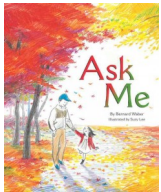


Storytelling

Ask Me: Bonding with Books and Stories



[view in catalog](#)

"Truly listening to someone reminds them that their lives matter; and reminds us all of what matters most."

The statement above is included in a [short video](#) produced by StoryCorps and Google encouraging people to take part in StoryCorps' "Great Thanksgiving Listen." The [StoryCorps organization](#) aims "to provide people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share and preserve the stories of our lives." This Thanksgiving, Storycorps encourages high school students, especially, to interview grandparents, or another older friend or relative, and use the StoryCorps app to record and share the interview. But you don't have to be in high school to take part. And taking time to talk with and truly listen to the stories our friends and relatives have to tell is a gift we can give each other at any time.

The picturebook *Ask Me* by Bernard Waber, echoes the message promoted by the StoryCorps initiative. Illustrated by Suzy Lee in rich red, yellow and orange colors, it shows a father and daughter enjoying the outdoors together on a lovely Autumn day. "Ask me what I like," the girl says to her father. And he does. And after she answers, he asks: "What else do you like?" encouraging continued conversation as they examine bugs and flowers, kick through fallen leaves and enjoy made up words like splashing and splooshing.

Throughout the peaceful story, the father gives his daughter his full and undivided attention. He's not trying to shop for groceries, clean his home, or check his phone for messages. He's listening and responding and encouraging his daughter's curiosity and letting her know that her words and stories matter to him; that what she thinks and says is important; that *she* is important to him. Reading to children also provides an opportunity to pause our busy lives and spend time together. Picturebooks, notable for their informative and appealing illustrations, often include a greater variety of words than we normally use as part of our everyday conversation. Reading and listening to picturebooks and other stories can help children increase their word knowledge - and world knowledge - as the subjects represented in picturebook format range from friends and family to rabbits and robotics.

And after you've finished the story, you can ask your listener: What do *you* think? What did *you* like best? What would *you* like to read about next?

Posted by Lisa C. on November 25, 2015

[Ask Me](#)

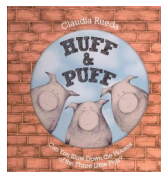
[Storytelling](#)

[Picture Book](#)

[Oh, the Things You Can Think](#)

[Lisa C.'s blog](#) [Log in to post comments](#)

Huff & Puff



[view in catalog](#)

We receive wonderful questions from kids at our "Ask Questions Here" desk, and in our programs. But we also get a lot of terrific statements. One of my favorites is: "I know that book!" or "I know that story!" This statement is typically shared as an excited, gleeful shout. It feels good to know something. It's empowering.

Children's librarians have a long history of sharing classic nursery rhymes, folk and fairy tales with children: *Three Little Kittens*, *Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Besides being part of our cultural literacy, these stories lay a foundation for an understanding of character, sequence, and plot. Familiarity with folk and fairytales -- and the ability to retell familiar stories - also is an expectation of our [state's curriculum standards](#). [Read more](#)

Posted by Lisa C. on June 12, 2012

[Huff & puff](#)

[Folklore](#)

[Picture Book](#)

[Storytelling](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Lisa C.'s blog](#)[Log in](#) to post comments
