

# Promoting Literacy and Social Skills Through Children's Literature

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As a speech-language pathologist, I love to explore how reading and writing practices-in and out of school-help us to make meaning, connect with others, and transform our worlds. Part of my job is to use evidence-based literacy practices to promote vocabulary growth, reading comprehension, spelling, text integration, and inference making so that our children can be successful academically and feel empowered to respond and navigate our challenging world.

My theme for the month is “community” in light of recent and ongoing unprecedented events. During this pandemic, we have seen the strength of small local businesses, the sacrifice of health care professionals and essential workers, the dedication of teachers and caregivers. I chose the picture book, “Extra Yarn” written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Jon Klassen, to explore topics of civic engagement, bullying, generosity; It is about a story of how a young girl and her magical box of colorful yarn transform a community. Since I do not have a physical copy of this picture book, I adapted its content for telemedicine and found a wonderful YouTube video that your young viewers can enjoy and follow along. After watching it all the way through once, encourage “think aloud” strategies such as predicting, questioning, and visualizing. The comprehension strategies bookmark and “Think Aloud Checklist” are great tools to build understanding and engagement. Have Fun!

**“Children’s literature communicates self-acceptance, and models coping strategies for children who are learning to deal with powerful emotions. Through literature, children meet families, settings, and cultures that are in some ways similar and in some ways different from their own. As a result, literature contributes to the child’s cultural identify and multicultural awareness” (Jalongo, 2004).**

**“Extra Yarn” YouTube link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOtfu1i\\_144&t=345s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOtfu1i_144&t=345s)

**Reading Comprehension Tools and Graphic Organizers**

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/83246293091341748/>

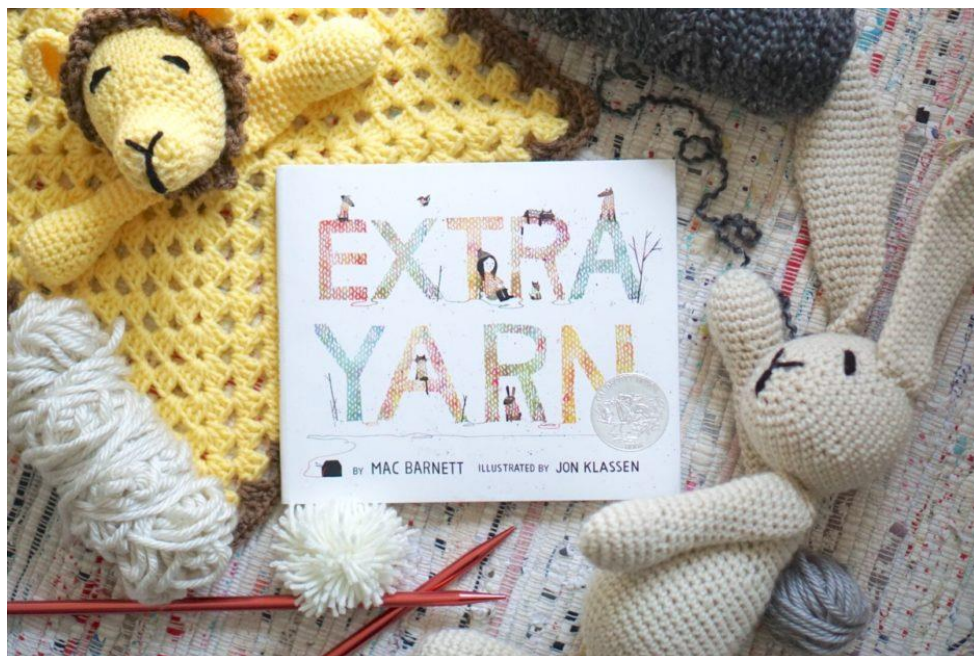
[https://www.readingrockets.org/content/pdfs/thinkaloud\\_checklist.pdf](https://www.readingrockets.org/content/pdfs/thinkaloud_checklist.pdf)

**Arts and crafts resources to accompany story:**

Cardboard Weaving:

[Art Bar Blog \(Weaving with Kids\)](#)

[Hello, Wonderful \(Cardboard circle weaving\)](#)



## References

Jalongo, M. R. (2004). Young children and picture books: National Association for the Education of Young Children.