

# MAYOR'S BOOK CLUB NEWSLETTER

The Mayor's Book Club is pleased to present our **Book-of-the-Month** for April:

## Did You Know?

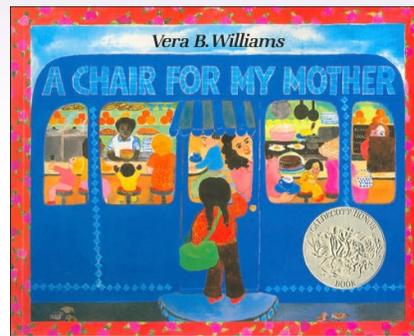
April is the month when spring is in full effect. Many of us experience the new – with a new season and new beginnings. Our story this month, *A Chair for My Mother* by Vera B. Williams, is a beautiful and powerful piece that depicts having to start over and begin anew. *A Chair for My Mother* is a Caldecott Honor Book for its contribution to children's literature.

This story shows a young girl and her family overcoming hardship, and how they make the best of the situation.

Reading, especially stories that depict real, everyday life with your child, is the foundation for success in school and their goals later in life.



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## It's Fun and Easy!

*A Chair for My Mother* by Vera B. Williams is an impactful story that features Rosa, the protagonist, and her mother and grandmother creating a new chapter in their lives after a tragedy.

Tip #1 – *A Chair for My Mother* has a paragraph or two on each set of pages. This writing style enables a parent, guardian, or loved one to read aloud to or with his/her/their child. The longer text is great practice for a reader who enjoys a challenge, but it is still a picture book with attractive illustrations for those who are visual.

Tip #2 – *A Chair for My Mother* has bold, bright, colorful illustrations on each page. The imagery can allow children to see what exactly is happening within the story. Vera B. Williams is both the author and illustrator, so the story and images are lively. It is important to point out the illustrations when reading to children because it promotes literacy to young readers and boosts beginner-level vocabulary skills.

Tip #3 – The story depicts a real-life tragedy that profoundly affects a family. Rosa, her mother, and grandmother find a way to make life fun and comfortable again through a new addition. It is great to discuss with children the hardships in this story and how they overcome, which could apply to their lives as well.

## Bringing the Story to Life!

### Teaching Children About Money

#### Family Money Jar

The little girl, her mother and grandmother in the story *A Chair for My Mother* saved their change to buy "a wonderful, beautiful, fat, soft armchair." You can create a family savings jar for your family. Discuss with your family what item or activity they would like to save for that the whole family could enjoy. Have the children draw a picture of the item or activity they think the family should save for and place change in the jar everyday to save for that item. Once your jar is full, have them help you count the money.



#### Play Board Games

Classic board games such as, Monopoly and Life are fun ways to teach kids about money on a Friday night. These games teach kids about cash flow. For example, Park Place has one of the highest payouts but it is also one of the most expensive properties to maintain. Is the cash flow worth it? ([www.hellosanddollar.com](http://www.hellosanddollar.com))

#### Open a bank account for your child

It's a great idea to open a savings account for children. It makes them feel all grown up like their parents. It also is a good way to ease into doing your own banking. Most children accounts are free so there is no reason not to open one.

## Book Picks

**One Cent, Two Cents, Old Cent, New Cent: All About Money**  
by Bonnie Worth

**It's Not Fair!: A Book About Having Enough**  
by Caryn Rivadeneira

### More books by Vera B. Williams:

Home at Last

Something Special for Me

Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe

## Community Resources

**Spring Fling – Family Fun Extravaganza**, 100 Stillwell Road, Hampton, VA 23651

**Friday, April 12, 2019 - 5:00 AM – 7:00 PM**

Free for PRLS Members; \$5 per family for Non-Members

Hampton Recreation Community Centers come together for this evening of Family Fun! \*Egg Hunt—every 30 minutes, games, crafts and pictures with the Easter Bunny!

**International Children's Festival – Mill Point Park, Hampton, VA 23669**

**Saturday, April 20, 2019, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

Admission is free and open to the public.

Experience the beauty and wonder of exotic places as over thirty countries and cultures showcase their unique heritages. For more information visit <http://hampton.gov/parks/icf/>.

#### Easter Eggstravaganza at Sandy Bottom

**Saturday, April 15, 2019**

Enjoy egg hunts, crafts, prizes and food from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Sandy Bottom Nature Park.

The event includes 10 egg hunts happening every half hour, broken down into various ages groups.

Admission is \$5 for children ages 3-12, and adults are free. A picture with the Easter Bunny costs \$8.

Proceeds benefit the Friends of Sandy Bottom Nature Park. 1255 Big Bethel Road in Hampton.

For more information call: 757-825-4657.

Thanks to the **Langley Civic Leaders Association**,  
**Exchange Club of Wythe**, and **Downtown Hampton Exchange Club**  
for their sponsorships.



Visit your local public library or school library:

Hampton Public Library:

<http://www.hamptonpubliclibrary.org>

Hampton City Schools – Information Literacy Services:

<http://www.hampton.k12.va.us/departments/informationliteracy/infoliteracy.html>