

Lohnes, Marilyn. *ABC Literacy Storytimes: Storytimes to Promote Literacy & Learning*. Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, Upstart Books, 2008. 251p. \$19.95. (ISBN: 978-1-60213-023-4)

Marilyn Lohnes believes that creating a literacy link in a storytime program requires three steps: hearing the sounds, reading the letters and writing the letters. As stated in the introduction, the author also believes that children appreciate variety in the use of stories and rhymes but interact well with a repetitive routine of storytime presentations. She has developed resources for 30 or 45-60 minute storytimes for each letter of the alphabet, which have varying stories and rhymes and poems but follow a given routine.

The introduction develops that routine and provides the patterns for the finger play glove and upper and lower case letters. Each letter chapter includes: an introduction, introductory poem, finger play speller, name game, finger plays, counting up or down or both rhyme, resources for story time which includes a bibliography of 9-20 books and either poems or a sources for poems, alphabet activities, creative activities, a dot-to-dot picture using letters, creative activities, creating characters, patterns for the main letter word and practice sheets for printing capital and lower case letters. The book ends with bibliographies of ABC picture books and additional resources.

The program for the storytimes is very complete and offers the librarian/teacher many options. The bibliographies offer few books published prior to 2000. (There were few 1990's books and only one published in the 1980's and one in the 1960's.) Since the listed books are recently published, they should be easily accessible but it seems that some older and classical books would be valued additions to the bibliographies.

This book would be a helpful source for any librarian who conducts story hours for prekindergarten through first grade levels in a school or public library.

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