

5 Things to Do After Reading

Quick, screen-free activities to extend any picture book.

1 Act It Out

Pick three characters. Assign one to your child, one to yourself, one to the cat (the cat plays the villain). Re-do the climax. Kids who act out a story remember the plot for years.

2 Build a One-Shoebox Diorama

Cardboard, crayons, ten minutes. Do not fix the proportions. The misshapen tree your child draws is the part they will point to when they retell the story next month.

3 Story-End Remix

Ask: What if the ending was different? Write down their version, exactly as they say it. This is how five-year-olds start writing stories, by editing yours.

4 Letter to the Character

Address an envelope. Have them dictate. Mail it nowhere, keep it in the book. They will find it next read and remember everything.

5 Cheat with a Project Box

When you are tapped out, a themed activity box (animals, weather, geography) ties cleanly to common picture book themes. We use one monthly, works as a treat for finishing a chapter book.



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