

WORD PLAY

THE ISJL'S LITERACY
NEWSLETTER



FALL
2020

As the beginning of the new school year approaches, we are all preparing for a semester unlike anything we've seen before. Whether your student is learning from home, a classroom, a digital space, or a little bit of everything, we are here to help support their literacy journey. We're all writing a new chapter in our collective history; let's give our young authors the tools they need to tell their stories.

[Rachel Glazer](#)

Community Engagement Program Manager

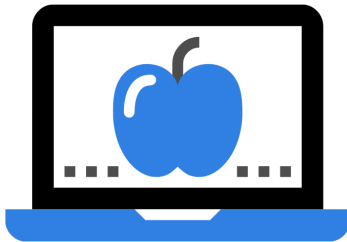


Back-to-School Word Play

Why did the teacher wear sunglasses to class?

Answer: Because the students were so bright!

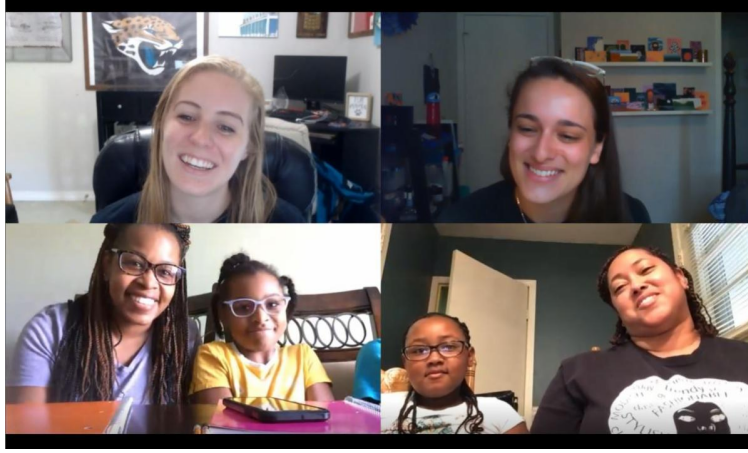
An Up-Close Look at Distance Learning



We have all learned a lot since our first foray with distance learning last semester. Here are some [tips](#) that can make you and your student feel better prepared and more successful this year.

- **Don't try to recreate school.** The current moment is so vastly different from what any of us are used to; use that to your advantage! This can be the year that your child builds confidence in their work, focuses on skill-building over content mastery, and becomes a more independent and creative learner.
 - **Set a routine that works for your family.** Maintain a regular schedule from waking up, eating a healthy breakfast, and getting your child's workspace ready for each day of learning.
 - **Remember PDF: Playtime, Downtime, and Family time.** Healthy child development is about more than their grades; it is also about their mental health, creative problem-solving, ability to explore new interests, and connection with loved ones. Use this time to incorporate more [PDF](#) into your family's routine.
 - **Set your own office hours.** Establish a time each day when you can fully focus on helping your student with their independent work. This will give them the space to problem solve questions they may have before turning to you, and it will (in theory) prevent hundreds of micro-interruptions to your day.
 - **Connect with other families.** Fellow parents can be some of the best resources for trouble-shooting challenging moments in distance learning. Brainstorm with other parents and work together to make this year of learning especially meaningful.
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Our Reading Family Virtual



A couple of Mississippi families got a jump start on distance learning this summer by tuning in for four Saturdays of reading, learning, playing, and growing together with Our Reading Family Virtual! Although we miss seeing everyone's faces in person, shifting to virtual platform meant that we could continue to provide family literacy activities, story time, online learning resources, journaling, parent resource workshops, and so many smiles!

If you're interested in participating in our next cohort of Our Reading Family Virtual, email Rachel at engagement@isjl.org to join the wait list!

Our Reading Family Participant Spotlight

What is your name? Morgan

What grade are you in? 3rd grade

What is your favorite book? National Geographic

What is your favorite part about reading it? It talks about real life and it's not fake.

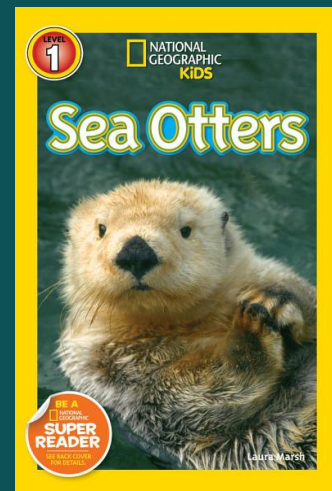
What is something interesting you learned from it? How animals live and eat food

What is your favorite form of literacy? Writing

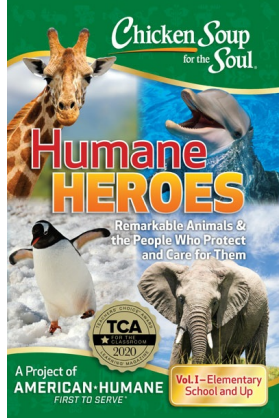
What do you like to write about? Stuff that's happening in the world

What do you want to be when you grow up? Dance teacher

How would you use literacy in that job? Talking



Staff Picks



Humane Heroes and Their Stories

This three-book series produced by *Chicken Soup for the Soul* and American Humane provides engaging and educational stories that bring learning to life. Click the link to download the eBooks for free.

Rianna says: "These stories transport kids to leading zoological institutions from the comfort of their own home through stories of animal rescue, rehabilitation, and conservation."

Girls Who Code: At Home Activities

Girls Who Code releases activities weekly on Mondays — some online, some offline, of varying levels of difficulty. Each activity features a woman in tech who pioneered innovative technology.

Rachel says: "This awesome organization empowers girls from 3rd-12th grade to learn about computer science in really fun ways. They have great resources from starting coding clubs to building your own activist toolkit."

More resources on the ISJL's Literacy Community Facebook Group

For more information contact us at 601.362.6357 or engagement@isjl.org.

LAB and Our Reading Family are programs of the ISJL.

THIS IS ISJL: www.isjl.org

Call Us: [601-362-6357](tel:601-362-6357)

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