

5 Things to Do After Reading

Quick, screen-free activities to extend any picture book.

1**Act It Out**

Pick three characters. Assign one to your child, one to yourself, one to the cat (the cat plays the villain). Re-do the climax. Kids who act out a story remember the plot for years.

2**Build a One-Shoebox Diorama**

Cardboard, crayons, ten minutes. Do not fix the proportions. The misshapen tree your child draws is the part they will point to when they retell the story next month.

3**Story-End Remix**

Ask: What if the ending was different? Write down their version, exactly as they say it. This is how five-year-olds start writing stories, by editing yours.

4**Letter to the Character**

Address an envelope. Have them dictate. Mail it nowhere, keep it in the book. They will find it next read and remember everything.

5**Cheat with a Project Box**

When you are tapped out, a themed activity box (animals, weather, geography) ties cleanly to common picture book themes. We use one monthly, works as a treat for finishing a chapter book.

