



PICTURE BOOK SUBSCRIPTION

Objectives: Lit League’s award-winning, book-themed activity boxes are designed to nurture a love of reading. Students are provided with a variety of multidisciplinary activities as a means of engaging with an important work of literature.

Materials: Lit League Picture Book Activity Boxes are perfect for shared experiences with 3-5 year olds or a more independent experience for readers ages 5-9. Each month, readers will receive a book-themed activity box designed around our monthly book selection from our Lit League library.

Each Lit League Picture Book Activity Box includes:

- a high-interest picture book
- a sight word and vocabulary bookmark
- 5+ fun-filled activities related to the book
- physical playtime instructions
- discussion questions and answers
- the tools to enjoy a shared family experience or participate in a book club with friends
- instructions for implementation and differentiation before, during, and after reading each title
- suggestions for additional thematic reading that can be used to build out a larger unit

Books Included:

School Year Cycle 1: 2024-2025, 2026-2027, 2028-2029*

August: *A Butterfly is Patient* by Diana Hutts Aston

September: *Pumpkin Jack* by Will Hubbell

October: *Dear Juno* by Soyung Pak

November: *Arthur’s Pet Business* by Marc Brown

December: *Winter Days in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder

January: *The Valentine Bears* by Eve Bunting

February: *Bread and Jam for Frances* by Russell and Lillian Hoban

March: *Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs* by Ian Whybrow

April: *Ruby’s Birds* by Mya Thompson

May: *The Knight and the Dragon* by Tommie dePaola

June: *Curious George Goes Camping* by Margaret and H.A. Rey

July: *Hello Ocean* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

*School Year Cycle 2 begins on page 23



THE VALENTINE BEARS UNIT

Book Included: *The Valentine Bears* by Eve Bunting

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *The Valentine Bears*. This unit provides activities in science, math, art, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Valentine Tree Craft and Supplies, Heart Bookmark Craft, Fingerprint Art Craft, Matching Hearts Game, Black Bear Fact Card, Brown Bear Fact Card, Types of Bears Classification, Cardboard Geometric Bear Puzzle, Bear Shadow Activity, Number Hearts Activity, Who Was St. Valentine Coloring Page, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** What are some of the ways people can express love for each other?
- **Ages 5-9:** What are some Valentine's Day traditions that you like to celebrate?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *The Valentine Bears*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**
Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.
- **Discuss & Decorate**
Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you make your Valentine tree. To assemble the tree, first trace your hand on the brown foam sheet with a pencil and carefully cut it out. Use the glue stick to glue it

to the tree so that your fingers form the branches. Finally, make fingerprint hearts on the tree using your ink pad.

Items Included: Valentine tree, ink pad, brown foam sheet, red string, glue stick

- **Physical Playtime**

Get your readers moving playing these classic games with a Valentine-inspired twist.

Items Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE LESSONS

Bear Facts

The two most common bears in North America are black bears and brown bears. Learn about each type and their differences on our bear fact cards. Then, identify the shadows of two different types of brown bears on our Shadow Match sheet.

Items Included: Brown Bear Fact Card, Black Bear Fact Card, Shadow Match sheet

Bear Puzzle

Make a bear face out of shapes with our bear puzzle. Use the image in this pamphlet to guide your work. Afterwards, study the many varieties of bears on our Types of Bears sheet.

Items Included: bear puzzle

Valentine Bookmark

Color in your bookmark to give away as a Valentine's Day gift or keep it for your own favorite books and remember the spirit of love all year round.

Items Included: heart bookmark

Materials Not Included: markers

Fingerprint Art

Use the ink pad to place fingerprints all over a piece of paper. Then, add arms, legs, and faces to each print to make them characters. You might even use your fingerprint art to embellish homemade Valentine cards!

Items Included: ink pad

Materials Not Included: additional art supplies

Matching Hearts

We've included a variety of sweet ways to use our Matching Hearts sheet. First cut out the hearts and identify matching pairs. Older players can then play a game of memory by placing all of the cards from both pages face down. You might also use the cut outs to practice making different patterns. Finally, parents or siblings can write one thing they love about a family member on each heart and tape the hearts to that person's door on Valentine's Day.

Item Included: Matching Hearts sheets

Materials Not Included: writing utensil, tape

Who Was St. Valentine?

Modern Valentine's Day began as a celebration of St. Valentine. Learn about St. Valentine while you color an image of him.

Item Included: Who Was St. Valentine sheet

Materials Not Included: coloring utensils

Hibernation Den

Bears and other animals hibernate during the winter months. They fill up their bellies and find a cozy place to sleep all winter long. Build yourself a special hibernation fort-like den using blankets and pillows. You can play bear by crawling into your den for a long rest. If you aren't feeling sleepy, you can play quietly or look at books in your special comfy spot.

Wakeup Meal

When the Mr. and Mrs. Bear wake up to celebrate Valentine's Day, they eat chocolate covered ants, and honey-dipped Crispy Critters. Have your own book-inspired meal using our buggy recipe card.

Item Included: recipe card

Valentine's Celebration

Plan a special Valentine's celebration with family or friends. When Mrs. Bear is planning her celebration for Mr. Bear, she decorates by making a Valentine's sign, gathering sweet treats, and giving him special cards. Consider following Mrs. Bear's lead as you plan your party. You might also play our heart memory game, play the games on our Physical Playtime sheet, or make fingerprint art as a group.

Items Included: Matching Hearts sheet, Physical Playtime sheet, ink pad

Materials Not Included: additional celebration supplies

Number Hearts

Use your ink pad to make the correct number of fingerprint dots inside each heart. Then, continue your number practice on the other side of the page.

Items Included: Number Hearts sheet, ink pad

Materials Not Included: writing utensil



BREAD AND JAM FOR FRANCES UNIT

Book Included: *Bread and Jam for Frances* by Russell and Lillian Hoban

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Bread and Jam for Frances*. This unit provides activities in health and wellness, science, art, math and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Bento Box Tips from Lisa Bryan at Downshiftology, Salt and Pepper Shaker Craft, Doily Painting Craft, Food Challenge Spinner Activity, Meal Planning Activity, Jump Rope, Sing-a-Song Activity, How To Set a Table sheet, Badger Fact Card, Badger Bingo Game, Menu Cards, Frances & Albert Recipe Cards, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** What are some of your favorite things to eat?
- **Ages 5-9:** What do you think the phrase “You can have too much of a good thing” means?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Bread and Jam for Frances*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**
Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.

- **Discuss & Decorate**

Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you decorate your salt and pepper shakers, like the ones Albert has in his lunch box.

Items Included: salt and pepper shakers, paint pens

- **Physical Playtime**

Get your readers moving playing these classic games with a food-inspired twist.

Items Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE LESSONS

Badger Facts

Frances and her family members are badgers. Learn more about badgers and their distinct features with our Badger Fact Card! Then play our Badger Bingo Game.

Items Included: Badger Fact Card, Badger Bingo Game

Materials Not Included: scissors

Sing-a-Song

Frances loves to jump rope and often makes up songs while she jumps. Before you practice jumping rope, you can make up a song of your own, like Frances, with our Sing-a-Song sheet.

Items Included: jump rope, Sing-a-Song sheet

Doily Craft

Color the doily with markers, being careful not to rip the doily. Next, carefully brush water on the doily with the paintbrush so that the markers run like watercolors. Once done, set it aside to dry. After the decorated doily dries, glue it to the craft paper. Now it's ready to use as a placemat for whatever delicious lunch you make!

Items Included: doily, card stock

Materials Not Included: scissors, paintbrush, washable markers, school glue, water

Table Setting

Learning how to set a table properly can be part of enjoying a good meal! Use our How to Set a Table sheet to get started. Once you understand where everything goes, this can be made into a fun competition. Using a stopwatch, see how long it takes each family member to complete one table setting properly without looking at the sheet. This could also be done with a group of friends.

Items Included: decorated salt & pepper shakers, doily placemat, How to Set a Table sheet

Materials Not Included: dishes and eating utensils

Healthy Eating

By the end of the story, Francis learns to appreciate a well-rounded meal. Healthy eating means choosing foods from a variety of food groups. Use our Meal Planning sheet to plan out some delicious, future eating options.

Item Included: Meal Planning sheet

Materials Not Included: colored pencils, crayons, or markers

Scrumptious Spinner

The US government introduced their Basic Seven campaign in the 1940s. Although they've updated their guidelines since then, it is still good to try to eat different types of foods. Make a spinner and challenge yourself to eat a variety of food types.

Item Included: brad, Scrumptious Spinner sheet

Materials Not Included: food items

Jump Rope Challenges

Jumping rope is a fun way to exercise. Try a variety of jump rope challenges! See if you can jump rope while counting. Next, try to sing a song while you jump. You might try the one Frances sings, a popular song, or the one you wrote! You could also time the amount of jumps you can do in one minute.

Item Included: jump rope

Egg Taste Test

Frances's father lists a number of ways to prepare eggs, such as scrambled, over-easy, and hard boiled. Try a few different types of egg dishes and see which one you like the best! You could spread your taste test out over a number of days or try a few at a time!

Make a Lunch

Albert "likes to have a good lunch:" cream cheese with cucumbers and tomatoes on rye, with a pickle and a hard-boiled egg (don't forget the salt shaker!), a tangerine, grapes, a thermos full of milk, and "cup custard" for dessert (with a spoon, of course). Frances' mother packs her a good lunch as well: a thermos of cream of tomato soup, a lobster salad sandwich, an assortment of veggies and fruit, and vanilla pudding with chocolate sprinkles for dessert. Recreate either Frances or Albert's lunch from the story with the help of our recipe cards

Items Included: Recipe Cards, menu cards and templates

Materials Not Included: ingredients



HARRY AND THE BUCKETFUL OF DINOSAURS UNIT

Book Included: *Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs* by Ian Whybrow

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs*. This unit provides activities in science, art, math and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Silicone Dinosaur Cooking Mold, Gummy Recipe, Modeling Clay Fossil Activity, Finger Painting Activity, Paintbrush, Mini Dinosaur Skeleton, Balloon and Frozen Egg Activity, Stamp Counting Dinosaur sheet, Left or Right sheet, Dinosaur classification sheet, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5: What do you know about dinosaurs?**
- **Ages 5-9: What is your favorite kind of dinosaur? Why?**

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Bread and Jam for Frances*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**
Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.
- **Discuss & Paint**
Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you paint a hand and press it onto the paper for the beginning of your dinosaur handprint. After you finish discussing the book, add the other dinosaur parts and draw in any details you want.
Items Included: finger paint, white paper, paint brush
Materials Not Included: black pen or marker, scissors

- **Physical Playtime**

Get your readers moving playing these classic games with a dinosaur- inspired twist.

Item Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE LESSONS

Make Your Own Fossil

Much of what we know about dinosaurs comes from studying their fossilized bones. Now, you get to make your own dinosaur fossil! First, spend some time playing with your clay and dinosaur skeleton. When you're ready to make your fossil, start by flattening a ball of clay until it is about 2 cm thick, making sure the top is smooth. Press the dinosaur skeleton into the clay until it is partially buried, then carefully remove the skeleton from the clay. An impression should be left behind. Leave out overnight, then enjoy playing with the fossil you made.

Items Included: clay, dinosaur skeleton

Gummy Dinosaur Pets

Use the molds to create your own adorable dinosaurs. These are dinosaurs you can eat!

To Make Gummy Dinosaurs: 1) Pour 1/2 cup juice into a sauce pan and set on low heat. 2) Add 1 tablespoon honey. 3) Add 2 tablespoons of gelatin (vegan gelatin can be used if preferred). 4) Mix until all is dissolved and then remove from heat. 5) Using the dropper, add the liquid into your mold. 6) Place the mold in the fridge for 30 minutes to cool, or until solidified.

Items Included: silicone dinosaur mold, water dropper

Materials Not Included: fruit juice, honey, gelatin

Dinosaur Naming

Greek and Latin roots are the building blocks of many words in the

English language, and that includes dinosaur names too. Often times, it is paleontologists (scientists who study fossils) who get to name the dinosaurs they find, but now it's your turn! Use the Dinosaur Naming sheet to learn more about root words and to name and create your own dinosaur. Then, color in the dinosaurs on the Dinosaur Coloring Page. Do you recognize any of the root words?

Item Included: Dinosaur Naming sheet, Dinosaur Coloring Page sheet

Materials Not Included: colored pencils or crayons

Frozen Dinosaur Egg Excavation

This icy dinosaur egg activity is easy to make and lots of fun to excavate! The balloon works best for a true egg shape, but any plastic container will do. To Make Dinosaur Eggs: 1) Blow up the balloon and hold it for 30 seconds to stretch it out. 2) Stretch open the top of the balloon and stuff the dinosaur skeleton into the balloon. Food coloring makes for a messy, but fun addition. 3) Fill the balloon with water and tie it up. 4) Stick the balloon in the freezer and wait. 5) When the balloon is completely frozen, cut off the knot, and peel off the balloon. 6) Place your icy dinosaur egg in a bowl or on a tray and set out a bowl of warm water for some melting fun! With each dropper of water, you will uncover more and more of your dinosaur.

Items Included: dinosaur skeleton, water dropper, balloon

Lost and Found

In the story, Harry loses his dinosaurs and then, thankfully, finds them again. Let's turn Harry's experience of losing his dinosaurs into a fun game! Have a grown-up hide the dinosaur skeleton (and/or any other available dinosaur toys). When it's time to find the "lost" dinosaur(s), the participating grown-up can either give clues to

lead to the dinosaurs' whereabouts or say "warmer" and "colder" to help lead the way. This game of lost-and-found can be played again and again.

Museum Day

Take a weekend day to enjoy a dinosaur hunt on a larger scale by visiting your closest natural history museum or touring one online. Natural history museums are scientific institutions with collections that include current and historical records of plants, animals, fungi, ecosystems, geology, paleontology, and more. Every natural history museum includes some sort of dinosaur exhibit. Some even house actual fossilized dinosaur bones! Consider bringing a sketch pad to list the dinosaurs you find and/or to sketch pictures of the most interesting dinosaurs or dinosaur bones you see.

Dinosaur Stamping

Use your stamp to fill in each circle from 1 to 9! For those beyond counting, use the back of this sheet to write equations or story problems. Use your stamper to help you solve each math problem.

Items Included: Dinosaur Stamper, Stamp Counting Dinosaurs sheet

Left or Right? Dinosaurs

Which way are the dinosaurs facing? Write an R next to the dinos facing to the right and an L next to those facing to the left. When you're done, count them up and record your totals.

Item Included: Left or Right? sheet



LIT LEAGUE
RUBY'S BIRDS UNIT

Book Included: *Ruby's Birds* by Claudia Davila

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Ruby's Birds*. This unit provides activities in science, art, math and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Pinecone Feeder Activity & Supplies, Bird Math Stamper Activity, Bird Chart & Log, Bird Canvas and Paints, Migration Information and Pretend Play, Pattern Activity sheet, How to Draw a Cockatoo sheet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** What are some things that you know about birds?
- **Ages 5-9:** What is your favorite bird and why?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Ruby's Birds*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**
Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.
- **Discuss & Paint**
Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you paint your bird canvas.
Items Included: bird canvas, paints, paintbrush
- **Physical Playtime**
Get your readers moving playing these classic games with an avian twist.
Items Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE LESSONS

Feed the Birds

Before you begin this activity, ensure that local wildlife authorities consider it a safe time of the year to put out birdfeeders in your area. Then, gather your supplies to make a birdfeeder. From this box you will need the birdseed, string, and pinecone. You will also need a type of nut or seed butter, like peanut butter or sun butter, that is safe for both you and the birds. Use a spoon to smear the seed or nut butter along the ridges of the pinecone, then roll it in your seeds. Finally, hang your pinecone near a window so you can watch the local birds as they visit your feeder.

Items Included: pinecone, string, birdseed

Materials Not Included: seed or nut butter

Bird-Watching Nature Walk

Many bird watchers like to search for birds everywhere they go. Follow “Ruby’s Tips for Taking a Nature Walk” on the last page of your book. Head outside to see how many different types of birds you can identify. You will find the back of our bird sheet helpful, along with the bird list at the end of *Ruby’s Birds*.

Item Included: Bird Watching sheet

Materials Not Included: writing utensils, binoculars (optional)

Bird Math

Use the provided bird stamp to put birds in the trees on the Bird Math sheet. If you are working on counting, match the number of stamps you make to the numerals in each tree. If you are working on multiplication, choose a number and multiply that number by the number in each tree; multipliers will stamp the multiplication products in each tree.

Items Included: Bird Math sheet, stamp

Bird Migration

Ruby goes bird watching in Central Park, where many birds stop along their migration routes. Learn about migration by reading our Bird Migration sheet.

Item Included: Bird Migration sheet

Materials Not Included: colored pencils, crayons, or markers

What Comes Next?

Practice pattern work while learning bird names. See if you can determine which bird should come next in each pattern. When you’re done, you might cut the birds out to make your own patterns. Test family members or friends with different sequences.

Item Included: What Come’s Next sheet

Materials Not Included: colored pencils, crayons, or markers

Book Bird Watching

The book, *Ruby’s Birds*, is filled with detailed bird illustrations. Look back through the book and count all the birds pictured within. Then, see if you can identify each bird-type using the chart found in the back of the book.

Item Included: *Ruby’s Birds*

Step by Step Bird Drawing

Ruby’s family has a cockatoo named Alex. You can learn how to draw a cockatoo, like Alex, by following the step-by-step instructions on our How to Draw a Bird sheet!

Item Included: How to Draw a Bird sheet

Materials Not Included: drawing utensils

Bird Calls

Ruby talks to her grandmother's Cockatoo who has learned the phrase "Wa gine on?" Birds in the wild don't speak English, but each species has a variety of calls and songs that they use to communicate with each other. One way birdwatchers identify birds is through their calls. Some people even learn how to mimic the calls. The Audubon Society is a great resource for learning about birds. Visit their website with an adult at <https://www.audubon.org/news/a-beginners-guide-common-bird-sounds-and-what-they-mean> to listen to and try out a few bird calls yourself!

Pass It On

Ruby's neighbor, Eva, teaches Ruby how to look for birds in the park and identify them. She also tells Ruby about bird migration. Think of something you know that you can teach others about. It might be how to say something in a different language, how to perform a special dance move, or you might have tips for how to be a good older sibling or best make a bed. Then after you have passed on your knowledge, ask a friend or family member to share something they know that you would like to learn, like how to fry an egg, how to tie a shoe, or how to draw a sunset.



THE KNIGHT AND THE DRAGON UNIT

Book Included: *The Knight and the Dragon* by Tomie dePaola

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *The Knight and the Dragon*. This unit provides activities in social studies, art, math and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Medieval Recipes, Paper Dragon Craft, Castle Coloring, Castle Part Labeling, a Medieval Crest Activity, Library Scavenger Hunt, Plastic Sword, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** What do you imagine a knight in shining armor to look and act like? What about a dragon?
- **Ages 5-9:** How do you expect a knight in shining armor and a dragon to behave together? What should people do when they aren't getting along?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 1: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *The Knight and the Dragon*.

Step 3: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**
Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.
- **Discuss & Draw**
Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you color and assemble the papercraft dragon.

Items Included: papercraft dragon, discussion questions and answers

Materials Not Included: coloring pencils or crayons

- **Physical Playtime**

Get your readers moving playing these classic games with a Medieval twist.

Item Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE LESSONS

Coat of Arms

In the book, when the knight paints his round shield, he uses blue (understanding, calm, dignity) and gold (success, quality, virtue). He uses the symbol of the moon (for serenity) and three stars (representing nobility). Help your reader create a personal coat of arms.

Items Included: Coat of Arms Symbolism sheet, paper shield

Materials Not Included: coloring pencils or crayons

Castle Coloring

Now that your reader has created a dragon and a fine coat of arms, it's time to think about castles. Ages 3-5: Color your dream castle. Then fold back the flaps to make your castle stand up.

Ages 5-9: Color while you learn the parts of a castle.

Items Included: Castle Coloring sheet

Materials Not Included: coloring pencils or crayons

Medieval Feast

The knight and the dragon are able to come together at the end of this story through food. Work with your reader to create your own medieval feast. Choose one or more dishes from the recipe card provided. This would be a fun event to share with friends and/or extended family members. Meals are always more fun when people prepare them together.

Items Included: Medieval Recipes

Materials Not Included: ingredients

Castle Playhouse

Now that you have colored a castle, make your own castle to play in. To do this, you will need to have a grown up help you find a large box (the bigger the better). Once you have the box, follow the images below to make your own castle, complete with a drawbridge.

Learn Something New

Books are great fun to read, but they can also help you learn about all sorts of things. In *The Knight and the Dragon*, the knight visits the castle library to find and read books on dragon fighting, and the dragon also reads books to learn how to fight. Once the knight and dragon find that fighting does not end well, the castle librarian rides up with a cart of books to help the knight and the dragon learn how they can work together to create a Bar-B-Q restaurant, which proves a lot more fun for both of them. What is something that you want to learn more about? Have a grown up take you to a library. Your grown up and the librarian can help you find picture books related to your topic of interest.

Library Scavenger Hunt

Pay a visit to your local library to complete this fun scavenger hunt.

If that's not possible, look to see how many of the below items you can find at home. Don't forget to mind your library manners when visiting your library!

Item Included: Library Scavenger Hunt sheet

Knight Kindness Challenge

Knights of old often lived by a very strict code of conduct. Medieval knights are said to have sworn to a Code of Chivalry, which required that they display model behavior and always be kind, truthful, loyal, and brave. Take the Knight Kindness Challenge this week and try to be on your best behavior. Every time you do a good deed by helping a friend or family member, track it on one of the empty crests below by writing down your deed and coloring in each crest.

Item Included: Kindness Challenge sheet



CURIOUS GEORGE GOES CAMPING UNIT

Book Included: *Curious George Goes Camping* by Margaret and H.A. Rey

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Curious George Goes Camping*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, science and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Animal Fact Cards, Tell A Camping Story Activity, Camping Challenge Activity, Tent Craft Kit, Tea Light Fire Craft, Monkeys, Mini Flashlight, Additional Activities, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** Have you ever slept in a tent? What was it like, or what do you think it would be like?
- **Ages 5-9:** Have you ever been camping? What is your favorite part about camping? If you have never been, what do you think you might like best about it?

Preview High Frequency Finds and Wonder Words with new readers.

Items Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Curious George Goes Camping*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**

Have a grown-up reread the book out loud, so that it is fresh in everyone's mind.

- **Discuss & Build**

Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Pull out questions and answer them while putting together your miniature tent. Once finished, decorate the tent. This tent would be great fun to use for playing camping with the monkeys included in this box or with some of your favorite little toy friends!

Items Included: tent kit, tent kit instruction sheet, discussion questions and answers

Materials Not Included: scissors

- **Physical Playtime**

Get moving by playing these classic games with a camping twist.

Item Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE LESSONS

Tissue Paper Campfire

Now that you have a tent, it's time to make a campfire. But this one you can keep burning all the time, and even store in your room. First, you will need to go outside (the place where all great camping trips begin) and gather enough sizeable rocks to make a circle around your cardboard disk. Arrange the rocks around the edge of the disk. Once you like the placement, glue them down using tacky glue. Set your tissue paper on a flat surface, alternating colors and offsetting the corners. Put a small dab of glue in the center of each piece of tissue paper before you stack the other on top of it. Do not put a dab of glue on the top piece. You do not want to glue the candle to the tissue paper because you will need to remove it to turn it off and on. Set the tea light candle on the center of the tissue paper. Carefully, gather the tissue paper up around the candle. Pinch the tissue paper around the candle as much as necessary to shape your flames. Squirt some glue in the center of the disk and set the bunched tissue paper on the glue. Let the glue dry and your little campfire is ready to use.

Items Included: cardboard disk, tissue paper squares, glue, electric tea light candle

Materials Not Included: rocks

Monkeying Around

Enjoy a little monkey merriment with your stretchable friends. In the book, George is always getting into mischief. Let's see what trouble your monkeys can get into! Pull back and see how far you can send your monkeys sailing. This can be done as a friendly competition, with each person using a different monkey. Or you can just try to outdo yourself each time. You could also see how high you can get your monkeys. Try aiming for a high shelf or lamp top. But don't aim so high you can't get your monkeys back.

You could also try hiding your monkeys in funny places for a grown-up or friend to find. Or spring them out to surprise a family member or friend when they walk by.

Items Included: rubber monkeys

Storytelling and Imagination

Pick a night to do a camp-in with your family (using your backyard or living room for your campsite). You may use an actual tent and sleeping bags or create your own with sheets and blanket and pillows. After setting up camp, take a walk outside and look around at the trees, the birds, and every other element of nature you can see. What do you observe? As you're walking, collect one or two favorite nature finds to share later (a special rock, an interesting leaf, a flower, etc.). Once back at your campsite, have everyone share their nature finds and observations. Next, get your flashlight and sit around your tissue paper campfire. Have a grown-up read the provided campfire stories. Take turns coming up with other campfire stories of your own. You may choose to eat and/or sleep as a family at your chosen campsite.

Items Included: flashlight, campfire stories

Materials Not Included: tent or sheets, sleeping bags or blankets and pillows

Camping Challenge

Choose a few of the below bullet-pointed camping challenges to try with family or friends. These are activities you can participate in while preparing for a camping trip or while camping at home or away. Once you finish a new activity, color in one of the badges below to celebrate its completion.

Item Included: Camping Challenge sheet

Tell A Camping Story

Curious George Goes Camping is about an adventure George has while he is out camping. Now it is your turn to tell or write a story that is set at a campground.

Cut out some of the camping images on our “Tell a Camping Story: Part 2” sheet. Arrange some of the pictures in different ways in the space provided in page 1. What stories do the picture arrangements tell? Can you arrange them in a funny way? Can you arrange them in a way that teaches a lesson? Choose one of the stories that you created and tell it to someone. Then, consider writing it down in the space provided. You might also tell it to a grownup who can transcribe it for you! If you’d like, glue down the images that tell your chosen tale.

Items Included: Tell a Camping Story sheets, glue

Animal Fact Cards

Learn about skunks and moneys with our animal fact cards. How are these animals similar and in what ways are they different? Try your hand at drawing each animal or making up your own animal story featuring these animals as characters.

Items Included: animal fact cards



LIT LEAGUE **HELLO OCEAN UNIT**

Book Included: *Hello Ocean* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Hello Ocean*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, science and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Watercolor Paint Palette, Left or Right? Clownfish, Spot the Difference: Fish, Shell Paint Canvas, Shells, Matching Activity, Salt & Sensory Activity, Poetry Activities, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** Have you ever been to the beach? If so, describe your visit. If not, what do you think it would be like?
- **Ages 5-9:** What are the five senses?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 1: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Hello Ocean*.

Step 3: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**

Reread the book out loud to little readers so that it is fresh in their minds.

- **Discuss & Paint**

Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you paint the shell canvas.

Items Included: painting canvas, watercolor paints, discussion questions & answers

Materials Not Included: scissors

- **Physical Playtime**

Get readers moving playing these classic games with a beach-inspired twist.

Item Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE LESSONS

One of These Things

Study the One of These Things is Not Like the Other sheet and determine which ocean animal does not fit in each grouping. Older children might design their own versions of this game by drawing their own groupings to compare.

Item Included: One of These Things is Not Like the Other sheet

Materials Not Included: writing utensil

Left or Right: Clownfish

Practice your right from your left and your counting skills by adding up the clownfish on the Left or Right sheet!

Item Included: Left or Right: Clownfish sheet

Materials Not Included: writing utensil

Shell Sort & Identify

Sort the seashells by color, by size, and by type of shell. After the third time sorting, color the shell identification page and see which shells match with the labeled pictures provided.

Items Included: variety of shells, shell matching and classification coloring sheet

Sensory Exploration

Mix the salt with water to make your own ocean water. Take a small taste. What does it taste like? What does the girl in the book think it tastes like? Do you agree? What are things you like to taste?

Go on a walk outside or around your home. Practice using your senses! What do you see, hear, smell, & how do things feel?

Item Included: salt packet

Sensory Poems

Create your own five senses poems.

Ages 3-9: Create a sensory poem about the ocean, drawing from your own experiences or details from the book. Then write one about a place or object of your choosing. Use the five senses to bring your writing to life!

Ages 5-9: Pick an abstraction (a general idea or quality that cannot be easily explained or described) and create a poem that tries to capture this abstract idea through sensory description. Here are some possible abstractions you could use: love, truth, anger, peace, hope, confusion, surprise. Our template will help you create an abstract masterpiece!

Items Included: sensory poem templates

Seashell Treasure Hunt

In the story, the girl's visit to the ocean is filled with exploration along the shoreline, in glistening tide pools, and secret rocky nooks. Either hide your shells around the house to create a treasure hunt for your family members or have a parent or other grown up hide the shells for you to find. A plastic bucket would work great for collecting these gems of the ocean.

Items Included: variety of shells

Rhyme Time

Many words in *Hello Ocean* rhyme, like "sand" and "land." Find some more rhyming words in the book. Then, play a rhyming game with a friend or grown up. Take turns picking a word for the other one to rhyme. For

example, you might start with “jelly,” and your playmate could come up with “belly,” then ask you to find a word that rhymes with “rose.” What word might rhyme with that?

Older readers might make it an elimination game. Or choose a word with a partner; then see who can write down the most rhymes for that word in a minute’s time. The winner earns a point. See who can get to ten points first.

Poetry That Rhymes

Although *Hello Ocean* tells a story in book form, it is written as a rhymed poem. Use some of your rhymes from the game as the end words for your own rhyming poem. With the example above, one might start a poem with these two lines: I saw some grape jelly/and I felt hungry in my belly. Or, you could choose any new rhyming words you want for your poem.

Living Room Beach Day

Create your own day at the beach in your living room. You may wish to include a beach towel, sunglasses, the seashells, blocks or other building materials for making a “sand castle,” a plastic bucket and shovel, and salt water (in whatever size container your grown up deems appropriate). You should also bring along some books (as no beach time is complete without them), and invite friends or family members to join you.

Ocean Mural

Find a large piece of paper, kraft paper, or posterboard to make an ocean mural. Then, gather up your favorite art supplies. Consider how you will color your scene. Will you draw an ocean floor on the bottom, with coral or plants? What color will you make the water? What types of fish would you like to include? Consider cutting out the fish on the One of These Things sheet and the Left or Right: Clownfish sheet and pasting them onto your mural.

Items Included: One of These Things is Not Like the Other sheet, Left or Right: Clownfish sheet

Materials Not Included: additional art supplies



PICTURE BOOK SUBSCRIPTION

Objectives: Lit League’s award-winning, book-themed activity boxes are designed to nurture a love of reading. Students are provided with a variety of multidisciplinary activities as a means of engaging with an important work of literature.

Materials: Lit League Picture Book Activity Boxes are perfect for shared experiences with 3-5 year olds or a more independent experience for readers ages 5-9. Each month, readers will receive a book-themed activity box designed around our monthly book selection from our Lit League library.

Each Lit League Picture Book Activity Box includes:

- a high-interest picture book
- a sight word and vocabulary bookmark
- 5+ fun-filled activities related to the book
- physical playtime instructions
- discussion questions and answers
- the tools to enjoy a shared family experience or participate in a book club with friends
- instructions for implementation and differentiation before, during, and after reading each title
- suggestions for additional thematic reading that can be used to build out a larger unit

Books Included:

School Year Cycle 2: 2025-2026, 2027-2028, 2029-2030*

August: *Pet Show!* by Ezra Jack Keats

September: *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves* by Julia Rawlinson

October: *The Caboose Who Got Loose* by Bill Peet

November: *Mice and Beans* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

December: *Snow* by Uri Shulevitz

January: *Song and Dance Man* by Karen Ackerman

February: *Rechenka’s Eggs* by Patricia Polacco

March: *Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin* by Lloyd Moss

April: *Zomo the Rabbit* by Gerald McDermott

May: *The Day the Goose Got Loose* by Reeve Lindbergh

June: *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin

July: *Strega Nona* by Tommie dePaola

*School Year Cycle 1 begins on page 1



LIT LEAGUE **PET SHOW! UNIT**

Book Included: *Pet Show!* by Ezra Jack Keats

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Pet Show!*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Windup Mouse, Shadow Puppet Craft and Activity with Animal Cutouts and Sticks, Cubism Art Coloring Page, Ideal Pet Writing, Dog Fact Card, Cat Fact Card, Reflection Sheet, Activity, Oil Pastels, Prize Ribbon Craft and Activity, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** If you could have any type of pet, what kind of animal would you want? Why?
- **Ages 5-9:** Have you ever had a pet? If so, talk about what you like best about having a pet. If you've never had a pet, what do you think you would like best?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book, Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Pet Show!*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**
Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.
- **Discuss & Make**
Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you put together your pet shadow puppets.
Items Included: shadow puppet cut-outs, sticks, circle adhesives

- **Physical Playtime**

Get your readers moving playing these classic games with a pet-inspired twist. Item **Included:** Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE LESSONS

Shadow Puppet Theatre

Now that you've made your shadow puppets, it's time to put on a show. To make your theatre, all you need is a lamp and a "screen." You can hang a white sheet or use the back of flat blinds, smooth curtains, or a section of flat white wall as your screen. Place the puppets between the light and the screen and act out any story you choose (as close to the screen as possible works best). Feel free to encourage other participants to join in and create the story together. Try out different voices for your characters to add to the fun!

Items Included: shadow puppet cut-outs, popsicle sticks, circle adhesives

Materials Not Included: sheet, lamp

Cubism with Fish

Ezra Jack Keats' illustrations are unique in their deceptive simplicity and lushness. His drawings were inspired by several "fine art" styles, particularly cubism—an art movement where artists did not try to depict realistic views of their subject. Instead, in cubist art the subject matter is broken up into different shapes and angles. Take inspiration from the bright colors and defined shapes of Keats' *Pet Show* illustrations and make your own cubist-influenced pet picture.

Items Included: Fishbowl Sketch, pastels

Prize Ribbons

Before you can host your own pet show, you need to create prize ribbons. Traditionally, blue is used for first place, red for second, and white for third, but you can use the colors in whatever prize order you want.

Items Included: colored paper, glue, Paper Prize Ribbon instructions

Materials Not Included: black marker, scissors

Best in Show

Once you've made your prize ribbons, you are ready to host your own pet contest. This contest could be staged with a group of stuffed animals, or you could get family members or friends and their stuffed animals or real-life pets involved. You could choose to be a judge or participant, or people could take turns trying out different roles. For extra fun, come up with enough award categories to allow everyone to be a winner on some level, as they do in the *Pet Show* competition. You could also add a pet talent competition and decide a talent for each pet to perform. The windup mouse can become a fun part of the competition, racing other real or pretend pets for the award of fastest pet.

Item Included: windup mouse

Character Counts

During this story, Peter demonstrates many admirable traits. Despite being unable to find his cat, he doesn't give up on participating in the pet show, which shows perseverance. He exhibits creativity and imaginative thinking by coming up with the idea of bringing a germ as a pet. And, perhaps most importantly, he shows kindness

by allowing the old woman to earn and keep the blue ribbon for his cat. He even compliments the old woman, saying that the ribbon looks good on her. This week, try to think of one way to exhibit each of these traits: perseverance, creativity/imaginative thinking, and kindness. As a family, try to come up with ways you each might do things to put these traits into action.

Create-A-Pet

Describe your ideal pet. What kind of animal would it be? What would it look like? What would it most like to eat? What would it like to do or not like to do? Where would it most like to sleep or play? Would it have any favorite animal friends? After you've spent time thinking about your ideal pet, draw a picture of your pet. After that, come

up with a story about something that might happen over the course of a day spent with your pet. You can have a grown-up help you write out the story, so that you can always remember the story you created and share it with others.

Item Included: Create-A-Pet sheet

Mouse Measurements

Practice making predictions with our Mouse Measurements sheet. Grab some measuring tape and estimate how far your new windup mouse can travel. After you make a prediction, mark a clear starting line, wind up the mouse, and let it go. Then, measure your mouse's first run. Now make a new estimate for your mouse's next run. Continue revising and testing your estimates

Items Included: windup mouse, Mouse Measurements sheet

Materials Not Included: measuring tape

Memory & Math

Cut out the Memory & Math Pet Cards. Then, use them to play a game of memory or as manipulatives for math activities! You can practice your numeracy skills by counting, adding, subtracting, or multiplying pets.

Items included: Memory & Math Pet Cards



FLETCHER AND THE FALLING LEAVES UNIT

Book Included: *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves* by Julia Rawlinson

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, science, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Leaf Suncatcher Craft, Watercolor Paints, Dropper, Coffee Filters, Nature Walk Leaf Hunt Activity, Leaf and Fox Symmetry Sheet, Leaf Identification Sheet, Paper Leaves, Worry Leaves Activity, Fox Mosaic & Poetry Sheet, Tissue Paper, Glue, Leaf Crown Activity, Paper Crown, Stuffed Fox Plush, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** What happens during the season of fall?
- **Ages 5-9:** Try to remember something that made you worry. What was it, and what did you do to try to make it better?

Preview High Frequency Finds and Wonder Words with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**
Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.
- **Discuss & Make Leaf Suncatchers**
Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Then, take turns pulling out a question to answer while you cut out and dye your leaf suncatchers. Follow the directions on the Suncatcher Cutout sheet to create beautiful leaf art. Tape your dry suncatchers to the windows in your home for a fun fall decoration.
Items Included: coffee filters, dropper, watercolor paint, Suncatcher Cutout sheet
Materials Not Included: pen, scissors

- **Physical Playtime**

Get your readers moving playing these classic games with a forest animal twist.

Items Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Leaf & Face Symmetry

Did you know that most leaves are naturally symmetrical? That means that if you fold them in half they will be exactly the same on both sides. Symmetry is an important concept to master because it is found in nature, art, and math. Practice drawing in the second half of each leaf on our Leaf Symmetry sheet. Next, turn to the back and practice your symmetry and drawing skills by completing the fox face on the back of your sheet.

Item Included: Leaf Symmetry sheet

Materials Not Included: pencil, coloring utensils

Leaf Identification

You can tell what type of tree a leaf comes from based on the leaf's shape and size. Find the paper leaves and sort them based on the Leaf Identification sheet. Learn about each type of tree, and then color the trees to match the leaves.

Items Included: paper leaves, Leaf Identification sheet

Materials Not Included: pencil, coloring utensils

Fox Art & Poetry

Use the orange and white tissue paper in your Lit League Box to make a paper collage craft! Tear the orange and white tissue paper into small pieces, then glue them to the blue cardstock with the black fox outline and poem. Your fox will look like a fox mosaic. Add googly eyes and a pompon nose. For an extra challenge, try to memorize the first, or first two stanzas, of the poem by A.A.Milne, author of *Winnie the Pooh*. You can recite it when you show people your tissue paper fox.

Items Included: blue cardstock with fox outline, orange and white tissue paper, glue, googly eyes, pom pom nose

Build Your Own Den

Every fox needs a home. Take some time to build a den of your own! Find a space to drape a sheet or blanket, then bring in pillows and small blankets to make your den cozy. Invite a friend or family member to tour your home, or enjoy some individual playtime. You could bring in the stuffed fox and pretend it's your baby you need to care for. Or make this den your royal castle and the fox your loyal subject.

Items Included: fox stuffed animal, leaf crown

Nature Walk & Leaf Hunt

Fall nature walks are a delightful way to spend part of your day, but you can enjoy a nature walk any time of year. Take a walk outside paying special attention to the leaves. What do you observe? How are they the same? How are they different? Do you recognize any of the kinds of leaves you see? Can you find any of the leaves depicted on the Leaf Hunt sheets? Collect different leaves along your walk. When you get home, sort and resort your leaves based on different attributes. Try sorting by color, by shape, by size, and by where they were found. Save your favorite leaves for the leaf crown.

Items Included: Leaf Hunt sheets

Leaf Crown

Use the included paper strips as a base for a fall crown. Attach the leaves and any flowers you find on your nature walk to the crown with glue or a stapler. Have fun wearing your crown for the day. You can pretend

you're forest royalty. Or, become a master forest chef and prepare a cozy warm breakfast to enjoy in your den, like Fletcher does at the end of the book.

Item Included: paper crown

Worry Leaves

Fletcher is very worried that his favorite tree is losing its leaves. Everyone gets worried from time to time. Sometimes it helps to talk or write about your worries. Think about some of the worries you have right now. Hold one of the paper leaves from the Leaf Identification activity and talk about your worry with a grownup. Name one worry for each leaf. You will probably find that you feel better after you talk about your concerns.

Items Included: paper leaves



THE CABOOSE WHO GOT LOOSE UNIT

Book Included: *The Caboose Who Got Loose* by Bill Peet

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *The Caboose Who Got Loose*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Ceramic Train & Paints, Train Engineer Hat, Train Whistle, Appreciation Station Activity, Train Types Coloring Pages, Name Train Craft, Railroad Reading Challenge Sheet, Rhyme Time: Locomotion Game, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** Do you like trains? What are some train stories that you know?
- **Ages 5-9:** What are some things that make you nervous or scared?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *The Caboose Who Got Loose*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**
Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.
- **Discuss & Paint**
Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you paint your ceramic train car. Once done, set aside to dry overnight.
Items Included: ceramic train car, paints
- **Physical Playtime**
Get your readers moving playing these classic games with a train-inspired twist.
Items Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Name Train

Make your name into a locomotive art project! Find the two thin sheets of paper, one with tracks and an engine train, the other with only tracks. Then, find the Name Train sheet with blank train cars. Write one letter of your name on each train car and color the cars a different color. Then cut the cars out and glue them to the tracks behind the yellow engine car. If you have a long name, you can extend your tracks using the second sheet. If you'd like, use Katy's adventures and Bill Peet's drawings for landscape inspiration. Now you've made a name train!

Items Included: Name Train sheets, Train Track sheets, glue

Materials Not Included: scissors, colored pencils, crayons, or markers

Rhyme Time: Locomotion Edition

The Caboose Who Got Loose is filled with fabulous rhymes. Studies show that rhyming games and books help build important preliteracy skills. Play our train-themed rhyme game by coloring and cutting out our Rhyme Time Train Cars. You might color rhyming pairs the same color or, for a challenge, color each car a different color. We've provided a few ways for you to play this fun rhyming game. Check out the Rhyme Time Locomotion Edition to play!

Items Included: Rhyme Time: Locomotion Edition sheets

Materials Not Included: scissors, colored pencils, crayons, or markers

Appreciation Station

In the beginning of the story Katy is not happy to be a caboose. She wishes she were a cabin in the woods or a barn on a farm. She is not content in her own life until a switchman shack says he wishes he could travel the world like Katy. Then Katy realizes that there are many things about her life that she can and should appreciate. Think about the things and people that you appreciate having in your life.

Complete the Appreciate Station sheet and share your work with your family and friends.

Item Included: Appreciation Station sheet

Materials Not Included: scissors, colored pencils, crayons, or markers

Railroad Reading Challenge

Do you like trains? Take our Railroad Reading Challenge! Find as many books as you can about trains; we've provided some recommendations on the back of this pamphlet. If trains aren't really your thing, choose a different topic to read about. Color in one of the badges on our Railroad Reading Challenge sheet each time you finish a new book. Happy reading!

Item Included: Railroad Reading Challenge sheet

Materials Not Included: colored pencils, crayons, or markers

Train Car Coloring Pages

Different trains have different types of cars depending on what they are pulling. Some trains carry people, others carry goods, like lumber or cars. Learn about some of the different types of passenger and cargo railway wagons as you color our Specialized Machinery Coloring Pages.

Items Included: Specialized Machinery Coloring Pages

Materials Not Included: colored pencils, crayons, or markers

All Aboard Box Car Boxes

Collect several large shipping boxes. Each box will be a different car in your own train. Decorate your cars different colors using paint, crayons, or markers from home. Then, put on your hat, get your whistle, and go for a ride. Describe what you see! Invite friends and family members to get in a box car and ride with you. Stop periodically to explore new places and go on imaginary adventures, then get back in your train and travel

someplace new!

Item Included: train whistle, hat

Materials Not Included: large boxes, additional art supplies

The Locomotion

The song “The Loco-motion” became a big hit for Little Eva in 1962. The Grand Funk Railroad cover in 1974 was a top ten hit, as was the 1988 version by Kylie Minogue. Choose your favorite rendition of this catchy tune and learn the accompanying dance. The song lyrics explain how to do the dance but watch Little Eva’s back up dancers online for choreography tips!

Tubular Tunnels

Gather up any trains, train cars, or small vehicles you might have around your home. Then collect paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, and small boxes. Use tape to build tunnels and stations for your toys. Alternatively, you might use your ceramic engine car once it is dry, but be careful as it is fragile.

Facing Your Fears

Katy the caboose gets scared on her train route. She fears sliding off of the tracks, of being hit by falling rocks, and of dark tunnels. What are you afraid of? What do you do when you get scared? Talk to a grownup about some strategies that can help you get past your fears. Some things that might help with different fears are: using a nightlight, hugging a special lovey, talking to a trusted adult, counting to ten, holding someone’s hand, or asking yourself if your fear is realistic.



MICE AND BEANS UNIT

Book Included: *Mice and Beans* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Mice and Beans*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, “Bean” Letter Activity, Piñata Craft, Mouse Shape Craft, Mouse Clay Activity, Birthday Cake Wish Box Writing, Bean Activity Suggestions, Sensory Box Suggestions, Scooper, Feliz Cumpleaños Pencil, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING DISCUSSION

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- Ages 3-5: What comes to your mind when you think of birthday parties?
- Ages 5-9: What has been your favorite birthday party ever and why? This could be one of your own birthday parties or someone else’s.

Preview High Frequency Finds and Wonder Words with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Mice and Beans*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

• Read Aloud

Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.

• Discuss & Make Paper Candies

Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out a question to answer while you make a mouse out of shapes.

Items Included: Mouse Shapes sheet, glue, eyes, pom-pom nose, yarn tail

Materials Not Included: scissors

• Physical Playtime

Get your readers moving playing these classic games with a birthday party twist.

Items Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Piñata Time

Nothing makes a birthday party more festive than a piñata! Follow the included instructions to make your own piñata, so you can enjoy birthday fun like Little Catalina does at her party in *Mice and Beans*. You can fill your piñata with candies, stickers, or other treats.

Items Included: paper bag, tissue paper, paper, glue, hole punch, string, Piñata Instructions

Materials Not Included: scissors

Clay Creations

Use the provided Air-Dry Clay to make a little mouse and/or a collection of beans. If you make a mouse, you might use those from the book as models. If you make beans, consider modeling some after the different types on our Bean Identification sheet. Leave your completed sculptures out to dry for a few days. You may etch, paint, or color them with markers once they're dry.

Items Included: Air-Dry Clay

Materials Not Included: paints, markers

Writing with Beans

Use the clay beans you made, or real beans (large, dried lima beans are a great choice), to practice writing and spelling!

You might simply practice spelling your name or try more complicated words for a challenge. To practice spelling the Frequency Finds from our bookmark, count out 26 real or clay beans and label them with the letters of the alphabet, one letter per bean. Next, count out four more beans and write the letters "E, M, S, and I," as you will need double of these for the next part. It is also helpful to practice word-family sets, such as words that end with "-ay" or "-ight."

Items Included: Air-Dry Clay, Wonderful Words bookmark

Materials Not Included: dried beans, marker

Sensory Fun

Pouring: You might enjoy pouring dried beans and/or uncooked rice back and forth between two cups. See if it can be done without spilling any beans during the transition. Next, try this with two bowls and the provided scooper or a large spoon, transferring from one bowl to the other using the spoon. Always transfer from left to right as a means of early literacy practice.

Sensory Bin: If you enjoy playing in sensory bins, use the packet of cardboard "rice," real rice, and dried or clay beans to fill a tub for sensory play. Add our mini scooper and other types of spoons. Consider adding any birthday-themed items or mice figurines you might have at home.

Letter Practice: Write a letter or multiple letters on a piece of paper with glue. Then, adhere dried beans to the paper in the shape of the letter. You might also spell out words with dried beans on a table.

(Just remember to never eat uncooked beans, as some types will make you very sick!)

Items Included: Air Dry-Clay, Wonderful Words bookmark, scooper

Materials Not Included: dried beans, marker, school glue

Birthday Wishes

At birthdays, like Catalina's, people often make wishes as they blow out their birthday candles. But you can make a wish any time of the year. Find colorful paper to cut into strips to write down your own birthday wishes. Fold up your wishes and put them into your birthday cake box. You can find friends or family and get them in on the fun with everyone adding wishes to add to the birthday wish box.

Items Included: birthday cake box, birthday pencil

Materials Not Included: colored paper and scissors

Rice and Beans

As Rosa María says, “[N]o dinner [is] complete without rice and beans!” Have a grown-up help you make your own rice beans. These can be served as a side dish or as the main dish of your family meal.

Ingredients: 1 (1 lb) bag dried pinto bean, 1/3 cup picante or tomato sauce, 2 1/2 teaspoons salt, 1/2 teaspoon pepper, 1 teaspoon garlic powder, 1 tablespoon garlic minced, 1 tablespoon chili powder, 1/2 teaspoon cumin, 1/2 teaspoon oregano, 3 bay leaves, 1 cup cooked white rice

Directions: 1. Put the beans in a large bowl, cover with cold water, and let soak overnight. 2. Rinse beans in a colander and put in a large pot. 3. Cover with water, about 2 inches over top of beans. 4. Add all ingredients, except rice. 5. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and cook until the beans are tender, 2 to 3 1/2 hours. (Add water if necessary.) 6. Once beans are done, add rice and cook until rice is warm. 7. You can serve the beans and rice as is, or top with shredded cheese, salsa, chopped tomatoes, and/or fresh cilantro.

Family Recipes

Many families have favorite recipes, with some of these used for special occasions. Ask your parents, grandparents, or any other grown-up relative to tell you about special recipes that are a part of your family traditions. You can also tell them some of your favorite foods that they make. Next, pick one or two of the family recipes and cook these with a grown-up.

Party Planning

Rosa María spends the entire book preparing to throw a party for her granddaughter, Catalina. Like Rosa María, you can plan and throw a party for a family member, a special pet, or a stuffed animal. You may want to use your piñata and incorporate the rice and beans or family recipes that you choose as part of the party. Like Rosa María, you can pick a weekend date for your party, and then, along with a grown up, decide what you need to do each day that week to prepare for the party.



Book Included: *Snow* by Uri Schulevitz

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Snow*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, math, science, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Two Snowballs for Physical and Numeracy Play, Papercut Snowflake Templates, Winter Poems, Poetry Templates, Snowflake Tracing, Snowball Cookies Recipe, Snowflake Suncatcher, Glue Stick, Window Hook, Balloons for Ice Snowman, Color Tabs for Color Melting, Mixing Color Activity, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** Have you ever been in the snow? What was it like? If you haven't been in the snow, what do you think it would be like?
- **Ages 5-9:** What are some of the places around the country that get the most snow? Do you live in a place that gets a lot of snow?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Snow*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**
Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.
- **Discuss & Make**
Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you make your ornament. Every snowflake is unique, just like the fun color combinations you're about to make with your tissue paper-backed ornament. Once done, this colorful snowflake ornament can become a special keepsake!
Place the snowflake on your workspace with the white side down. Gently roll your glue stick over a brown section of the back of the snowflake to deposit a small amount of glue. Then, glue the tissue

paper squares onto the back of the snowflake cutout, covering the holes with different colors. Try to rip or cut the tissue paper to fit the desired spaces, so that they don't hang over the edges. It is easier to place them carefully than it is to cut away the excess paper around the intricate edges after it dries. Once done, use the suction cup hook to hang the snowflake in a window!

Items Included: discussion questions and answers, snowflake cutout, tissue paper squares, glue stick, window hooks

Materials Not Included: scissors

- **Physical Playtime**

Get your readers moving playing these snow-inspired games!

Items Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Snowball Target Practice

It's time to throw "snowballs." For this activity, participants can use the included white puff snowballs or any white balls, or a combination of these. Pick a target to throw at. This could even be something to knock over with your chosen snowball. Set the target in a place where it works to throw. Then, participants can take turn trying to hit or knock over the target. Afterward, get a group together to play "cold snowball," following the same rules as hot potato.

Items Included: white puff snowballs

Materials Not Included: target items

Mixing Colors

This activity can be enjoyed in tandem with the Ice Man activity, so be sure to read about both before proceeding with one or the other.

Use the color tabs and dropper to identify the three primary colors. Place each tab in its own glass of water. Then, discover secondary colors by combining pairs of primary colors into empty glasses. Once you've mixed the colors, use the water and droppers to help melt your iceman!

Items Included: Primary vs. Secondary Colors sheet, dropper, color tabs

Materials Not Included: 6 glasses and water

Ice Man

Fill the three balloons with water (one big, one medium, and one small). Let them freeze overnight. Peel the balloons off and stack the balls on a tray or in a tub (use salt between to help them melt and stick together).

After, enjoy melting the snowman colorfully using the included dropper and color tabs. Older kids can try out different melting techniques. This messy activity is best enjoyed on the floor or in a large sensory tub, as the ice balls will fall off and apart as the ice man melts.

Items Included: balloons, dropper, color tabs

Materials Not Included: water

Snow Poetry

There are many famous poems about snow and winter. Read the included poems and discuss. After that, it's time to write your own poems. Try writing or dictating all four poem types and then share them with your friends and family.

Items Included: winter poems, poem-writing templates

Materials Not Included: pencil

Papercut Snowflakes

Many people enjoy making paper snowflakes in the winter. Use the included templates to cut out beautiful snowflakes made of paper. You can make your own designs by folding blank paper into a triangle and cutting along the edges. Try making different types of snowflake patterns.

Items Included: snowflake templates

Materials Not Included: scissors

Snowball Cookies

Making these cookies is a fun and delicious way to celebrate snow and winter!

Item Included: snowball cookies recipe

Materials Not Included: ingredients

Igloo

Spread a white sheet over a table or a couch. Fill the fort with any wintery items you can find, like white pillows, fluffy stuffed animals, picture books about winter, etc. Add books about polar animals and snow. You can even cut out paper snowflakes to scatter about. Then, it's time to play in the igloo.

Items Included: white puff snowballs, snowflake suncatcher

Materials Not Included: sheet and items to fill the igloo fort

White Snow Sensory Bins

Find several containers. Fill one with sugar, one with salt, one with flour, and one with rice. Add small figurines or cars to each container. Then, it's time to play and discover new textures. While playing, have kids explain the similarities and differences between each substance.

Magical Snow

Combine one cup of water with two cups of cornstarch and stir. The mixture is ready when it can easily be removed from the edges of the bowl. The mixture seems liquid. However, if hit, it will not splash. Next, take a handful and try to make a ball with the magical snow. Notice that the ball remains a ball when pressed, but it becomes liquid as soon as you stop manipulating it. If this activity is done indoors, it should be done over a covered table, as it can get a bit messy.

Snowball Math

Use your snowballs to practice numeracy skills! Set two young players up across from each other in a safe space to toss the ball back and forth. Have players count each catch and see how high they can count without dropping the snowball. Older players can pass the ball back and forth while calling out multiplication family facts. For example, if practicing the times 3 facts, the first player would catch the ball and yell, "3," the next would call out, "6," and so on.

Items Included: white puff snowballs



SONG AND DANCE MAN UNIT

Book Included: *Song and Dance Man* by Karen Ackerman

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Song and Dance Man*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, social studies, music, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Special Seniors Portraits, DIY Tap Shoe Activity, Juggling Scarves, Interview Sheet, Pattern Recognition Sheet, When I'm 64 Activity, Put on A Vaudeville Show Suggestions, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** What are your favorite musical instruments or types of entertainment?
- **Ages 5-9:** What is one thing you have learned from someone who is older than you, like a parent or grandparent?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Song and Dance Man*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**

Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.

- **Discuss & Draw**

Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you make a portrait gallery. From grandparents, to teachers, to bus drivers, to caregivers, we all have special senior citizens in our lives. Make a portrait gallery of some of the beloved older people in your life!

Item Included: Special Seniors Portrait Gallery sheet

Materials Not Included: colored pencils, crayons, or markers

- **Physical Playtime**

Get your readers moving playing these classic games with a vaudevillian twist.

Item Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

DIY Outdoor Tap Shoes

In the book, the grandfather puts on his tap shoes. Even if you don't have tap shoes, you can make your own at home by tying the provided washers to the soles of your shoes. Time to get tapping!

Items Included: yarn, washers

Juggling Practice

Many entertainers know how to juggle, which was also a popular act during the days of vaudeville. Try your hand at learning to juggle with our scarves.

Items Included: juggling scarves

When I'm 64

What do you think you will be like when you are a grandma or grandpa? What will you look like? What will you like to do? Complete our When I'm 64 sheet, then share it with family and friends. You might even dress up like an older version of yourself!

Item Included: When I'm 64 sheet

Materials Not Included: colored pencils, crayons, or markers

Fun with Hats

Practice pattern work with different hats. See if you can determine which hat should come next in each sequence. When you're done, you might cut the hats out to make your own patterns and test family members or friends with different sequences. Afterwards, find different hats around your home, like the children in the book. You might wear them for a dance party or try to learn the hat trick that Grandpa does in the book.

Item Included: What Comes Next? sheet

Materials Not Included: writing utensils, hats

Vaudeville Songs

Grandpa sings the once popular George M Cohan song, "Yankee Doodle Boy," in the book, which is also called "Yankee Doodle Dandy." Learn this and a few other popular tunes of old. Famous ditties from that era include "Oh, My Darling Clementine," "Down by the Old Mill Stream," and Alexander's Ragtime Band." Use your scarves to keep time while you dance.

Items Included: juggling scarves

Interview a Special Senior

It's important to learn from our elders and from the experiences that they have had. Work with an adult helper to interview a special senior in your life. During the interview, or later, ask your special senior or another adult to teach you something new, like how to bake bread from scratch or how to sew on a button.

Item Included: Special Senior Interview sheet

Tap Dancing

Have a grownup help you find a tap dance tutorial online so you can learn some special moves like Grandpa! Remember that you can dance in your socks inside like Grandpa and then use your DIY Tap Shoes outside or on scratch-proof flooring.

Items Included: DIY Tap Shoe materials

You've Got Jokes

Grandpa tells an elephant joke during his act. What are some jokes that you know? Tell all of your favorite jokes. Then, have a grownup help you find and practice some new ones. Getting a joke book might help with this. You could consider adding a comedy routine to your vaudeville show.

Put On a Vaudeville Show

Vaudeville shows, like the ones grandpa describes, were popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They consisted of 10-15 unrelated acts featuring, singing, acting, telling jokes, dancing, magic tricks, and even animal tricks. Get family members or friends together to help perform and/or serve as audience members for your own vaudeville show!

Items Included: DIY tap shoes, suspenders and tie, juggling scarves



RECHENKA'S EGGS UNIT

Book Included: *Rechenka's Eggs* by Patricia Polacco

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Rechenka's Eggs*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, social studies, science, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Wooden Egg Painting Activity, Eggeptional Reading Activity, Cathedral Suncatcher Activity, Caribou Fact Card, Goose Fact Card, This or That Animal sheet, Eastern European Easter Recipe Cards, Cheesecloth, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** Can you think of a time when you offered help to either a person or animal?
- **Ages 5-9:** What are some special events or changes in nature that you associate with the spring season?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Rechenka's Eggs*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**

Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.

- **Discuss & Paint**

Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you paint your own egg. You may try to mimic the intricate patterns of one of Babushka's beautiful Ukrainian-style eggs, for a fun challenge. Cut holes in the top of your Lit League Box to support your eggs while they dry. Darker colors will require multiple coats.

Items Included: discussion questions and answers, white egg, paints, paint brush

Materials Not Included: scissors

- **Physical Playtime**
Get your readers moving playing these egg-centered games!
Item Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Easter Flavors

Both in her home and at the festival, Babushka enjoys two treats that are generally associated with Easter celebrations in many parts of Eastern Europe—Kulich and *Pashka*. Use the provided recipes to try one or both of these sweet treats. Kulich is a yeast bread, which means this recipe will require some patience and time. Pashka is a cheesecake-like dish that can be enjoyed on its own or used as a spread for the Kulich or some other type of bread.

Items Included: recipes, cheese cloth

Materials Not Included: ingredients

The Domes of Old Moskva

A unique feature of many churches in Russia is the onion or pear-shaped domes. These domes are popularly believed to symbolize burning candles. While putting together your suncatcher, imagine you are walking with Babuska, crossing the bridge over the Moskva River to see the domes towering in the distance, signaling you are almost to the festival.

Item Included: suncatcher kit

Eggcellent Reading

Use the three colored plastic eggs to have fun sounding out new words! For each egg, choose one of the provided following lists, each with three letters and three-word endings. Copy the letters on the egg's top half and the word endings on the bottom. Try sounding out the words your egg makes as you turn the top half around.

Items Included: Instruction sheet, three colored plastic eggs

Materials Not Included: permanent marker

Animal Fact Cards

Caribou and geese are central figures in this delightful story. Complete and color the provided animal fact cards to learn more about both animal types.

Items Included: animal fact cards

Materials Not Included: pencil, colored pencils or crayons

Hula Hoop Aim Game

Set up three hula hoops on the floor and assign a point value to each (ex: the closest hoop is 10 points and the furthest hoop is 30). Give each player the three plastic eggs. Have them toss the eggs into the hoops to see who can rack up the most points. This is a great way to practice counting by fives or tens, depending on what you make each hula hoop score worth. If hula hoops aren't available, create circles for the toss using yarn or thinly rolled sheets. A row of baskets or boxes will also work for this game.

Items Included: plastic eggs

Materials Not Included: three hula hips or material to make three rings

Egg Tower

You may not be able to recreate the onion domes of Old Moskva, but you can make your own rising egg-topped towers. Get some toilet paper (or paper towel) rolls and cut them in pieces and build the tallest tower you can using cut up rolls and plastic and/or hard-boiled eggs. The eggs will function as

connectors inside the joined rolls. Stack them going like this: roll, egg, roll, egg, etc. Consider making it a competition by enlisting another participant and seeing who can build the highest tower. This could even be a timed race.

Items Included: plastic eggs

Materials Not Included: additional plastic or hard-boiled eggs, toilet paper and paper towel rolls

Meaning in Names

The main character in the book, Babushka, has a name that means grandmother or elderly woman in Russian.

The name she chooses for the goose, Rechenka, means river. Why do you think Babushka might have given her goose this name? It can be fun to discover what your own name means! Ask a parent how or why your name was chosen. You can also have a grown up help you look up where your name came from and what all it might mean. You can do this for others' names as well.



ZIN! ZIN! ZIN! A VIOLIN UNIT

Book Included: *Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin* by Lloyd Moss

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, music, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Ribbon Wand, Mini Recorder, Maracas, Painting Activity, Jess and Friends Groups! Activity, Make a Kazoo Instructions and Supplies, Rhyme Time Activity, Instrument Matching Activity, We've Got the Beat Activity, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** What are some musical instruments that you know about?
- **Ages 5-9:** Have you ever seen a group of musicians play together in real life or on a video? Describe what you remember.

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**

Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.

- **Discuss & Paint**

Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you paint a special design on your new maracas. Cut holes in the top of your Lit League Box to support your maracas while they dry.

Items Included: discussion questions and answers, maracas, paints, paint brush

Materials Not Included: scissors

- **Physical Playtime**

Get your readers moving playing these classic games with a musical twist.

Items Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Jess and Friends Musical Groups Activity

In Western classical and jazz music, the terms solo (one), duet (two), trio (three), quartet (four), quintet (five), sextet (six), septet (seven), octet (eight), nonet (nine), and dectet (ten) describe groupings of musicians and vocalists. Use the Jess & Friends hand out to practice your numbers and groupings.

Items Included: Jess and Friends Groups! sheets

Materials Not Included: scissors

Instrument Match & Color

There are a number of orchestral instruments highlighted in the book. Use our matching sheet to color and identify a variety of instruments that people love to play!

Item Included: Instrument Match and Color sheet

Materials Not Included: coloring utensils

Make a Kazoo

Follow our step-by-step guide to building and decorating a popsicle stick kazoo! Once you're finished it is time to make some music. See if you can play along to some of your favorite songs!

Items Included: Make a Kazoo sheet, 3 rubber bands, 2 popsicle sticks, 2 straw pieces, decorative tape

Materials Not Included: music player

Rhyme Time

Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin is filled with marvelous and musical rhymes. Use our Rhyme Time sheet to make your own rhymes about music and everyday life. If you're up for a challenge, use a collection of rhymes to make a poem.

Item Included: Rhyme Time sheet

Materials Not Included: writing utensil

We've Got the Beat

It is very important for musicians and conductors to keep careful musical time. Practice your rhythm while you keep the beat to songs of your choosing and to ones on our play list. Use your maracas, ribbon wand, kazoo, and recorder to punctuate each beat!

Items Included: We've Got the Beat sheet, maracas, ribbon wand, kazoo, and recorder

Materials Not Included: music player

Start a Band

Take the instruments from this box and see if you can find or make more with what you have at home. For example, an upside-down pot can make a great drum you can bang on with a wooden spoon. Or, rice in a paper cup can make a great shaker. Gather up instruments and friends or family members to start your very own band!

Items Included: maracas, recorder, kazoo activity

Materials Not Included: additional instruments

Concert Night

Plan a special concert night with friends or family. Choose a musician that you all admire. Then, find a concert online or on the television that you can all watch together. You might also plan to get together to listen to an audio recording. Consider getting dressed up and making a special dinner to enjoy before the show. The dinner could be inspired by the music. For example, if you are planning to listen to a performance of a piece by a

famous Russian composer, make Beef Stroganoff. Or, if you're watching a concert of Spanish pop star, make paella!

Explore More Jess & Friends

You will find more Jess & Friends Episodes at JessandFriends.com. Each episode is accompanied by a free printable that explores a musical concept from the show!

Learn an Instrument

Many children like to play musical instruments. If you aren't already taking music lessons, consider what instrument you might like to play. It takes practice to master an instrument, so most people look for a teacher to help them learn. Talk to your family about making a musical commitment. Not sure where to start? Head over to Jess and Friends for help!



ZOMO THE RABBIT UNIT

Book Included: *Zomo the Rabbit* by Gerald McDermott

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Zomo the Rabbit*. This unit provides activities in social studies, art, music, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions, Suncatcher, Suncatcher Paints, Color Wheel Activity, Color Fish Activity, DIY Tin Can Drum Kit Supplies, Trickster Tales & Traits sheet, Trickster Tale Prompt, African Mask Activity, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** If you could have any special skill or ability, what would that be?
- **Ages 5-9:** Have you ever played a trick on someone, or had someone play a trick on you? How did that make you feel?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Zomo the Rabbit*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**

Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.

- **Discuss & Paint**

Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while using paint pens to fill in your suncatcher. Notice how the geometric shapes in the suncatcher mirror the style of the illustrations found in *Zomo the Rabbit*. Once done, set aside to dry overnight before hanging in a window.

Items Included: suncatcher, paints pens, paper plate, hanging ribbon

- **Physical Playtime**

Get your readers moving playing these classic games with an animal-inspired twist.

Items Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Rhythmic Play

You can make a drum like the one Zomo plays in the book. Follow the instructions on our Make Your Own Drum sheet to decorate and assemble your very own drum.

Items Included: Make Your Own Drum sheet, parcel paper, ric-rac, string, glue dots, balloons

Materials Not Included: empty tin can, tape, crayons or markers of your choosing

Mask Making

Masks are a popular tradition in many cultures. African masks were worn for celebrating victory, to ward off evil, and for storytelling. This book is based on a West African trickster tale, and the illustrations seem inspired by African masks, with their bold colors and geometric designs. Use the included decorative materials to make your own mask. You might try to mimic some of the geometric patterns in the book, if you'd like. Or you can pattern your mask on a character from the book or use an emotion as inspiration.

Items Included: African Mask sheet, blank mask, string

Materials Not Included: colored pencils and other decorative materials

Telling Tales

Trickster tales have similar traits, no matter what part of the world they hail from. These tales center upon characters who may not be big or strong, but succeed in getting what they want through being clever and smart. Often those they outsmart are more powerful and strong than the trickster figures. You can create your own trickster tale by completing the included outline.

Items Included: Create Your Own Trickster Tale sheet

Materials Not Included: pencil

Around the World Trickster

Trickster tales are a part of many cultures. Read the provided tales, as well as the list of trickster traits, and talk about each tale. What trickster traits do you notice for each main character? What do the tales have in common? How might they be different? How does Zomo compare to the other tricksters?

Items Included: Trickster Tales and Trickster Traits sheet

Color Theory

The illustrations in *Zomo the Rabbit* are done in mostly primary and secondary colors. Primary colors cannot be created by mixing other colors, but these basic colors (red, yellow, and blue) can be mixed together to make other colors. Mixing two of these primary colors makes secondary colors. Make your own color wheel with primary and secondary colors, then go through the illustrations in the book to identify which colors on each page are primary and which are secondary.

Item Included: flower color wheel

Materials Not Included: red, yellow, and blue tempura paints

Color Theory Fish

Zomo tricks Big Fish into dancing away his scales. Now you can paint them back on! Cut a toilet paper roll vertically into four pieces. Dunk each end in a different color of paint to make scales. Consider using primary colors or your favorite colors from the color wheel flower. Place the provided googly eye on your fish once it is dry.

Item Included: Color Theory Fish sheet

Materials Not Included: primary watercolors or tempura paints, toilet paper roll

Music Time

In the story, Zomo plays his drum for the fish. Gather some friends or family members to share your own drum music. You can all enjoy dancing to the beat of the drum. Like Zomo, you can try playing faster and faster, with everyone moving in time to the increased tempo. But likely nobody's scales will fall off.

Item Included: Make Your Own Drum sheet and supplies

Tricksters on Stage

Bring your trickster tale to life by creating a stage version of your tale. Or create a completely different trickster tale to present to family and friends. Consider incorporating your mask into your show.



THE DAY THE GOOSE GOT LOOSE UNIT

Book Included: *The Day the Goose Got Loose* by Reeve Lindbergh

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *The Day the Goose Got Loose*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions Paper Bag Farm Animal Puppet Craft, Scratch Board Stenciling Activity, Stencil, Scratch Stick, Glue, Poetry Prompts, Feathers, Feather Activities, Sticker-By-Number Activity, Farm Story, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING DISCUSSION

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- Ages 3-5: What types of animals live on the farm?
- Ages 5-9: Have you ever had a crazy day where unexpected things kept happening?

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *The Day the Goose Got Loose*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**
Reread the book out loud to little readers so that it is fresh in their minds.
- **Discuss & Color Paper Bag Puppets**
Cut the discussion questions into strips, put them in a container, and then take turns pulling out a question to answer while you work on making your puppets. Color the animal faces and bodies, then glue them onto the provide bags. Add the goose feathers to your goose puppet. What do you notice about how the feathers look and feel?
Items Included: brown paper bags, puppet cut outs, goose feathers, glue stick, discussion questions & answers

Materials Not Included: scissors, crayons or colored pencils

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Drawing Dreams

In the final pages, the main character has a dream about the goose. Revisit the pages that show her dreaming. What images do you notice in the dream illustrations? How are these pictures different from the other ones in the book? Now create your own dream image using the etching paper. You may start with the stencil of your choosing and then add any other images or designs you want. Use the star stickers for a finishing touch.

Items Included: etching paper, etching stick, star stickers, stencil

Puppet Performance

Make your own puppet stage from a cardboard box or linens and put on a show. You could use some of the events that happen in the book as a starting point for your show, and then create your own story from there. Older readers may choose to write or plan out a script.

Items Included: paper bag puppets

Crazy Day Poetry

The Day the Goose Got Loose is written in the form of a poem. The author uses rhyme and repetition to create a sense of rhythm. Think of something humorous that could happen one day. Adults can talk through the creation of a simple rhyming poem, helping little readers. Older readers can use our poem template to write a poem following the same format as the book.

Item Included: Funny Day Poem template

Farm Stickers

Use the provided farm stickers and your own art supplies to create a farm scene on the provided blank sheet of paper. Then, make up a story about your sticker scene and tell it to a friend or family member. Older children can write a farm tale based on the scene!

Item Included: farm sticker sheet, blank paper

Materials Not Included: additional art supplies

Pattern Practice

Practice your pattern work with farm animals! Once you've completed the sheet, consider cutting out each animal and making new patterns for friends and family members to complete.

Item Included: Complete the Pattern: Farm Edition sheet

Left or Right?

Practice determining your right from your left by choosing which way the geese are looking on our Left or Right? sheet. If you are still learning your left from your right, there are a few tricks that people use to learn and remember which hand is left and which is right. 1. Learn if your dominant hand is your left or right hand. 2. Learn to put your right hand over your heart by saying the "Pledge of Allegiance." 3. Trace your extended thumb and pointer finger on your left hand and see that it forms an "L" for Left!

Item Included: Left or Right? sheet

Materials Not Included: coloring utensils

Farm Animal Sticker by Number

Practice number recognition and precision by making a sticker by number farm animal!

Items Included: sticker by number sheets

Feather Fun

The feathers provided in the box are like those that might fall off the goose in the story, *The Day the Goose Got Loose*. Feathers are great for tickling, a hot potato-style game of pass the feather, a spoon-and-egg style feather race, and a partner game called Feather Drop.

To play Feather Drop, one player holds a feather high above their partner's head and then sets various challenges before dropping the feather. Some favorites are to try to catch the feather on a palm, head, foot, or knee. Get creative with challenges, and then switch places with your partner after a few rounds.

Dream-Inspired Art

Vincent Van Gogh once said, "I dream of painting and then I paint my dream." The illustrator of *The Day the Goose Got Loose*, Steven Kellogg, drew upon images associated with dreaming as inspiration for the final pages of the book. Like Kellogg, many artists have created masterpieces inspired by dreams. Consider the three examples included below. There are some similarities between the dream illustrations in the book and *Starry Night*, such as the glow of stars and the sense of movement. What else do you notice about each painting? Do any of them contain any images similar to ones you have seen in your own dreams?

Sharing Dreams

For a week, find a time each day to have everyone in your family go around and share anything they remember from their dreams the night before. You can consider what in waking life might have inspired each dream or what each dream might mean or represent. You may choose to have a family member record these dream memories. At the end of the week, have everyone pick one of their dreams and draw a picture or make a collage to represent images from that dream.

Farm Animal Field Trip

Find a day to visit a farm or the farm animal section of a local zoo. Try to find geese, hens, sheep, horses, and cows. What do you notice about each animal?



STREGA NONA UNIT

Book Included: *Strega Nona* by Tomie dePaola

Objectives: Lit League Units are designed to foster a love of reading. Students will listen to a read aloud and actively engage in a discussion about *Strega Nona*. This unit provides activities in writing, art, and physical education. Reading activities touch on vocabulary, social emotional learning, speaking and listening, and reading comprehension.

Lit League Box Includes: Book, Discussion Questions and Answers, Wonderful Words Vocabulary Bookmark, Physical Playtime Instructions Paper Bag Farm Animal Puppet Craft, Scratch Board Stenciling Activity, Stencil, Scratch Stick, Glue, Poetry Prompts, Feathers, Feather Activities, Sticker-By-Number Activity, Farm Story, Instruction Pamphlet

BOOK CLUB MEETING LESSONS

Step 1: PREREADING ACTIVITIES

Ask your readers a question or two in order to center their comprehension.

- **Ages 3-5:** Have you ever eaten pasta? Which types have you tried and which do you like best?
- **Ages 5-9:** Why do you think grownups make rules for you to follow?

Preview High Frequency Finds with new readers.

Item Included: Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 2: READ

Items Included: Book & Wonderful Words Bookmark

Step 3: SCHEDULE A MEETING

Pick a time to meet with family or friends to discuss *Stega Nona*.

Step 4: MEETING ACTIVITIES

- **Read Aloud**
Reread the book out loud to your readers, so that it is fresh in their minds.
- **Discuss & String a Necklace**
Cut the discussion questions into strips and put them in a container. Take turns pulling out questions to answer while you string a pasta necklace for yourself or to give to someone special. Tape or tie one end of your string to your workspace to avoid

frustrating spills.

Items Included: discussion questions and answers, colored pasta noodle packet, string

Materials Not Included: scissors

- **Physical Playtime**

Get your readers moving playing these classic games with a cooking twist.

Items Included: Physical Playtime instructions

ADDITIONAL LIT LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Pasta Identification

Use our Italian Pasta sheet to identify the different types of pasta found in this box. See if you have any different types of pasta around your home. Can you think of any noodles-types missing from this list? How many of the pasta types on the list have you tried? Make a family challenge to try a few of the different noodles together!

Item Included: Italian Pasta sheet

Famous Self-Portraits

Before you make your own pasta self-portrait, get inspired by some well-known self-portraits from the past. Talk about these famous images with a grownup or friend.

Item Included: Famous Self-Portraits sheet

Pasta Self-Portrait

Artists work with all different types of materials. Some even use pasta to make pieces of art. Use the packet of uncolored pasta to make a portrait of yourself by gluing pasta onto the cardstock face template. Give yourself eyes, ears, a nose, mouth, and hair! Many artists like to look in the mirror while they work on self-portraits, so consider using a small mirror while you make your masterpiece. Use markers to add additional details to the pasta and the paper if you like.

Items Included: cardstock face template, glue, uncolored pasta noodles, Famous Self-Portraits sheet

Materials Not Included: markers, additional pasta

Fun Facts about Italy

Strega Nona takes place in the country of Italy! Learn a bit about Italy by reading through our Italian Fun Facts sheet.

Items Included: Italian flag, Italian Fun Facts sheet

Your Own Pasta

Colored pasta is fun to use in sensory bins and for arts and crafts activities. You can glue colored pasta to paper to make letters, patterns, or images, like flowers or birds. You can even use your colored pasta as counters while you play fun math games.

Item Included: How to Color Pasta sheet

Materials Not Included: rubbing alcohol, food coloring, pasta noodles

Compare and Contrast

Read the story “The Magic Porridge Pot,” a German folktale. Discuss the ways that it is similar to and different from Tomie DePaola’s *Strega Nona*. If you’re up for a challenge, have a grownup help you use the Venn diagram to record your ideas!

Items Included: “The Magic Porridge Pot” sheet, Venn Diagram sheet

Materials Not Included: writing utensil

Pasta Counting

Using manipulatives is very helpful while building math skills. Get the small bag of pasta and dump it into a pile. First, practice counting by ones. Place one piece of pasta on each circle on the path between Big Anthony and Strega Nona. Then, count out how many pieces of pasta Big Anthony drops along the way. If you’re up for a challenge, try counting by twos, fives, and tens by placing two, five, or ten pieces of pasta on each circle.

Items Included: Pasta Counting sheet, small bag of mini pasta noodles

Fun With Food

You probably don’t have a magic pot like Strega Nona, but you can still cook up yummy pasta for your whole family to enjoy! Get cooking with the help of a grownup. You can help make your favorite pasta dish or be adventurous and try a new meal. You might even choose a new pasta type to enjoy from the Italian Pasta sheet.

Pasta Tracing

Help Big Anthony clean up his pasta mess! Practice your handwriting and fine motor skills by tracing the loops of pasta on our Pasta Tracing sheet.

Item Included: Pasta Tracing sheet

Materials Not Included: writing utensils

Pasta Paths

Trace each line of spaghetti through the plate using a different color. Then, determine which noodle goes all the way to the top of the plate!

Item Included: Pasta Paths sheet

Materials Not Included: colored pencils