HAMPTON MAYOR'S BOOK CLUB

February 2026

Mayor’s Book Club

February Book-of-the-Month - The Bruce Swap

Sponsored by: First Baptist Church of Hampton and Langley AFA Chapter

Did You Know

What does your family value most? Honesty, kindness, responsibility, hard work, friendliness, intelligence or something else? Different families may have different ideas about which values are most important. Books can help you communicate your priorities to your children. Characters in books can be innocent or tricky, careless or fussy, brave or fearful, selfish or generous. Take a little time to find out how your child feels about the way the characters in a story behave. You might be surprised by their ideas.

It’s Fun and Easy!

The Bruce Swap by Ryan T. Higgins

Bruce the bear is grumpy and quiet. But when his cousin Kevin visits, Bruce’s peaceful life turns chaotic! This funny story is great for discussing character traits and comparing personalities.

Tip #1 – Character compare:

Help your reader describe Bruce and Kevin using words from the book. Are they loud or quiet? Serious or silly? Make a Venn diagram or list to compare and contrast.

Tip #2 – Expression reading:

Reread parts of the book using different voices—try a grumpy voice for Bruce and a cheerful one for Kevin. This helps kids connect tone and character.

Tip #3 – Ask your reader:

What might happen next in the story? Encourage them to write or tell their own “Bruce and Kevin” adventure. Predicting and storytelling help develop narrative thinking.

The Bruce Swap

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      L F N T             O Y U M
     L K V C I Q        Q P G V G Z
    B W A B P V T D   N U F L U R I U
   I H H U X S N Z P U A Y H V M L D W V E
  G W F E F H A O W J N J W G E M S E H V U P
U F N F Y O Z G E E S E W Z F W L Q C G D U Z W
C O U S I N E Y J E Q A C K P I E O R X L R Z E
M E H L G T W J M P U U V Y A G N I H S I F R W
N Q L O Z Q D W I M F W D O K W X X O B L I A M
D T B J C Z M L Y D N A C W T K X M B K E R I A
Z A W J R Y M A S U D A E R A O B N B A O F J S
  W N R V D L N Y K E R Q H T N V L M S F A Y
  K N I V E K M A Z Z I P L T C E B U H A L X
    C C I H F L E T T E R J A E D I W V R T
      P T Z Z Y F C K Y A F G D D E M D W
        Z K S U F U D H K I H V V J Z U
          D J G B V N P Y E C U R B K
            O A T A Y N D T J B K L
              O T G D L P Y E R B
                T I S I V B F D
                  G D W Z Y K
                    O P X Q
                      X C
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CANDY
COUSIN
BRUCE
FISHING
GEESE
LETTER
IDEA
MAILBOX
FUN
VISIT
PIZZA
KEVIN
READ

mayorsbookclub.org

757-727-2710

The images in this newsletter were taken from these resources: Bing, Hampton.gov, atozteacherstuff.com

Community Resources to Bring the Story to Life

Pizza Parlor Virtual Field Trip
KidVisionPrek.org

Bass Pro Shops
1972 Power Plant Pkwy
Hampton, VA 23666

Sandy Bottom Nature Park:
Sandy Bottom Lake
1255 Big Bethel Rd.
Hampton, Va, 23666

Learning Through Play: Bruce and Kevin Bear Masks

Materials:

Paper plates, blue markers/paint, construction paper, glue, scissors, craft sticks, optional googly eyes & decorations.

Steps:

1. **Make the Bear Face: Color or paint a paper plate brown.**
2. **Bruce Mask: Add simple ears, thick frowning eyebrows, a grumpy mouth. Keep decorations plain.**
3. **Kevin Mask: Add colorful ears, sunglasses, a big smile, and fun decorations (glitter, feathers, stickers).**
4. **Finish: Attach a craft stick or elastic to hold/wear the masks.**

Extension Play:

Use masks to retell the story.

Play "Bruce or Kevin" by acting out actions and guessing the character.

This craft supports literacy, social–emotional learning, and creative expression by helping students explore characters, retell the story, and practice empathy through art and discussion.

What's Happening in Hampton

Family Crafts
February 13, 2026 11:00 am- 12:00 pm
North Hampton Library
936 Big Bethel Rd.

Baby Rave
February 21, 2026 3:00 pm-4:00 pm
North Hampton Library
936 Big Bethel Rd.

Book Picks

Too Much Glue
by
Jason Lefebvre & Zac Retz

The One Stop Story Shop
by
Tracey Corderoy & Tony Neal

Bruce's Big Move
by
Ryan T. Higgins

Thanks to Langley Civic Leaders Association, Air Force Association - Langley Chapter, Exchange Club of Wythe for their monthly support of the Mayor's Book Club