



For ages  
**3-5**

# The Bookworm



From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

**January 2013**

## Narrative Skills

**Narrative Skills** are the ability to describe things and events, and tell stories. Helping your child develop these skills when she is young will help her understand what she hears, and later, what she reads. An example of a narrative skill is a child's ability to tell what happens at a birthday party or on a trip to the zoo.

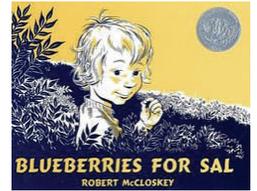
### What can parents do to help build narrative skills?

- Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase together.
- Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- Have your child retell the story.
- Encourage your child to tell you something from her own experience related to what happened in the book.
- Use puppets or props to tell the story to help your child remember it; have your child use props to help retell the story.
- Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the book even if what she says is not in the story. Ask open-ended questions, ones that cannot be answered with yes or no.
- Have your child draw pictures and ask her to tell you about them.

## Book of the Month

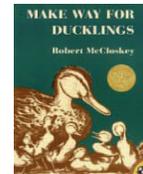
### *Blueberries for Sal*, by Robert McCloskey

With its gentle animals, funny noises, and youthful spirit of adventure this book is perfect for reading aloud. The charming illustrations, which earned a Caldecott Honor award, will leave you and your child craving a fresh pail of blueberries of your own!



### Other books by Robert McCloskey to enjoy:

*Make Way for Ducklings*,  
*Lentil*, *Time of Wonder*



### Choosing quality books:

#### American Library Association (ALA) Awards

Though many picture books are considered high-quality for children, choosing award-winning books such as those sponsored by the ALA are a good way to begin introducing your child to the best children's literature.

**The Geisel Award** (Dr. Seuss) is presented each year to the best American book in English for beginning readers.

**The Caldecott Medal** is awarded each year to the artist of the best-illustrated American picture book for children.

Look for these gold or silver medals at your local library.



## More fun with Blueberries for Sal

**Math connection...** Give your child a handful of blueberries (or other small foods) and a small container. Ask her to count them as she puts them in the container. Counting by ones is called "one-to-one correspondence" and is an important first math skill. For older children, put a small amount of berries in two containers. Ask, "Which has more? How can we find out?" Comparing amounts is also an important skill.

**Talk about it...** Give your child some paper and some crayons, colored pencils, or washable markers, and ask him to draw a picture of his favorite part of the book. Ask him questions when he is finished. "Tell me about your drawing. Why is this your favorite part of the story? Can you tell me more about this part of your picture?"

**In the kitchen...** Let your child help you make blueberry muffins or blueberry pancakes as a special treat.



### Picture books that help build narrative skills:

Books with a repeated phrase

Books that repeat part of the story

Books that tell a tale that builds on itself

Books where the events happen in an order

Wordless picture books

## Action Rhyme

### Grizzly Bear, Grizzly Bear

Grizzly bear, grizzly bear,  
Where have you been?  
Over the mountains  
Such things I've seen!  
*(pretend to look over mountains)*

Grizzly bear, grizzly bear,  
What have you done?  
Eaten fresh blueberries  
Made ripe by the sun.  
*(pretend to be eating)*

Grizzly bear, grizzly bear,  
What have you found?  
Ice-cold spring water  
Deep from the ground.  
*(pretend to drink)*

Grizzly bear, grizzly bear,  
What do you dream?  
Sweet tasting salmon  
Swimming upstream.  
*(make a swishing motion with hands)*



Grizzly bear, grizzly bear,  
Where do you creep?  
Into my dark cave  
*(pretend to creep into a cave)*  
Now let me sleep!

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

You can read hundreds of free online books with your child by visiting your local library's website and clicking on Tumblebooks™.



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