

Kids' Activity Guide

The Reader is a delightful and heartwarming story about a boy and his best friend. In *The Reader*, Amy Hest takes us on a quest to find the top of the world while teaching us valuable lessons about friendship. Your child will be able to relate to *The Reader* and his companion as he treks through the snow in his quest to reach the top.

Pre-reading Questions:

1. Do you have a best friend?
2. What do you look for in a best friend?
3. Do you have a pet? If so, how important is your pet to you?
4. Have you ever seen snow?
5. What are some of the things that come to mind when you hear the word snow?
6. Do you enjoy reading? If so, what's your favorite book to read?

The questions above will set the stage for reading *The Reader* and introduce your child to some of the concepts in the book.

Language Arts Activity:

For age groups 5–6: Draw a picture of your favorite thing to do with your best friend. Write two sentences describing your picture.

For older age groups 7–8: Write a paragraph (4-6 sentences) about your favorite thing to do with your best friend. Include details about where you do this activity, why you both enjoy this activity, and the first time you remember doing this with them. Illustrate this paragraph with a picture.

Favorite Books Activity:

The Reader focuses on a love of reading. Have your child make a list of their favorite books, then have them describe one of the books on their list. Your child will write a brief description of their favorite book on the list and draw a picture that represents it.

Group Storytelling Activity:

You and your child will use creativity and spontaneity to craft stories together. This lesson will foster creative thinking by having your child adapt to changes you initiate in the story. This lesson can be adapted for pre-readers and readers alike.

Materials:

- 30 index cards
- 3 containers (shoe boxes, paper bags, or plastic boxes)

Preparation:

Help your child label ten index cards with story characters, ten with plots/problems, and ten with settings. Label the three containers: characters, plots/problems, and settings, and put the cards in facedown. Older children should focus on specific character traits in their characters while pre-readers can draw pictures on their index cards. As an alternative, you can create the cards yourself in preparation for this activity.

Activity:

To warm up, have your child pull one card from each container and link them in a ministory. At the same time, you make a ministory as well and repeat for a few minutes, and then it's story time.

You and your child will each take three cards, one from each container, and then take turns "telling" the story until the final card has been used. You should lay the cards down in order after reading them so there is also a visual representation of the story. This will reinforce sequencing.

Story Writing Extension:

After the Group Storytelling Activity has been completed, help your child follow the directions below to transform their created stories into a mini-book.

Supplies needed:

8½" x 11" paper

Scissors

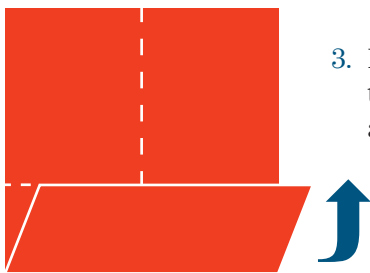
Tape



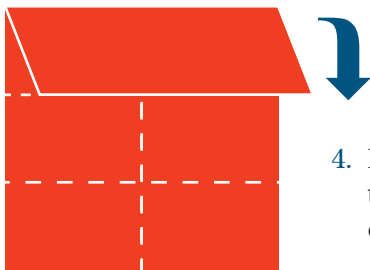
1. Fold the paper in half from top to bottom to make a crease in the horizontal center, then open it back up.



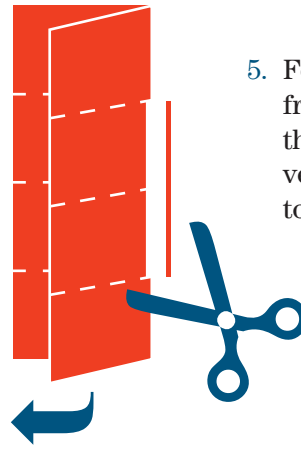
2. Fold the paper in half from left to right to make a crease in the vertical center, then open it back up.



3. Fold the bottom half up to the middle fold line, and open it back up.



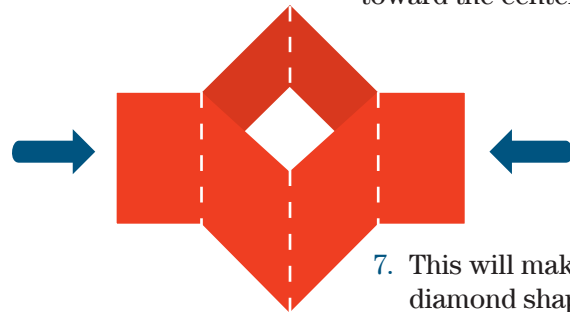
4. Fold the top half down to the middle fold line, and open it back up.



5. Fold the paper in half from right to left. Along the outside edge, cut out a very thin strip between the top and bottom creases.



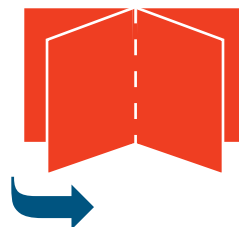
6. Keeping it folded in half, start to push the ends in toward the center.



7. This will make a diamond shape in the center, and you will be able to see through it.



8. Continue to push the ends in until the edges touch, making a plus sign.



9. Flatten it out to create a page on each side.



10. Fold the minibook in half and tape the edges to secure the pages together. Now write a story and draw images to create a personal minibook.

Snow Angel Craft Activity:

Supplies needed:

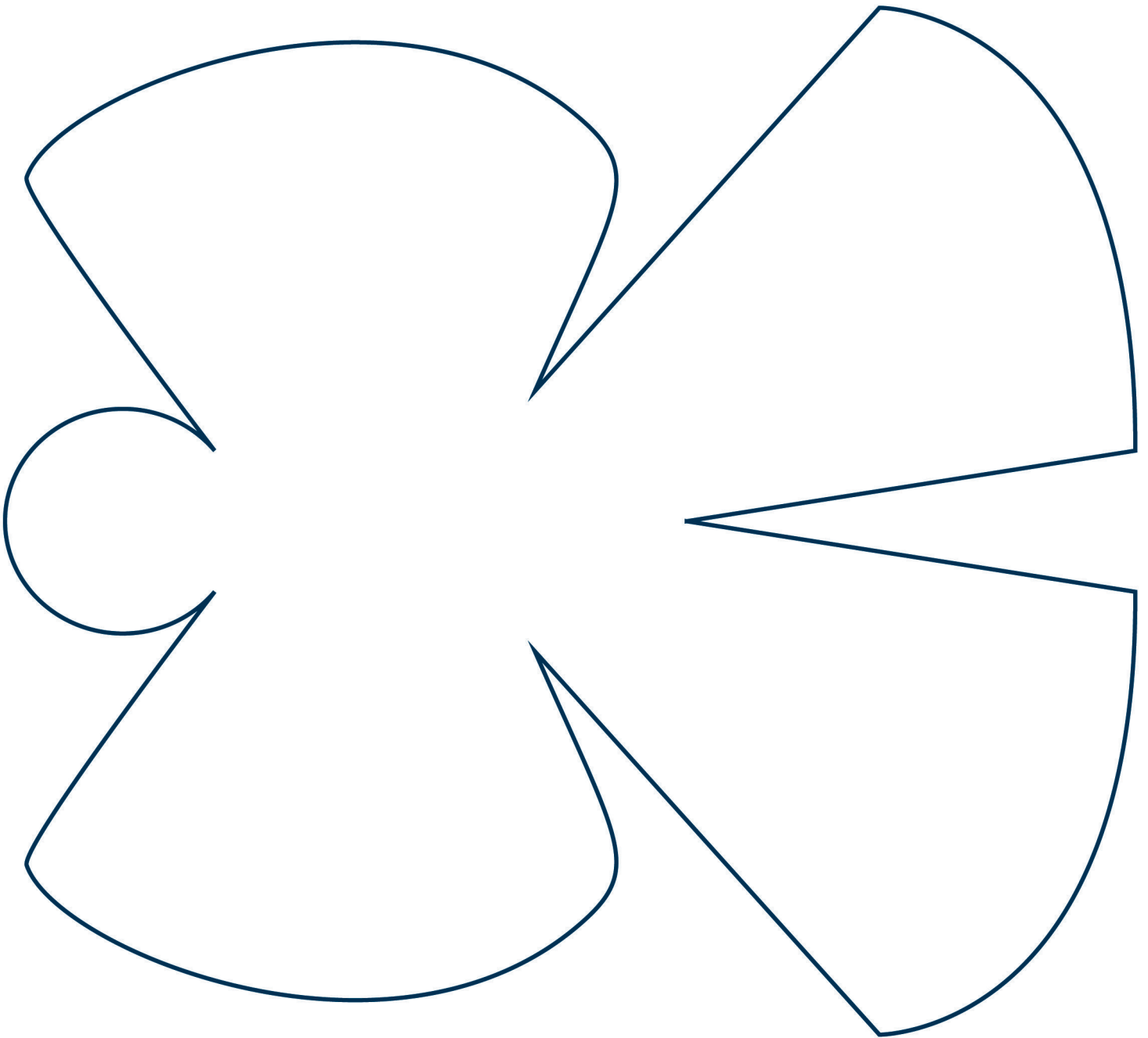
Snow Angel cut-out (see below)
Scissors
Paper
Blue chalk

Optional Supplies:

Glue
Glitter

Instructions:

1. Have an adult cut out the snow angel stencil below.
2. Place the stencil on top of a separate sheet of paper, and have your child trace the cut-out with the blue chalk.
3. With one finger, gently smear the chalk into the center of the snow angel shape.
4. Optional step: add glue and glitter on top to make the angel sparkle like real snow.



The Reader Word Search Activity:

For age groups 5–6: Search for words below that are found in the story, then circle them.

G T Y T T J G Z Z B O F H E K
C D Z I O J X N X B I S S T B
Z I Q M X T Z R I Q E A B V I
S N O W B A L L S C C Z A X M
P K S T U R D Y Q T N A X U T
D E Z S M R Q W I T N U H O I
S D N E I R F U B W W K O X L
F O M O S S S D I R I F U B T
K E S L H L F U E B Z F T M I
G N G T E K M R E F T N V G N
C H B D P C G V C P Z F M F G
F Q F L I H C N U R C E N Z S
P W S R K N N A U V C S H U K
X C Q K O Z H C K J A U D O Y
P B K N E Q W O V R H Z Q I L

Words to find

BOUNCING
SNOWBALLS

CRUNCH
STURDY

FRIENDS
SUITCASE

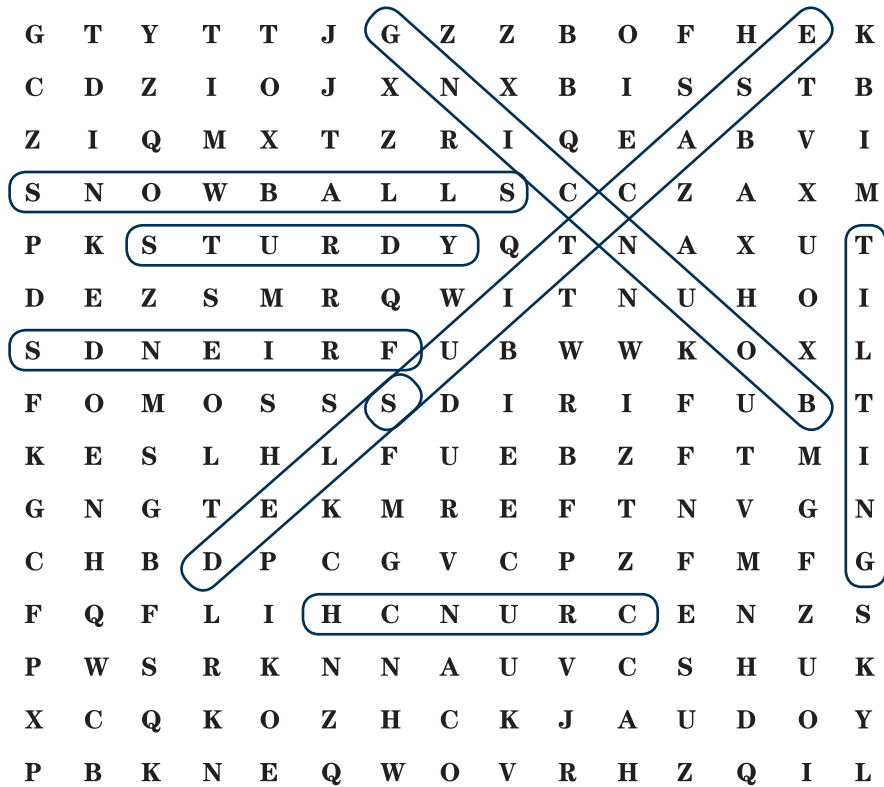
SLED
TILTING

Vocabulary Activity:

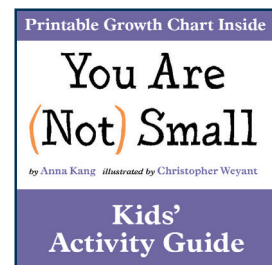
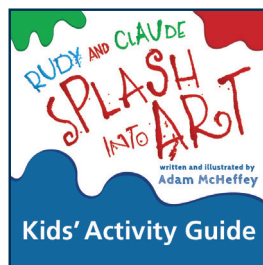
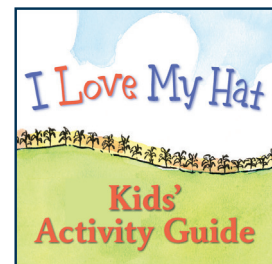
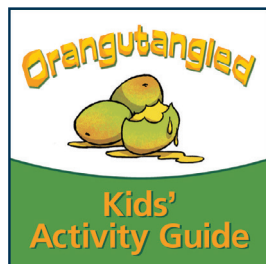
For age groups 7–8: Create sentences using the vocabulary words from the story:

1. Bouncing –
2. Crunch –
3. Snowballs –
4. Sturdy –
5. Suitcase –
6. Tilting –
7. Friends –
8. Sled –

The Reader Word Search Key:



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This guide was created by Chris Valcarcel, educational consultant, and Jennifer Messinger, graphic designer.

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