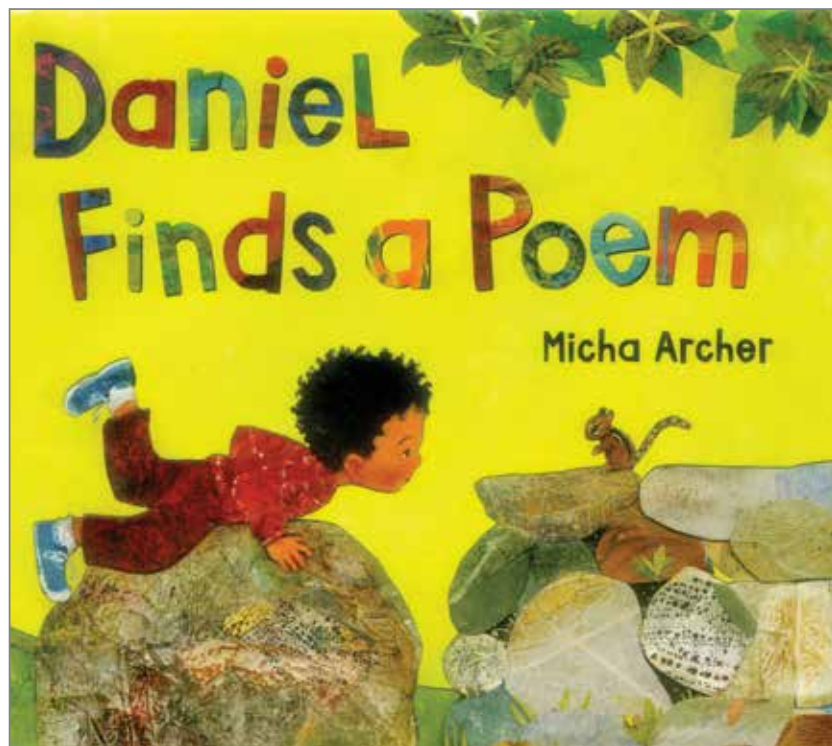


A Guide to Getting the Most Out of Pennsylvania's 2017 One Book



Daniel wants to participate in the Poetry in the Park event but first asks his animal friends for help. After a week of discovery, he is able to share a magical poem that incorporates the essence of the entire park. The collage illustrations help to celebrate a sense of wonder and poetry everywhere.

For more information about the book and its creator, visit www.paonebook.org.

Copies of *Daniel Finds a Poem* are available in all Pennsylvania public libraries.
Stop by and read the story at the library or borrow it to read at home.



How to Raise a Reader

- Read together every day.
- Set up a comfortable place to snuggle and read. The act of being close together adds another positive feeling to reading.
- Give different voices to characters, and use sound effects. Use a different voice each time an animal talks with Daniel.
- Ask open-ended questions while you read. For example, you can ask about each animal's poetry as you go along. Why do you think Spider likes morning dew? Why does Squirrel like when crisp leaves crunch? Why does Chipmunk live in an old stone wall?
- Reading the same book multiple times may seem boring, however, children enjoy feeling smart because they know what is coming next.
- Talk, Write, Read, Play, and Sing together. These five practices are key elements of early literacy.
- Look for activities that extend upon the themes, characters, and plotlines of the book. These activities, such as the ones found in this Family Fun Guide, help children build their knowledge base and enjoyment of the book.

Before Reading the Book

Look at the cover together. What information can you learn from the cover?

- Who is the author of this book?
- What is the title of the book?
- Look at the illustration on the cover. What do you think this book will be about?
- Where do you think this book takes place?

While Reading the Book

Help children start to understand the reading process by running your finger under the words as you read them. This shows children that we read books left to right. Add movement and expression and ask questions while you read.

- What time of day is it in this picture? How do you know that?
- Study illustrations to gather the meaning of words. For example, what do the words “glistens,” “cattails,” and “twilight” mean? How do you know?

After Reading the Book

You can help a child build reading comprehension by going back through the book together. Look at the illustrations on each page and ask the child to tell you what is happening. You can also ask questions to relate the book to your child’s life:

- Have you been to a park? What did you see and do there?
- Have you seen any of the animals in this book? Where did you see it?



Continue the fun by doing one of the extension activities in this guide:

Literacy • Games and Movement • Engineering • Science
Math • Rhymes and Songs • Creative Arts





Engineering

A Boat to Sink or Float

(Activity created by the Carnegie Science Center)

Boats that float on water can carry people from place to place, or carry things. Some are moved by engines, but sailboats, like the one Daniel makes, are moved by wind.

Materials:

- Foil
- A sink, bathtub, or plastic bin
- Water
- Pennies (optional)
- A straw (optional, for extension)
- Tape (optional, for extension)
- A napkin or paper towel (optional, for extension)

Directions:

- Fill your sink, bathtub, or plastic bin with water.
- Fold and bend the foil to make a boat. You might make it shaped like a bowl, or flat on the bottom with straight sides.
- If you'd like to see how much weight your boat can hold while still floating, add pennies one at a time! When your boat sinks, can you build one that holds more pennies than the first?

Questions:

- Which holds more pennies, a boat with a small base, or a boat with a large one?
- What other objects do you think would float in water? What do you think would sink?
- In the book, Daniel's boat is made from twigs and leaves. How many pennies do you think his boat would hold?

Extension:

- Daniel's boat had a sail. You can add a sail to your boat, too. Start by taping a straw so that it stands up from the inside of your boat. Then, tape a napkin or paper towel to the straw at the top and bottom. Now blow on your sail. What happens to the boat?





Literacy

Compare Stories

The animals in the book and the park setting are familiar to many children. Read another book with many of the same animals in order to compare and contrast the stories, settings, and illustrations.

Materials:

- Copy of *Daniel Finds a Poem*
- Copy of either book from this list:
 - *Scoot!* by Cathryn Falwell
 - *In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming

Directions:

- Read both stories aloud.
- Discuss the similarities and differences between the two stories.

Questions:

- What animals are in both books?
- After determining the answer to the question above: Do the frogs (or other matching animal) look the same in both books?
- What do the frogs (or other matching animal) do in each book?

Extension:

- Delve deeper into the illustrations of the matching animals. How are they similar? How are they different?

Questions to ask:

- Which illustration do you like better? Why?
- What colors are used to illustrate each animal?
- Which animal would you like to meet in real life?



Science

Spider and a Wet Web

(Activity created by the Carnegie Science Center)

Using a spray bottle, you can recreate the beautiful morning dew on a spider's web. The droplets of water refract, or bend, the light to make beautiful dots of light and color.

Materials:

- Spray bottle with "mist" setting
- Water
- A spider web

Directions:

- Fill your bottle with water and set it to "mist."
- Go outside and find a spider web.
- Gently mist the spider web until it is covered with tiny droplets of water. Plain water will not harm the spider.
- Keep your eyes on the spider web, and move your head back and forth to see how the light changes.

Questions:

- What happens when a droplet touches another droplet?
- Why do you think the spider web stretches as it accumulates more droplets?
- Look at spider's web in the book. Where do you think the drops of water came from?

Extension:

- Some materials absorb water, and some do not. The water formed droplets on the spider's web because the web did not absorb the water. Can you find other materials that cause the water to form droplets? Try misting water onto glass or plastic. What happens when you mist it onto an absorbent material, like a paper towel?



Math

Map Daniel's Park

Making maps helps to build spatial skills.

Materials:

- Copy of *Daniel Finds a Poem*
- Computer with Internet access

Directions:

- Use the PBS Kids *The Cat in the Hat Can Map This and That* website http://www.pbs.org/parents/catinthehat/activity_mapping_tool.html to create a map of Daniel's park.
- Add a swing set, trees, a pond, etc.
- Print a copy of your map to add extra details.

Questions:

- What shape did you choose for Daniel's park? Why?
- How did you choose where to put the pond? What about the swings?
- Are the swings and the pond near each other in the book? How about on your map?

Extensions:

- Let kids create a map of their bedroom using the website.
- Create a map using only paper and crayons.



Creative Arts

Recreate "Daniel Finds a Poem"

The author/illustrator created the images in *Daniel Finds a Poem* using collage. Try to create your own version of one of the illustrations.

Materials:

- Copy of *Daniel Finds a Poem*
- Scrap paper
- Old magazines (optional)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Plain paper

Directions:

- Choose your favorite image in *Daniel Finds a Poem*.
- Display that page where everyone can see it.
- Use your supplies to make your own version of the same image.

Questions:

- Tell me about your version of the page.
- What parts were hard to recreate?
- Were any parts easy to recreate?

Extension:

- Create a collage illustration using your imagination.



Rhymes and Songs

Sing these rhymes and songs together or make up your own.

A E I O U in the Park

(Tune: Old MacDonald)

Adapted by Micha Archer

Monday morning in the park, A E I O U
We met a spider in her web, A E I O U
With a spin spin here, and a spin spin there,
here a spin,
there a spin,
everywhere a spin spin
Monday morning in the park, A E I O U

Tuesday morning in the park, A E I O U
We met a squirrel down in the leaves, A E I O U
With a crunch crunch here, and crunch crunch there,
here a crunch,
there a crunch,
everywhere a crunch crunch
Tuesday morning in the park, A E I O U

Wednesday morning in the park, A E I O U
We met a chipmunk on the wall, A E I O U
With a hop hop here, and a hop hop there,
here a hop,
there a hop,
everywhere a hop hop
Wednesday morning in the park, A E I O U

Thursday morning in the park, A E I O U
We met a frog down by the pond, A E I O U
With a swim swim here, and a swim swim there,
here a swim,
there a swim,
everywhere a swim swim
Thursday morning in the park, A E I O U

Friday morning in the park, A E I O U
We met a turtle in the sand, A E I O U
With a dig dig here, and a dig dig there,
here a dig,
there a dig,
everywhere a dig dig
Friday morning in the park, A E I O U

Saturday evening in the park, A E I O U
We met a cricket in the grass, A E I O U
With a chirp chirp here, and a chirp chirp there,
here a chirp,
there a chirp,
everywhere a chirp chirp
Saturday evening in the park, A E I O U

Sunday morning early in the park, A E I O U
We met an owl in the dark, A E I O U
With a whoo whoo here, and a whoo whoo there,
here a whoo,
there a whoo,
everywhere a whoo whoo
Sunday morning in the park, A E I O U

The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider
climbed up the water spout
Down came the rain and
washed the spider out
Out came the sun and
dried up all the rain and
the itsy bitsy spider
climbed up the spout again

*More rhymes and songs can be
found on the One Book website
www.paonebook.org.*



Games and Movement

Jump Like a Frog

- A frog can jump further than the length of its body. How far can you jump?

Materials:

- Measuring stick or measuring tape
- Masking tape

Directions:

- Use the measuring stick to determine the height of your child.
- Lay down a length of tape that equals the height of your child.
- Have child stand at one end of their tape and try to jump to the other end.
- Option: Using the measuring stick adds an element of math to the activity. You can skip that step and have your child lay down on the ground while you place tape beside their body.

Questions:

- Can you jump from one end of the tape to the other?
- How close did you get?
- Why do you think frogs can jump so far?

More Resources



Share more poetry together by reading one of these books:

Step Gently Out by Helen Frost, 2012. Candlewick Press

Lyrical language and full-page photographs invite readers to notice small insects in their world. This child-friendly full-book poem includes a cricket and a spider. A short paragraph about each featured insect is found in the back of the book.

National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs that Squeak, Soar, and Roar! edited by J. Patrick Lewis, 2012. National Geographic

The title of this book says it all: large, full-color photographs of animals fill oversize pages. Each photo is accompanied by one or more poems by poets including Robert Frost, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Jane Yolen. Look to these pages for poems about the animals that Daniel interacts with in the book: Spider – pg. 55 (Note: this poem refers to morning dew just like the spider in the book), Squirrel – pg. 51, Chipmunk – pg. 50, Frog – pgs. 52 and 126-127, Turtle – pgs. 95 and 162-163, Cricket – pgs. 130-131 (note: all of the poems reference a cricket singing), Owl – pgs. 62-63 and a two-page photograph on pg. 147, and Dragonfly – pg. 42. The subject index will lead readers to poems about other favorite animals.

Visit a park together. Use this website to locate a Pennsylvania State Park near you:
<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/index.htm>

Try this app to create your own poetry: ***Tell About This*** by Write About

Free/\$2.99, iPad only

Photo prompts encourage children's recorded narratives and/or poems. App also allows creation of prompts. Free version allows for limited number of prompts and child profiles.