

LAURA BUSH and JENNA BUSH

Read All About It!



illustrated by DENISE BRUNKUS

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About the Book

Tyrone is a second grader who loves science, math, and recess. In fact, he loves everything about school except books and libraries. But that all changes the day Tyrone meets a very special pig.

Reluctant Reader Tip #1

Students are often more motivated to read books that have peer approval. Start a book recommendation binder for your class in which students fill out simple forms when they read books that they think others in the class would like. The forms should contain spaces for the title and author of the book, the name of the student giving the recommendation, a brief "Why I recommend this book" statement, and an illustration about the book.

Pre-Reading

1. Reading poll. When Miss Libro asks Tyrone what his favorite book is, Tyrone replies that "books are so last year." What do your students think? Poll your students to find out how many like reading, what kinds of books they like, what their favorite books are that you've read as a class, and how many regularly visit the library. Ask your students to keep their opinions about books in mind as they listen to Tyrone's story.

2. Character clues. For Tyrone and the other students in Miss Libro's class, characters from books truly do come alive. With this charades activity, your students can bring to life book characters that they know personally. Write the names of book characters that your students are familiar with on slips of paper. Put the papers in a hat and invite a volunteer to select one. Without saying the character's name, the volunteer then tries to get classmates to guess the character by giving one clue at a time—either a straight verbal clue or by acting like the character. After more volunteers give clues to several other characters, let children know that you are going to read them a story about a boy who gets to know characters from books very well.



Classroom Activities for *Read All About It!*

1. A Letter to Tyrone. Remind your class that Tyrone has just begun to enjoy reading. Ask each student to write a letter to Tyrone recommending three favorite books. Have students give specific reasons for why they like the books and why Tyrone should read them.

2. WANTED: Escaped book characters. A ghost named Jasper, a fire-breathing dragon, a pudgy pig, and even Benjamin Franklin all appear in Miss Libro's classroom in *Read All About It!* If each of your students could have his or her favorite book character come to life, who would it be? What would the character say or do once it appeared? Have students write a story about what happens when their favorite character suddenly comes out of a book and into real life. Have them draw a picture to illustrate their story.

3. Interviewing characters. Have students choose a character from *Read All About It!* or another favorite book to interview. Invite them first to brainstorm five questions to ask the character. Then have them take on the perspective of the character to write responses to the questions. Encourage students to use what they know from the book as well as their imaginations when coming up with the character's answers.

**Be sure to visit
www.readallaboutit.com for:**

- A video featuring authors Laura Bush and Jenna Bush
- A feature on illustrator Denise Brunkus
- Downloadable activities
- Additional tips for reluctant readers
- Links to online reading resources



Reluctant Reader Tip #2

Emphasize the power of listening to stories by maintaining a regular read-aloud as part of the class schedule. Read to your class for the pure pleasure of reading rather than quizzing students on the book or assigning homework based on the read-aloud. Exposure to compelling books can lead to increased interest, just as in the case of Tyrone.

Classroom Activities to Promote Books and Reading

1. The art of *Read All About It!*

It! Have students pair up and make a poster titled "Read All About It!" to promote the power of books. They can draw, paint, or make a collage illustrating their favorite books and book characters. Display the posters in the classroom or in the school's library.

2. Meeting good books.

Miss Libro's "Read All About It! Book List," which you can see in many of the book's illustrations, is always changing. Set a goal with your students for everyone in the class to have read all seventeen of the books featured on Miss Libro's list by the end of the year. You can read the books as a class or have students read them in pairs or individually.

3. Character sketches.

Keep a class record of good books, similar to the list in Miss Libro's classroom, by getting your students involved. Designate a bulletin board or section of a wall to be the Character Collection. Have each student draw a character from a book that he or she especially likes. The student should then cut out his or her illustration and attach a label stating the character's name, book title, and author. Post all of the characters to the Character Collection.



4. Book buzz! To generate buzz about books, institute a weekly Book Talk. Post a sign-up sheet on which students can write their names for a time slot to tell the class about a book or series of books that they have read and especially liked. Book Talks can be delivered as straightforward book reports or through more creative means. For example, a student could write a song about the book or dress up and act as a character from the book.

Reluctant Reader Tip #3

Develop a reading buddy program with another classroom. Older students can read to a younger audience, while younger students get additional one-on-one contact with books. Practice makes perfect, and the more experience children have both in reading aloud and in being read to by others, the better their reading skills will become.



Event Ideas Inspired by *Read All About It!*

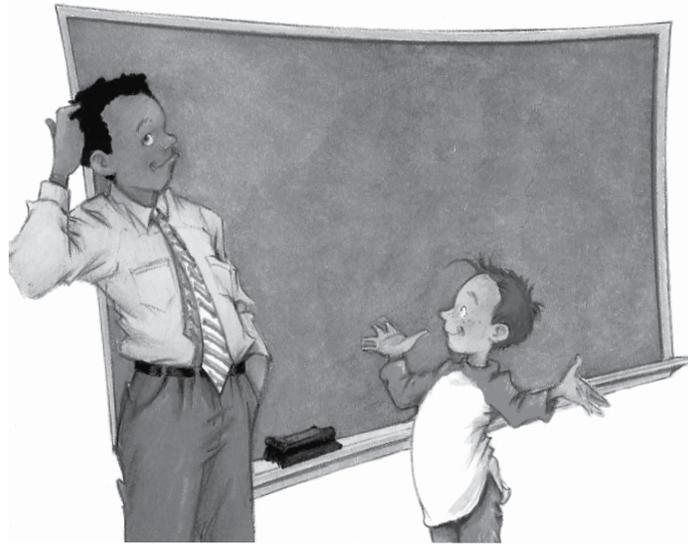
1. Look who's in school

today! To celebrate the magic of book characters coming alive, set aside a day for everyone in your class to come to school dressed as a favorite character from a book. Allow some school time before the big day for students to use art materials to make props and other parts of their costumes.

2. Book drive and book

swap. Organize a book drive to contribute to your school, a local library, or other community organization. Ask students to bring in three new or gently used books. Then have a committee of parents and teachers organize the books by age and genre in an assigned room at the school. Have students come class by class to choose one book to keep as a swap for the three books they donated. If the organization that is to benefit from the book drive is outside the school, arrange for delivery of the remaining books.

3. Guest readers. Spice up your school's reading program by inviting guest readers from the community—local authors and illustrators, celebrities, athletes, politicians, or other community leaders—to come to your school. Depending on your school's needs, decide between scheduling one guest to read to the entire school or signing up various guest readers to come to classrooms throughout the year.



4. Library makeover.

Miss Libro tells Tyrone that "the library is a wonderful place!" Make the school's library or a local public library a little more wonderful by planning a Saturday for students, parents, and faculty to work together on a library makeover. To get ready

for the day, have an organizing committee of adults meet with the appropriate librarians and administrators to generate a list of projects, set a budget and funding source, gather necessary materials, publicize the event, and post a sign-up sheet for participants.

Reluctant Reader Tip #4

Neither learning to read nor learning to love reading is just about reading great works of fiction. Stock your class library with a comprehensive range of reading materials. Include high-interest/low-level fiction, collections of short stories, joke books, biographies, nonfiction, poetry, comic books, newspapers, and magazines. Encourage students to enjoy reading in any form and organize your class library by genre and interest.

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Activity, event, and tip ideas prepared by Emily Linsay, Teacher at the Bank Street School for Children, New York, NY.