

Storytime Event Guide and Activities for Events

Read Together

Reading aloud with children builds key language and literacy skills while you connect together with a book. This shared experience ignites children's imaginations, helps them build a greater understanding of the world, and cultivates a lifelong love of reading. Here are some tips for making the most of story time:

- Hold the book so children can easily see the cover and the illustrations.
- Make a few comments about the illustration on the cover and note the author and illustrator.
- Show excitement and read the story expressively.
- Listen for children's comments or questions and respond briefly to confirm or clarify.
- Provide information to extend your child's understanding of the story.
- Have fun!

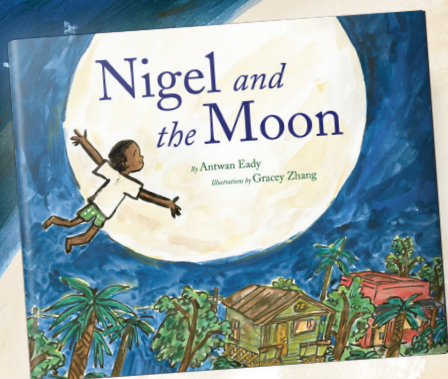
Build Vocabulary

Providing a simple explanation for words that children may not be familiar with can help build their language skills. You can describe the meaning of a word, point to an illustration, or use your tone of voice to convey the word's meaning. Here are some words to talk about while you read *Nigel and the Moon*:

- **Pride:** a feeling of happiness that you have done something good
- **Career:** a job someone does for a long time
- **Distance:** how far apart two things are
- **Quiver:** to shake when you are nervous or scared
- **Shrink:** to become smaller
- **Worry:** to think about something you are afraid of
- **Fancy:** very special
- **Swell:** to become bigger



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Write to Essential Worker Heroes

Nigel's parents are postal workers and truck drivers. They are essential workers, or people who do everyday jobs that help the community. Fold a large posterboard or paper in half to create a card and attach it to a wall. Set out writing supplies such as post-it notes, markers, and stickers. Ask children to think about different kinds of essential workers in your community. Support them to write a note of gratitude on a post-it, let them personalize their note with decorations or drawings. When they are finished, help them place it on the poster. What other types of essential workers do they notice on the community card?

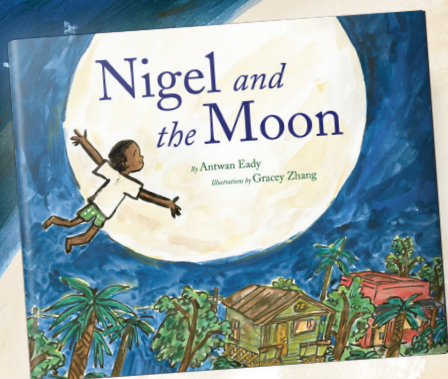


Share Your Dreams

Nigel is scared to tell his dreams to other people but finds it easy to tell them to the moon. On an empty wall, add a large moon to create the night sky. Print out stars using the template, and give one to each child to decorate using markers, stickers, or other craft supplies. After children finish, ask, "What are some things you dream of being when you grow up?" Encourage them to think about different jobs, personalities, and character traits. Assist them in writing these dreams on each star. Cut out the stars and help them tape them on the wall. Support language development by reading out loud other dreams you see on the wall of stars.

Host a Dance Party

Nigel dreams of being a ballet dancer, but when he looks in books, Nigel can't find a dancer that looks like him. Like Nigel, children can also be dancers. Invite children to move like dancers and set some music. Showcase different movements like: twirling, leaping, swaying, jumping, and hopping. Provide props like ribbon and scarves for children to dance with, and spin away!



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More Ideas

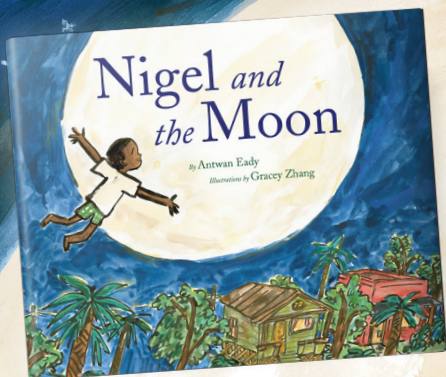
Keep the dreams going! Here are a few additional ideas for your event:

- **Make Superhero Capes:** Let children design their own superhero cape. Use crayons, stickers, and tissue paper to help each child represent who they are and who they want to become.
- **Draw the Night Sky:** Encourage children to use light-colored crayons on dark paper to make the night sky with the moon and stars. Invite children to add themselves to the picture. Do they want to dance on the moon like Nigel?
- **What Makes You Special?** Invite children to think about what makes them uniquely themselves. Cut out pictures from newspapers or magazines that represent children's identities and interests. Draw or use the body template, and support children to glue the images to create a collage of the many things that make them special.
- **Feelings Hop:** Draw different feelings on paper plates, for example: proud, worried, upset, excited, and sad. Tape each plate around the floor. Take turns calling out one feeling, and have a child hop to that plate. When they arrive at the plate, ask them, "What are things that make you feel that emotion?" Invite all children to show that emotion using only their face.

Keep Reading

Create a reading corner for children who might need a quiet space. Integrate theme-related books:

- Dive into more books about self-confidence and pride by reading:
 - *The Day You Begin* written by Jacqueline Woodson; illustrated by Rafael López
 - *You Matter* written and illustrated by Christian Robinson
 - *The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family* written by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali; illustrated by Hatem Aly



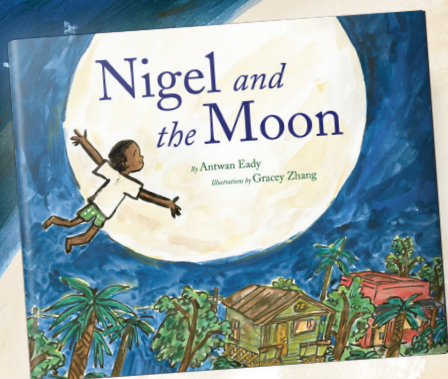
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- Deepen conversations on dreams and wishes. Try:
 - *Kamala and Maya's Big Idea* written by Meena Harris; illustrated by Ana Ramírez González
 - *Dream Street* written by Tricia Elam Walker; illustrated by Ekua Holmes
 - *Remember to Dream, Ebere* written by Cynthia Erivo; illustrated by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow
- Dig into themes of the night sky by reading:
 - *Mae Among the Stars* written by Roda Ahmed; illustrated by Stasia Burrington
 - *A Home Under the Stars* written and illustrated by Andy Chou Musser
 - *Sing to the Moon* written by Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl; illustrated by Sandra van Doorn

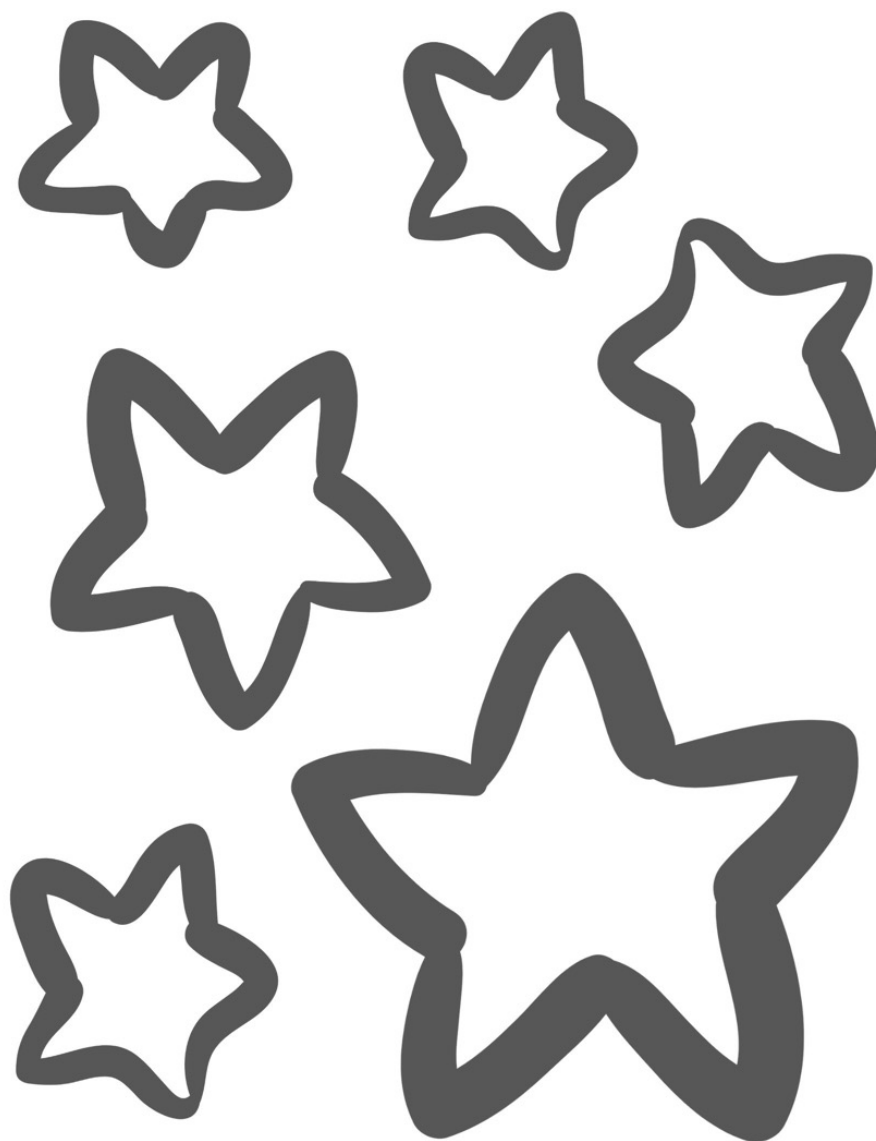


Jumpstart

Read for the Record®



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