

# 5 Things to Do After Reading.

*Quick, screen-free activities to extend any picture book.*

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1

## Act It Out

Pick three characters. Assign one to your child, one to yourself, one to the cat (the cat plays the villain). Re-do the climax. Kids who act out a story remember the plot for years.

2

## Build a One-Shoebox Diorama

Cardboard, crayons, ten minutes. Don't fix the proportions. The misshapen tree your child draws is the part they'll point to when they retell the story next month.

3

## Story-End Remix

Ask: "What if the ending was different?" Write down their version, exactly as they say it. This is how five-year-olds start writing stories — by editing yours.

4

## Letter to the Character

Address an envelope. Have them dictate. Mail it nowhere — keep it in the book. They'll find it next read and remember everything.

5

## Cheat with a Project Box

When you're tapped out, a themed activity box (animals, weather, geography) ties cleanly to common picture book themes. We use one monthly — works as a treat for finishing a chapter book.

