HAMPTON MAYOR'S BOOK CLUB

November 2025

Mayor's Book Club

November Book-of-the-Month - Busy Betty and the Circus Surprise

Sponsored by: Lewis and Minta Wood Foundation

Did You Know

Vocabulary is the second of six pre-reading skills children need before they can learn to read. It means understanding words and connecting them to objects, events, or ideas. Children with larger vocabularies can better predict and make sense of what they read. By school age, most children know about 10,000 words for speaking and 15,000 for understanding—that's 9–12 new words learned every day! (From Linguistics, An Introduction to Linguistic Theory by Victoria Fromkin)

Tips to build vocabulary:

- Talk about word meanings as they come up in conversation.
- Look up unfamiliar words together in a dictionary.
- Expose your child to new places (zoo, museum, park, grocery store, etc.) and talk about what you see.

Read a variety of fiction and nonfiction books, and discuss the pictures, text, and story.

It's Fun and Easy!

Busy Betty & the Circus Surprise by Reese Witherspoon
Betty is always bursting with energy and ideas! When she decides to throw a surprise birthday circus for her dog, Frank, things get wild in the best way. This story celebrates creativity, determination, and friendship.

Tip #1 – Make a mini book!
Help your reader fold a few sheets of paper to create their own circus-themed story. What animals or surprises would they include? Encourage them to write or dictate a few sentences and add pictures.

Tip #2 – New word spotlight:
Point out words like circus, surprise, juggler, or acrobat. Say the words together and talk about what they mean. Can your reader use one in their own sentence?

Tip #3 – Ask your reader:
What's the beginning, middle, and end of the story? Retelling events in order builds comprehension and helps young readers learn story structure.

C K
U S M F
O G D E V I
D H J N H Y G S
C R F G N D P P N F
C G A L Y U T X Y C A L
Z O N Y I J C H E R R I E S
G M Z I K P E X B G E F V E N A
O J E S P C L R E R A Q G E H T E T
G B X U O L A T I E T C N R A W A Y R J
T E X T A E B N A O I I A D O T E M S F
Y K A N H M T Y R N Y J Y N R Q R E
N H F D E X C W C L U R D A C I
U W S L U O F B S G V N C T
T D S L E D O Q G O X N
I C G Z R B G L T J
W M F H Y B E J
I M W V B R
F B Q L
N G

BACKYARD
CARTWHEEL
CLOWNING
CHERRIES
CIRCUS
FLIP
GREATEST
HAT
HELPING
JUGGLER
LION

mayorsbookclub.org

757-727-2710

The images in this newsletter were taken from these resources: Bing, Amazon, Pinterest, Lowes, Barns & Noble

Community Resources to Bring the Story to Life

Hampton Carousel
602 Settlers Landing Rd,
Open Tuesday–Sunday,
11:00 AM – 8:00 PM

SPCA Petting Zoo
523 J. Clyde Morris Blvd
Newport News, VA 23601

Whimsical Winter Wonderland
(Hampton Coliseum)
1000 Coliseum Drive, Hampton,
Saturday, November 22, 2025,
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Places Where Kids Can Have Circus Themed Fun

Juggling Balloon Toss

Who doesn't love balloons?
You'll need:

- *Balloons or soft scarves*

How to make it:

1. *Blow up a couple of balloons and practice tossing and catching them.*
2. *Add more balloons to see how many they can "juggle." Spoiler: It's probably one.*

Why it's awesome: Builds hand-eye coordination and burns some of that endless energy.

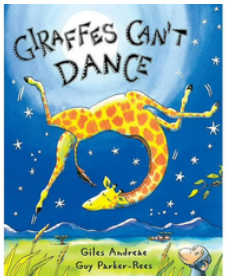
What's Happening in Hampton

The Creators Circle: Creators Club
The Rogers Foundation
618 Aberdeen Road, Hampton
Sat, November 22 2025
10:00 am-12:00 pm

Air Power Park
Outdoor & indoor displays of aircraft, space exhibits, and playground.
413 W Mercury Blvd, Hampton

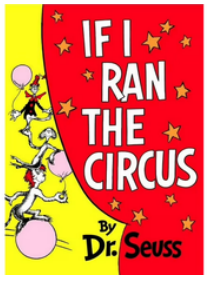
Book Picks

Giraffes Can't Dance
by Giles Andreae &
Guy Parker-Rees



Busy Betty
by
Reese Witherspoon

If I Ran the Circus
by
Dr. Seuss



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