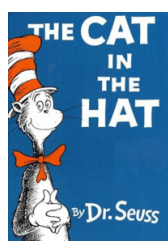


## Rainy Day Read-Aloud Outline

What do you do on a rainy day? Here are some old-fashioned entertainment options like using your imagination or playing board games. Sometimes we forget about the simple pleasures of imaginary play or the challenge of strategy games.



***The Cat in the Hat*** by Dr. Seuss

Ages 3 and up

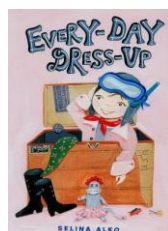
Children love the rhyme and the rhythm of the text, but it is the madcap adventure of the cat that keep kids coming back for more.



***Pete's a Pizza*** by William Steig

Ages 4 and up

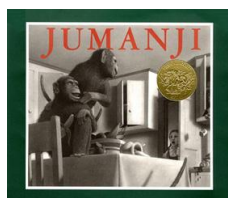
On a rainy day, Pete is miserable, but his dad is very clever. He picks up Pete and takes him to the table. He rolls Pete and kneads him just like pizza dough! Let the giggles begin!



***Every Day Dress-Up*** by Selina Alko

Ages 3 and up

A young girl dresses up like famous women in history.



***Jumanji*** by Chris Van Allsburg

Ages 6 and up

In this Caldecott Medal winner, the animals come to life and rampage through the house. Once this game begins, it must be finished or it will go on forever. This is a surreal story that works better with older children.

### More rainy day books

***Mudkin*** by Stephen Gammell (Ages 4 and up)

After a rainstorm, a child goes out to play in the mud and finds an imaginary mud friend.

Be sure you pre-read this book because some children will have a hard time understanding the story at first.

***Chalk*** by Bill Thomson (Ages 4 and up)

Three kids go out on a rainy day with a bag of chalk.

***Treasure Hunt*** by Bill Cosby (Ages 4 and up) Beginning Reader

During a rainy day, the family members are involved in their individual interests, and Little Bill discovers his own treasure, a talent for storytelling.

***Oliver*** by Birgitta Sif (Ages 4 and up)

Oliver loves his solitude, imaginary play and puppets. One day, his tennis ball rolls into the neighbor's yard and Oliver meets a new friend.

***Bored – Nothing To Do*** by Peter Spier (Ages 4 and up)

When their mother tells them to go entertain themselves, two brothers decide to make an airplane by being resourceful and using materials found around their home.

### **Activities**

1. Do some of the activities mentioned in the books listed above when the weather is nasty and you have to stay inside. Options include playing a board game or old-fashioned games like jacks, pick-up sticks, play dough or Lincoln logs.

2. Make rain sticks. Here's a link to our rain stick method:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/music/rainstick/>

- Take a sheet of aluminum foil and mold it into a long snake shape. Put the aluminum foil inside the paper towel tube.
- Cover one end of the cardboard tube with construction paper (cut in a circle) and tape closed.
- Pour some dry beans, dry rice, or unpopped popcorn into your tube. The tube should only be about 1/10 full.
- Cover the other end of the tube with another construction paper circle and tape shut.
- Decorate construction paper to tape on to the tube, covering the cardboard.
- Demonstrate how to turn the rain stick over to hear the gentle sound of falling rain

3. Make a human rainstorm. This is a great activity that will help get the wiggles out on a rainy day. Introduce the activity by saying something like this: "Right here in this room, we are going to create a rainstorm. We will make the rainstorm using our hands and feet. Watch my hands; follow and do the same things. Listen to the sounds we make. "

- Rub hands together (wind)
- Snap fingers (sprinkling rain)
- Clap hands (heavier rain)
- Slap thighs (pouring rain)
- Stomp feet and continue slapping thighs (thunder and heavy rain)
- Slap thighs (thunder stopped)

- Clap hands (rain is slowing)
- Snap fingers (rain is down to a sprinkle)
- Rub hands (sun is coming out and a fresh breeze is blowing)
- Hands on lap (silence after a storm)

5. Make the water cycle in a cup. While it's raining outside, this activity demonstrates how rain falls from the clouds.

Fill a clear plastic cup with water and top with shaving cream (this is your cloud). Add a few drops of blue food coloring to the top of the shaving cream. Watch as the blue dye (this is the rain) sinks through the cloud to fall as rain in the water.



### **Conversation Starters**

What's your favorite thing to do when it's rainy outside?

What are good games to play outside in the rain?

Do you like thunderstorms? Why or why not?

What would you do if The Cat came to your house?

Imagine you lived in a place where it was always rainy. How would that change your perception of rainy days? What would do on a sunny day?