

# 8

## WAYS TO ENGAGE CHILDREN of ALL AGES

WITHOUT A COMPUTER

and support their intellectual growth and development

by Caroline Brewer, Author and Literacy Activist

🌐 [carolinebrewerbooks.com](http://carolinebrewerbooks.com) ✉ [caroline@carolinebrewerbooks.com](mailto:caroline@carolinebrewerbooks.com) 📘 [facebook.com/brewercaroline](https://facebook.com/brewercaroline)

# 1

Offer to tell them a story (real, imaginary, fairy tales, folktales, one you've read or been handed down), or for younger children (babies to age 5) you could share nursery rhymes.

**Real story prompts:** A favorite happy ending story about a parent, sibling, other relative, close friend, stranger, about a time you were most proud of yourself, made a new friend, tried to learn something new, did something really silly, did something really scary...

### Here are prompts for imaginary stories:

- One day, a big bunny rabbit
- One day, a fluffy dog
- One day, there was a snowstorm
- One day, I heard a bird sing
- One day, I went fishing
- One day, I planted a seed
- One day, I discovered my superpower
- One day, I met the Witness Tree (a real one is on Harriet Tubman's ancestral land in Cambridge, MD. Imagine what a tree might tell you about what it has seen over 200 years.)



### Folktales

**LINK** to [WorldofTales.com](http://WorldofTales.com), a website with hundreds of folktales from around the world

**LINK** to a website with 15 African folktales

### Fairy Tales

Cinderella \* Hansel and Gretel \* Little Red Riding Hood \* The Three Little Pigs  
Sleeping Beauty \* Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs \* The Little Mermaid \* Rapunzel

**LINK** to [Feedbooks.com](http://Feedbooks.com), a website with more than a hundred free fairy tales, folktales, and myths. Search under "Public Domain."

Invite them to tell you a story (real, imaginary, fairy tales, folk tales, one they've read or been handed down) or for younger children, nursery rhymes and hand-clapping games.

**Real story prompts:** (A favorite happy ending story about a parent, sibling, other relative, close friend, stranger, about a time you were most proud of yourself, made a new friend, tried to learn something new, did something really silly, did something really scary...)

### Here are prompts for imaginary stories:

- One day, a big bunny rabbit
- One day, a fluffy dog
- One day, there was a snowstorm
- One day, I heard a bird sing
- One day, I discovered my superpower
- One day, I went fishing
- One day, I planted a seed
- One day, I met the Witness Tree (a real one is on Harriet Tubman's ancestral land in Cambridge, MD. Imagine what a tree might tell you about what it has seen over 200 years.)

### Nursery Rhymes

Here are 8 Nursery Rhymes that children should know by Grade 1 for a solid reading foundation

#### Hey, Diddle, Diddle

*Hey diddle diddle,  
The cat and the fiddle,  
The cow jumped over the moon.  
The little dog laughed to see such sport,  
And the dish ran away with the spoon.*

#### Itsy Bitsy Spider

*The itsy bitsy spider  
Climbed up the water spout.  
Down came the rain  
And washed the spider out.  
Out came the sun  
And dried up all the rain,  
So the itsy-bitsy spider  
Climbed up the spout again!*

#### Little Miss Muffet

*Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet,  
Eating her curds and whey.  
Along came a spider,  
Who sat down beside her,  
And frightened Miss Muffet away.*



by Caroline Brewer, Author and Literacy Activist

### **Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star**

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are!  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are.*

### **Mary Had a Little Lamb**

*Mary had a little lamb,  
Little lamb, little lamb.  
Mary had a little lamb,  
Its fleece was white as snow.  
And ev'ry where that Mary went,  
Mary went, Mary went.  
Evrywhere that Mary went,  
The lamb was sure to go.  
It followed her to school one day,  
School one day, school one day.  
It followed her to school one day,  
Which was against the rule.  
It made the children laugh and play,  
Laugh and play, laugh and play.  
It made the children laugh and play,  
To see a lamb at school.*

### **The Mulberry Bush**

*Here we go round the mulberry bush,  
The mulberry bush,  
The mulberry bush.  
Here we go round the mulberry bush  
On an early Saturday morning.*

### **Row, Row, Row Your Boat**

*Row, row, row your boat  
Gently down the stream.  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,  
Life is but a dream.*

### **Humpty Dumpty**

*Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall;  
All the king's horses and all the king's men  
Couldn't put Humpty together again.*

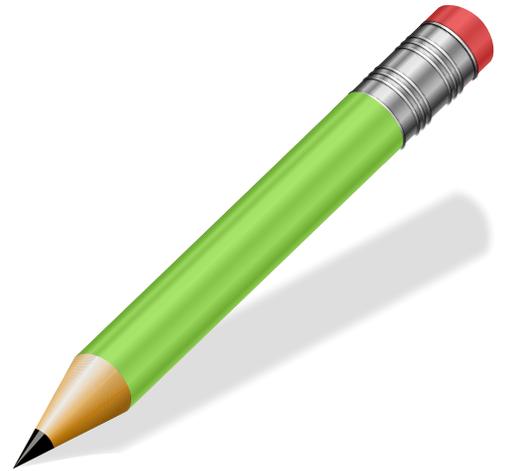


*by Caroline Brewer, Author and Literacy Activist*

# 3

## Offer them a story prompt (some of these are from poetry prompts and can be told orally or written)

- If I were an animal, I would be \_\_\_\_\_ because...
- If I could go to \_\_\_\_\_, I would go there to...
- Yesterday, I saw the most beautiful...
- If I could make a new law, it would say...
- If I had a super power, it would be...
- What you don't know by looking at me is that...
  
- I feel love for myself when...  
I feel love for myself when...  
I feel love for myself when...  
It feels \_\_\_\_\_ to love myself.
  
- Perfect for turning into a handmade Mother's Day or Father's Day card!  
Dear...  
I love it when you...  
I love it when you...  
You make me feel...  
Happy \_\_\_\_\_ Day!



# 4

## Offer them a story prompt and ask them to create an illustration for it (called Anti-coloring pages)

- This is me doing the \_\_\_\_\_ dance.
- This is me singing or rapping like \_\_\_\_\_
- This is me playing (name a sport or instrument) like \_\_\_\_\_
- This is my face in the morning...
- I am happiest when...
- When I grow up, I want to \_\_\_\_\_ because...
- I have a lot of dreams about...
- I am going to use my superpower to...
- My favorite part of spring is...
- My favorite part of summer is...
- My favorite animal is...
- My favorite plant is...
- My favorite food is...



by *Caroline Brewer, Author and Literacy Activist*

5

Invite them to share some of their favorite songs with you (can be downloaded on a phone), discuss the lyrics or you could ask them to recite as much as they can remember and you can either discuss the lyrics as they recite them verbally or after the lyrics are written down. Especially good for middle schoolers and teens.



6

Read magazines, news articles, poetry, and comic books together and invite them to share their point of view. Especially good for middle schoolers and teens.



7

Listen to music to sing, dance, or just relax or do all of those things.



8

Listen to podcasts on a cell phone or story time via text messages and email audio clips.



by *Caroline Brewer, Author and Literacy Activist*