



Clover Corner Reading Challenge

Connecting to our community through literature.

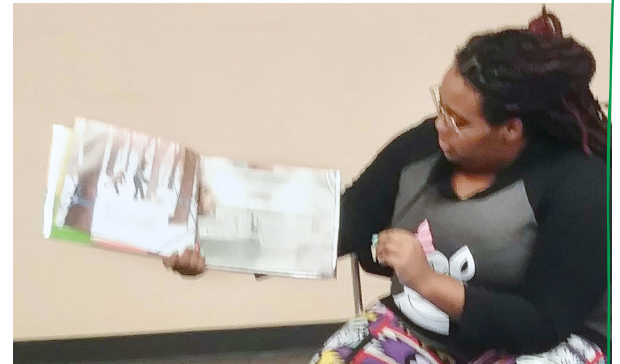


Many school teachers started reading books to their students to stay connected and spread positivity. We think it is time Maryland 4-H did the same for our 4-Hers. So we invite you, your family, and your 4-H program to take the challenge.

This will benefit you! The challenge:

- Adds a much needed break to the teleworking day.
- It is Fun! It really is, you must try it!
- Impacts our mental health, it's a total de-stressor.
- Gives you a chance to be creative.
- Can incorporate the whole family.
- Allows you to connect with our community in a new venue.
- It is a great way to start getting comfortable with recording yourself in a low pressure setting.

- This could spark more ideas for how you can use video in your educational practices or connecting with your community.
- Teachers from across the country can now use our stories within their classroom routine.
- Connection is what children need now more than ever! Clover Corner can allow children at home to feel more connected to you and our 4-H program because we are doing this for THEM.



HOW IT WORKS.

Simply record yourself the best you can. We are not looking for a professional "Steven Spielberg" production. Use your cell phone or digital camera and hit record. If you are not tech savvy, just hit record. If you're not sure where the record button is, just contact Amy Rhodes or Trish Moore and we will gladly help.

TIPS

- Time to practice those public speaking skills.
- Use a clear voice, and don't forget to put some emotion into it. Set the mood and make it exciting when you see an "!".
- Be creative and enjoy the process. Don't be afraid to be silly. Kids will love it.
- Ask your own kids for help. Let kids be kids in the process, if they ask questions or add additional flare to the story, laugh along the way. I know I did.
- Read through the book at least once so you can familiarize yourself with parts that could use some embellishments.
- Keep the books brief, so short stories are best or you can consider reciting poems instead.
- For those who secretly wanted to be actors, here is your chance, you have a captive audience so put on a show.



This logo inspiration created by 4-H Clover Madison from Wicomico County.

SETTING THE STAGE

- Where would you like to read? Indoors or outside- are a few options to consider.
- Think about your lighting. Keep the light in front of you and not behind or you will look silhouetted. Sit facing a window so the light hits your face or sit next to a table lamp.
- Are there noises around you? Busy roads or a TV in the background may make it harder to hear you when your reading.
- Balancing the camera may seem tricky. Try a quick DIY tripod tutorial or having a steady family member record.
- Don't strive for perfection. You are at home if the dog barks its ok, tell the audience your dog likes the book too. Embrace the interruptions, keep going and Have Fun!!
- Consider adding props you can incorporate and reference as you read.
- Link the book to real world situations you can discuss in brief.

HOW TO START

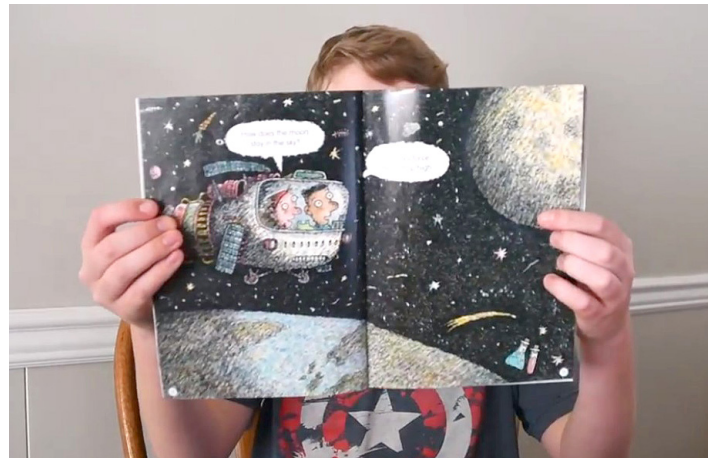
- Choose a book that you enjoyed as a kid or your kids love now.
- The beginning and end of your video can be edited so if your video shows you reaching for the camera or getting comfortable we can edit that part out.
- Greet your audience and introduce yourself.
- Tell them who you are with "Coming to you live from Clover Corner with Maryland 4-H"
- Introduce the Book title, author, illustrator, and don't forget to show them the cover of the book.
- While reading the book. You can always ask questions and offer a pause, and at the end use this time to reflect if you can. You may not hear the kids answer, but you have planted the seed for them to think and reflect on their own.
- End the story by thanking them for joining you and maybe include your own little send off, again be creative!!

GET US YOUR VIDEO

- Once you have finished your video you will upload it by visiting <https://go.umd.edu/CloverCorner>
- Here you will fill out a form so we can collect your information.
- We will then add an opening and closing to your video and post it to our YouTube channel.
- After that you are now famous so start collecting those autographs!



Two bulldog clips interconnected and one tip under the phone bent up works well as an inexpensive tripod.



There are several ways to show the illustrations. It is important for young readers to see and hear what is going in the story.

Credit: Amy Rhodes, Wicomico County 4-H Educator

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4-H
GROWS HERE

