

For more information on becoming a **Reader of the Round Table**, contact Treehouse Children's Museum at 801-394-966 or visit www.treehousemuseum.org

This **Readers of the Round Table** booklet and program is made possible by a generous *Museums for America Grant* from



Elizabeth Stewart
Treehouse Museum
347 22nd Street
Ogden, Ut 84401
treehousemuseum.org

ACTIVITIES TO Keep Kids Reading "Knight and Day"

Pick up book lists from the library or visit the Treehouse website for a suggested list of books about the "Days of the Knights."

Create a family coat of arms. Talk to your kids about heraldry, what symbols represent your family and what your family motto might be.

Build a Castle. Older children especially might like to create a cardboard castle with all the requisite pieces: a moat, a drawbridge, turrets, inner curtain, outer curtain, bailey, and more. A good reference book is David Macaulay's *Castle*. Younger children might enjoy making a pop-up paper castle. There is a great pattern at robertsabuda.com.

Make a knight. Children can create the pieces of armor from cardboard or foam, or color paper patterns that can be assembled with brads to create a knight. Again older children might want to research the name of each piece used for protection in battle. (There is great idea for making foam armor at <http://entropyhouse.com/penwiper/costumes/helmsdeep.html>).

Help your children make craft foam or paper hats and crowns to represent these people: kings, queens, knights, ladies, jesters, or make puppets, large or small.

Print out knight word searches, mazes, and dot-to-dot puzzles. Find some at www.printactivities.com. Have family a game to see who can clock the fastest time in "riding through" a maze with a pencil.

Make a medieval book. The Victoria and Albert Museum in England has a great pattern for making an authentic-looking book at www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/1220_gothic/pdf/make_a_medieval_book.pdf.

Treehouse Recommended Book Lists

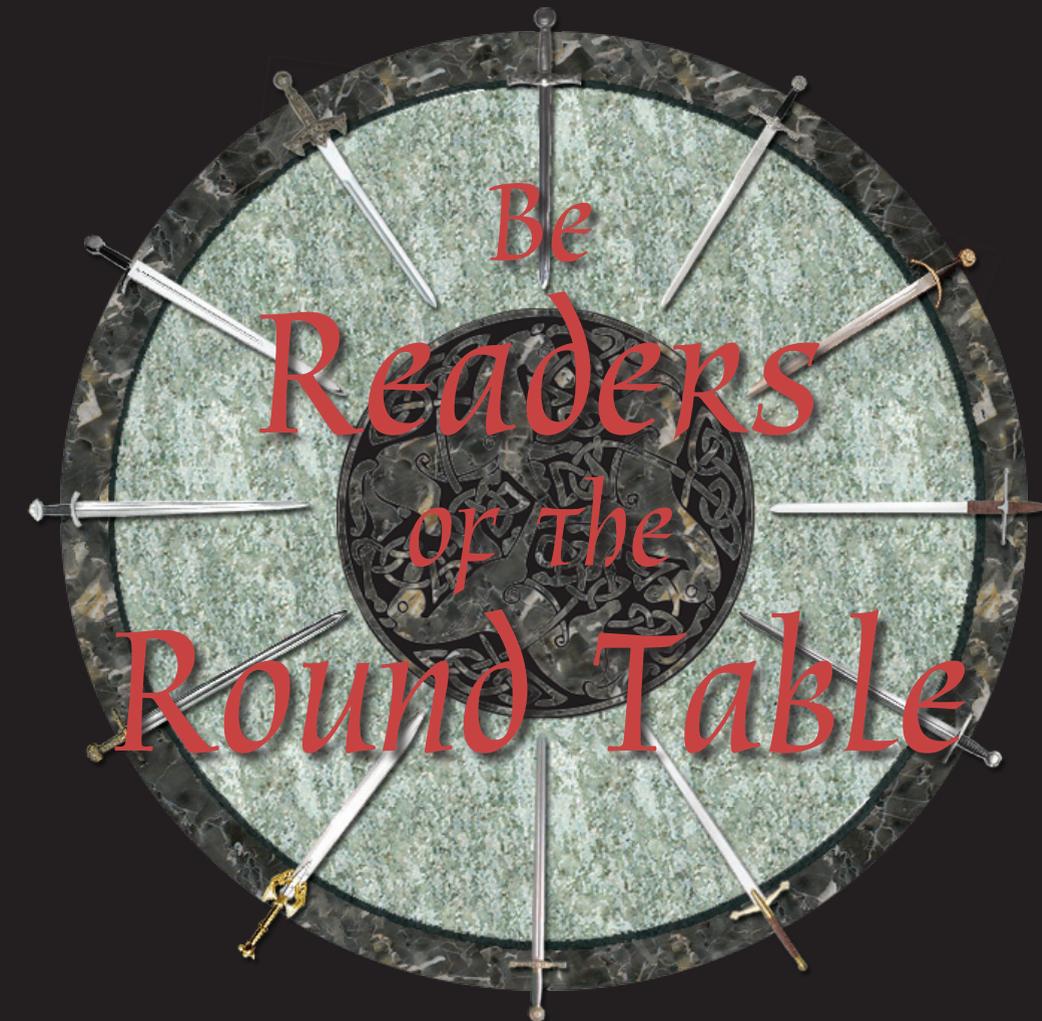
All-time favorites guaranteed to help you "Step into a Story."™

Picture Books

1. *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
2. *The Empty Pot* by Demi
3. *Two of Everything* by Lily Toy Hong
4. *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens
5. *The Storytelling Princess* by Rafe Martin
6. *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig
7. *King Bidgood's in the Bathtub* by Audrey Wood
8. *Black and White* by David Macaulay
9. *Frog and Toad Together* by Arnold Lobel
10. *The Castle Builder* by Dennis Nolan
11. *Frederick* by Leo Lionni
12. *Edward the Emu* by Sheena Knowles

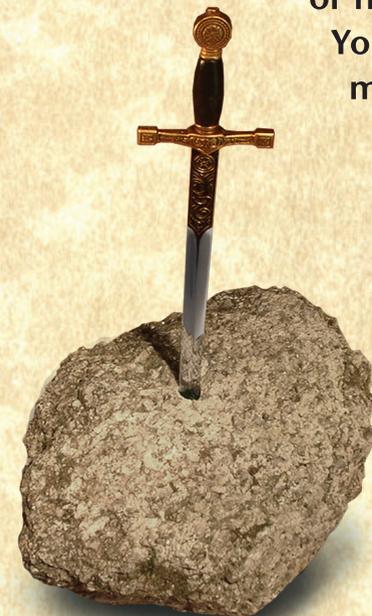
Chapter Books

1. *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie
2. *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
3. *Holes* by Luis Sachar
4. *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maude Montgomery
5. *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
6. *Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale
7. *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
8. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare
9. *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table* by Sir Thomas Malory
10. *The Wizard of OZ* by L. Frank Baum
11. *Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl
12. *Kon-Tiki* by Thor Heyerdahl



Set Off on a Reading Quest

The amazing thing about reading is that, through the magic of a book, you can go anywhere in any time and be anyone. You can walk through the trees of Sherwood Forest or attend Hogwarts or go to school with Anne Shirley or hit a home run in the World Series. You can do it all, and much, much more – if you can read.



In the days of King Arthur and Camelot, knights would go on “quests,” riding through the countryside to find a grail or rescue a fair maiden or slay a dragon. We want to send your family on a modern day quest that’s just as marvelous – a quest to become **Readers of the Round Table**.

Rules of the Quest

The rules of your quest are simple. Your family must do three things:

- 1. Pledge to read aloud for 20 minutes together every day this summer.** *Think some of your children are too old or too young? Not so. No one is ever too old or too young to hear the words of good book read aloud. Try reading a chapter book together, one chapter per day. Or read really classic children’s book that truly aren’t just for children.*
- 2. Pledge to hold a family “Books Only” night each week during the summer.** *Just one night every week with no television, no computer, no video games, no cell phones, just a good book either read together or alone for two hours. What could be better on a summer evening?*
- 3. Keep a record of your reading quest.** *Just make list of all the books and days you read this summer and bring it to Treehouse Museum by Labor Day 2010 and you’ll be rewarded with passes to the Museum for your whole family or a prize for each child from a treasure chest. The best reward, of course, is that your family will have had great reading adventures all summer.*

Support for the Reading Quest

Suggestions for parents:

Make reading to your child a fun experience for everyone in the family. Set aside time each day when you will be unrushed and relaxed. Take turns reading or read out loud together. Let reading time be stress-free and enjoyable. Keep reading aloud even when your child is older and can read independently.

Write letters and notes to your child all summer long and encourage them to respond or become summer pen pals with a relative or someone in your neighborhood. Encourage your child to write and address their own letters, thank you notes, invitations and cards.

Visit the library often with your child. Help your child apply for his own library card and choose his own books. Help your child learn how the library is an extremely valuable resource.

Be a reader yourself. Reading in the presence of your child will help her understand that reading is a fun experience at any age. On your trips to the library or book store, take time to choose a book for yourself, so the trips become a family activity — not just something that a child does.

Have a family bulletin board where you can post messages to each other. Leave a fun quote, joke or comic strip – a new one each day – so your child will be enticed to stop and read. Encourage your child to find his own quotes or jokes and make his own posts.

Talk to your child. Ask your child to tell you about her day, her favorite television program, or her favorite music. Share with your child experiences about your day or interesting facts about a book you are reading.

Make reading fun by allowing your child to read books that interest him. Craft books, cookbooks, comic books, and magazine articles are all good reading material for your child. Letting your child choose his own storybooks and novels allows him to learn to enjoy reading.

Give books as gifts. Ask your child’s teacher for advice before you shop, so you will know which books are in her skill level or have topics that will reinforce what she is learning in school.

If your child doesn’t seem to take an interest in reading, don’t worry or try to force it. Leave books that will interest him around the house or casually suggest he join you on your trips to the library or book store.

Start a Family Library. There are inexpensive ways to get books. Take advantage of thrift stores, yard sales, book fairs and Scholastic book orders to help you expand your collection.

Support reading efforts in the schools and the community. Resources like Treehouse Children’s Museum can help make stories and reading fun and help get your child interested in reading.

Be supportive and encouraging. Helping your child and giving her praise for her good work and efforts will motivate her to keep it up and try harder.