



Front Page News

Title I Schools Newsletter



100 Tarrar Springs Road • Lexington, SC 29072

(803) 821-1000

www.lexington1.net



April 2017
Volume 4, Issue 6

Read to Succeed: How Graphic Novels Help Build Children's Literacy Skills

Graphic novels are stories written and illustrated in the style of a comic book. The story is told using a combination of words and pictures in a sequence. They have recently gained popularity with young children and are especially appealing to reluctant or striving readers. With their easy-to-read format and lively visuals, graphic novels appeal to all levels of readers and are widely accepted by educators and librarians as a successful way to attract and motivate kids to read. Graphic novels can be any genre (category) and can be fiction (imaginary) or nonfiction (based on facts). They help to strengthen vocabulary, build reading confidence and develop a deeper appreciation of storytelling. Here are a few other ways graphic novels help build children's literacy skills:

Reading Motivation - Graphic novels can be a "welcoming door" for reluctant or striving readers (especially boys) who are drawn to the lively storylines and illustrations, and the smart but limited text. Quick, fun reads build confidence!



Visual Literacy - The images in graphic novels provide big clues about character and plot and encourage readers to look closely. Some graphic novels are wordless, so the pictures must carry the full story.

Story Structure - Most graphic novels for young readers have easy-to-follow plots. This can help children learn about how a story is stitched together. After sharing a graphic novel together, ask your child to tell you the basic plot of the story: "First this happened, then this ... and at the end ..."

Word Learning for English Language Learners - Although individual words in a graphic novel can be sophisticated, the side-by-side illustrations and text provide strong clues to their meaning.

Be aware that some graphic novels are not suitable for young readers and it is best to consult with your branch librarian or your child's teacher before making your selection. Lexington County Branch Libraries have a section entirely devoted to children's graphic novels where you can seek guidance in selecting the most appropriate titles for your child.

Adapted in part from: readingrockets.org/article/graphic-novels-young-kids

What's "App"ening?

Bedtime Math is a free app that helps to make math a fun part of families' everyday lives, as beloved as the bedtime story. Their mission is to help kids love numbers so they can handle math in real life. You can choose the *Math Problem of the Day*, or explore over 1600 additional math problems with various zany topics, ranging from electric eels and chocolate chips to roller coasters and flamingos. Each has three levels of challenge ("*Wee Ones*" for pre-K, "*Little Kids*" for K-grade 2, and "*Big Kids*" for grades 2 and up), and many also have harder questions ("*The Sky's the Limit*") for middle school kids, grown-ups, and anyone who's feeling brave! The math problems are written like a story, which capture kids' interest and answers are included so there is no frustration to figuring out answers. Compatible with iOS and Android devices. Available in English and Spanish. For more information, visit bedtimemath.org. To view the tutorial or to see *Bedtime Math* in action, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m77S9Z4w1A>



Third grade is a critical year for all students as they shift from learning to read to reading to learn. Students who don't read at grade level by end of 3rd grade are four times as likely to drop out of high school later.



Title I End-of-Year Parent and Family Survey



Each year, your child's school evaluates their Title I plan and uses parent feedback to grow and strengthen the high academic achievement standards set for all children. As the parent or guardian of a child attending a Title I school, you are an important part of their Title I team. In the coming weeks, your child will bring home a Title I parent survey for you to complete and return. The survey is confidential and your input will be used to assist with future planning and implementation of programs and activities within the school. We greatly appreciate the time you take to give us the valuable feedback about Title I services. Our partnership in educating your child is a priority. Should you have questions regarding the survey, please contact the school's main office.

Balancing Screen Time with a Family Media Plan

In this digital age, we live in a world of screens: TVs, tablets, video games, computers and smart phones. While experts agree there are benefits to *quality* screen time, they also recommend having a balance that encourages the use of technology with other screen-free activities such as outdoor play, exercise, face-to-face interaction, reading and family time. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has created a free online tool for parents to create a family media plan that takes into account the needs of each family member. The interactive tool lets you set guidelines for each child, with suggested items based on the AAP's age-specific recommendations and space to add or substitute your own family's rules. At the end, you can print out a document that lays out your family's own media policy. You can access the tool by following the link here:

<http://www.healthychildren.org/MediaUsePlan>.

Dates to Remember...

- * April 10-14 - Spring Break
- * April 17 - Holiday/No School (Weather Makeup Day)