Inside This Book: (are three books)
The 2016 CLEL Bell Award Book for WRITE

by Barney Saltzberg
Abrams Appleseed, 2015

Three siblings create their own books from blank pages their mother stapled together. When the books are complete, they put them all together. Reading skills develop together with writing skills, and this story encourages children at all levels to explore reading, writing, drawing, rhyming, and storytelling.

Activity Ideas for Inside This Book: (are three books):

• One way to practice writing a story is by telling a story! Oral storytelling builds dialogue, engagement, and problem solving. Prompt the children by saying, "once upon a time..." Asking open-ended questions will help the children make predictions ("What do you think will happen if..."), and practice problem solving ("How could they work this out?"). Write the story down as the children are telling it to model the connection between spoken words and print. Then, read it back to the children when it is done.

• Children need to be able to recognize words on the page before they can read them. Point to the words in the title of the book and talk about the cover. Explain that the title is the name of the book and that the title helps readers learn what the story is going to be about. Read the names of the author and illustrator and explain that they are the people who write and draw the pictures in the story. Talking about the cover, title and author of the book teaches children how a book is created, which can help motivate children become writers and readers themselves.

• In the book, Fiona loves to rhyme and write poetry. Visit the library and check out books of nursery rhymes and/or poetry for young children. Choose a poem or rhyme the children enjoy. Ask the children to switch out some of the words by suggesting new ones. Does the poem still rhyme? Pointing out words that rhyme and ones that do not helps children learn how distinguish between the different sounds in words. Rhyming helps children hear the smaller sounds in words, a necessary skill for sounding out words as children learn to read.

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.ciel.org and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en_US.