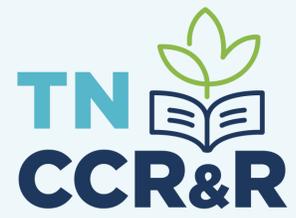
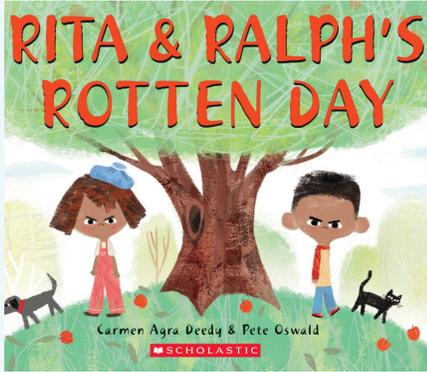


Early Literacy Activities for Educators



Setting the Stage for Your Read Aloud



Rita & Ralph's Rotten Day

Written by Carmen Agra Deedy Illustrated by Pete Oswald

Have you ever been mad at your best friend? So begins the story of Rita and Ralph. Every day they meet to play beneath the apple tree. It's always fun and games – until one roundly rotten day when a new game means someone ends up crying. Who knew it could be so hard to say, "I'm sorry"?

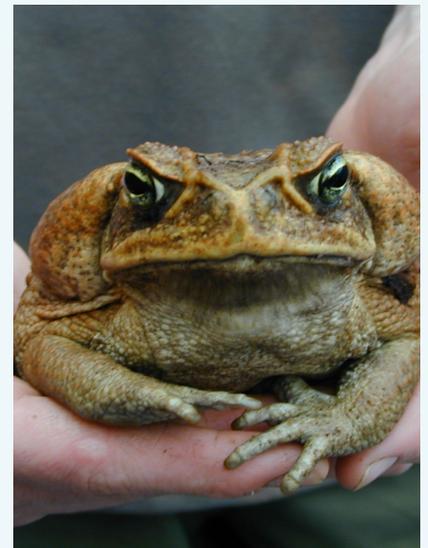
For Preschool Ages

- Remember to set up your environment for your read-aloud.
- The focus of the initial read-aloud is for children to enjoy a good story.
- Use give and take interactions to promote language development.
- Have fun! Children enjoy books when you enjoy them.

Promoting Language and Early Literacy

Emphasize the following words or phrases by pointing to the word, acting out the word, and telling the children more about the word.

- Best Friends
- Grumpy
- Sad
- High-five
- Mad
- Rotten



Suggested questions to ask the children during your read-aloud:

- Does Rita like to play sticks and stones? How do you know?
- Can you be mad and sad at the same time?
- What should friends do when they make each other upset?
- Is it sometimes hard to say you are sorry to a friend?

While children are answering questions, notice the following reading foundational skills:

37-48 months:

- With prompting and support, younger preschool children use language for various purposes. Children may ask many questions about *who*, *what*, *why*, and *where*. Speech is becoming clearer.

4-5 years:

- With prompting and support from the educator, older preschool children identify the connection between the story and personal experiences. Children retell details of the story and determine the meaning of unknown words in the story.



Literacy Around The Room



Incorporate Rita & Ralph's Rotten Day into other parts of your day!



Transition

Create a classroom handshake to use at arrival and departure from school.

Second Read-Aloud

A second read-aloud encourages children to demonstrate an increased understanding of the story.

Book introduction:

- Remind children that they know Rita and Ralph. Ask questions about the characters and the problem.
- Ask: *What can you tell me about Rita and Ralph.*
- *Yes, Rita and Ralph are best friends. What happens in the story that made it a rotten day?* Identify details of the rotten day as being the problem in the story.

During reading:

- *The game sticks and stones created a problem for Rita and Ralph. Can you describe what happened when they played the game?*
- *Tell me about a time you were playing with a friend, and someone got mad.*
- *Do you have any other ideas of games they could have played besides Sticks and Stones?*

After reading:

- Ask additional open-ended questions to encourage children's thinking.
- *What would have happened in the story if they had played a different game?*
- *What would you title the story if the problem had not happened?*

Social Emotional Development

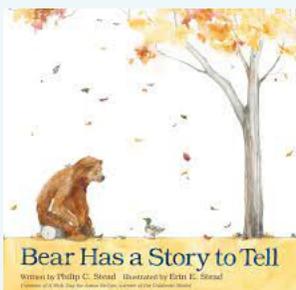
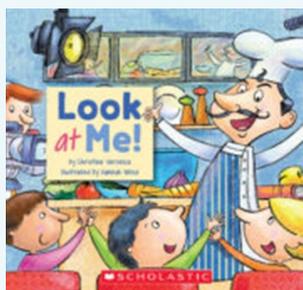
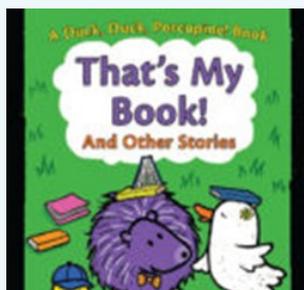
Children learn social skills through meaningful play.

- Set aside time where there are not limitations on the number of children in each center. Work up to 30 minutes daily.
- Encourage children to practice friendship skills and problem-solving skills.

Providing modeling, guidance, and support, notice the following:

- Younger toddlers engage in cooperative play with other children and sometimes work out problems.
- Older toddlers play and interact positively with other children. Children demonstrate friendship skills such as helping, sharing, taking turns, and giving compliments.

Did your children enjoy this interactive read? Other books to check out!



"When a teacher reads aloud, it is a bonding between the teacher, the children, the books, and the act of reading."

-Lester L. Laminack