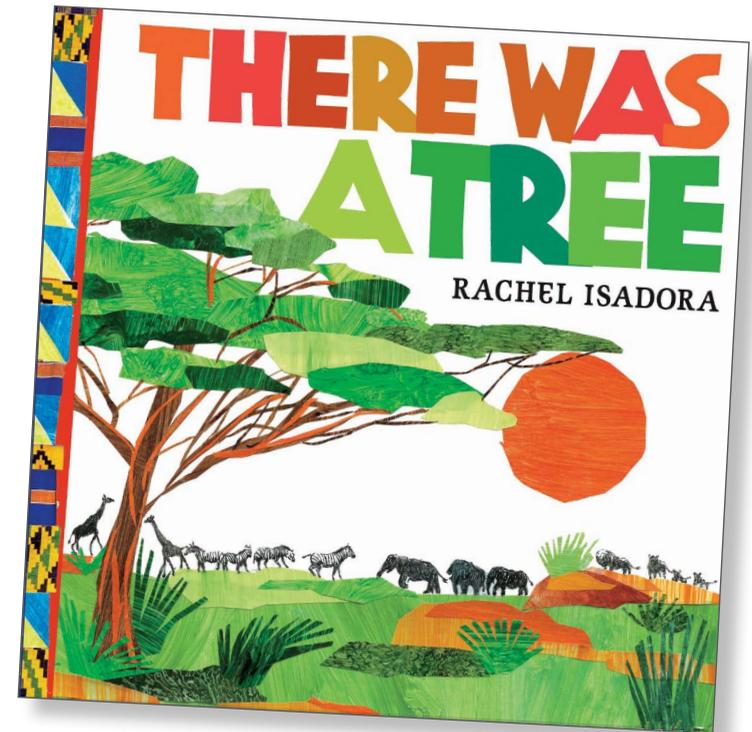


So much to read! Building Genre Awareness

Most of us love a good story. Stories are just one kind of book that children might encounter, though. Even very young children can tell the difference between a story and other kinds of writing if they've had the chance to see other things such as lists, letters, recipes and informational books. It's important that children are exposed to many different types of texts (genres) so they realize that we use those texts in different ways. For example, we read stories from beginning to end. We read informational books out of order sometimes. Poetry books might be used to read just one poem in the whole book. Recipes are completely different! By letting children in on the different genres of text, they become more skillful at understanding how to use that text. Here are some ideas for you to try:

- **When you're building** up your child's library at home, or going to the library to select books, make sure you include all different kinds of books. Try wordless books, concept books like books about shapes or colors, stories, poetry or song books, "all about" books, alphabet and counting books.
- **Try reading a fact book** about your child's favorite thing and a story about that topic as well. Talk about how the books are the same or different.
- **Write a grocery list** with your child. Talk about how a list is a row of words with one under the other, rather than in a line across the page like a story.
- **Write a letter** to someone (Santa, Grandma, a friend, even you!) and mail it. (Email can work, too!) Talk about how letters look different from stories or lists. You might even use fancy notecards or paper.



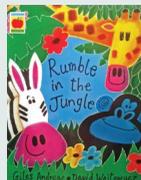
Raising Readers' 3-year selection for 2014

**raising
readers**

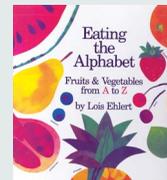
Your child might also enjoy...



The Lion and the Mouse
by Jerry Pinkney



Rumble in the Jungle
by Giles Andreae



Eating the Alphabet
by Lois Ehlert



Forest Eye
Wonder Series
by DK Publishing