

# Words that *Cook!* Parenting with children's books™

DVD Viewing & Workshop Guide

Show 13:  
Windows & Mirrors of Literacy

[www.WordsThatCook.org](http://www.WordsThatCook.org)

## About Words That Cook, LLC

Words That Cook, LLC is an award-winning educational media company producing and delivering innovative literacy resources that empower parents and educators to inspire and motivate children. Our products and services include educational television programming and DVDs, Web resources, accredited courseware and training, and family literacy publications.

## About Words that *Cook!* Parenting with children's books™

Originating as a 13-part series broadcast on select PBS affiliates and on public access cable stations nationwide, [Words that Cook! Parenting with children's books](#) is the winner of the *International Reading Association 2005 Broadcast Media Award for Television* and is now available in DVD format.

This series celebrates the joy of reading, the art of writing, the wonder of storytelling and the magic of wordplay through a combination of interviews and live action spiced up with animated fun.

Professionals, experts, parents and children model and discuss enjoyable and practical techniques for enriching literacy experiences. Designed for educators and parents of children ages 0-12, each DVD includes an original 30-minute episode, comprised of five or six related segments, plus bonus guest material and messages from the executive producers.

## About this Viewing & Workshop Guide

This guide is designed to help you get the most out of the DVD, whether you are nurturing family literacy in your home, center or school.

With the guide, you can review the many family literacy suggestions presented throughout the show, read summaries of recommended books and engage in suggested activities.

If you are a professional planning workshops for others, you'll find helpful show overview and summary information as well as appropriate discussion prompts for both parent workshops and professional staff development.

The grade levels specified for each DVD chapter and extra indicate the grades to which the topics and modeled strategies apply. When children are featured, the *italicized* grade level indicates the range into which those children fall. If other grade levels are also listed, the topics and modeled strategies are appropriate for these grades as well.

By watching, discussing and using the strategies modeled in the show, we hope you and your family, or the families you serve, will be empowered to create dynamic and exciting reading and writing experiences for children.

## Summary of Show 13: Windows & Mirrors of Literacy

Books can be windows to different cultures, places and times as well as mirrors that reflect our own images. The guests on this show demonstrate how to introduce children to Shakespeare, explore cultures through books and folklore, discuss and write about memories and document personal history through Adoption Lifebooks.

### Show 13 Outline

#### Show Intro (length - 1:24)

At the Words that *Cook!* virtual fair, hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard introduce the theme of this show: *Windows & Mirrors of Literacy*.

#### Chapter 1: Exploring Shakespeare through Performance (length - 5:53)

**Guest(s):** Kristy Pace, Artistic Director, Pocket Full of Tales; Robert Arnold, Kristen Arnold and their 12-year-old son; Susan Merry and her 13-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter; other students in the Pocket Full of Tales Advanced Theatre Workshop

**Location:** The Center for Arts in Natick; Arnold Family Home; Merry Family Home

**Grade Level(s):** *Grades 3 – 6*

**Topic(s):** the language of Shakespeare; introducing Shakespeare in non-intimidating ways; correlation between performing and studying Shakespeare; strengthening language skills through performance; bringing Shakespeare to life by watching film versions; introducing the story of a play before tackling the text; referring to modern English “translations”; talking through possible meanings; having mealtime conversations about children’s activities and studies; relating Shakespeare to modern situations

**Modeled Strategies:** children exploring Shakespeare through performance; incorporating reading aloud into workshop settings; easing into linguistically-complex texts by first sharing simplified versions; dissecting the language of Shakespeare; referring children to the library as a resource

**Book(s):** *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare Made Easy series) by William Shakespeare and Alan Durband; *A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Workbook For Students and Teachers* by Fredi Olster and Rick Hamilton

#### **Recipes for Success™:**

Find non-intimidating ways to introduce Shakespeare

Find ways to explore Shakespeare through acting

Bring Shakespeare to life by watching movies

Tackle the story before the language

Use books that display both original texts and modern English

Talk through possible meanings

Discuss Shakespeare in contemporary terms

## Chapter 2: Using Multicultural Children's Books (length - 3:37)

**Guest(s):** Elena Creef, Mom and College Professor, and her 7-year-old son

**Location:** Creef Family Home

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels (*Kindergarten – Grade 2*)

**Topic(s):** providing children with a multicultural environment; reinforcing a child's cultural identity through books; examples of quality multicultural children's books; exposing children to other cultures through books; suggestions for finding quality multicultural children's books

**Modeled Strategies:** reading aloud with children; addressing children respectfully; asking for and respecting children's input; telling others about favorite books

**Book(s):** *The Musubi Man* by Sandi Takayama; *Angels Ride Bikes/Los Angeles Andan en Bicicleta* by Francisco X. Alarcón

### Recipes for Success:

- Use books to reinforce cultural identity
- Expose children to other cultures through books
- Ask friends to share regional books
- Search the Web for multicultural books

## Chapter 3: How Stories Connect Us All (length - 2:43)

**Guest(s):** Amy Cohn, Author and Educator

**Location:** Cohn Family Home

**Grade Level(s):** Kindergarten – Grade 2; Grades 3 – 6

**Topic(s):** correlation between American history and American folklore; diversity of American folklore; experiencing different cultures' contributions through their stories; commonality of story themes across different cultures; seeing ourselves in other cultures' stories; using diverse folklore to reinforce how similar all people are

**Book(s):** *From Sea to Shining Sea: A Treasury of American Folklore and Folk Songs* by Amy L. Cohn

### Recipes for Success:

- Recreate history with stories
- Compare similar stories from many cultures

## Chapter 4: Using Photographs to Prompt Writing (length - 1:34)

**Guest(s):** Laurie Joy Haas, Words that Cook! Executive Producer, with Honey the Cookie-Bookie Bear™

**Location:** Words that Cook! Virtual Entertainment Room

**Grade Level(s):** Kindergarten – Grade 2, Grades 3 – 6

**Topic(s):** using photographs to encourage writing; captioning photographs with children's words

**Modeled Strategies:** asking for and respecting children's input; captioning photographs with children's words; discussing memories captured in photographs

### Recipes for Success:

- Look at photos to write about memories

## Chapter 5: Adoption Lifebooks (length – 7:34)

**Guest(s):** Beth O’Malley, Author, Adoptee and Adoptive Mom; Shanna Person-Johnson, Adoptee; Linda Saucier, Adoptive Mom, and her 10-year-old daughter

**Location:** O’Malley Family Home; Braxton Family Home; Saucier Family Home

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** defining Adoption Lifebooks; typical Lifebook issues and topics; types of Lifebook guides and workbooks; differences between Lifebooks and journals or scrapbooks; importance of words in Lifebooks; incorporating children’s artwork into Lifebooks; using Adoption Lifebooks to open communication and reassure children; writing down information to reinforce facts and provide consistency; using Lifebooks to document personal history and understand more about one’s past; enjoyment of creating Lifebooks; recommended children’s books that address adoption-related issues; children’s books that “normalize” different kinds of families

**Modeled Strategies:** parents and children creating Adoption Lifebooks together; including children in adult conversations; asking for and respecting children’s input; adoptees choosing what to share from their Lifebooks; incorporating children’s artwork into Lifebooks; telling others about favorite books

**Book(s):** *Lifebooks: Creating a Treasure for the Adopted Child*, *My Foster Care Journey: A Foster/Adoption Lifebook* and *My Adoption Lifebook: A Workbook for Kids from China* by Beth O’Malley, M.Ed.; *A Mother for Choco* by Keiko Kasza; *I Don’t Have Your Eyes* by Carrie A. Kitze; *The Family Book* by Todd Parr

### Recipes for Success:

- Create Lifebooks to address adoption issues
- Look for Lifebook guides and workbooks
- Recognize the importance of words in Lifebooks
- Let children express fantasies artistically
- Make Lifebooks to invite questions
- Write down information to provide consistency

## Show Recap/Close (length – 2:34)

Hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard review selected Recipes for Success and present the Recommended Book List.

## Extra 1: A Word from Our Producers (length – 3:27)

**Guest(s):** Monty Haas and Laurie Joy Haas, Words that Cook! Executive Producers

**Topic(s):** concept of windows and mirrors of literacy; overview of show content and guests; role of literacy in adoptive families

**Book(s):** *From Sea to Shining Sea: A Treasury of American Folklore and Folk Songs* by Amy L. Cohn

## Extra 2: More Kristy Pace – “Making Sense of Shakespeare” (length – 1:46)

**Guest(s):** Kristy Pace, Artistic Director, Pocket Full of Tales

**Grade Level(s):** Grades 3 – 6

**Topic(s):** motivating and enabling children to read and understand Shakespeare; learning to effectively perform Shakespeare through oral interpretation of the language; exploring characters' emotions to support comprehension

## Extra 3: More Kristen Arnold – “Read-Aloud Tips” (length – 1:27)

**Guest(s):** Kristen Arnold, Mom and Director of Children’s Services at Bacon Free Library

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** enjoying reading aloud; being persistent with reading aloud; reading aloud a variety of books to find what children enjoy; taking advantage of the library as a resource; rereading favorite books in different ways

## Extra 4: More Elena Creef – “Reading Logs” (length – 1:01)

**Guest(s):** Elena Creef, Mom and College Professor

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** establishing a family tradition of reading aloud; recording family reading aloud in reading logs; correlation between family reading aloud and children’s reading skills

## Extra 5: More Beth O’Malley – “The Lifebook Process” (length – 1:19)

**Guest(s):** Beth O’Malley, Author, Adoptee and Adoptive Mom

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** Adoption Lifebooks as an ongoing process; gathering materials; adoptive parents working on Lifebooks in groups; including family members in the process; understanding it takes time to create Lifebooks; importance of child involvement in the process; using Lifebooks to support bonding and attachment

## Extra 6: More Beth O’Malley – “How to Write in Lifebooks” (length – 3:19)

**Guest(s):** Beth O’Malley, Author, Adoptee and Adoptive Mom

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** creating age-appropriate Lifebooks; using nonjudgmental language; writing to paint a positive picture of adoptee’s history to encourage and preserve communication; examples of nonjudgmental language; importance of recognizing unhappy memories in Lifebooks

## Extra 7: More Beth O’Malley – “The Language of Adoption” (length – 1:40)

**Guest(s):** Beth O’Malley, Author, Adoptee and Adoptive Mom

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** recognizing the power of words; examples of negative and positive adoption language

## Extra 8: More Beth O'Malley – “Lifebooks for All Children” (length – :39)

**Guest(s):** Beth O'Malley, Author, Adoptee and Adoptive Mom

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** creating Lifebooks for all children; using Lifebooks to address issues other than adoption

## Extra 9: More Beth O'Malley – “Lifebook Benefits for Parents” (length – 1:38)

**Guest(s):** Beth O'Malley, Author, Adoptee and Adoptive Mom

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** how Lifebooks benefit adoptive parents

## Show 13 Recommended Book List

### For Ages 0 to 3:

#### **Bears**

**Written by** Ruth Krauss

**Illustrated by** Maurice Sendak

In this marvelous new edition, Maurice Sendak has given Ruth Krauss a gift, a token for her years of support and guidance that began a half-century ago. Krauss's poem, all 27 words of it, swings to a new tempo. The rhyming pattern of the words and phrases, “Bears, bears, bears...on the stairs...washing hairs...everywheres,” along with the playful and imaginative crayon illustrations combine to form an irresistible book every young child should own. You and your children might enjoy seeing a familiar boy in a wolf suit (Max from *Where the Wild Things Are*) and his dog romping through pages of bears, and children will clamor for you to read this one over and over again.

#### **If You're Happy and You Know It!**

**Written and illustrated by** Jane Cabrera

Come join a monkey, an elephant, a giraffe and more – all illustrated in bold, energetic colors – in singing this upbeat traditional song augmented with some new twists by Jane Cabrera. Repetitive phrasings – “If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands...nod your head...spin around” will hold your baby's attention and invite your toddler to actively participate. There's no sitting still when reading this book: the words beg you to act out each verse – stamping your feet, flapping your arms, jumping around and even roaring out loud. This interactive picture book will mesmerize even noisy little ones and will make this story-song a joyful part of your life.

### For Ages 3 to 6:

#### **A Mother for Choco**

**Written and illustrated by** Keiko Kasza

When a little yellow and blue bird with chubby cheeks sets out to find a mother who looks just like him, we're all in for a delightful surprise. Choco flits from creature to creature, identifying a common trait and wondering if maybe, just maybe, this one could be his mother. After several failed attempts, Choco finally encounters Mrs. Bear. He doesn't even bother to ask her the fateful question, knowing she can't possibly be his mother. But Mrs. Bear understands that being family has nothing to do with looking alike and she just might be able to convince Choco of this, too.

## **Blueberries for the Queen**

Written by John and Kathrine Paterson

Illustrated by Susan Jeffers

The Second World War is in full swing, and William Arnold is living with his family in a western Massachusetts town. Everyone – even William’s older brother – is working for the “war effort.” William wants to help, but he’s too little, so he finds some consolation in his dreams of being a knight, heroically fighting battle after battle. When Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands is forced to leave her country and rents an estate just down the road, William decides to visit her with a gift of fresh-picked blueberries. His brother laughs at him, saying he’ll never get past the guard at the gate, but when William arrives at the estate, he is whisked away to the queen to personally deliver his gift. She is gracious and grateful, making William feel important for doing “peace work” in this time of war. That night, he dreams he is a mighty knight whose brave acts finally end the war. The Queen congratulates him and asks for his help in continuing the vital work of peace.

## **Animal Faces**

Written by Kyoko Toda

Photographs by Akira Satoh

There are 24 species of animals featured in this book – from polar bears to giraffes, kangaroos to monkeys. Each type of animal is introduced with a few facts and observations followed by 21 small photos. At first glance, all of the animals look alike, but as you look more carefully you’ll find each photo is actually a distinct animal with a unique personality. Is it the shape, the color, the markings or a unique expression that creates the differences?

## **For Ages 6 to 9:**

### **The Family Book**

Written and illustrated by Todd Parr

Todd Parr’s child-like and comical illustrations in bold, striking colors will immediately draw your attention. Once attracted, you will find a book that addresses what can be difficult subject matter in a straightforward, accessible and age-appropriate way. *The Family Book* shows us a myriad of family constellations, traits, habits and living arrangements without judgment or bias. “Some families like to be clean. Some families like to be messy. Some families live in a house by themselves. Some families share a house with other families. All families can help each other be strong!” The basic underlying premise is, “There are lots of different ways to be a family. Your family is special no matter what kind it is.” This beautiful and timeless message of tolerance and pride should be shared with all children!

### **The Pea Blossom**

Retold and illustrated by Amy Lowry Poole

Five peas grow in a pod, and four of them begin to dream of their future – flying to the sun, going to the moon or dining with the emperor. The fifth little pea is content to wait saying, “I shall go wherever it is that I am meant to.” Suddenly one day, a boy grabs the pod, opens it and launches one pea after another from his peashooter. Some of the peas get closer to their dreams than others, while the fifth pea lands on a windowsill outside the room of a sick girl. All winter long the fifth pea sleeps under a cover of moss and leaves. When spring finally comes, what will happen to the little pea? And what will become of the sick girl?

This gentle story of fate, patience and love is complimented by exquisitely delicate paintings on rice paper. Amy Lowry Poole retells this Hans Christian Anderson tale originally published in Danish in 1853 and sets the story in Beijing, China. The Author’s Note at the end of the book explains why she felt inspired to adapt this tale and set it in China.

## For Ages 9 to 12:

### **The Shakespeare Stealer**

Written by Gary Blackwood

What an adventure! In this fast-moving novel of historical fiction, Widge is a poor 14-year-old orphan who's been taught a cryptic system of shorthand by his master. A secretive traveler employs Widge's services to effectively steal a copy of Hamlet for a competing theater company. Since no actual copies exist, the only way Widge can steal the play is by transcribing it. To achieve his mission, Widge gets a job at the Globe Theatre where he finds the troupe friendly and kind. He realizes that he doesn't really know how to be a friend, though for the first time, he feels accepted. Widge is caught in a troubling dilemma, struggling with issues of ethics and morality he has never faced before. Should he go ahead with the plan to steal the play or should he abandon it and stay with this extended family of players? This novel provides countless twists and turns along with many details about the life and times of Shakespeare and the Elizabethan period. A real page-turner, your child won't be able to put it down!

### **Tales from Shakespeare**

Written by Tina Packer

Illustrated by Gail DeMarcken, Leo and Diane Dillon, Mary Grandpré, P.J. Lynch, Barbara McClintock, Chelsey McLaren, Barry Moser, Jon J. Muth, Kadir Nelson, David Shannon and Mark Teague

This special collection will spark your imagination and your child's with retellings of 10 of Shakespeare's most popular works, such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth* and *As You Like It*. Illustrated by 12 different award-winning artists, these classic stories can fill family time with delightful read-aloud experiences. Acquaint your children with stories from Shakespeare and enjoy these moments together. An added treat is the elegant introduction to Shakespeare and his times at the beginning of the book, and each abridged play is preceded by a list of the main characters and the time and place in which the play is set.

### **Shakespeare: His Work and His World**

Written by Michael Rosen

Illustrated by Robert Ingpen

Robert Ingpen, the Hans Christian Anderson international award recipient for his body of work in illustration, has joined Michael Rosen in giving us a treasure of a book. This glimpse into the life of Shakespeare and his times, his theater and his works, comes alive with magnificent illustrations and direct quotes from the plays. Enclosed is a fabulous timeline of his life, a well-documented bibliography and a very useful index. The book contains just enough information for this age group to make it enjoyable, but it is the exquisite design and magnificent illustrations that add to this enjoyment. This special book should be visited often and dipped into at various times. It is the perfect book for your home library.

## For Parents:

### **Kids Discover: Shakespeare**

Edited by Stella Sands

*Kids Discover* is an award-winning, advertisement-free, full-color magazine designed to quench children's innate curiosity. Aimed at children in grades three through seven, this monthly magazine tackles countless topics – everything from Bones to Space Exploration, Ellis Island to the Underground Railroad. In the Shakespeare issue, you and your child can delve into articles about The Bard of Avon; Words, Words, Words and Elizabethan England – all complemented by engaging illustrations and photographs. You'll also find activities like Dessert Fit for a Queen and Shakespeare Animal Search. For anyone who may feel intimidated by Shakespeare, this magazine shows just how enjoyable and exciting he can be!

## Read to Me 2000: Raising Kids Who Love to Read

Written by Bernice E. Cullinan

Bernice E. Cullinan is a highly-respected expert in reading and children's literature and she pours her years of experience as a reading specialist and professor of early childhood and elementary education into the pages of this book. With chapter headings like Raising Readers, Why Reading to Your Child Matters, Reading on the Run along with chapters that focus on specific age groups (from infants to twelve-year-olds), Bernice E. Cullinan delivers an in-depth, comprehensive book of guidance and advice that is a "must-read" for all parents.

## Suggested Literacy Activities

When reading and re-reading books with rhyming texts, pause to see if toddlers can chime in on the rhymes. Also, as children grow, try counting recurring characters or objects illustrated in picture books. When reading books with texts that incorporate motions and gestures (often referred to as fingerplays), do the motions for infants or guide toddlers to act them out with you. These types of read-aloud techniques can spark a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

For children of all ages, look for books that explore different cultures and their folklore and that address different types of families. Use these books as springboards to communication – as opportunities to discuss and learn not just facts, but also values. Throughout their school years, children will likely meet other children with different racial and cultural backgrounds as well as those who are adopted, in foster care, being raised by a grandmother or an uncle and so on. If your children already have positive associations and comfort with different cultures and family constellations, that will be of great benefit to them and to the other children.

At the Adoption Clubhouse Web site ([www.adoptionclubhouse.org](http://www.adoptionclubhouse.org)), a program of the National Adoption Center, you will find plenty of information and activities that reinforce the beauty of adoption and help adoptive children feel a sense of belonging to a community. Check out Famous People for lists of celebrities, athletes and others who are adopted or are adoptive parents. In the Speak Out section, you can see and read other kids' adoption-related artwork and stories, and children can even submit their own creations. In Adoption Talk, you'll find information about adoption language, handling awkward questions and a moderated Message Board. Fun Stuff provides Puzzles, E-Cards and more.

Many people think adoption is a purely human phenomenon, but even in nature, animals have been known to "adopt" the young of other animals, sometimes crossing species lines. Go to [www.cbs4boston.com](http://www.cbs4boston.com) and enter the phrase "Stoughton Pit Bull" in the Search News box. Then click on the headline Stoughton Pit Bull Becomes Mother to Kittens to read about this story and watch the original news video.

A similar but more elaborate story can be found at [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com) by searching for Owen and Mzee. For a child-friendly article, click on Baby Hippo Orphan Finds a Friend in the search results. You and your child can read about how this unlikely pairing began and follow the link to Lafarge Eco Systems Web site to read the caretaker's diary and find out about a nonfiction children's book all about this relationship: *Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship* (Scholastic) by Craig Hatkoff. A more fictional account of this story is told in *Mama* by Jeanette Winter (Harcourt).

With children in middle school and beyond, explore a wealth of information about Shakespeare at Encyclopedia Britannica's Guide to Shakespeare ([www.britannica.com/shakespeare/index2.html](http://www.britannica.com/shakespeare/index2.html)). Learn about The Bard, The Plays, Elizabethan World, Elizabethan Theatre and more. Be sure to check out the Learning Activities, too.

Nothing brings Shakespeare to life quite like actual performances of his works. After reading a book that conveys the story of a Shakespeare play, look for performances in your area. Many schools, community theater groups and professional theater companies perform the plays of Shakespeare. You can also find and watch movie versions together. Follow up either of these activities with conversation – discussing favorite scenes or performances, the language and possible meanings derived from context, specific circumstances and overall themes and their relation to contemporary life and so on.

## Additional Words That Cook Resources

Words That Cook develops resources for professionals and parents that help to motivate and inspire children to learn and to love reading, writing, storytelling and wordplay. At our Web site ([www.WordsThatCook.org](http://www.WordsThatCook.org)) under Free Resources, you will find valuable information derived from the television series, including activity and additional reading ideas connected to each recommended book. Also at the Marketplace of our site, you can learn more about our other literacy-related products and services.

## For Professionals

### Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for teacher/staff workshops

Discuss how Reading Logs could be implemented in your classroom, school or center to support the connections between home and school.

Select and discuss some of the modeled strategies and Recipes for Success.

Separate into small groups of participants. Have each group brainstorm and write down ideas for supporting tolerance through activities related to reading children's books that explore different cultures, traditions, folklore and family constellations. Share the ideas with the whole group.

### Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for parent workshops

Discuss the fact that the themes and lessons found in the folklore of one particular culture are often reflected in many other cultures. Show specific examples of this in children's stories and ask parents to share similar stories from their own cultures. Discuss how parents can help their children understand how much all people have in common, no matter their ethnic and cultural background, and how stories connect us all.

Select and discuss some of the modeled strategies and Recipes for Success.

Either in small groups or as a whole, explore the idea of books as "windows and mirrors." Provide the groups with copies of picture books that support this concept. Ask them to discuss and write down the ways in which they can see each book as a "window" and/or "mirror" and how they could talk about this with their children after reading the books.

*When working with ESL/ELL families, help them to understand the value of learning and applying literacy strategies in their primary language. Encourage them to also apply strategies in English if it is comfortable and if the adult has developed the English language skills to sufficiently challenge their child.*

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