Everything you need to make sure kids have a hoot with picture books!

◆ Fun activity sheets
◆ Help with running Story Time sessions

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Twit-twoo! I love reading, and encouraging children and their parents to love reading too. This pack is designed to give you everything you need to host an amazing picture book story time session, and get children having fun with picture books.

In this booklet you’ll find:
- Information on six fantastic new picture books perfect for story time sessions.
- Helpful notes on running a story time event using these six titles.
- Fun activity sheets which can be photocopied.
- A laminated event poster to publicise your events. If you’d like more of these email tradepublicity.uk@oup.com
- Fun stickers to give to the children at events.

Let us know about your events!
Via Twitter: @OUPChildrens #oxfordowlstorytime
Via email: tradepublicity.uk@oup.com
Oxford Owl is a FREE website built to help parents help their children to learn—and love—to read. There are practical tips for motivating boys to read, great ways to keep up with reading in the holidays, reading games and activities, and over 250 free non-downloadable eBooks.

Take a peek at www.oxfordowl.co.uk
Layn Marlow

After studying History of Art at Reading University, Layn began her career working for the library service. She lived in Belgium for several years but it was on her return to the UK that she enrolled at Southampton University and received a first class degree in illustration. She now lives in Hampshire with her husband, two children and incredible bouncing dog. For relaxation she loves listening to Radio 4, knitting and karate!

Ann Bonwill

Ann grew up in Maryland, surrounded by books. She started writing stories as soon as she could hold a crayon. In kindergarten she was sent to the principal’s office. She thought she was in trouble, but the principal just wanted to read one of her stories. After gaining degrees in psychology and social work, Ann worked as a clinical social worker, a Montessori teacher, and an autism therapist before rediscovering her passion for writing.

Simon Rickerty

Simon has been drawing pictures and creating characters ever since he can remember. In 2006 he graduated from The Royal College of Art with a masters degree in Communication Art and Design, and since then has illustrated several picture books which have been shortlisted for numerous awards. He loves the colour blue, pizza, and playing his guitar, and has an Amazon parrot called JP whose favourite food is cheese!

Korky Paul

Korky was born in Zimbabwe. He studied fine arts at Durban Art School and film animation at CalArts, California. He began his career in advertising before becoming an award-winning illustrator of children’s books. Korky regularly visits schools to promote his passion for drawing. He now lives in Oxford with his wife.

Valerie Thomas

Valerie was born in Australia and has lived there for most of her life. She has worked as a teacher, but her special hobby is travelling, and she has travelled to most parts of the world, even Antarctica, but she doesn’t travel by broomstick. She used to live with a big black cat exactly like Wilbur, but luckily her house was not black like Winnie’s.
Katharine has always loved to draw, and started to illustrate professionally in 1996 after graduating from college. Katharine’s hobbies include cycling, skiing, kite-flying, walking, going to the cinema, and poking about in junk shops.

CHARLOTTE MIDDLETON

At school, Charlotte loved drawing and would regularly illustrate her spelling and times tables test papers. She went on to study Graphic Art and Illustration at the Cambridge School of Art. Her first book, Tabitha’s Terrifically Tough Tooth, was published in 1998 and since then she has written and illustrated more than a dozen books. Her stories have been sold all over the world and Charlotte would love to be as well-travelled as her books one day. Charlotte’s childhood guinea pigs are the inspiration for Christopher Nibble!

RICHARD BYRNE

Richard was born in Clapham but brought up on ice-creams and helter-skelter rides in Brighton. After studying graphic design in Sussex he worked for several design studios in London, Manchester and Leeds before moving to Chichester where he still dabbles in graphic design along with writing and illustrating children’s books. He now shares his ice-creams with his partner and their two children.

AMBER STEWART

Amber grew up in rural Dorset and escaped as soon as she could to study Russian literature at London University. However, she never got over her childhood joy of reading Winnie the Pooh and—since graduating many moons ago—she has enjoyed an ongoing career in children’s publishing, as well as pursuing her own writing career. Ironically, Amber now lives in rural Northamptonshire with her family and other animals, including a big grey horse and a small grey dog.

MIJ KELLY

Mij was born in Edinburgh but spent her early childhood in Bhopal and Calcutta. She studied English at York University, Publishing Studies at Stirling University and has had lots of different jobs – from tattie howking, cleaning, and lexicography, to collecting oral histories, waitressing, and journalism. For the past few years, she’s found that it’s much more fun just to stay at home and make up stories. She lives in York with her son Frankie, her dog Otis and her husband Dan.
Story Time Sessions

If you are an old hand at running story time sessions for pre-school children then you won’t need these notes. If not, we hope you find them useful.

Some General Hints and Tips

- Keep the session **short**.
- **Read the book through** before the event so you can anticipate questions.
- Introduce the book by reading out the **title** and showing the children the **cover**. Tell them who wrote it and who did the illustrations.
- Ask ‘**What do we think this might be about?**’ or say ‘I chose this book because it’s all about being friends’ or ... ‘about a lovely sunny day, just like today.’
- Relax and **read with enthusiasm** and enjoyment. You may feel self conscious but the children will enjoy your animated voice much more than if you read in a flat monotone.
- Don’t read too fast. **Vary the pace**. Allow children time to think about what is happening or what might happen next.
- Make sure you show the children the **pictures**. Talk about the illustrations. ‘What is happening here?’
- Ask them **questions** such as ‘What do you think will happen next?’ before you turn the page. Don’t worry if children come up with surprising answers. Be positive. ‘That’s a good idea. Let’s see what the author says.’
- Sometimes children won’t respond but often they will all talk at once. Ask them to **put their hands up** if they want to say something. At the end of a question-and-answer session you may have to ask the children ‘to be as quiet as mice so you can carry on and tell the story.’ Or ask them to put their finger on their lips.
- If the book is in **rhyme** the children may be able to finish sentences for you.
- Most important of all: **HAVE FUN!**
Why You Should Run Story Time sessions

- Encourages parents and carers to visit you.
- Introduces parents and carers to books, authors and illustrators that are new to them.
- Reading aloud to children is vital in the process of becoming a life-long reader. Long before they can read by themselves reading to children helps them learn how books work, how story language is different from everyday speech and, most important of all, how enjoyable stories can be.

Planning the Session

Overleaf are suggestions for using a number of different OUP picture books. Two books are probably enough but have a third up your sleeve if necessary. If you have the facilities we have also created some colour-in and activity sheets and suggested ideas to encourage the children to draw.
You will need:
drawing paper, colouring materials, 
child-safe scissors, reusable adhesive, 
copies of the activity sheet

Theme:
friendship, falling out, 
fancy dress, fairy tales

- Read the book through before the event so you can anticipate questions.
- Introduce the book by reading out the title and showing the children the cover. Tell them who wrote it and who did the illustrations.
- This story is told completely through dialogue and so works really well if you use a deep voice for Hugo the hippo, and a high voice for Bella the bird.
- It would also work well if two storytellers took parts and read the story together to the children.
- The following notes guide you through the book spreads. A spread is two facing pages in a book, and spread 1 is always the very first spread in the story after the title page.
The kinds of questions you could ask about the spreads could include:

Spread 1
Point to the characters as they appear in the story for the first time.
Get the children to say, ‘Hello, Hugo!’ and ‘Hello, Bella!’

Spread 2
‘They’re going to a fancy dress party! Have you ever been to a fancy dress party? What did you go as?’

Spread 3
In the following spreads, Hugo and Bella dress up as various fairy tale characters (The Princess and the Pea, The Little Mermaid, Cinderella). Ask the children if they know these stories.

Spread 7
‘Oh, dear! Hugo and Bella can’t agree on an outfit can they?’
‘What can you see on this page?’ (Hippo and bird footprints.)

Spread 10
‘Do you think Hugo and Bella will make up?’

Spread 11
‘What are the other hippo and bird pair dressed as?’ (Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf.)

Activity:
- Get the children to draw their perfect fancy dress outfit.
- Hugo and Bella Dress Up Game in the activity sheet section of this pack.
Theme:
how caterpillars turn into butterflies, the environment

You will need:
copies of the activity sheet, colouring materials, drawing paper

- Read the book through before the event so you can anticipate questions.
- Introduce the book by reading out the title and showing the children the cover.
- Ask them, ‘What kind of animal is Christopher? Do any of you have a guinea pig as a pet?’
- Point to the characters as they appear in the story for the first time.
- The following notes guide you through the book spreads. A spread is two facing pages in a book, and spread 1 is always the very first spread in the story after the title page.
The kinds of questions you could ask about the spreads could include:

Spread 1
‘What is Christopher doing to his flowers?’ (Watering them with a watering can.)
‘What kind of flowers are they?’ (Dandelions.)
‘Guinea pigs like to eat dandelions, don’t they?’
‘What else can you see in Christopher’s garden?’ (Football, hat, book, drink.)

Spread 3
‘What is happening to Christopher’s dandelions?’
‘Can you help me count the caterpillars? One . . . etc’

Spread 4
‘Do you think the caterpillars would really need those things?’
‘What do you think they might really need?’
‘They are interesting ideas, let’s see . . .’

Spread 6
Get the children to act out with their hands how big the caterpillars are getting.

Spread 8
‘What can you see in Dandeville?’
(Bakery, fountain, letterbox, café.)

Spread 9
‘Do you think Mr Rosetti might know what has happened to the caterpillars?’

Spread 10
‘Can you help me count the butterflies?’

Activity:
- Colour a butterfly activity in the activity sheet section of this pack.
Theme:  
school, being kind and helpful, making friends

You will need:  
Copies of the activity sheets, crayons, drawing paper

- Read the book through before the event so you can anticipate questions.
- Introduce the book by reading out the title and showing the children the cover. Tell them who wrote it and who did the illustrations.
- Tell the children why you’ve chosen this book: ‘I’ve chosen this book because it’s about a little creature you may not have heard of’, ‘because it’s about being helpful.’
- Point to the characters as they appear in the story for the first time.
- The following notes guide you through the book spreads. A spread is two facing pages in a book, and spread 1 is always the very first spread in the story after the title page.
The kinds of questions you could ask about the spreads could include:

Spread 1
‘What other animals are in Aye-Aye’s class at school? Why don’t they think that Aye-Aye could be in a picture book?’

Spread 4
Ask who they think has changed the competition.

Spread 5
‘Was it very nice of the Rabbit Twins to take all of the paint and drawing materials?’

Spread 9
Ask the children what sport they play at school?
‘Do you play basketball?’

Continue to read from the next spreads and asking questions about the pictures and text.

‘Do you think Aye-Aye was the most helpful animal in the class? What did he do to help his friends?’

Ask them if they’d like to read the story again.

Activity:
- Step-by-step how to draw Aye-Aye in the activity sheet section of this pack.
Theme:
trying new foods, being brave, the countryside

You will need:
copies of the activity sheet, drawing materials

- Read the book through before the event so you can anticipate questions.
- Introduce the book by reading out the title and showing the children the cover. Ask them, ‘what kind of animal is Bramble?’
- Point out the characters as they first appear in the story.
- The following notes guide you through the book spreads. A spread is two facing pages in a book, and spread 1 is always the very first spread in the story after the title page.
The kinds of questions you could ask about the spreads could include:

Spread 1
‘What is Bramble doing?’
(Collecting blackberries.)
‘What else can you see in the picture?’
(Butterflies, flowers, a tree, a snail, a wasp.)

Spread 2
‘What can you see here? Moles can burrow underground’

Spread 3
‘Poor Bramble isn’t brave about food is she?’

Spread 6
‘Can you see the rabbits hiding in this picture?’

Spread 7
‘What can you see in the earth around their burrow? Someone has lost their key!’

Spread 10
‘Can you help me count the bunnies and moles in this picture?’

Activity:
- Drawing activity in the activity sheet section of this pack
You will need:
copies of the activity sheet, drawing materials, drawing paper

Theme:
magic, holidays, under the sea

Read the book through before the event so you can anticipate questions.
Introduce the book by reading out the title and showing the children the cover. Tell them who wrote it and who did the illustrations.
Show them the cover and ask, ‘What do you think this book might be about?’
‘What kinds of things do you think we’ll find in a story about under the sea?’
‘What do you know about witches and their belongings?’
Point to the characters as they appear in the story for the first time.
The following notes guide you through the book spreads. A spread is two facing pages in a book, and spread 1 is always the very first spread in the story after the title page.
The kinds of questions you could ask about the spreads could include:

Spread 1
‘Can you see Winnie’s house?’
‘What time of year is it in the story?’
‘What animals can you see in the picture?’
Talk to the children about how Winnie and Wilbur think differently about the exotic fish they will see on holiday.

Spread 2
‘Winnie is taking lots of luggage, isn’t she!’

Spread 3
‘Do you think Wilbur will want to join Winnie for a swim?’

Spread 4
‘What sea creatures can you see?’ (Fish, turtles, dolphins.)
‘What do you think Winnie is going to turn Wilbur into?’
Get the children to shout ‘Abracadabra’ when Winnie casts her spell.

Spread 5
‘How can you tell that the catfish is still Wilbur?’

Spread 6
Encourage the children to join in with the repeated ‘Abracadabra’!

Spread 7
‘What has Winnie turned herself into?’
‘Do you know how many legs an octopus has?’

Spread 8
Turn the book around so that the children can see Winnie’s wand fall to the bottom of the sea.
‘Can you spot Wilbur now? He’s a sea lion!’
‘Oh no, Winnie has lost her wand! What should she do? Let’s see what happens.’

Spread 9
Encourage the children to join in with the repeated ‘no,’ and make it clear from your tone of voice that it is going to be found in the treasure chest.

Activity:

- Draw some of the sea creatures Winnie and Wilbur meet on their adventure
- Octopus Winnie in the activity sheet section of this pack
You will need:
copies of the activity sheet, pencils

Theme:
farmyard animals, hide and seek

Read the book through before the event so you can anticipate questions
Introduce the book by reading out the title and showing them the children the cover. Ask them what animals they can see on the cover.
Point out the characters as they first appear in the story.
This book is great for story time as it rhymes, and has a repeated line at the end of every spread. Encourage the children to join in with the repeated, ‘Oh, where’s my darling daughter?’
The following notes guide you through the book spreads. A spread is two facing pages in a book, and spread 1 is always the very first spread in the story after the title page.
The kinds of questions you could ask about the spreads could include:

Spread 1
‘Even the teddy bear is looking for her isn’t he!’
‘Can you see where she is?’

Spread 2
‘What is under the table?’
‘Can you see where she is?’

Spread 3
In each of the following spreads, Poppa Bombola asks a different animal where his darling daughter is. Get the children to make the sounds of each animal as they appear in the story (cat, duck, cow, hen, pig).

Spread 8
‘Poor Poppa Bombola! He’s very upset - tell him where she is!’

Activity:
- Fun counting and animal noise game in the activity sheet section of this pack.
Dress up Hugo and Bella for the Hippo-Bird Fancy Dress Party!

1. Colour in Hugo, Bella, and the fancy dress items
2. Carefully cut them out
3. Choose an outfit for Hugo and Bella to wear, using reusable adhesive to attach

- Jester hat
- Cinderella dress
- Pea
- Cinderella shoes
- Jester shoes
Dress up Hugo and Bella for the Hippo-bird Fancy Dress Party!

1. Colour in Hugo, Bella, and the fancy dress items
2. Carefully cut them out
3. Choose an outfit for Hugo and Bella to wear, using reusable adhesive to attach

- Princess shoes
- Princess crown
- King’s belt
- Pumpkin hat
- Princess mirror
- King’s crown

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I Don’t Want to be a Pea! www.facebook.com/oxfordowl
Colour in Christopher’s shorts and Posie’s dress, and draw some lovely butterflies on the FOUND! posters
Draw a beautiful butterfly!
How to draw Aye-Aye!

1. Draw two circles for the eyes.
2. Add another circle for the mouth.
3. Sketch the nose and ears.
4. Draw the hands and feet.
5. Add the hat and feather.
6. Outline the final drawing.
7. Color in the drawing.
Bramble the Brave

Draw the perfect feast to tempt Bramble to try new food!
Winnie Under the Sea

Draw Winnie as an octopus!
Winnie the Witch is celebrating her 25th birthday this year—colour her in to celebrate!
Written by Mij Kelly and illustrated by Katharine McEwen

Quack Quack Moo, We See You!

How many of each animal can you see in this picture?

‘Oh, thank you, thank you, and thank you again,’ he told the cow and the cat, the pig, duck, and hen.

‘Cluck! moo! cheep! miaow! oink! quack!’

Match the animal to the noise it makes:

- Cow
- Pig
- Hen
- Duck
- Cat
- Chick

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