

# Open This Little Book

## The 2014 CLEL Bell Award Book for READ

by Jesse Klausmeier, illustrated by Suzy Lee  
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Readers open the cover to discover five characters, each with their own little book, all within the pages of the first. *Open This Little Book* celebrates the pleasures of reading, sharing stories, and having a book of your own.

### Activity Ideas for *Open This Little Book*:

- Let the children fold colored construction paper in half to make their own little books. Inside, they can scribble, draw pictures, write their names, or glue pictures. Ask them to name their books and write the title and their names on the front cover. (For example, "My Red Book, by Anya.") When children make personal connections to reading and writing, they can be more motivated to learn to read themselves.
- Look for books in your library, home, or classroom that have purple, red, green, orange, yellow, or blue covers. Which character from the story would like each book? Noticing when colors are the same or different helps to build the skill children will use to tell the difference between the letter shapes of the alphabet.
- The only parts of the giant we see in her little book are her fingers and thumbs! Her hands are too big to turn the pages. Ask the children what they can do with their hands, fingers, and thumbs. Invite them to use their fingers to sing "Where Is Thumbkin?" or "The Itsy Bitsy Spider." Fingerplays give children practice moving their fingers independently and confidently and will make it easier for them to hold and manipulate crayons and pencils.
- The "little books" in this book are actually different sizes. Gather a variety of toys, puppets, dolls, or objects, and help the children put them in order by size. Which ones are bigger? Which ones are smaller? Talk about the words we use to describe size, such as *big*, *small*, *enormous*, *tiny*, *medium*, *huge*, *petite*. Children have an easier time sounding out words they already know and use, so the bigger their vocabularies, the easier it is for them to read and understand what they're reading.

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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 click on the Bell Awards tab.



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