

# Help Wanted: Must Love Books

## The 2021 CLEL Bell Award Book for READ

by Janet Sumner Johnson, illustrated by Courtney Dawson  
ISBN-13: 978-1684460755  
Capstone Editions, 2020



Shailey loves bedtime stories. When her dad gets too busy with work to read to her every night, she fires him and attempts to hire a new reader. She interviews familiar fairy tale characters until she finds just the right person for the job. Reading with adults who give their undivided attention can build a lifelong love of books.

### Activity Ideas for *Help Wanted: Must Love Books*

- Each storybook character has a resume in the back of the book. Read them and try to guess which character each belongs to. After children guess, ask them, "How did you know?" Matching is valuable as children recognize patterns and connections in their environment and words, and will help when children learn to read.
- Shailey's dad spends too much time on his phone for her liking. Be a reading role model! The next time you feel the urge to check your email, pick up a book and let your child "catch" you reading. When they see you taking pleasure in reading, they'll want to read, too, just like their favorite person (you!).
- Shailey is looking for just the right person to read to her. Job descriptions are full of new words to learn! Ask your child what qualities they think makes a good storyteller, teacher or friend. Make a list of these qualifications together. Older children can write their own job descriptions. The more vocabulary words your child hears, the easier it will be to learn to read.

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**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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