp Trio* series by John Scieszka and Lane Smith for some rip-roaring time travel stories.

Studying history is another way to travel through time. Encourage your child to play “archeologist” and dig up treasures from the past. Discover a long lost castle or a sunken pirate ship. Look for objects that offer clues to what life was like at a different time. Dress up clothes, blocks, toy plates, or other items from your toy box can be transformed, with a child’s imagination, into treasures from another time in history.

- >> Ask your archeologist questions about what he has found
- >> What is the item?
- >> Where did you find it?
- >> What do you think people used it for?

Encourage your child to write or draw pictures about what he finds digging for treasure or traveling through time.

TIME



Featured titles

Fiction

The Very Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle

Nonfiction

Telling Time: How to Tell Time on Digital and Analog Clocks! by Jules Older, illustrated by Megan Halsey

Additional fiction titles

Clocks and More Clocks by Pat Hutchins

Nine O'Clock Lullaby by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Frané Lessac

What Time Is It, Mr.Crocodile? by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Doug Cushman

Additional nonfiction titles

Game Time! by Stuart J. Murphy, illustrated by Cynthia Jabar (MathStart series)

Me Counting Time from Seconds to Centuries by Joan Sweeney, illustrated by Annette Cole

My First Book of Time by Claire Llewellyn

Time by Henry Pluckrose (Let's Explore series)

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