Storytime Event Guide and Activities

Read Together

Reading aloud with children builds key language and literacy skills while you connect together with a book. This shared experience ignites children’s imaginations, helps them build a greater understanding of the world, and cultivates a lifelong love of reading. Here are some tips for making the most of story time:

• Hold the book so children can easily see the cover and the illustrations.
• Make a few comments about the illustration on the cover and note the author and illustrator.
• Show excitement and read the story expressively.
• Listen for children’s comments or questions and respond briefly to confirm or clarify.
• Provide information to extend children’s understanding of the story.
• Have fun!

Build Vocabulary

Providing a simple explanation for words that children may not be familiar with can help build their language skills. You can describe the meaning of a word, point to an illustration, or use your tone of voice to convey the word’s meaning. Here are some words to talk about while you read *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon*:

• **Patchwork**: something that is made up of different things
• **Enormous**: very, very big
• **Emerge**: to come out where you can see
• **Snout**: an animal’s long nose
• **Gleaming**: bright and shiny
• **Sketches**: quick drawings
• **Invite**: ask someone to do something
• **Exactly**: right in every way
Talk about Emotions: How Are You Feeling?

Throughout the story, Amy’s feelings change as she thinks about making a dragon that feels “just right.” She’s sad when she doesn’t finish her dragon, excited when she has an idea, and happy when she finally gets to show her dragon to her classmates. Create a poster of multiple emotions—use the template or create your own—and place on a wall. Ask children how they are feeling and have them draw the emotion and write their name on a sticker. Help children place it under the face on the poster that represents the emotion they are feeling.

Make a Patchwork Dragon

Amy and her friends used different things to make their dragons their own. Tell children that they can also patchwork—or use many different things—to help create a dragon. Use the dragon template at the end of the book or draw an outline of a dragon on a large poster. Give children a small square of paper to decorate a patchwork scale that feels “just right” to add to the dragon using markers, stickers, beads, glitter, or other craft supplies. Assist children as needed throughout the activity and help them tape their scale onto the dragon. Extend the activity by asking children about how they are decorating their patchwork piece. Are there certain colors or objects they want to include in their patchwork scale to make it unique?

Host a Parade

Amy, her grandmother, and her friends all help carry the dragon costume around to dance in a parade. What kind of parade can you host? Provide costumes, fabric, accessories, boxes, and even seats for the spectators. Support children as they plan out what they will wear for the parade, what the route might look like, and how they can invite people to attend. Support language development by asking children what items they will be including in their parade.
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More Ideas

Keep the celebration going! Here are a few additional ideas for your event:

• **Wear Dragon Hats:** Make your own dragon hat! Measure children’s heads with a strip of paper and staple to fit. Use the template or create your own dragon head to attach to the center. Let children decorate with scales, eyes, horns, snouts—support them in adding the features they want to make the dragon theirs!

• **Make Dragon Puppets:** Make paper bag puppets of an eastern and western dragon (shown at the end of the book). How are they similar? How are they different?

• **Follow the Leader:** Play a follow the leader game using dragon motions from the book, such as roar, fly, and dance.

• **Pass the Feelings:** Stand in a circle with children and begin by smiling at the child next to you. They “pass” the smile to the child next to them by making eye contact and smiling. Pass the smile all the way around the circle. You can also try it out with a frown, a nod, or other facial expressions.

• **Keep Reading:** Create a reading corner for children who might need a quiet space. Integrate theme related books:
  
  • Deepen conversations on family relationships by trying:
    - *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Dung Ho
    - *Where Are You From?* by Yamile Saied Méndez, illustrated by Jaime Kim
    - *Grandpa Grumps* by Katrina Moore, illustrated by Xindi Yan
  
  • Dig into themes of creativity and self-expression by reading:
    - *Julián is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love
    - *Maybe Something Beautiful* by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, illustrated by Rafael López
    - *Lola’s Fandango* by Anna Witte, illustrated by Micha Archer
  
  • Dive into more books about dragons and cultural symbols by reading:
    - *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin, illustrated by Daniel Salmieri
    - *Raising Dragons* by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by Elise Primavera
  
  • Explore more great books by author Kat Zhang. Try:
    - *Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao.*

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Celebrating 20 years of reading aloud together.

*Read for the Record* is a joint initiative of Jumpstart and SIMON & SCHUSTER BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS.

To learn more about Jumpstart’s *Read for the Record*, visit:** readfortherecord.org**

Celebrate Jumpstart’s *Read for the Record* on October 28, 2021!
"Talk about Emotions" Chart

AMY WU and the PATCHWORK DRAGON
Written by KAT ZHANG and Illustrated by CHARLENE CHUA

Illustrations © by Charlene Chua
“Dragon Face” Activity