



Read to Me News

From Your Public Library & Idaho's Read to Me Program

Finding Books Kids will Like

What book from your childhood still comes to mind as a special favorite? Why do you think it still means so much to you?

Adults tend to remember books they heard or read between the ages of seven and ten. They are likely to recall an emotional identification with the characters in these stories. Is that true for you? If you entered into a story so completely that you relived the events through the eyes of a character, you experienced the kind of emotional involvement that we wish for all children. Reading responds to needs we all share, such as:

The Need for Love and Friendship. Children connect with stories that show love for family members, pets and toys.

The Need to Satisfy Curiosity. Children are innately curious about other people and about the world around them. They learn a good deal through TV. We want them to see how they can satisfy their thirst for information through books, as well.

The Need to Deal Safely with Fears. Fear can be a delicious, safe emotion in response to a story that has a predictably satisfying ending or is told with humor. Children's fears of new experiences or frightening creatures can be put to rest with a good book. A favorite book may be a fantasy with fearsome situations like those in the Harry Potter series. It may be a survival story.

The Need for Laughter. Children's lives are sometimes serious and dark. They need books to laugh at and characters to laugh with.

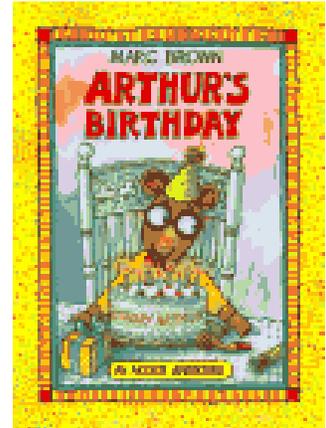
Your own book memories might help you select books that will appeal to your child's emotions and make reading an important part of their lives.

(This article written by by Dianne L. Monson and adapted from www.teachervision.fen.com)

Book of the Month

Arthur's Birthday,
by Marc Brown

The adventures of Arthur the aardvark continue as Arthur gets ready for his birthday party. Excitement builds as he hands out invitations to his friends at school—and then he discovers that Muffy is having a party on Saturday afternoon, too. The dates can't be changed; Arthur's relatives are coming, and Muffy's booked a clown and a rock band. By the next day, the boys have decided to go to Arthur's party, the girls to Muffy's, but then Arthur cooks up a plan to include everyone at one party.



There are over 80 books about Arthur and his friends! Ask your librarian for more of these books including:

Arthur's Tooth

Arthur's Teacher Trouble

Arthur's Pet Business

D.W.'s Library Card

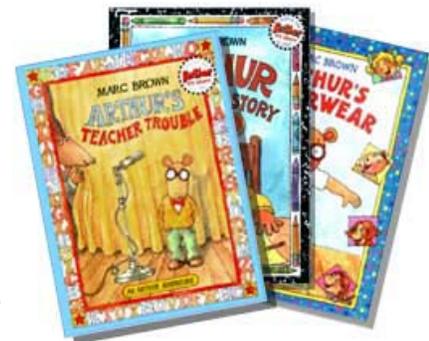
Buster's New Friend

Arthur's Science Project

Arthur's Family Vacation

Arthur To the Rescue

Arthur Writes a Story



Talking about *Arthur's Birthday*

Ask your child what he or she would do if they had a birthday party on the same day as a friend.

What do they think of Arthur's solution.

Ask your child to draw or tell you what they would give Arthur as a present if they were invited to the party. What about a gift for Muffy?

Arthur's Author

Marc Brown is the creator of Arthur, the most popular aardvark in the world.

What started out as a bedtime story has turned into a global phenomenon. From the Americas to China, Arthur the loveable aardvark turns up in books, backpacks, and even bowls of macaroni-and-cheese. Arthur's PBS television series is broadcast in over 60 countries. And in the U.S.A. alone, nearly 60 million Arthur books have been sold. Marc Brown believes that millions of children can relate to third-grade Arthur because "he's dealing with the same issues that they're dealing with in their lives."

Marc Brown grew up in Pennsylvania. In junior high, he drew cartoons for the school newspaper. When it came time for college, his grandmother helped pay for art school. On his way to becoming a full-time author and illustrator, he worked as a truck driver, short-order cook, television art director, actor, college professor, and freelance illustrator. His big breakthrough came one night when his five-year-old son asked for a bedtime story about a weird animal. Brown came up with Arthur, an aardvark who hated his long nose. In 1976, this story became *Arthur's Nose*, the first book in the popular series. He now lives in Massachusetts with his wife and continues to write and illustrate children's books.



Did You Know?

Did you know that Arthur's and Marc Brown's birthdays are exactly six months apart? Arthur's is May 25th and Marc's is November 25th?

Be sure to visit <http://pbskids.org/arthur/> for fun interactive games, activities you can print and do, lists of books and information about the Arthur TV series. There's also information for parents and teachers.



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