Inspire a Love of Reading:
Create a Genre Study for Preschoolers
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Information Presented in Presentation

Uncomfortable Stories
Big Bear Hug by Nicholas Oldland
The Black Rabbit by Phillipa Leathers
Brave Squish Rabbit by Katherine Battersby
The Doghouse by Jan Thomas
Don’t Wake Up the Bear! by Marjorie Dennis Murray
Look Out, Suzy Goose! By Petr Horacek
The Rubber-Legged Ducky by John G. Keller

Other uncomfortable stories:
Huff & Puff by Claudia Rueda
Loosely based on the folktale about the three little pigs, these three pigs have a different surprise for the wolf who is trying to blow their houses down.

“I’m Not Scared!” by Jonathan Allen
When Baby Owl takes his stuffed Owly out for a walk in the moonlit woods, he insists that he is not afraid of the other animals that keep popping up and making him jump.

Itsy Bitsy Baby Mouse by Michelle Meadows
A baby mouse gets lost and experiences frightening adventures before finding his way home.

Little Boo by Stephen Wunderli
A pumpkin seed tries unsuccessfully to be scary until it grows into a pumpkin and Halloween arrives.

The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams
A little old lady who is not afraid of anything must deal with a pumpkin head, a tall black hat and other spooky objects that follow her through the dark woods trying to scare her.

Night Animals by Gianna Marino
Possum is hiding from the sounds in the night, and his fear sets off a chain reaction in the other night animals.

This Is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen
A tiny minnow wearing a pale blue bowler hat has a thing or two up his fins in this underwater light-on-dark chase scene.
That is NOT a Good Idea! by Mo Willems
A surprising lesson about the importance of listening to one’s inner gosling ensues when a very hungry fox issues a dinner invitation to a very plump goose.

Tickle Monster by Édouard Mancea
At bedtime, a brave child makes a monster disappear by tickling its various parts, such as its teeth so it cannot bite, and the parts transform into new objects that create a non-threatening scene.

Facts for adults:
- The horror genre consists of stories that are scary or unsettling. (After reading a book from this genre, always ask children, “What did you hear that made you uncomfortable?”)
- This genre provides an opportunity to teach/reinforce early literacy skills.
- When discussing scary stories with children, just call them “uncomfortable stories.”
- Many stories that are appropriate for children under 5 are not really scary stories. There is always a happy outcome.

Fact for children:
- Books that make you a little uncomfortable because you are not sure what is going to happen.

Stories Without Words
A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka
The Boy & the Book: A Wordless Story by David Michael Slater
Daisy Gets Lost by Chris Raschka
Flashlight by Lizi Boyd
Fox’s Garden by Princesse Camcam
The Last Laugh by Jose Aruego

Other stories without words:

Bee & Bird by Craig Frazier
A bumblebee and a bird embark on a travel adventure.

Before After by Anne-Margot Ramstein and Matthias Arégue
With simple illustrations, this book shows before and after pictures in a variety of unique situations.

The Carpenter by Bruna Barros
An overalls-clad young boy plays with a carpenter’s measuring tape, while his similarly dressed father has plans to build a boat.

Float by Daniel Miyares
A boy loses his paper boat in the rain.

Flora and the Peacocks by Molly Schaar Idle
A little girl named Flora forms a friendship with two peacocks as the three learn to dance together.
Red Hat by Lita Judge
In this almost wordless picture book, a troupe of baby forest animals borrows a child’s hat, until all that is left is a long piece of red string.

The Snowman by Raymond Briggs
When his snowman comes to life, a little boy invites him home and in return is taken on a flight high above the countryside.

What If? by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
Enjoy this visit to the beach and the chance to guess what happens when different choices are made.

The White Book by Silvia Borando
As a boy paints a room, he finds little surprises coming from the colored part of the wall.

Wolf in the Snow by Matthew Cordell
When a wolf cub and little girl are lost in a snowstorm they must find their way home.

Facts for adults:
- Books with few or no words. The pictures tell the story.
- Promotes language and vocabulary development.
- Shows how books work and develops an understanding of story structure.
- Builds confidence.

Facts for children:
- Books with few or no words.
- You have to look at pictures, think about what you are seeing and tell the story using your own words.
- There is no right or wrong way to tell the story – it is your story and your words!

Songs Used in Presentation

The Author and Illustrator Song
(Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”)
Who’s the author? Who’s the author?
What’s his name? What’s his name?
He wrote all the words to
Make this story for you.
What’s his name? What’s his name?

Who’s the illustrator? Who’s the illustrator?
What’s her name? What’s her name?
She drew pictures to view
As the story’s read through.
What’s her name? What’s her name?

Time to Say Goodbye
(Tune: “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain”)
It’s time to say goodbye to all my friends.
It’s time to say goodbye to all my friends.
It’s time to say goodbye,
Give a smile and wink your eye.
It’s time to say goodbye to all my friends.
Yee-haw!
Goodbye friends.
Genre Study: Nuts & Bolts

What is a genre?
A group or type of literature characterized by similarities in form, style or subject matter.

What is a genre study?
A unit in which the curriculum is centered on a genre – humor, horror, realistic fiction, non-fiction, etc.

Why have a genre study?
- Allows you to introduce authors who have not written many books.
- Introduces children to a variety of literature.
- Helps children identify the types of books they are interested in hearing read and can increase their interest in books and reading.

How do I have a genre study?
1. Choose a genre.
   - Make sure you and the children enjoy the genre/selection of books.
   - Find 10-20 books that fit the genre. Search the internet for books using phrases like “funny stories for preschoolers.”
2. Go to the library catalog to find which books the library owns and place them on hold.
3. Find activities to accompany genre study.
4. Layout the genre study:
   - Choose the books you are going to read aloud and prepare activities.
   - Prepare genre poster with book covers.
   - Place books in areas around the classrooms.

Insert book cover images into PowerPoint and make copies to display on your posters. Google images is a good resource for book covers.

Library Resources

You can find the following resources at research.fairfaxcounty.gov/early-literacy.

Book Lists for Preschoolers: I Like Picture Books About...
Find library book suggestions on a variety of subjects for preschoolers.

Fun With Reading!
This bi-monthly publication highlights library books for toddlers and preschoolers and includes an assortment of early literacy extension activities for each book.

Ready to Read Newsletter
A bi-monthly publication that offers book suggestions and reading tips. Available in Spanish

Thematic Resources
Library books, songs, finger plays and websites on a variety of preschool-related themes.