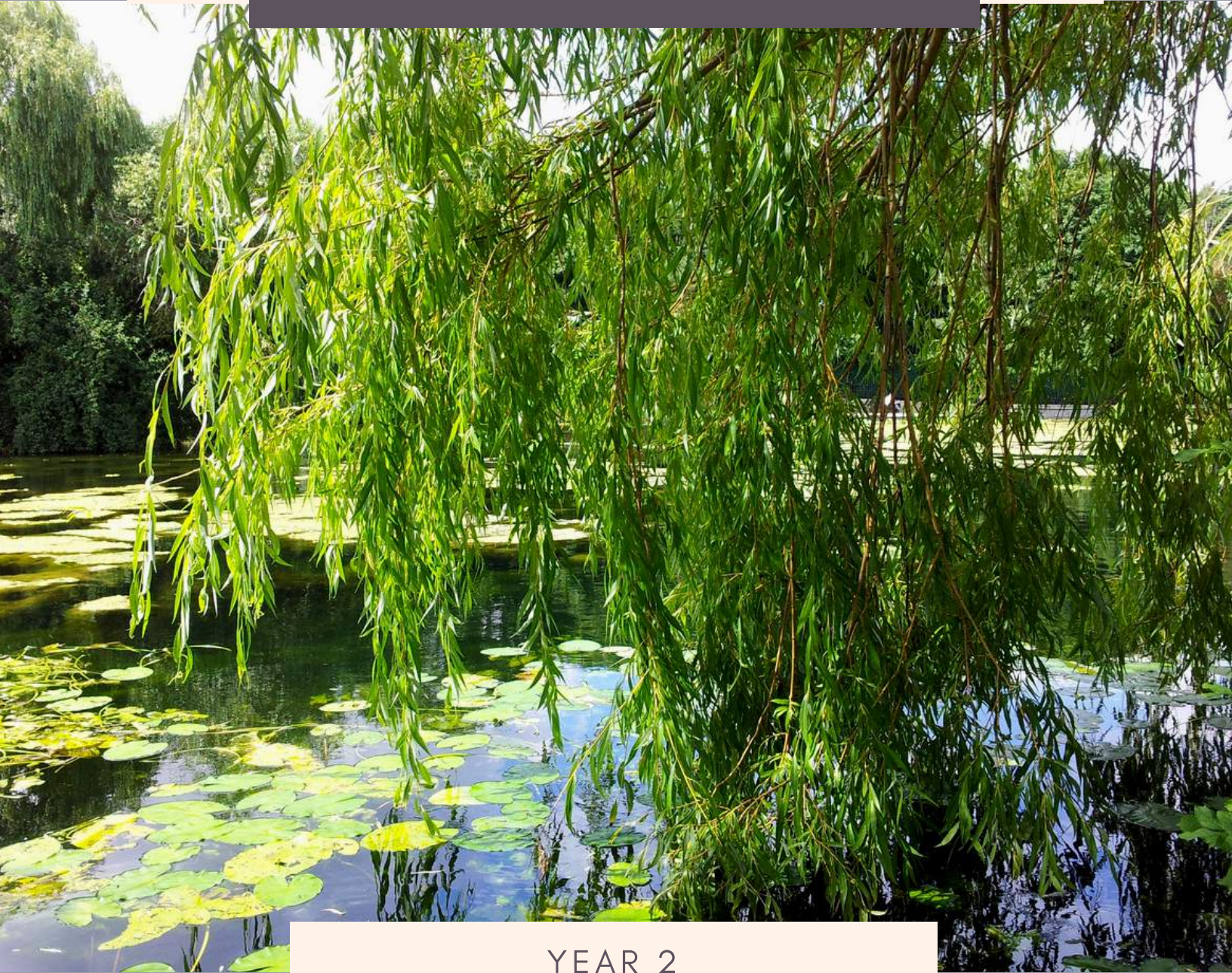


BLOSSOM & ROOT

INTEGRATED LANGUAGE ARTS // YEAR 2

Fantastic Journeys & Perilous Quests

PARENT GUIDE



YEAR 2

Integrating Creativity, Geography, Reading, and Writing with Tall Tales, Trickster Tales, and Stories of Adventure



www.blossomandroot.com

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Editing by Jason Garner

Blossom & Root

Integrated Language Arts,
Year 2:

Fantastic Journeys & Perilous Quests

A Complete, Hands-On Language Arts Curriculum

Grade 2

Blossom & Root Integrated Language Arts Year 2: Fantastic Journeys & Perilous Quests

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Welcome to a Year of Adventures

Exploring Rich and Varied Characters, and the Adventures They Share

Welcome to a magical year full of adventure! This year, you and your child will meet a cowardly lion, an eccentric and wealthy toad, a courageous mouse, tricksters, hobbits, and larger-than-life folk characters. You'll snuggle together over amusing tall tales, trickster stories from all over the world, and some of the best literary adventures ever written for children. You will retell the stories together through puppet shows, art projects, peg dolls, storytelling props, and dramatic play. You'll discuss themes of courage, cleverness, and kindness. You'll explore the geography of the far corners of the globe, as well as your own backyard. And your child will begin to develop reading confidence through hands-on word play, beautiful adventure-themed poetry, and daily reading practice. Take your time, savor the wonder, and make it yours! This curriculum is here to support and inspire you in your elementary journey with your child. If you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out--I am always happy to help!

- Kristina Garner
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What Does a Week Look Like?

Every homeschooling family is different, but here is what a typical week of *Fantastic Journeys & Perilous Quests* could look like for a **5 Day Per Week** schedule:

- **Every day:** Split up the week's assigned literature selection to read aloud to your child each day. Some weeks require more read-aloud time and some require less. Most weeks require 1 to 2 hours per week, which can be broken into 12 to 24 minutes of read-aloud time per day (for a 5-day week.) This can be done at any time, and many families do this reading at bedtime or during snack. You may also choose to listen to an audio book version of the selection together as a family. Almost all of the selections are available on Audible.
- **Everyday:** Have your child read from a level-appropriate reader or book for 10 - 20 minutes.
- **Monday:** Complete literature project / Word play (10 min.)
- **Tuesday:** Complete geography project (optional) / Word play (10 min.)
- **Wednesday:** Journal prompt (optional) / Read word list and complete adventure poem
- **Thursday:** Narration / Begin copywork
- **Friday:** Finish copywork / work on Creative Extension project (optional)

Contents

Weeks

- 1 – 6 *American Tall Tales: Paul Bunyan, John Henry, Pecos Bill, Thunder Rose* by Jerdine Noel, Davy Crockett, Johnny Appleseed
- 7 *Fortunately, the Milk* by Neil Gaiman
- 8 – 12 *Trickster Tales: Forty Folk Stories from Around the World* by Josepha Sherman
- 13 – 18 *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
- 19 – 23 *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (modern editions typically titled *The Wizard of Oz*) by L. Frank Baum
- 24 – 29 *The Hobbit, or There and Back Again* by J. R. R. Tolkien
- 30 – 32 *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
- 33 – 36 *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin

What is the Storytelling Basket?

Throughout the year, you and your child will often use a storytelling basket to act out various scenes from the stories, as a creative form of narration. This can be any container (not necessarily a basket) filled with scarves or fabric pieces in various natural tones (browns, greens, blues, whites, etc.) It may also include natural objects like rocks, pinecones, branches, etc. that can be used to "set the stage" for each story. You may even wish to include a few wooden blocks to stand in for houses and castles. The idea is for your child to set up a small scene from a story using the props when retelling through dramatic play with peg dolls, modeled figures, etc.

Optional Variations on a Storytelling Basket:

- LEGO: create characters and scenes with Legos instead of peg dolls, scarves, etc.
- Play "YouTuber": your child can give a "YouTuber" style narration, which you film with a camera or phone. Save their narrations on a flash drive for your homeschool portfolio.
- Comic / Graphic Novel: for the especially artistic child that prefers drawing to talking, provide materials for them to create an on-going comic book or graphic novel where they record their own versions of the stories you read.
- Any other form of storytelling that speaks to your child! Anything goes! If your child balks at either the suggested literature projects / storytelling basket or the illustrated oral narrations in our guide, find something that they enjoy more to take their place. Remember, the curriculum exists to provide a framework and inspiration for you. Listen to your child's cues, make it their journey, and take creative liberties whenever and wherever you like.

Optional Books for Independent Reading

Early Reader Level (Phonetic-Based Readers to Beginning Readers)

- Bob Books series by Bobby Lynn Maslen and John R. Maslen
- *The Fire Cat* by Esther Averill
- *Sammy the Seal* by Syd Hoff
- *Danny and the Dinosaur* by Syd Hoff
- *Harry and the Lady Next Door* by Gene Zion
- *Owl at Home* by Arnold Lobel
- *Grasshopper on the Road* by Arnold Lobel
- The Frog and Toad books by Arnold Lobel
- *Mouse Soup* and *Mouse Tales* by Arnold Lobel
- *Small Pig* by Arnold Lobel
- The Little Bear books by Elsa Holmelund Minarik
- The Francis books by Russell Hoban
- The Henry and Mudge series by Cynthia Rylant
- *Go, Dog, Go* by Dr. Seuss
- *Hop on Pop* by Dr. Seuss
- *The Primer* by Harriette Taylor Treadwell and Margaret Free
- The Penny books by Kevin Henkes
- Shelley Davidow's Early Reader series
- Shelley Davidow's "Secret" Reader series: *The Secret Pet*, *The Secret Wish*, *The Secret Door*
- The readers from All About Reading level 1, level 2 (these can be purchased individually on their web page under "Individual Products" within each level. Though expensive, they are very good!)
- Elephant and Piggy books by Mo Willems

"Developing Confidence" Reader Level

- The Billy and Blaze series by C.W. Anderson (great for horse lovers!)
- Paul Galdone's folk tale books
- Nate the Great series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
- Mercy Watson series by Kate DiCamillo
- Magic Treehouse Series by Mary Pope Osborne (at least the first dozen)

Very advanced readers may enjoy reading some of our read-aloud selections, in addition to library books of their choosing.

Remember that every child develops at their own unique pace. The most important thing is to nourish and encourage a joy for reading, so please do not let external or internal pressure cause reading and reading practice to become a chore or a source of stress for you or your child. Second grade is still very early in the journey!

Week No. 3: Pecos Bill

Literature Selections to Read To Your Child This Week:

The Story of Pecos Bill (any version)

Literature Project: Exploring the Story

Moving Picture: Help your child to make a moving picture of a scene from the story of Pecos Bill, using the guide on the next page. This project can be done over several short sessions throughout the week.

Creative Extensions (optional):

Continue the Photo Tales Project in the Creative Extensions Guide.

Geography (optional): Map the Story

Locate Death Valley (which Pecos Bill was said to have created) on a map of the United States. Learn a little bit about it, using the internet or library.

In the Student Notebook: Literature & Writing

Journal Prompt (optional): "Raised by Animals"
Read the full prompt to your child, and talk about it together. Let your child draw or color their response, then transcribe their words below it, or have them write their own response.

Narration: The Story of Pecos Bill
Allow your child to draw or color their favorite part from the story, or glue a photograph of your completed moving picture to the page. Either transcribe their oral narration below it or have them write their own narration, depending on their writing level.

Copywork Selection: Read the prompt at the top of the page out loud to your child. Your child will then copy the passage, using their very best printing. This may be broken into multiple sessions if needed.

Word Play (2 - 3 Sessions): Hard and Soft C

With the letter manipulatives of your choosing (letter tiles, magnets, blocks, etc.), you will explore words with hard c (/k/) and soft c (/s/.)

- When "c" is followed by "e", "i", or "y" it says /s/ as in "face" and "ice."

- When "c" is followed by "a", "o", "u", "l", or "r" it says /k/ as in "cat" and "clam."

1. Begin by reading the section at the top of the word list out loud to your child.
2. Build the words from the word list together, taking time to let your child figure each word out on their own. Assist gently if needed. This may be broken into several short sessions during the week.
3. Once they have a grasp of this week's concepts, have them read the word list (see below) in a new session. Mark any words they struggle with and begin next week by reviewing those words / concepts.

In the Student Notebook: Reading

Word Lists: Once you've given your child a chance to play with this week's words with tiles, blocks, or magnets, have them read the word lists for this week.

Adventure Poem: Help your child to read the incomplete poem, and have them read the words in the word box to you. Next, have your child complete the poem using the words in the box to fill in the blanks, gluing the words in place. Optional: Have your child read the completed poem to you.

Additional Reading: 10-20 minutes / day reading from an early reader or book at their level.

Week No. 3: Moving Picture Project

Literature Project

Prompt (read out loud):

This week, you will make a moving picture of a scene from Pecos Bill. You may choose any scene you like. There is an example below for you to use as reference.

1. Prepare the background. Using watercolor or gouache paint on heavy watercolor paper, paint the backdrop of the scene you'd like to create. (In the example, we are going to make the scene where Pecos Bill rides a tornado.)
2. Create your moving figure(s.) Using another sheet of watercolor paper, sketch your figure(s) lightly in pencil, then using watercolor or gouache paint to color them in. Once they dry, carefully cut them out and glue a popsicle stick to the back(s) of the figure(s.)
3. Have a parent help cut a slit in the paper where your figure will move. If you want the figure to travel further up or down, make the slit longer.
4. Carefully slide your figure into place. Now you can move your figure by holding the popsicle stick behind the page and moving it around.

