

June 2019

Dear Parents,

We would like each incoming fourth grader to read three books this summer and complete a brief assignment on one of the books.

The first selection is ***Game Changers* by Lesa Cline-Ransome**. All students in grades 3-5 will be reading this selection. The second book is ***Bob* by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead**. The third book is a book of choice. Your child may choose books from the list of RI Children's Book Award Nominations at <http://www.olis.state.ri.us/youth/ricba/> or an age and grade appropriate book.

Please help your child choose books appropriate for her/his reading ability.

The assignment is attached below, (pdf file). An example of the book report is also attached. You may do it on any of the three books. Be prepared to discuss the *Game Changers* book the first week of school. Thank you for your help and cooperation in getting your child ready for 4th grade!

Sincerely,

Alice Hayes

Karen Turner

A Recipe for a Good Book



This book-sharing strategy enables students to identify and share, via a "literary recipe," a story's basic elements of plot, theme, setting, mood, and characterization.

Books for Modeling

Black and White by David Macaulay (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1990)
Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins by Eric Kimmel (Scholastic, 1985)
The Lorax by Dr. Seuss (Random House, 1971)
The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant (Bradbury Press, 1985)
Strega Nona by Tomie de Paola (Simon & Schuster, 1975)

Group Sharing Session

You can introduce students to A Recipe for a Good Book by reading aloud one of the books listed above and then, with your students, completing a recipe card that you have duplicated onto a transparency, a piece of chart paper, or the chalkboard.

For example, after reading *Strega Nona*, your recipe card might look something like the one below.

Here's What's Cooking



TAKE ONE PLOT WHERE a magic pasta pot boils out of control and almost destroys the town of Calabria.

MIX IN a funny witch named Strega Nona and her helper, Big Anthony, who doesn't pay attention to the whole magic spell but still tries to show off.

SPRINKLE WITH lots of funny pictures and funny magic chants.

FOLD GENTLY into a lesson about disobeying and learning to let the punishment fit the crime as Big Anthony eats all the pasta!

WHAT DO YOU GET? Strega Nona, written and illustrated by Tomie de Paola!

After you've written your recipe, have students double-check to see if their recipe includes plot, theme, setting, mood, and characterization.

Name _____

A Recipe for a Good Book



All recipes list ingredients to mix together. The recipe card below, however, is not for food. Instead, it calls for a list of all the ingredients that were mixed together to make your book "good enough to eat"!

These are the ingredients to include in your recipe:

- Plot: Tell what happens in the story.
Theme: Tell the message of the story.
Setting: Tell where the story takes place.
Mood: Tell if the story is happy, sad, scary, silly, etc.
Character(s): Tell the names of the main characters and if they are good, bad, helpful, mean, funny, etc.

Book title _____ Author _____

Here's What's Cooking



TAKE ONE PLOT WHERE _____

MIX IN _____

SPRINKLE WITH _____

FOLD GENTLY _____

WHAT DO YOU GET? _____
