

My Journey Home

Family Connection

This week your child is reading the story *A Fine, Fine School*, in which an overly enthusiastic principal keeps his fine school open seven days a week, 365 days of the year!

DAY
1

The Time of Your Life With your child, create a time capsule at the beginning of the school year. Fill a shoebox with things that represent your child's life at this point in time: an ad or ticket stub for a popular movie, recent photos, school schedules, sports headlines, favorite candy wrappers. Tape the box shut and promise not to open it until the last day of school.

CHALLENGE

Together, brainstorm goals that you and your child want to accomplish this year, and include these in the time capsule. Be realistic but also try to stretch yourselves a little.

DAY
2

Vocabulary on the Go Kids love hearing stories from when you were their age. Tell your child stories about your own school experiences (especially comical ones!). If you happen to have any yearbooks or photos from your school years, share those, too. Write the words below on paper, and try to use some of them together as you share stories.

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DAY
3

Get a Toon-Up The illustrator of *A Fine, Fine School* is also a cartoonist. Find some of your child's favorite cartoons on TV, in the newspaper, or in comic books. Compare some funny illustrations in books to the cartoons. What is the same about them? How are they different? Talk about how the art adds humor and meaning to the stories and cartoons you and your child like best.

Laugh Lines Take turns reading these school riddles to each other.

Laugh It Up

What subject do snakes study in school?

(They study hissss-tory.)

Why did the teacher come to class with sunglasses on?

(His students were very bright.)

What did the pen say to the pencil?

(“So, what’s your point?”)

Why is Alabama the smartest state in the United States?

(It has four *A*’s and one *B*.)

What did one math book say to the other math book?

(“Boy, I have a lot of problems.”)

What’s the difference between a teacher and a train?

(The teacher says, “Take that gum out of your mouth,” and the train says, “Chew, chew!”)



Cool Schools Together, make a list of books and TV programs that are set in schools. Talk about why the setting is important and how those books and shows would be different if they were set somewhere else.



Book Links

- *The Teacher from the Black Lagoon*, series by Mike Thaler
- *Frindle*, by Andrew Clements **CHALLENGE**



Internet Challenge

Together, explore your school’s website or the website of another school. Figure out how to find information such as the student handbook, lunch menu, or the history of the school.