

Fall into Storytime

ACTIVITY KIT

Dear Booksellers, Educators, Librarians, and Parents:

There's nothing quite like the experience of reading with a child. Whether you're snuggling together in a comfy chair or sharing a book with a large group of children, storytime is the best time of the day! By engaging children with books at a young age, you're fostering a love of reading that will grow with them into adulthood.

A Perfectly Messed-Up Story, *Red Knit Cap Girl and the Reading Tree*, and *Violet and Victor Write the Best-Ever Bookworm Book* are three books that celebrate the joy of reading and of storytelling. These delightful reads will inspire children to write their own stories and to find their own special places for curling up with a good book.

In this Fall into Storytime Activity Kit, you'll find lots of fun ways to explore books and reading with children. There are discussion questions to ponder, activities to try, and bookmarks, a maze, pencil toppers, and more to engage young minds and hands.

Happy reading!

Your friends at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

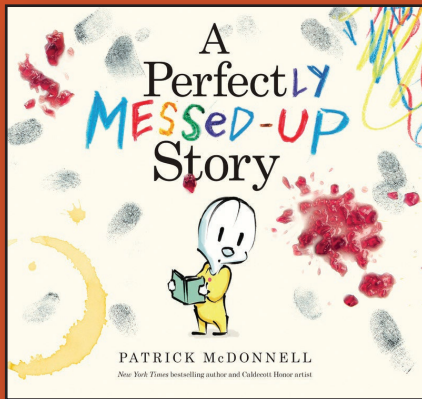


lb-kids.com



LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY
BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Fall into Storytime with these wonderful books!



A Perfectly Messed-Up Story

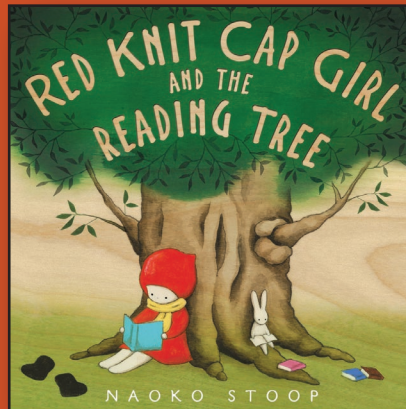
By Patrick McDonnell

ISBN 978-0-316-22258-7

“Books are important.”

IN THIS interactive and engaging read-aloud, bestselling author and award-winning artist Patrick McDonnell creates a funny, engaging, and *almost* perfect story about embracing life’s messes.

Little Louie’s story keeps getting messed up, and he’s not happy about it! What’s the point of telling his tale if he can’t tell it perfectly? But when he stops and takes a deep breath, he realizes that everything is actually just fine, and his story is a good one—imperfections and all!



Red Knit Cap Girl and the Reading Tree

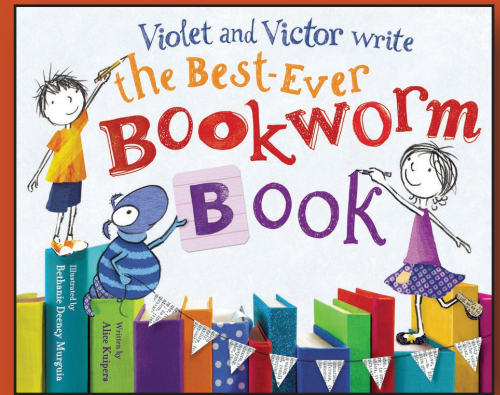
By Naoko Stoop

ISBN 978-0-316-22886-2

“It is good to share books.”

ONE DAY, Red Knit Cap Girl and her friends discover a hollow tree in the middle of the forest. What can the tree be used for? “I will keep my book in this nook so everyone can read it,” Red Knit Cap Girl says. But the tree isn’t only for books. Little by little, the animals share their unique gifts and turn the ordinary tree into a special place for everyone to enjoy!

This charming new adventure with Red Knit Cap Girl and her friends shines a light on the joy of reading and the importance of working together.



Violet and Victor Write the Best-Ever Bookworm Book

By Alice Kuipers

Illustrated by Bethanie Deeney Murguia

ISBN 978-0-316-21200-7

“Shh. Let’s read.”

VIOLET AND VICTOR SMALL are twins on a mission: to write the best-ever book in the whole, entire world—together! Victor would rather talk about his pet worms, but Violet is determined, and soon the ideas can’t come quickly enough. They begin to write a story about a hungry Bookworm who is eating all the books in the library. Thanks to Victor’s brilliant ideas, Violet is able to save the day (and the library).

This delightful story-within-a-story is filled with good-natured sibling rivalry, and focuses on the spirit of cooperation, the satisfaction of a job well done, and the magic of storytelling.

Discussion Questions

Begin your storytime event with a discussion about reading and books using the questions below.

- ★ Where is your favorite place for storytime? Is it at the bookstore or at school? In the library? At home with mom or dad or an older brother or sister? Outside in the park?
- ★ What are your favorite books? Do you like to read the same story over and over?
- ★ What do you like best about storytime? When you listen to a story, can you picture the characters in your mind? Once the story is over, can you imagine new adventures for them?
- ★ In *A Perfectly Messed-Up Story*, little Louie is trying to tell a story, but strange things keep interrupting his story. What do you do when things don't go the way you've planned for them to go?
- ★ In *Red Knit Cap Girl and the Reading Tree*, Red Knit Cap Girl and her friends work together to create a very special place for reading. If you could make your own special reading space, what would it look like?
- ★ In *Violet and Victor Write the Best-Ever Bookworm Book*, Violet and Victor write a story about a bookworm that is eating all the books in the library! If the bookworm came to your house, how would you stop him from eating all of your books?

Storytime Activities

The following activities offer fun ways to expand your storytime event. Before you read the selected books aloud, try one or more of these:

- ★ When kids are in storytime, they have to sit quietly and listen. Sometimes that's hard! Before you settle down to read, get the children up and moving with a rousing game of Simon Says or play some dance music and have them shimmy and shake to get the wiggles out!
- ★ Play a cumulative memory game with the group. Ask the children to think of one thing they like to have with them at storytime and start the chant off: "It's storytime, and I'm going to bring my (fill in the blank)." Then choose a child to continue by adding on a new item, "It's storytime, and I'm going to bring my blanket and a cup of cocoa." Repeat as many times as possible. Can the children remember all of the items in the proper sequence?
- ★ Before you do a full reading of a favorite storytime book, such as *Red Knit Cap Girl and the Reading Tree*, show each illustration and ask the children to tell the story. This will reinforce for young children that pictures tell stories and it also helps them grasp the concept of sequencing. Then read the book aloud. After reading, talk about how the children did in telling the story based on the illustrations alone.



Bookmarks

Bookmarks are fun to hand out to kids at your storytime event! Print this page on card stock using a color printer.



Louie's Story

In *A Perfectly Messed-Up Story*, little Louie's story keeps getting interrupted. Can you finish his story for him? Cut out the rectangles below and stack them in order with 1 (the cover) on top and 4 at the bottom. Staple along the center line to bind into a little booklet. Fold the booklet in half along the binding seam.

2

Once upon a time,
little Louie went
skipping merrily along.



4



1

A
Perfectly
MESS-UP
Story



CONTINUED ...

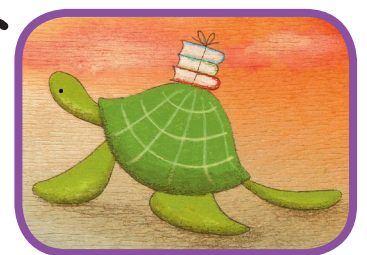
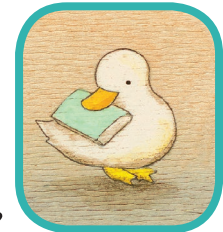
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End

3



Maze

In *Red Knit Cap Girl and the Reading Tree*, Red Knit Cap Girl and all of her friends work together to create a library of books to share in the hollow of a tree. Can you help everyone find their way to the library?



My Little Bookworm

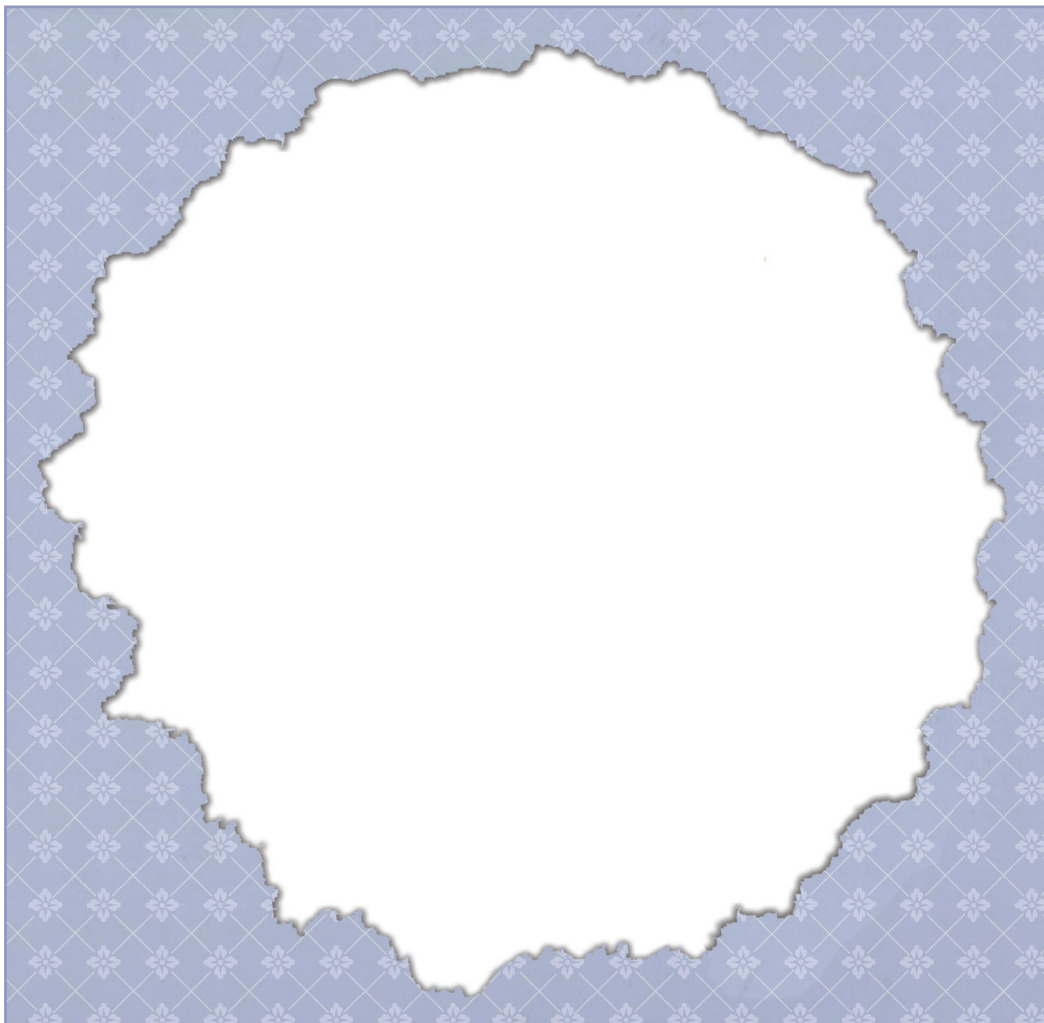
In *Violet and Victor Write the Best-Ever Bookworm Book*, twins Violet and Victor each imagine their own bookworm gobbling the books in the library. Violet's bookworm is purple with blue stripes, big eyes, and fuzzy ears. Victor's bookworm is orange and spiky with no ears. What does your bookworm look like? Draw your bookworm in the space below.



Violet's bookworm



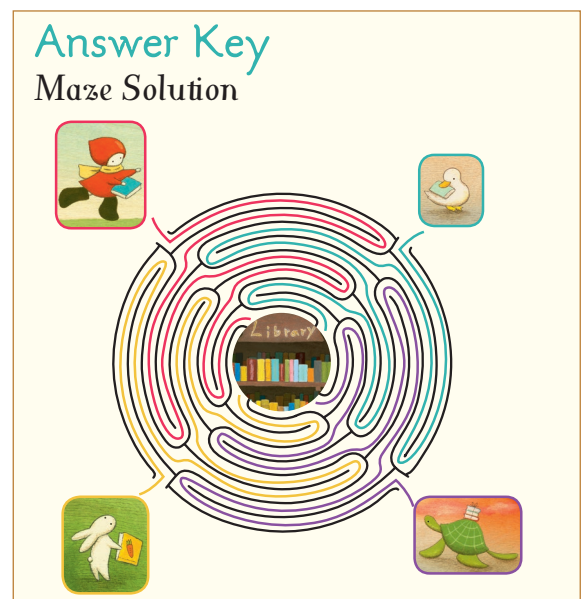
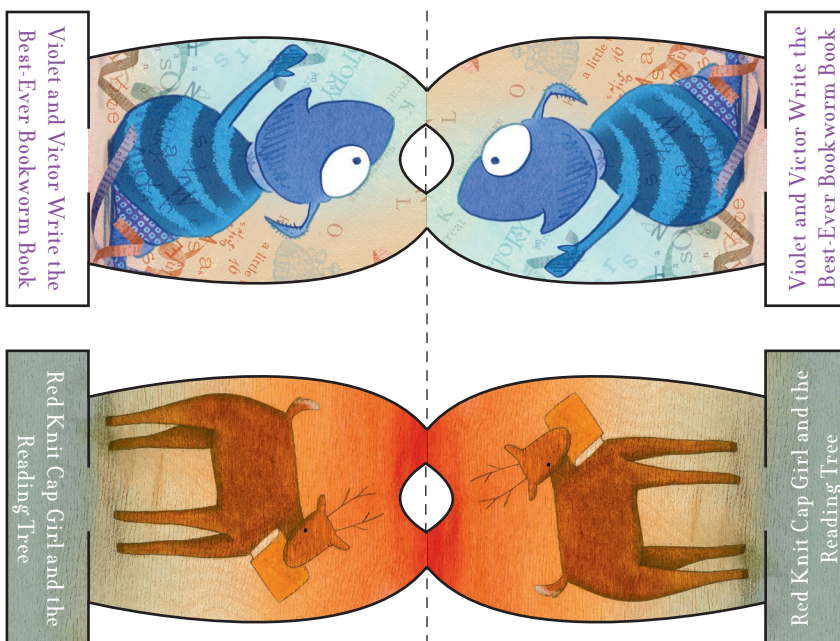
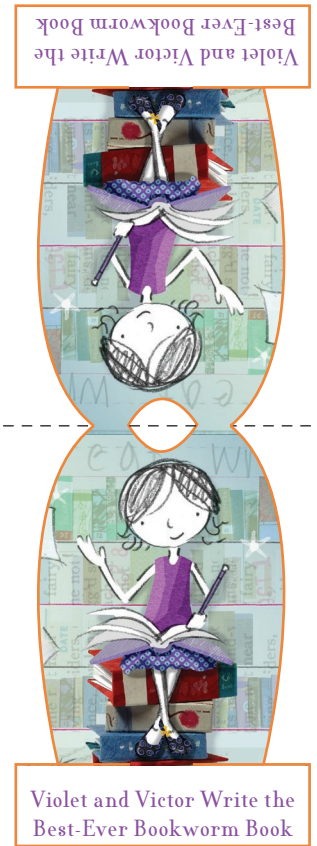
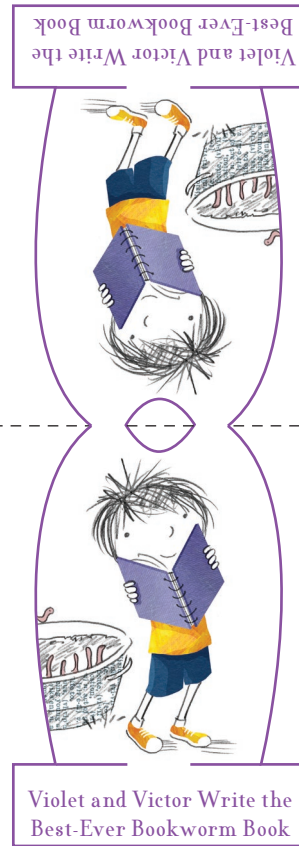
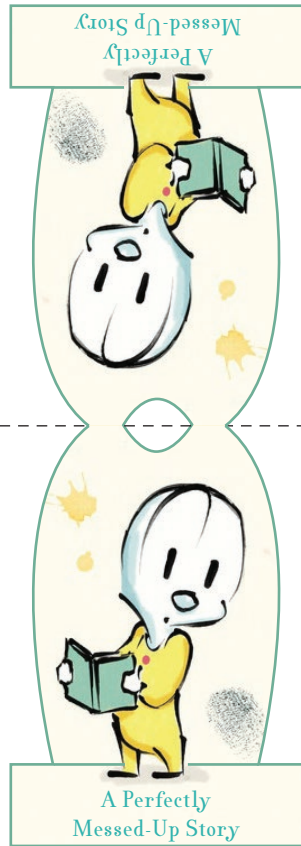
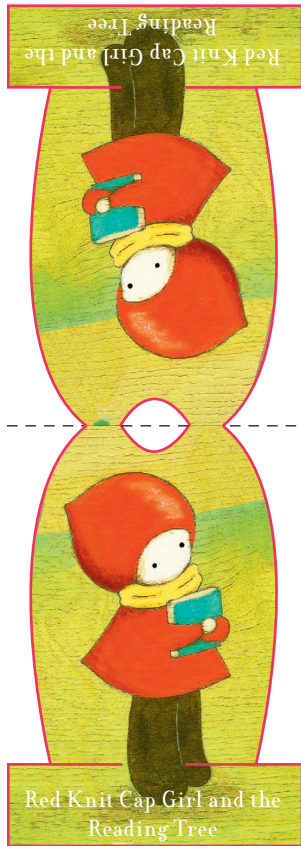
Victor's bookworm



My bookworm!

Pencil Toppers

These pencil toppers are a fun handout to give kids at your storytime event! Cut out the book-loving characters below on the solid lines, including the lines under each image and the openings at the top. Fold at the dotted lines to create two sides to each topper. Put the eraser of your pencil through the opening at the top, and wrap the bottom tabs around your pencil. Tape to secure.



For more great storytime books and materials, visit lb-kids.com!