Year 2 – Lesson 5

CAPTAIN'S PAGE

READING AND WRITING

BEFORE THE LESSON: Have a check-in table set up. Dads and kids will receive name tags, tickets for the prize drawings, stickers and activity supplies. Be sure to have one or two volunteers assigned to the table.

GOAL: Reinforce the importance of reading and writing.

ACTIVITY: Create an original book designed and written by dads and kids.

OBJECTIVE: Make a mini-book by writing and illustrating an original story.

INTRODUCTION: *Writer Charles Caleb Colton said, "Imitation is the highest form of flattery." Children will often imitate the things they see their dads doing. If children see dads reading and writing, they are more likely to engage in the same activities. In an article from the nonprofit Archway Communities, we learn that reading to children increases their cognitive ability, improves their memory and boosts their vocabulary.[1] A Psychology Today blog reports that dads tend to have broader conversations related to a book's topic compared to mothers. When fathers read, it helps to reverse young boys' assumptions that reading is just a feminine activity.[2]*

ASK:

- What types of books do you enjoy reading?
- Do you have a favorite book? What is the title?
- Do you prefer reading alone or having someone read to you?
- Who is your favorite author?
- If you were going to write a book, what kind of book would you write?

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Paper, scissors, markers, pens, pencils

Make a Book

1. Dads and kids will make a book together.
2. Demonstrate the paper folding and cutting to make the book. Have an example ready.
    a. Fold an 8 ½" X 11" piece of paper in half, short side to short side (hamburger style).
    b. Unfold. Then fold long side to long side (hotdog style).
    c. Unfold. You should have four equal spaces. Make sure the folds are sharp and crisp.
    d. Fold one short end of the paper to the center fold and crease. Repeat with the other short end. Open the paper again. You should have eight equal rectangles.
    e. Fold again hamburger style. Cut a slit from the center of the long fold to the first creased intersection.

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CAPTAIN'S PAGE

READING AND WRITING

Make a Book (Continued)

f. Open the paper again and fold hotdog style with the crease side up. You should now have an open diamond in the center. Holding each folded corner between your thumb and forefinger, push the two ends to the center, squeezing the diamond shut.

g. Fold the paper into a eight-page booklet.

3. Encourage creativity and working together in writing and illustrating the book.
4. This may be fiction or nonfiction.

Appreciations *Ask participants to share their appreciations.*

- Use these sentence starters:
  - "If I was writing a book about you, I would want to say how proud I am that you ..."
  - "If I wrote a book about my dad as a super-hero, his super-hero name would be ..."

Prize Time

- Remember to provide 3–5 raffle prizes. These could be associated with the theme of the day.
- Draw tickets and award prizes.

Take Home Ideas

- Go to the public library and get a library card.
- Model good reading habits—encourage reading at home.

1. "5 Benefits of Reading to Children." *Archway Communities*, 14 October, 2021. archwaycommunities.org.

2. Knapp, Nancy Flanagan, Ph.D., and Paula J. Schwanenflugel. "A Father's Role(s) in Reading." *Psychology Today*, 16 June, 2019. psychologytoday.com.

After breakfast, before dismissal, remind parents of the Good Dads website.

For more resources and ideas about how to connect with your kids, check us out online at www.gooddads.com, subscribe to the Good Dads podcast and e-newsletter and follow us on social media.

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ACTIVITY PAGE

READING AND WRITING

Discussion Starter

- What types of books do you enjoy reading?
- Do you have a favorite book? What is the title?
- Do you prefer reading alone or having someone read to you?
- Who is your favorite author?
- If you were going to write a book, what kind of book would you write?

Make A Book

Dads and kids will create a book together. This simple activity will involve making, writing and illustrating a book. Families are encouraged to get creative and design a unique book while making memories together. Some ideas for your book may include: *My Dad, the Superhero*; *What I Want to be When I Grow Up*; *The Dog Who Ate My Homework*; *The Best Thing about Brothers*.

Supplies: Paper, scissors, markers, pens, pencils

Appreciations

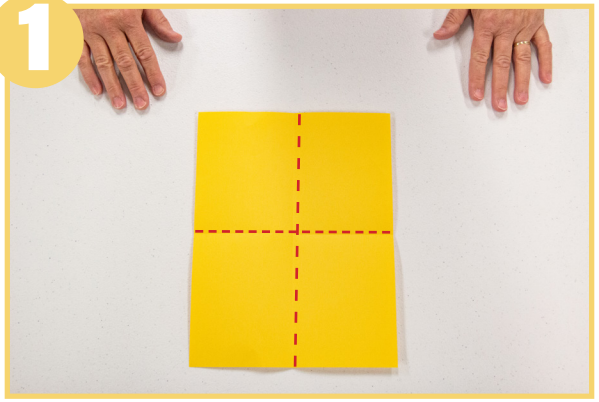
- Use this sentence starter:
  - "If I was writing a book about you, I would want to say how proud I am that you ..."
  - "If I wrote a book about my dad as a super-hero, his super-hero name would be ..."

For more resources and ideas about how to connect with your kids, check us out online at www.gooddads.com, subscribe to the Good Dads podcast and e-newsletter and follow us on social media.

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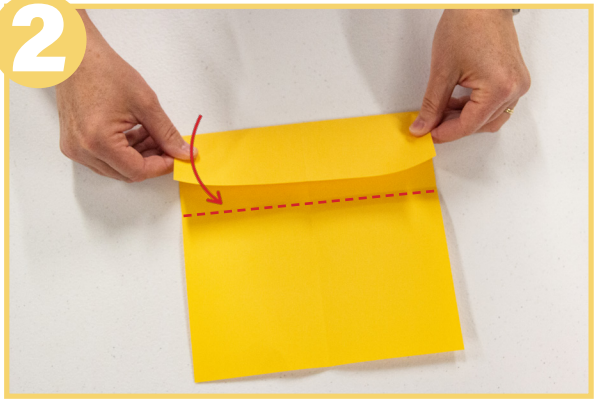
HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN BOOK

1



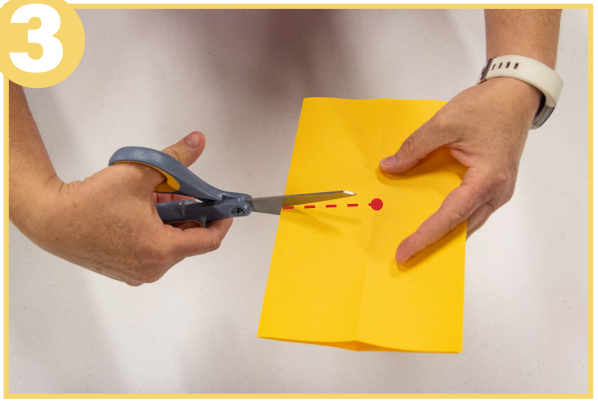
Fold an 8 ½" X 11" piece of paper in half, short side to short side (hamburger style). Unfold the paper and then fold again, this time long side to long side (hotdog style). Unfold. You should now have four equal spaces. Make sure folds are sharp and crisp.

2



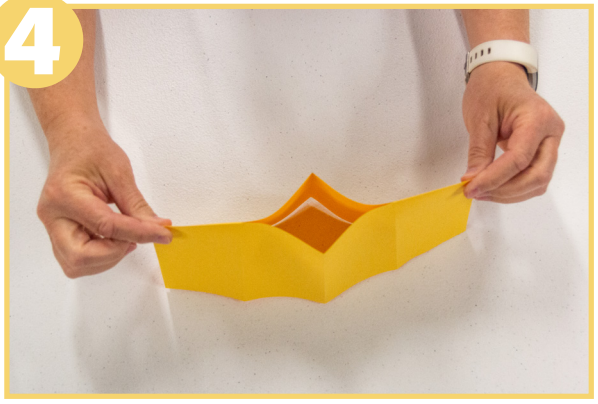
Take a short end of the paper, lining it up to meet the center fold. Crease firmly. Repeat with the other short end. Unfold. You should now have eight equal rectangles.

3



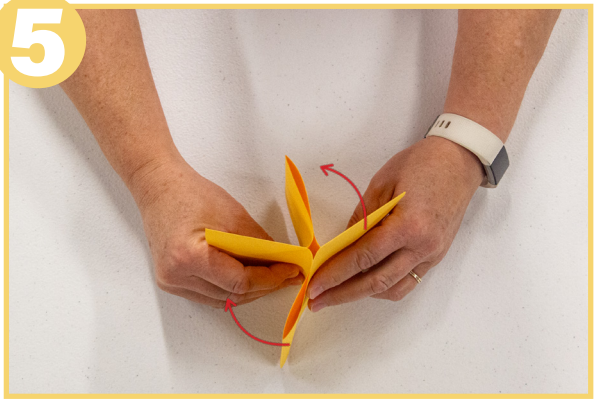
Fold again hamburger style. Cut a slit from the center of the long fold to the first creased intersection.

4



Unfold. Fold hotdog style with the crease side up. You should now have an open diamond in the center.

5



Holding each folded corner between your thumb and forefinger, push the two ends to the center, squeezing the diamond shut.

6



Gather the pages into a into an eight-page booklet. Now you are ready to write and illustrate your book!

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PARENT PAGE

READING AND WRITING

Children love to imitate other people. Writer Charles Caleb Colton said, "Imitation is the highest form of flattery." As parents or influential adults in their lives, we should strive to model skills and behaviors which are worthy of flattery. When children see adults reading or writing, it can instill in them the idea that these are valuable skills. Reading and writing stories with children is something both moms and dads should do with their daughters and sons. When boys see dads reading, it helps challenge their assumptions that reading is a feminine-only activity. Help your children develop their cognitive skills, their vocabulary, memory and focus, all while strengthening your bond with them: Read to them.

SIGN UP FOR THE GOOD DADS NEWSLETTER

Take Home Ideas

- Go to the local public library and get a library card.
- Choose a book to read together at home.
- Model good reading habits—encourage reading at home.
- Discuss the books your child is reading—ask questions.
- Make a mini-book together.

Book List

Pre-K and Kindergarten

- *Should I Share My Ice Cream?* by Mo Willems
- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *Pet Show* by Ezra Jack Keats

Grades 1–3

- *What I Like Most* by Mary Murphy
- *Just Me and My Dad* by Mercer Mayer
- *The Animal Book* by David Burnie
- *Crab Moon* by Ruth Horowitz
- *The Oldest Student* by Rita Lorraine Hubbard

Grades 4–6

- *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket
- *Stuart Little* by E.B. White
- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- *Call it Courtage* by Armstrong Sperry
- *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl
- *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis

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