



# The Bookworm Ages 6-8

From your Local Library and Idaho's Read to Me Program

## Print Awareness & Young Children

Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful.

To help develop print awareness:

- Show children that print is all around them. Point it out in signs, on menus, and in books and newspapers.
- Occasionally run your finger along the bottom of words while reading. This helps children understand that print runs from left to right and that you are reading text rather than looking at pictures.
- Point to some words as you say them, especially words that are repeated.
- Label objects around your home, such as "bed," "window," "door," and "toys."
- Let your child turn the pages. When you are done reading, let her hold the book and tell you the story.
- Talk about and play with punctuation marks. Show your child what an exclamation mark and a question mark are, and why you read those sentences differently.
- Encourage children to play with print every day. Help them make lists, write notes, make signs, etc.

Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; for example, menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can show a favorite restaurant or warn of danger.

## Book of the Month

### *Barn Dance!* written by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

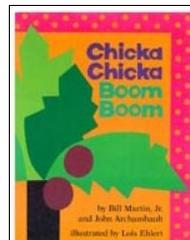


In an old farmhouse in the middle of the night, a young boy awakens to a voice:

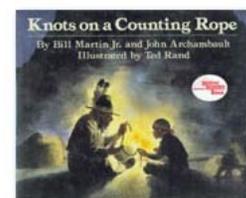
*Come a little closer...Come a little closer..Listen to the night...There's magic in the air...*

The boy sneaks downstairs, out the door, and walks toward the barn. He hears the sound of a fiddler and the thumping of dancing feet. Who could possibly be having a barn dance in the middle of the night?!

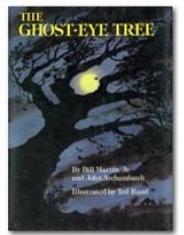
If your child enjoyed this story, check out other books written by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault:



*Chicka Chicka  
Boom Boom*



*Knots on a  
Counting Rope*



*The Ghost-Eye  
Tree*

Here are some good books to help your child develop **print awareness**:

*I'm Not Cute!* Jonathan Allen  
*Bounce,* Doreen Cronin  
*Smash! Crash!* Jon Scieszka  
*Dog's Noisy Day,* Emma Dodd  
*First the Egg,* Laura Vaccaro Seeger

## More fun with *Barn Dance!*

**Math connection...** The animals in the story dance in pairs. Help your child understand that "pair" means "two." Find pairs of animals in the story, then talk about or find other things that come in "pairs." For older children, make a collection of pairs, then help your child begin counting by "twos."

**Movin' and Groovin'...** "Whirl," "spin," and "leap" are just a few of the wonderful movement words in this story. Have your child help you find other movement words in the story, and help her act the words out with her body.



**Print awareness...** The text in this story contains lots of exclamation points and apostrophes. Point these out to your child. Explain that exclamation points tell you to read the sentence with excitement. Explain that the use of the apostrophes here mean that a letter has been taken away from the word to give the text "voice."

### Pumpkin Poem

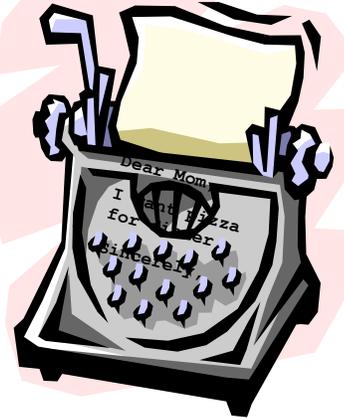
One day I found two pumpkin seeds.  
I planted one and pulled the weeds.  
It sprouted roots and a big, long vine.  
A pumpkin grew; I called it mine.  
The pumpkin was quite round and fat.  
(I really am quite proud of that.)  
But there is something I'll admit  
That has me worried just a bit.  
I ate the other seed, you see.  
Now will it grow inside of me?

(I'm so relieved since I have found  
That pumpkins only grow in the ground!)

## Barnyard Banter

In the story *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type*, by Doreen Cronin, the cows on Farmer Brown's farm find an old typewriter and begin making typewritten demands. Not only will young children find humor and delight in the antics of the farm animals, they will see the power that written words can have.

School-age children can practice the power of writing by helping you make grocery or "to do" lists, writing invitations, greeting cards and thank you notes, etc. They can print by hand or type on a computer; they can even use an old typewriter that may be lying around...



### What your library can do for you...

"Print awareness" is one of the six early literacy skills children should develop before they enter school. Your youth services librarian can suggest books and activities that help you support your child's learning at home.

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