

The Thank You Letter

The 2020 CLEL Bell Award Book for WRITE

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It's Grace's birthday and she is having a party! The next day she enthusiastically gets out her pens and pencils to write thank you letters to all of her guests. This story shows children that they can be writers as well as readers.

Activity Ideas for *The Thank You Letter*:

- After her birthday party, Grace enjoys writing thank you notes to friends, family, and neighbors. Ask your child what they are grateful for, then help them write a thank you letter, too! It could be a scribble, a drawing, a word or two, or a whole sentence. You can tell them that they wrote a letter just like Jane Cabrera wrote a book! When children see themselves as writers and readers, it helps them be more interested in books. The more they read and listen, the easier it will be to learn to read themselves.
- Sit with your children and tell them about a favorite gift you received when you were young. Was it something you wanted, or was it a surprise? What did you do with the gift? Do you know what happened to it, or where it is now? Children love hearing stories about their parents', grandparents', and caregivers' childhoods. Telling personal stories celebrates new and old family traditions and strengthens the bond between adult and child. And the more stories children hear, the more they understand how stories work, which helps their comprehension when they read stories in books.
- Use your imaginations and plan a fabulous party! Play a guessing game as you think about what you will wear, what you will eat, or what presents you will give. Say, "I want to serve something to drink that is cold and white and starts with the sound MMMM...that's right, milk!" Thinking of the beginning sounds of words builds a child's phonological awareness.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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