

WORD PLAY

THE ISJL'S LITERACY
NEWSLETTER



WINTER
2020



During Our Reading Family Virtual cohorts this past fall, we saw the warmth and connection between our participants as they spent quality time together with literacy in mind. We have put together resources below to help you make the most of family time at home this winter. Stay warm, stay safe, and read on!

Rachel Glazer

Community Engagement Program Manager

Ice Cool Word Play

How do I fix my ice house when it falls apart?

Answer: Igloo it back together!

Family Oral History Interviews

Some of the best storytellers in our lives are right in our own homes! Students can practice their speaking and listening skills by conducting oral history interviews with family members.

10 Tips for Young Oral Historians:

1. Prepare some questions ahead of time.
2. Listen to understand, not to respond.
3. Record the interview and take notes.
4. Think of activities that you enjoy. What kinds of activities did your subject enjoy?
5. What moment in recent history are you interested in? What was your subject's experience during that time?
6. Think about what matters to you now and ask about equivalent things from your subject's life at that age. For instance, how did they connect to friends in a world without cell phones?
7. Ask them to show you a picture or keepsake that means a lot to them.
8. Watch one of their favorite movies or TV shows from their youth together, then discuss it.
9. Switch roles! Kids can be great interview subjects, too.
10. Share what you learn with other people in your life.



Suggested Questions:

- What was your childhood like?
- What music did you like to listen to as a teenager? How did you listen to it (CD, radio, records, etc.)? What were some popular dances that went with that music?
- What are your favorite family traditions or holiday memories?
- If you grew up in a different place from me, what was that like?
- What is your proudest moment?
- What is your favorite place you've ever been?
- If you could give advice to yourself at my age, what would it be?

Our Reading Family Virtual with Junior League of Jackson



Thanks to our partnership with the Junior League of Jackson, we had another successful cohort of Our Reading Family Virtual. Parents, grandparents, kids, and volunteers came together for four Saturdays of reading, learning, playing, and growing!

If you're interested in participating in our next cohort of Our Reading Family Virtual or hosting a cohort for your organization, email Rachel at engagement@isjl.org.

Our Reading Family Participant Spotlight: Serenity M.

My name is Serenity. I am in the 5th grade. I have several favorite books. I think *Where the Wild Things Are* and *Ann Fights for Freedom: An Underground Railroad Survival Story* are at the top of my list. I like reading about history. My favorite part about reading is it takes me to other places and times. I love to read. I set a goal to read a million words this school year before December and guess what! I accomplished it in early November.

My favorite forms of literacy are dance and reading. I love to dance because it allows me to tell a story with movement. My dance instructor, Ms. Bridget Archer, is the best. She encourages me in dance and school.

I haven't decided exactly what I want to be when I grow up, but I do know I want to help homeless people. Maybe I'll be a social worker, lawyer, or doctor. Literacy will help me communicate positively with others. Some people are afraid or don't want to be around homeless people. I can tell others what homeless people want and have to say. I can be their voice.



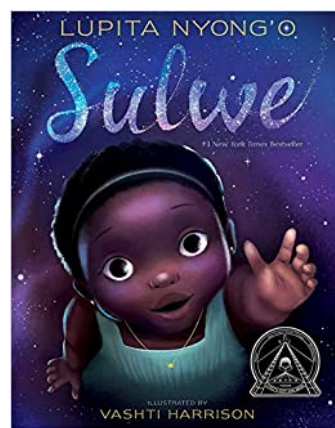
Staff Picks



Epic Reading App

Epic is the #1 children's digital library for kids 12 and under, offering access to over 40,000 high-quality books for kids, learning videos, reading quizzes and more. There is a free option for educators and a limited free library for remote students.

Rachel says: "After the families at Our Reading Family told me about Epic, I could not stop talking about it! Since it's made just for kids, it's designed with fun and safety in mind."

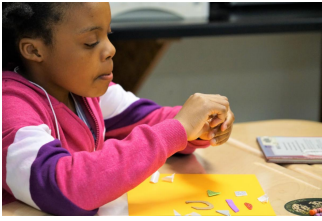


Sulwe, by Lupita Nyong'o

This beautiful book explores self-esteem and self-acceptance through the perspective of one little girl's journey. Join Sulwe as she travels to the stars to learn to grow into her own skin.

Rianna says: "Sulwe offers a new perspective on seeing the light in the darkness, which is something we could all use this year. This unique take on day and night, skin color, and self-acceptance is full of lessons for all ages."

Show us how it's going!



Send us photos, videos, or a couple of sentences about how your family has had fun with literacy this month! We would love to see your faces, read your writing, and share your creativity in our next newsletter!

For more information contact us at 601.362.6357 or engagement@isjl.org.

LAB and Our Reading Family are programs of the ISJL.

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