READING ROCKS!

Where Books, Music & Literacy Take Center Stage!

TEACHER STUDY GUIDE

Recommended Grades: K-5

Curriculum Connections: English Language Arts • Reading • Informational Text • Visual Literacy • Music • Performing Arts • Vocabulary • Speaking & Listening • Critical Thinking

ABOUT THE SHOW

Get ready to **read, rock, sing, clap, and laugh!** *Reading ROCKS!* brings literacy to life through live rock 'n' roll music, humor, audience participation, books, poetry, and everyday reading materials.

Throughout the performance, students discover an important lesson: **reading is everywhere.** We read stories for enjoyment and imagination, but we also read to learn, follow directions, find our way, make choices, and understand the world around us.

Students explore many kinds of reading:

- Books and stories
- Maps and directions
- Recipes and ingredient labels
- Traffic signs and international symbols
- Poetry, rhymes, wordplay, and songs

The program connects familiar children's literature and authors with live music, then shifts to informational and non-fiction texts such as recipes, ingredient panels, international symbols, and traffic signs.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After experiencing Reading ROCKS!, students will be able to:

- Identify different purposes for reading.
- Distinguish between fiction and informational text.
- Recognize that reading extends beyond traditional books.
- Interpret information presented through signs and symbols.
- Explain why recipes and labels are informational texts.
- Make connections between literature, music, and storytelling.
- Practice listening, predicting, rhyming, and comprehension skills.
- Recognize how songs can retell or respond to stories.

BEFORE THE SHOW

What Does Reading Mean to You?

Use these questions to activate prior knowledge:

- What is your favorite book, and why?
- Why do people read?
- Where do you see words outside of school?
- Have you ever read something to learn how to make or do something?
- Can you 'read' something that doesn't contain many words?
- Why do we need traffic signs?
- What information can you find on a food package?
- How can music help tell a story?

CLASSROOM CHALLENGE: Reading Since Breakfast

Ask students to name everything they have read since waking up: an alarm clock, cereal box, weather app, street sign, school schedule, menu, book, or computer screen. How much reading happens before the school day even begins?

FICTION OR INFORMATIONAL TEXT?

FICTION

Fiction tells an imagined story. It may include cha
imaginative events.

INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Informational text helps us learn or find information. Examples inc
schedules, directions, and instructions.

BOOKS THAT ROCK!

The performance makes musical connections to familiar children's literature. Students can think about how a book can inspire a song, a dance, a play, a drawing, or a poem.

Literature Connections

- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* - fantasy, adventure, and imagination
- Magical stories - books can take readers into worlds that could not exist in everyday life
- Roald Dahl and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* - a story can be creatively retold through music

MUSIC + LITERACY

Songs and stories share many features: characters, rhyme, repetition, patterns, descriptive language, and sometimes a beginning, middle, and end.

Listen Like a Reader

- Who or what is the song about?
- Is there a story?
- Which words repeat or rhyme?
- Can you predict what comes next?

VOCABULARY

Literacy	The ability to read, write, understand, and communicate information.
Fiction	Writing based mainly on imaginary characters and events.
Nonfiction	Writing based on facts and real information.
Informational Text	Text written primarily to provide information.
Recipe	Instructions and ingredients for preparing food.
Ingredient	One of the foods or substances used to make something.
Symbol	A picture, shape, or sign that represents an idea or gives information.
Map	A visual representation that helps us understand where places are located.
Prediction	A thoughtful guess about what may happen next.
Rhyme	Words with the same or similar ending sounds.

DURING THE PERFORMANCE

Be a Reading Detective!

- **BOOKS:** Which books, stories, or authors do you recognize?
- **MUSIC:** How is music connected to reading?
- **WORDPLAY:** Listen for rhymes, funny phrases, and language games.
- **INFORMATION:** What kinds of informational texts appear?
- **SYMBOLS:** Can you understand a sign even if it contains few or no words?
- **PARTICIPATION:** How can clapping, chanting, singing, or moving help you remember?

AFTER THE SHOW: LET'S TALK!

- What was your favorite part of Reading ROCKS!?
- Which books or stories did you recognize?
- What kinds of informational texts appeared?
- Why is a recipe considered reading?
- What information can you learn from an ingredient label?
- How can a traffic sign communicate without many words?
- How were songs connected to books and reading?
- Where do you use reading outside of school?
- Why do you think the show is called Reading ROCKS!?

ACTIVITY 1: READING IS EVERYWHERE!

Go on a Reading Scavenger Hunt. Find a book, sign, label, set of directions, schedule, map, list, computer screen, number that gives information, and a symbol you understand without words.

Which example surprised you most?

ACTIVITY 2: RECIPE READING

Recipes are informational texts. Ask students to identify **ingredients**, **amounts**, **directions**, and **sequence**. What might happen if the steps are completed in the wrong order?

ACTIVITY 3: LABEL DETECTIVES

Use clean food packages or sample labels. Locate the product name, ingredients, serving information, numbers, symbols, directions, and any warnings or allergy information shown.

Why is reading a label an important real-life skill?

ACTIVITY 4: SIGNS SPEAK!

Show familiar signs and international symbols. Ask students what each communicates and how they know. Discuss why symbols are useful in places such as airports, where people may speak different languages.

Create your own classroom symbol. What does it mean?

ACTIVITY 5: SILLY RHYMES

Rhyming and wordplay help students listen carefully to sounds in language. Complete a silly rhyme, then write a four-line poem with at least two pairs of rhyming words.

I opened my book and took a look, then found a funny little _____.

ACTIVITY 6: TURN A BOOK INTO A SONG!

Choose a favorite classroom book. Identify the main character, setting, problem, and solution. Then create a short chorus that tells something important about the story.

Main Character: _____ Setting: _____

Problem: _____ Solution: _____

Our Chorus:

ACTIVITY 7: FICTION OR NONFICTION?

Sort these examples: fairy tale, biography, recipe, fantasy novel, map, animal fact book, traffic sign, adventure story, directions for a game.

Challenge Question

Some reading doesn't fit neatly into a traditional book. Does that mean it isn't reading? Explain your answer.

ACTIVITY 8: DESIGN A READING ROCKS! BOOKMARK

Create a bookmark with your name, favorite book, a picture, and a reading slogan such as **Books Rock!**, **Open a Book - Start an Adventure!**, or **Reading Takes You Everywhere!**

WRITING ACTIVITY: MY FAVORITE BOOK ROCKS BECAUSE...

Title: _____ **Author:** _____

My favorite character is:

_____

My favorite part is:

_____

_____

I would recommend this book because:

_____

_____

_____

ROCK STAR BOOK REVIEW

Pretend you are introducing your favorite book at a rock concert! Include the title, author, your rating, what the book is about, why you like it, and why other kids should read it.

FAMILY LITERACY CONNECTION

Challenge students and their families to find five different kinds of reading at home: a recipe, instructions, food label, book, magazine, website, game directions, calendar, shopping list, or another example.

PARP CONNECTION

Reading ROCKS! is a natural companion to Parents As Reading Partners programs. Set a class goal such as **100 books** or **1,000 reading minutes**. Add a paper music note to a classroom Reading ROCKS! wall whenever students reach a reading milestone.

CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

Learning Across the Curriculum

- **English Language Arts:** fiction, nonfiction, informational text, comprehension, vocabulary, prediction, sequencing, rhyme, speaking, listening, and writing.
- **Music:** rhythm, beat, rhyme, repetition, performance, and musical storytelling.
- **Social Studies:** maps, signs, international symbols, and communication in the community.
- **Health:** recipes, ingredient information, labels, and directions.
- **Visual Arts:** symbols, book covers, bookmark design, and visual communication.
- **Performing Arts:** music, audience participation, storytelling, movement, and creative expression.

THE BIG IDEA

READING IS EVERYWHERE!

We read in many different ways:

We read books to discover new worlds.

We read nonfiction to learn new things.

We read recipes to create.

We read maps to find our way.

We read signs to stay safe.

We read labels to find information.

And sometimes...

WE READ JUST BECAUSE IT ROCKS!

Every book, sign, recipe, map, label, poem, and story is another opportunity to **discover, imagine, learn, and explore.**

READ • DISCOVER • IMAGINE • ROCK!