



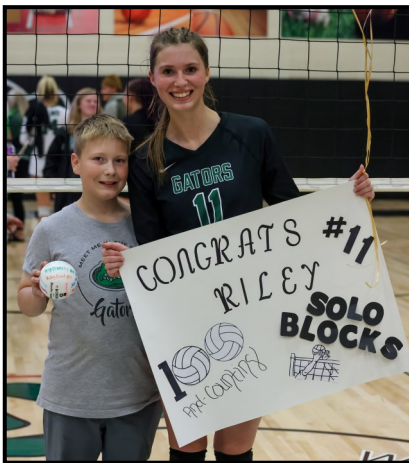
# The Badger Barker



November 2022 Badger School District #676 Volume XXVIII Issue 2  
Student Editor: Julia Dostal

## FCCLA Northern Area Officers

Bethanie VonEnde and Emily Burkel are FCCLA Northern Area Officers. They are responsible for communicating the state happenings and information to the FCCLA chapters in our area. They are also in charge of planning and leading the Fall Leadership Meeting and the Mid-Winter Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) events meeting in January/February. To be an Area Officer, they must learn the FCCLA Creed, Mission Statement, 8 Purposes, and attend leadership camp during the summer. We are very proud to have Bethanie and Emily as Area Officers as they expand their leadership experiences.



## Riley Gust 100 Solo Volleyball Blocks

Riley Gust is a great presence both hitting and blocking in the front row. She is an essential asset of the Gator volleyball arsenal. Riley has earned 100 career solo blocks this year and is one of the top middles in Section 8A.

## Tali Hamann, Essay Winner

Every year, the Northwestern Minnesota Manufacturers Association holds an essay contest for area high school seniors. The organization chooses one winner from Badger/Greenbush (combined), Roseau, Baudette, and Warroad. Winning essays are chosen by a panel of judges based on content. This year's topic had students do the following: reflect on their knowledge of manufacturing; describe how local schools and manufacturers can better help students understand how rewarding manufacturing can be; and define what would help students get excited about a future in manufacturing.

This year's winner is Tali Hamann, daughter of Leroy and Heidi Hamann. Along with winning \$500, Tali attended the annual Manufacturer Week breakfast event where she read her essay. Congratulations, Tali!



## Dylan VonEnde 1000 Rushing Yards

Dylan VonEnde is only the second Gator football player in the past 10 years to reach the milestones of 1000 yards rushing. The gator coaching staff is very proud of this achievement and would like to thank those that made it possible for Dylan: Mason Scharf, Landon Frislie, Kai Melby, and Cole Blazek. Also very special thanks to Treston Nichols for being his lead blocker on every play. Dylan is a very hard-working young man, but a goal like this takes a team and family.



# The Badger Barker



## Badger School Superintendent's News



I hope this November publication of *The Badger Barker* finds you in good spirits.

Congratulations to Badger senior Talisha Hamann for reading her \$500 scholarship winning essay at the Northern Minnesota Manufacturers Association (NMMA) breakfast, which was held at the Roseau City Center the morning of Thursday, October 27.

Northern Lights Math League starts Tuesday, November 8. Badger Math League is open to students in grades 8-12; there is still time to join!

Volleyball (29 W – 2 L as of Nov. 1): Congratulations and best wishes to our BGMR Gator Volleyball to continue advancing through the tournament brackets!

Second Quarter starts Tuesday, November 8. The first academic quarter ended Friday, November 4.

No School for students on Monday, November 7, due to a staff development day for in-service training.

Veterans Day Program: Wednesday, November 9, at 10:00 a.m. The Veterans Day program consists of musical performances, student speakers, and most importantly, presentations honoring our veterans (past and present). All community members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Grades 7-8 Veterans Day Essay Winners:      Katelyn Gust (1st place)  
Adysen Gregerson (2nd place)  
Deegan Hanson (3rd place)

Grades 9-12 Veterans Day Essay Winners:      Jordan Lee (1st place)  
Hailey Lundgren (2nd place)  
Jordan Davy (3<sup>rd</sup> place)

Best wishes to our music department students who are preparing for Vocal & Instrumental Solo Music Contests to be held at Roseau School on Tuesday, November 15.

American Education Week will be November 14-18: Badger Community School will recognize our teachers, support staff, office personnel, food service, maintenance staff, and bus drivers as well as our students and community members who all work together to make Badger Community School a gem of excellence in Northwest Minnesota and for making Badger “the school where every student belongs.” The Badger Education Association, food service, and administration have organized events during the American Education Week.

American Education Week Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 15 at Badger School Cafeteria.  
~ Students with guests welcome to attend ~

Badger National Honor Society (NHS) Events:

Blood Drive to be held Wednesday, November 16 (more details to be announced).

Induction Ceremony Banquet @ 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 17.  
~ Limited seating for families of inductees by RSVP invitation only ~

Muffins for Mom will be Monday, November 21 at 8:00 a.m.  
~ Students with guests are welcome to attend ~

Gator Fall Sports Banquet to be held in Badger Gym 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22

No School November 24-25 for Thanksgiving Break.

Please take the time to visit our school whenever your schedule may allow. You are always welcome here and ISD #676 values your input ideas and suggestions.

Thank you,

Kevin Ricke, Superintendent & Principal K-12



# The Badger Barker



## Gator Sports

By: Taylor Davy

For changes in schedule go to [www.badger.k12.mn.us](http://www.badger.k12.mn.us) and click on "Gator Athletic Schedules."

## Dates to Remember

By: Kaden Halvorson

### November

#### Volleyball

- 1 Section Semis @ Bagley
- 4 Section Finals @ UMC
- 10-12 State @ Exel Center

#### Girls Basketball

- 19 Jamboree @ Grygla/Goodridge

#### Boys Basketball

- 26 Jamboree @ Warren-Alvarado-Oslo

### December

#### Boys Basketball

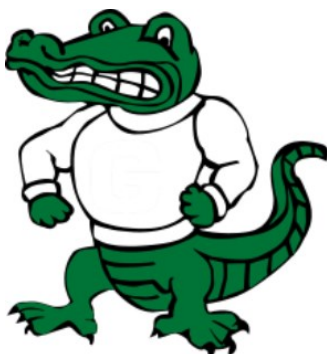
- 1 @ Fertile-Beltrami
- 6 @ Stephen-Argyle
- 9 @ Red Lake County Central
- 13 @ Warroad
- 15 Blackduck @ BGMR
- 20 @ Mahnomen-Waubun
- 22 Sacred Heart @ BGMR
- 29 Goodridge-Grygla @ BGMR

#### Girls Basketball

- 2 Warroad @ BGMR
- 5 @ Kittson County Central
- 6 @ Thompson
- 12 @ Northern Freeze
- 12 @ Red Lake
- 16 Clearbrook-Gonvick @ BGMR
- 20 @ Warren-Alvarado-Oslo
- 28-29 Tourney @ Pelican Rapids

#### Wrestling

- 3 @ Wadena-Deer Creek Invitational
- 6 @ Fargo South Triangular
- 9-10 @ Grand Forks Central Invitational
- 17 @ Valley City Invitational



### November

- 1 ECFE "Hibernation" 6:00 pm
- 4 End of Quarter 1
- 6 Daylight Savings Time ~ turn clocks back
- 7 No School ~ Staff Development
- 8 Math League Meet
- 8 No ECFE ~ Election Day
- 9 Veteran's Day Program 10:00 am (note date change)
- 10 Climb Theatre presents "Keeping Tabs," grades K-12
- 14-18 American Education Week
- 15 Instrumental Solo Contest @ Roseau
- 15 Vocal Solo Contest @ Roseau
- 15 Breakfast with Guests ~ American Education Week
- 15 ECFE "Baking Night" 6:00 pm
- 17 National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony 6:30 pm
- 21 Muffins for Mom
- 21 School Board 7:30 pm (note date change)
- 22 ECFE "Thanksgiving Celebration" 6:00 pm
- 22 Fall Sports Banquet 6:30 pm
- 24-25 No School
- 28 Math League Meet
- 29 NHS Blood Drive, Community Center (note date change)
- 29 ECFE "Holiday Crafts" 6:00 pm

### December

- 9 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Midterm
- 9 Elementary Winter Concert 2:00 pm
- 12 School Board 7:30 pm
- 19 Math League Meet
- 19 High School Winter Concert 7:00 pm
- 23-30 No School ~ Winter Break

### Please Note DATE CHANGES

#### Veterans Day Program

Wednesday, November 9  
10:00 a.m.

#### Badger School Board Meeting

Monday, November 21  
7:30 p.m.

#### NHS Blood Drive

Community Center  
Tuesday, November 29  
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



# The Badger Barker



## Senior Spotlight Andrew Olson

**Parents:** Mark & Torie Olson

**Siblings:** Macayla, Hayley

**Nickname:** Andy

**Favorite:**

**Sport:** Football

**Food:** Steak

**Color:** Red

**Hobby:** Hunting

**Quote:** "Don't let the negativity bring you down." ~ unknown

**If you found a genie, what would be your three wishes?** Own my own farm; buy lots of land; go to Montana hunting.

**If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?** I would make a change in schools. There would be more shop classes and also bring back Future Farmers of America (FFA).

**If you could take a road trip with one person, who would it be and where would you go?** I would go to Yellowstone with my dad and mom.

**What do you think you'll be remembered by most?** Happy personality.

**What is the craziest thing you've done in high school?** Accidentally lit the welding booth on fire.



## Senior Spotlight Riley Gust

**Parents:** Jeremy & Honi Gust

**Siblings:** Christian, Ryder

**Nicknames:** Rye, Rye-butt, Moose

**Favorite:**

**Sport:** Volleyball

**Food:** Dumplings

**Color:** Blue

**Hobby:** Being outdoors with everyone I love.

**Quote:** "It's okay, my dad is a race car driver." ~ Riley Gust

**If you found a genie, what would be your three wishes?** Pay off parents' and siblings' debts; be successful; never stress again, no worries.

**If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be?** Those gas prices man. #worldpeace

**If you could take a road trip with one person, who would it be and where would you go?** I would take my family to Yellowstone.

**What do you think you'll be remembered by most?** Not letting anything bring me down, even stairs, my feet, or lines.

**What is the craziest thing you've done in high school?** Deciding to be friends with the new kid in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (squirrel)





# The Badger Barker



## Band Musician of the Month Taylor Davy

**Grade:** 10<sup>th</sup>

**What instrument do you play and why did you choose this instrument?** Alto saxophone, I chose it because when I was younger I was in love with how it sounded and to me it looked cool to play.

**If you had to change your instrument, what would you pick?** I would do percussions because I find drums and everything in that section interesting.

**What is your favorite song to play?** There have been many great songs, but I would say *Pretty Fly Part 2* for sax because I like playing the low part to it and I miss it now.

**If you could pick a theme for Music Revue, what theme would you pick?** Marvel or Disney because there would be a lot of drama and action and the music would be fun.

**What is your most memorable moment in band?** When we went down to state volleyball for pep band.

**What advice would you give to younger musicians?** Always keep trying and don't give up. Keep practicing to get better.

**Who inspired you to be part of band?** Probably my friends doing it but also my mom and dad.



## Choir Musician of the Month Paige Rybakowski

**Grade:** 10<sup>th</sup>

**What section are you in?** Soprano

**How long have you been in choir?** 2 years

**What kind of music do you like to sing?** I like concert pieces.

**What is your favorite part about being in choir?** It's a good outlet to have music at the end of the day.

**What are you looking forward to this year?** Solo and group contest.

**What advice would you give other vocalists in choir?** Listen to your section and be confident when you sing.

**What is your favorite choir memory?** Last year's 2022 Music Revue.



## Trivia

By: Riley Connell

- What is the most popular type of pie for Thanksgiving?
  - Apple
  - Chocolate
  - Pumpkin
  - Cherry
- When was the first Thanksgiving?
  - 1776
  - 1621
  - 1912
  - 2016
- Which one of these turkeys is a living turkey?
  - Merriam's Wild Turkey
  - North Eastern Pickle Turkey
  - Synovitis Turkey
  - Tyler's Turkey
- How big was the largest turkey ever?
  - 92 pounds
  - 86 pounds
  - 104 pounds
  - 76 pounds



# The Badger Barker



## Elementary Viewpoint

By: Ivan Olafson

### What is your favorite movie?

**Kohlter Berg (1<sup>st</sup> grade):** *Sonic* because I like the character Chili Dog. I like the bald guy, Doctor Eggman, who tries to catch him too.

**Janiya Jenson (2<sup>nd</sup> grade):** My favorite movie is *Hocus Pocus 2*. I like it because it shows a little version of the witches and has other kids in it.

**Tucker Rinde (3<sup>rd</sup> grade):** My favorite movie is *Space Jam* because there is a boy and he plays basketball. He plays golf too. Bugs Bunny is in the movie and he's funny.

**Bentley Sanden (4<sup>th</sup> grade):** My favorite movie is *A-X-L* because I like dirt bikes, dogs, and robots. I think it's cool. There are cars in it, and I love cars too.

**Nils Christianson (5<sup>th</sup> grade):** *Top Gun: Maverick* because it includes my favorite jet, the FA/18 Super Hornet. The movie also includes two of my favorite actors: Tom Cruise and Val Kilmer.

**Kaylie Streich (6<sup>th</sup> grade):** My favorite movie is *Zombie 3*. I like it because they dance and sing.



## FCCLA Local Leadership Training

Submitted by: Gretchen Lee, Advisor

Badger Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) members travelled to Thief River Falls to attend Local Leadership Training with five other Northern Area FCCLA chapters. Forty-six FCCLA members from around the area participated in roundtables led by state and area officer. Badger Area Officer Bethanie VonEnde spoke about her Repurpose and Redesign project, and Officer Emily Burkel presented information about FCCLA. This event was last held in fall of 2019, so students and advisors alike were excited about gathering, learning, and reconnecting. The 2022-23 state theme is Soar2Success: One Team, One Mission.

Those attending for Badger were: Tristan Lenz, Keegan VonEnde, Quynn Washington, MacKenzie VonEnde, Ave Hanson, Adysen Gregerson, Katelyn Gust, Emily Burkel, and Bethanie VonEnde.



1. cRocket
2. A penguin with a pumpkin.
3. A shirt
4. Their baby is a little bigger.
5. You spend too much time on the web.
6. A map
7. A promise

## Random Riddles Answers



# The Badger Barker



## Badger School's Ramp-Up Topics for November

Submitted by: Stacey Warne, Dean of Students

**GRADE 6:** Sixth grade students will focus on setting goals while learning how to set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely) goals. Not only will students practice setting goals, they will learn the importance of using a planner for scheduling school and personal events.

**GRADE 7:** During November, seventh graders will be learning about the importance of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. They will focus on peer interactions that can sometimes hamper student learning, and they will learn strategies to create more positive ways to interact with others. Additionally, students will discuss skills they already use in school (like teamwork and resiliency) and how these skills are necessary for them to be successful in the workplace as well. Postsecondary Plans will be updated.

**GRADE 8:** Students will be discussing motivation. They will examine things that make them want to achieve a goal, and they will question if those things are intrinsic (self-satisfaction or self-reward for a job well done) or extrinsic (a reward from someone else – praise, prize, etc.). Students will identify what things motivate them as individuals and how they may help form their future selves. Eighth grades will also complete the Postsecondary Plan.

**GRADE 9:** Freshmen will be learning why postsecondary success matters and the purpose for engaging in Ramp-Up to Readiness™. Students will also learn how the Postsecondary Plan connects their career, postsecondary, and college plans, helps create postsecondary financial strategies, and provides information about students' strengths that will enable them to reach their career and postsecondary aspirations. Students will also complete the Personal Readiness Evaluation for Postsecondary (PREP), which helps them where they currently are with skills needed to be successful: expectations and self-efficacy, effort and persistence, and self-regulation. The importance of attendance and show up to school every day is vital to school and their future selves.

**GRADE 10:** This unit has juniors assess how they currently spend their time and provides suggestions on how to best manage their time. This is a common problem for college students, and practice in high school can help avoid problems later. Students will think about the concept of "filling their jar" so that important things get done first, address the concept of productivity, and explain what productive people do to accomplish tasks and stay motivated.

**GRADE 11:** Juniors will spend November learning about what college learning and the research process is like compared with what they currently experience as high school students.

**GRADE 12:** Seniors will be looking at their "to do lists" for fall winter and summer concerning postsecondary options. They will also be getting ready to complete postsecondary applications, learning about the FAFSA, and how to get the most from a college visit.

## Student Opinion

By: Julia Dostal

### Would you live on Mars?

**Isaac Olson** ~ No, because there is no electricity or food. There are no animals to hunt or people to talk to. There's no snow so I couldn't ride snowmobiles. There is no rain so I wouldn't be able to farm.

**Shaina Gust** ~ Probably not because I have a whole bunch of plans for when I'm older. It would be really cool though just to see every little thing that is on Mars. The only thing is if I went, then I couldn't do my barrel racing. If you think about it, could you barrel race on Mars if the horse had to get all covered up in a suit so it could breathe?

**Ashlyn Johnson** ~ No, I like it on Earth. Mars would be a whole different atmosphere. There wouldn't be much to do on Mars. Mars is hot and I don't like when it's hot.

**Charles Peterson** ~ Yes, I can get away from people and maybe even become king of Mars. I would also do it for research, like collecting rock samples. I would build a colony and figure out how to terraform Mars. I would be a farmer on Mars if I went.





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## Campus Comment

By: Noah Gust

### If you could be any creature in the world, what would it be?

**Deegan Hanson (7<sup>th</sup> grade):** I would be a fox because then I could be mentioned in a ton of fables. As a bonus, I would have a huge tail.

**Conor Rothenberger (8<sup>th</sup> grade):** I would be a bear because they are big and scary. I like bears because they hunt by themselves. They also eat meat and fish. They also can swim and climb trees.

**Breydon Foss (9<sup>th</sup> grade):** I would be a wolf because I would conquer the woods and I would be the alpha of the pack. I wouldn't be able to be stopped by anything.

**Greta Wojciechowski (10<sup>th</sup> grade):** I would be a cat because of the nine lives they have and just the way they are is cool. I would make being a cat fun.

**Ada Lee (11<sup>th</sup> grade):** If I could be any animal, I would want to be a dog. I would be either be a lab or golden retriever. The reason I chose a dog is because they live fun lives. They get to spend time with a loving family and spend time with the children and play with them. Also when the people are gone, I would get to sleep.

**Bryza Rud (12<sup>th</sup> grade):** If I could be any creature, I would be a duck. Ducks symbolize laughter and happiness, good luck, nurturing and bonding, etc. Plus, they can fly, walk, and swim. I would love to waddle around, swim in a pond, and fly around everywhere. It sounds relaxing.

**Mrs. K (Math Teacher):** I would like to be a cat. A cat likes to nap. A great cat napping spot is in the sun!

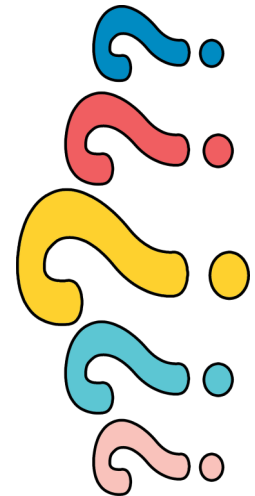


## Random Riddles

*Findmotivation.org*

By: Riley Connell

1. How did the crocodile get to the moon?
2. What is black, white, orange, and waddles?
3. I have a neck with no head, two arms with no hands. What am I?
4. Who is bigger: Mr. Bigger, Mrs. Bigger, or their baby?
5. What did the mama spider say to the teenage spider?
6. I have forests with no trees, cities with no houses, water with no waves. What am I?
7. What do you keep after you give it to someone?



I. C 2. B 3. A 4. B

**Trivia Answers**





# The Badger Barker



## A Day in the Life of a Deciduous Tree...

*Junior high students in Mrs. Dahlgren's English class imagined that they were a deciduous tree in the fall.  
These are some of their responses.*

*Hallie Glodowski (8<sup>th</sup> grade)*

It's that time of year again where it gets colder by the day, and there are leaves everywhere. I look up at my branches and instead of green, I see red, orange, yellow, and brown—the shades of fall. Sometimes when I get bored, I like to shake my branches and let the leaves fall onto little children as they walk by. The little toddlers' reactions are very funny since they always squeal. They sound like pigs when they do. Other times I just like to sit there since I can't really move around because, you know, I'm a tree. Soon my branches will be bare and when spring comes, I'll be a gorgeous tree again.

*Atina Hage (8<sup>th</sup> grade)*

I open my "eyes" to see the bright and colorful grass and leaves on the ground with a blue sky. No clouds are to be found. I look up at my bright orange and red leaves and wonder "when will they fall." As I'm looking at them, I notice the two little green leaves that are still dangling on my branches at the way top. I notice how they blow in the wind, and when the sun hits them just right, I can see the "veins" in them. I miss my green leaves during the winter. I don't like how they fall off in the fall and how people step on them and break my amazing leaves. I do like it though because I can sleep during the long winter and get lots of rest for when summer comes, and it's time for my new leaves to grow. I can't wait.

*Katelyn Gust (8<sup>th</sup> grade)*

It is morning and I hear the sound of birds chirping and animals trotting around the forest. I smell the crisp air of the changing season, and I can feel a squirrel climbing up my bark. As the day moves on, I can hear the sounds of leaves falling from the trees in an array of colors, and the wind blowing and making them tumble down. When it becomes night, I can hear crickets chirping like the birds did that morning, and I wait for it to dawn again.

*Keegan VonEnde (8<sup>th</sup> grade)*

5am: It's quiet, peaceful, and still dark out.

6am: The sun just started to rise, and it started heating up.

8am: I just felt a squirrel run around me like a jungle gym.

12am: There are people at the park flying kites and others just walking.

2pm: There are people having a picnic right under me and children swinging in my branches.

6pm: Things are starting to slow down, but there are still a lot of people out here. There's now a slight breeze.

10pm: It's dark now and there's only a few people left out here. It's getting cold.

11pm: Most people are asleep now and so is the squirrel. It's time for me to sleep.

*Aiyanah Bieber (7<sup>th</sup> grade)*

All I see are leaves falling in autumn. I can feel the autumn breeze through my falling leaves.

Being a tree, I watch people all day. In the summer, they sit in my shade. In the fall, they play with my leaves as they fall. In the winter I watch them play in the snow. In the spring, they carve their names in my trunk. In all of the seasons, they climb up me and sit, swing, and relax in my branches.

*Mackenzie VonEnde (7<sup>th</sup> grade)*

It's a cool fall day, and the sky is gray. The wind is blowing the orange leaves off me. The squirrels are climbing here and there; the leaves are blowing everywhere. One by one the leaves go bye, leaving me alone to die. The girl down there rakes up my leaves and puts them in that bag so deep. I only know what's coming next... they'll cut me down so I can rest. Before I go, I have to say, the cool fall days will stay in my veins.

*Deegan Hanson (7<sup>th</sup> grade)*

Fall is a wonderful time for the humans that roam the earth. For me, and the other deciduous trees, not so much. Towards the end of the summer, it's all sunshine and rainbows, but once it starts to feel a tad bit colder than usual, fall hits. The first week, we all lost a couple of leaves. The next week, we lost even more. And then suddenly it's an endless cycle of losing leaves until it's too late to see our last leaf falling. Blowing through the wind, I watch my last leaf get farther and farther from me, like your last child, going off to live on their own. Some might find that sad, some likely won't. But for trees, it means that we have nearly died. All through winter, trees die. The harsh conditions are nearly too much for us trees. Then, when spring hits, we start getting blossoms and realize that not all hope is lost. Soon after, all of our leaves are back.

*Ava Warne (7<sup>th</sup> grade)*

Oh, the cold bitter wind blows again. Everyone around me is changing. The small birds bid farewell to the squirrel families. One, two, three, four... all of my leaves are almost gone. Everyone else is changing too. Animals are settling in for the winter. It's my job to keep the squirrels warm and happy until spring comes along again. The days are getting shorter, nights longer. Longing for a sense of warm summer air, I wait. For now, I say hello to winter and fall as I settle in for a quiet, peaceful rest of the year.



# BUILDING READERS®



How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Badger Independent School District #676

## Students should use different strategies for reading nonfiction texts

Reading a novel and reading a science text require different skills. *Reading to learn* in a subject such as math, social studies or science requires a distinct approach. You can help your child by reinforcing these teacher-recommended strategies:

- **Before reading**, students should think about what they already know about the topic. They can jot down a few notes to get their minds going.
- **During reading**, students should highlight, underline or write down important information. Then, they should write down any questions they have about the reading.
- **After reading**, students should summarize what they have read. If they are confused about something, they can go back and reread that section. Then, students should try to connect what they're read to something they already know.



## Language skills improve reading

Studies show that when students have strong oral language skills, they read and write with greater ease. To strengthen your child's oral language skills:



- **Build vocabulary.**
- **Model correct grammar.**
- **Ask your child questions.**
- **Have conversations** together daily.

Source: M.J. Snowling and C. Hulme, "The critical importance of oral language," *The Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

## Ask questions about reading

When students talk about what they're reading, it boosts memory, critical thinking and comprehension. Ask your child these questions:

- **Why did you select** this book?
- **What is it about?**
- **Where does the story** take place?
- **Who is your favorite** character? Why?



## Challenge your child to recall details

Recalling key details is an important part of reading comprehension—understanding the reading's meaning. Play this game with your child to build recall skills:

1. **Collect magazine** or news articles on interesting topics. Let your child choose which one to read.
2. **Read the article together**, then take turns with your child recalling details from what you read.
3. **Give your child time to think** and restate the details. If needed, offer prompts by asking the five W questions: *who, what, when, where* and *why*. Players get one point for every detail recalled. The person with the most points wins!

## Venn diagrams help students make comparisons

Venn diagrams are graphic organizers that help students clarify similarities and differences they encounter while reading. Your child can:

1. **Draw** two overlapping circles.
2. **Write** the similarities between the objects your child is comparing (such as two characters) in the overlapping section.
3. **Write** the differences in the sections that do not overlap.





### Thanksgiving offers literacy opportunities

Holidays bring more than big meals and football games on TV. They also offer you and your child a great chance to work on literacy skills together. You can:

- **Work on writing.** In the U.S., the pilgrims observed the first Thanksgiving because they were thankful for their survival in a new land. Have family members write a list of things for which they are thankful. Post the list.
- **Read the poem** “Over the River and Through the Woods” by Lydia Maria Child with your child. It tells the story of a Thanksgiving long ago. Together, write a story or poem about your family’s holiday traditions.
- **Set aside extra time** for reading aloud. Consider delaying bedtime over the holiday to allow for a longer reading time.



### Teach your child new words naturally

You’re reading a book aloud and you come to a word your child doesn’t know. Should you stop, look up the word and give your child the definition? Experts say parents should try to explain the word naturally. For example:

- **Provide** a simple definition. “*Asphalt* is the black stuff used to make roads.”
- **Give** an example of how the word is used. “The driveway at our house is made of *asphalt*.”
- **Suggest** that your child use the word. “I bet you can make up a sentence that includes *asphalt*.”
- **Use the word repeatedly.** Over the next week and more, make a point of using the new word in conversation.



### Try biographical nonfiction

Many kids stick with fiction when choosing books at the library. But don’t overlook biographies and autobiographies.

They’re exciting because the stories are true. Explain that to your child. Then ask, “Who would you like to learn about?” Look for books about that person’s life.



### For lower elementary readers:

- ***Flight of the Honey Bee*** by Raymond Huber. Follow Scout, a honey bee, on her journey to find a flower full of nectar. This book includes many fascinating facts about honey bees.

- ***Are You Awake?*** by Sophie Blackall. Edward isn’t ready to sleep. He’s curious about a lot of things! Despite his mom’s answers, the questions keep coming.



### For upper elementary readers:

- ***The New Kid*** by Mavis Jukes. Carson is moving from a small school where he knows everyone to a new town and a new school. Join him for all of the adventures he has in store.
- ***Happy Happy Clover*** by Sayuri Tatsuyama. This story about a bunny’s adventures is told in comic-book style, which may appeal to reluctant readers.



**Q:** I gave my child a journal, but he doesn’t want to use it. How can I encourage him to write in it?

**A:** Journals are great for building writing skills, but some kids don’t like to write about their daily activities and feelings. They may respond, however, to interesting “prompts.”

Suggest that your child start entries with fun things like: “If I could design a school, I would ...” or “If I could have one superpower, it would be ...” or “If I could travel to space, I would ...”

### Building Readers®

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## Postal Customer

### Kindergarten Korner

By: Julia Dostal

#### Bennett Didrikson

**What is your favorite season?**

Winter, because my dad makes a big pile for me to sled down on with my big orange sled.

**What is your favorite animal?** A horse, because they go fast like me and I can ride them.

**Are you enjoying kindergarten?** Yes, I like playing and learning all day.

**What do you want to be when you**

**grow up?** A firefighter, because they go into the smoke to save people and put the fires out.

**What kind of games do you like to play?** I like puzzles, hide and seek, and superheroes. These are my favorites.

**If you could be outside all day what would you do?** I would play on the rock wall, slide, and the swings.

**What is your favorite holiday?** Halloween, because I get candy. This year I'm going to be a T-Rex.



#### Breydan Fichter

**What is your favorite season?** Summer, because it's really hot and I like swimming in lakes and pools.

**What is your favorite animal?** Dinosaurs, because I like to put them on my shelf. The T-Rex is my favorite.

**Are you enjoying kindergarten?** Yes, I really like recess, playtime, and sometimes nap time.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** Pilot and policeman,

because every time I see a plane or police car I want to be in it.

**What kind of games do you like to play?** I like to play tag and Avengers games (Iron man, Hulk, Captain America).

**If you could be outside all day what would you do?** I would play with my friends and run around.

**What is your favorite holiday?** Christmas, because I get presents. I help my mom decorate the tree.

