Pre-Storytime at Bedtime Activities

Here’s a companion piece to our Storytime at Bedtime. Below are activities for your student to wind down right before you tuck them into bed and watch one of our Storytime videos.

**Barack** is written by Jonah Winter/Illustrated by AG Ford
This book takes readers on a journey to explore the rise of the 44th president of the United States.

**Activity:** Write down a few questions that you might want to ask the President of the United States if you had an opportunity to meet him one day. Watch the Kid President’s visit to the White House here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TssZ9Uma1-w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TssZ9Uma1-w)

**How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?** is written by Jane Yolen/Illustrated by Mark Teague
In this book, readers will learn that dinosaurs behave like people when saying good night.

**Activity:** Complete the worksheet attached [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TssZ9Uma1-w)

**Love You Forever** is written by Robert Munsch/Illustrated by Shelia McGraw
This book is about a mother’s unconditional love for her son as he grows to become an adult.

**Activity:** Write a letter to your parents confessing your love for them. Start off the letter by saying: Dear Mom/Dad/Grandmother/Grandpa
Answer these questions: How do my parents show their love? How do I show my love to my parents?
**Too Much Talk** is written by Angela Shelf Medearis/Illustrated by Stefano Vitale
This book is a West African folktale from Ghana that follows a farmer that begins to hear objects talk from his yam, to his dog, a fish, and a cloth; this book is full of imagination.

**Did you know** that yams from Ghana are produced in large quantities and are exported throughout the year? Ghana is a country located in West Africa along the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean and farmers produce an average of eight million tons of yams each year. Yams are a starchy root vegetable with tree-bark looking skin.

**Activity: Sprout a Yam Science Experiment (Please have a parent to help you)**

**Materials** - Clear container, water, toothpicks, knife, yam, sunlight

First use your knife to chop the yam in half. Next fill the clear container with water. Then insert 4 toothpicks into the middle of your yam. Please spread the toothpicks out so that when you insert the yam into the class of water, the toothpicks can help hold it up so that only half of the yam is submerged in water. Sit the yam near the window so that sunlight can hit it. Observe the yam each week. If the water is low please add more. In 4-weeks you should see a big change. The growing sprouts can be planted in the ground to produce more yams.

**Froggy Va Al Medico** is written by Jonathan London/Illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz

Froggy Va Al Medico tells the story about a frog’s visit to the doctor. Froggy is very nervous at the beginning and even forgets his underwear, but by the end of the story he learns that his visit to the doctor was not that bad.

**Activity:** If you feel nervous for your next visit to the doctor check out this 5 minute Mindfulness and Meditation exercise: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ_wdeog5Ek](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ_wdeog5Ek)

**Ten Tiny Babies** is written and illustrated by Karen Katz

This book is a great tool for children learning to count with ten adorable baby illustrations.

**Activity:** Parents please get a package of blank index cards (blank paper) and write numbers on each card. Begin numbering from 1 -10. As your child learns increase the numbers. Draw pictures on each card like one dog, two apples, etc. Have your child color each picture on the card. Once complete, you will
have created your very own personal flash cards to use for teaching your child how to count.

**Time for Bed** is written by Mem Fox/Illustrated by Jane Dyer

Time for Bed illustrates baby animals getting ready for bed with gentle encouragement from their parents; finally, at the end of the book human parents tuck their child into bed.

**Activity:** Parents play “Simon Says” throughout your child’s bedtime routine to create more fun and excitement before tucking them in for the night. Example: Simon Says brush your teeth, Simon says take a bath, Simon says put on your pajamas, etc.

**Corduroy** is written and illustrated by Don Freeman

This book tells the story of a bear named Corduroy who loses his button on his overalls. He tries to find it but does not succeed. A young girl sees him in the toy store with the missing button but decides to buy him anyway. Corduroy gets a new button.

**Activity:** In the story Corduroy says, “You must be a friend. I’ve always wanted a friend.” Lisa (young girl) says, “Me too.” Answer the questions below about friendship:

1. What kinds of things do friends do for each other?
2. What are the characteristics of a good friend?
3. Do you think it is ok to love something that is not perfect?
4. What is your favorite toy friend at home?

**Ish** is written and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

Ish tells the story of a boy named Ramon who loves to draw until his brother Leon makes a statement about his drawing. It is not until his sister Marisol builds up his confidence again that he becomes more passionate about his love of drawing.

**Activity:** Draw a picture about the first thing that comes to mind then post your drawing on the refrigerator. Ask your family to post feedback about your drawing.
The Wide-Mouthed Frog is written by Keith Faulkner/Illustrated by Jonathan Lambert
This book is a fun pop-up book with beautiful illustrations of a frog who loves to use his mouth for eating, he also enjoys watching others eat until one day he finds an animal that is interested in eating him.

Activity: Fill in the blank below:

1. Who did the wide-mouthed frog see first? ______________________
2. Who did the wide-mouthed frog see second? ______________________
3. After the wide-mouthed frog saw a bird, who did he run into next? _______________
4. Who scared the wide-mouthed frog the most during his encounter? _______________

Goodnight Moon is written by Margaret Wise Brown/Illustrated by Clement Hurd
This book tells the story of a little bunny who begins to say goodnight to all of the things around him in his room.

Activity: Use a camera phone and have a family member record you pretending to take people on a virtual journey through your room. Begin with the items closest to your bedroom door and then circle around the room. Afterwards view the video and share with the entire family.

I Love My Hair is written by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley/Illustrated by E. B. Lewis
In Tarpley's gracefully told story, a young African American heroine celebrates her lovely head of hair as part of her heritage.

Activity: Fill in the sentences about your hair below:

1. My hair feels like
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. My hair looks like
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

3. My hair smells like
   ________________________________________________________________
**Firefly and Little Star** is written by Oba William King/Illustrated by Emily Zieroth.
Little Star needs help! She's fallen from the sky and lost her light. Can Firefly show her how to get back where she belongs? Share this story of friendship and confidence with your favorite child.

**Activity:** Please find the word **Firefly** and **Star** in the Word Search.

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**We Eat Dinner in the Bathtub** is written by Angela Shelf Medearis/Illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers
This book is full of humor as it shares the story about Harris’s family who does everything different from eating dinner in the bathtub, parking their car in the kitchen, and bathing in the attic.

**Activity:** Answer the questions below:

1. Where do the Harris family eat dinner____________________?
2. They sleep in the____________________.
3. The dog sleeps in the____________________.
4. Where do they park their car? The____________________.

**The Ghost of Sifty Sifty Sam** is written by Angela Shelf Medearis/Illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers
The book tells the story about a beautiful old house in the East Texas woods that no one will buy because Sifty Sifty Sam, a mean ghost, haunts it. He refuses to leave until one day somebody is brave enough to spend one night in the house alone with him and the adventure begins.

**Activity:** Get a blank sheet of paper and on one side of the paper draw a picture of a friendly ghost then flip on the other side of the paper to draw a scary ghost. Show your family both pictures and ask them which one looks like the friendly ghost and which one looks like the scary ghost.
The Biggest Snowball Fight! is written by Angela Shelf Medearis/Illustrated by Jackie Snider
The Biggest Snowball Fight is a book filled with action-packed rhymes as it tells a story about having fun in the winter.

Activity: Match the words that rhyme.

1. Clock       A. Snow   B. Tock   C. Bed
2. Down       A. Town   B. Fall   C. Ball
3. Play       A. Fight   B. Kite   C. Day
4. Around     A. There   B. Ground C. Tree

Tikki Tikki Tembo is written by Arlene Mosel/Illustrated by Blair Lent
The book tells the story about a Chinese boy with a long name who falls into a well. It is a folklore that explains why today Chinese people have short names.

Activity: Count how many letters are in your name. Next double the amount of letters in your name. Afterwards add 7. What is your final number? Share the activity with your family to find out who ends up with the highest number.

The Giving Tree is written and illustrated by Shel Silverstein
The story begins with a boy who visited the tree every day to eat apples, swing from her branches, or slide down her trunk and the tree was happy. As the boy gets older, he asks for more from the tree and she keeps giving.

Activity: Name three people who are giving to you. Then write three things they have given to you. Next write three ways you can be more giving.

How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon? Is written by Jane Yolen/Illustrated by Mark Teague
How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon is a playful dinosaur tale about a sick child dinosaur who catches the flu and he must go to the doctor. And just like a human child’s visit to the doctor, the dinosaur is given a list of orders to follow to get better.

Activity: Pretend that you are a doctor and your parent visit’s your office. Create a list of orders they must follow to get better.
**Bedtime for Little Bears** is written by David Bedford/Illustrated by Caroline Pedler

Little Bear and Mother Bear take one last walk to see the other animals getting ready for bed. Will this make Little Bear sleepy enough to snuggle down for the night? Read this book to find out.

**Activity:** Listen to this compilation of bedtime songs to help you go to sleep: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkiKX-qvGe8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkiKX-qvGe8)