

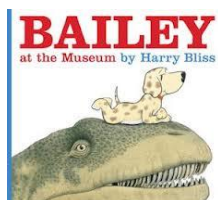


Museums Read-Aloud Outline

We're lucky to live so close to many great museums. Despite our proximity, many people, kids and adults, never visit them. Here are some ways to bring the museum experience to your Read-Aloud.

To get things started, ask questions such as these: What do you know about museums? Which museums have you been to? Why do people go to a museum? Are museums only for looking at things, or can you sometimes touch things?

The books pictured below are all good for a mixed-age group Read-Aloud.



Bailey at the Museum by Harry Bliss

Ages 3 to 6

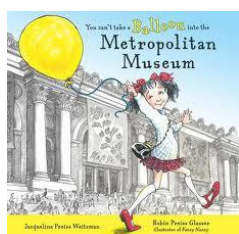
Bailey is very excited about his school trip to the Museum of Natural History. After all, he loves to dig up bones! This book is good for reading with younger children.



Museum Trip by Barbara Lehman

Ages 4 and up

Are museums filled with mysterious, magical art and curiosities? Or are they filled with secrets? What might happen if a boy suddenly became part of one of the mind-bending exhibits?



You Can't Take a Balloon into the Metropolitan Museum

by Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman

Ages 5 and up

While she's in the Metropolitan Museum in New York, a little girl loses her yellow balloon. It soars past famous paintings and sculptures. This wordless book explores the relationship between art and life. The detailed pictures are best shared in a small group.

More museum books

Museum ABC by Metropolitan Museum of Art (Ages 3 to 6)

Compare different ways artists portray each item, such as A is for apple.

Can You Find It Inside? The Metropolitan Museum of Art by Jessica Schulte (Ages 4 to 9)

This book has simple rhymes and "I spy" questions.

Behind the Museum Doors: Poems to Celebrate the Wonders of Museums

by Lee Bennett Hopkins (Ages 4 and up)

This award winning book has a great collection of poems about museums and their exhibits.

©The Reading Connection 2013

Visiting the Art Museum by Laurene Krasny Brown and Marc Brown (Ages 4 and up)
As a family wanders through an art museum, its members see examples of various art styles from primitive through 20th-century pop art.

Babar's Museum of Art by Laurent de Brunhoff (Ages 4 and up)
This museum has famous paintings, but with elephant models!

Katie Meets the Impressionists by James Mayhew (Ages 5 to 10)
Katie is magically transported into the paintings at the art museum.

Vincent's Colors by Vincent Van Gogh and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Ages 6 to 10)
This book pairs Vincent Van Gogh's paintings with his own words.

Books available at TRC

I'd Like the Goo-Gen-Heim by A. C. Hollingsworth
Can You Find It Inside? The Metropolitan Museum of Art by Jessica Schulte
You Can't Take a Balloon into the Metropolitan Museum by Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman
Visiting the Art Museum by Laurene Krasny Brown and Marc Brown
Let's Go on a Museum Hunt by Francie Alexander and Nancy Hechinger

Activities

1. Bring in a large empty picture frame. Have the kids take turns pretending they are in the painting. Show examples such as the Mona Lisa, American Gothic (farmers with the pitch fork), Girl with the Pearl Earring, etc. You could also show examples of famous sculptures and have the kids pretend to be the sculpture.
2. Have each child do a simple art project such as a self-portrait or a picture of her favorite landscape. "Frame" each picture by gluing it onto a slightly larger piece of black paper. Hang each picture on the wall. (TRC also has oval and rectangular mats available to frame kids' artwork, just e-mail or call the office.) Take a tour of your museum and let each child be the docent when you arrive at his artwork.
3. Bring in a variety of items from home such as dolls, rocks, or even kitchen utensils. Have the children examine them and decide which things go together and which do not belong. Why would they be a good exhibit for a museum? Why not?
Have the kids create an exhibit. Make display cards. Ask them how they would display their collections. Which item should have the primary location in your display? Why?
Let one child be the docent for your museum, explaining the exhibit.
4. The architecture of some museums is very unusual and interesting. Bring in some pictures of different museum buildings like the Guggenheim, the East Wing of the National Gallery, the Louvre and the National Museum of the American Indian. Talk about how the architecture relates to the subject matter of the museum (or how it doesn't).

Conversation Starters

What do you know about museums?

Which museums have you been to?

Why do people go to museums?

Are museums only for looking at things, or can you sometimes touch things?

What are the typical rules that must be followed in a museum. What can and can't you bring in?

What behaviors aren't allowed?

What makes something a museum? If some museums don't follow the traditional rules (for example, the "please touch museums"), what makes them museums?

If you could create your own museum, what would you put in it?