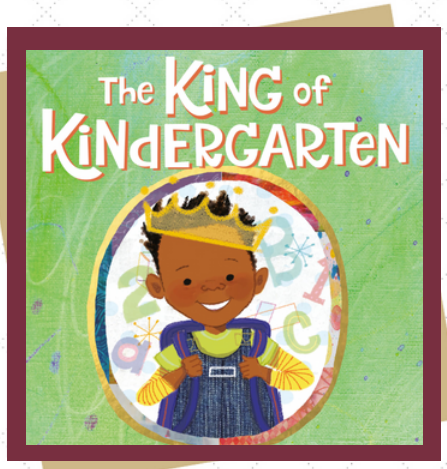


BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

The King of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes

Book Summary

It's the first day of school! With royal terms sprinkled throughout the text, we watch a young King as he prepares for the big day. Readers are introduced to all they can expect on their first day of school from classroom rules, storybook readings, learning the alphabet, making new friends, playing during recess, and more. Although the day is full of new adventures, he'll be ready to do it all again tomorrow.

Before Reading the Story

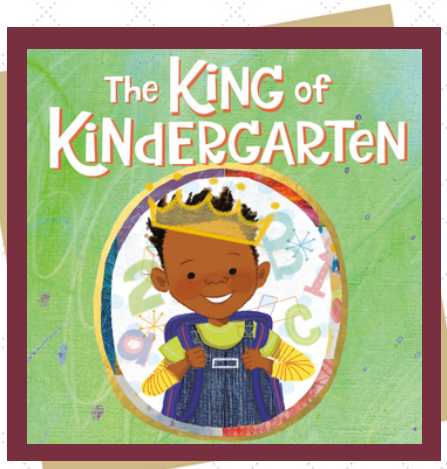
- Look at the title and illustration on the cover, make predictions about what the book will be about.
- If your child has not yet reached Kindergarten, ask them about their feelings. Are they excited, nervous, or scared?
- Have you ever gone to a new school? What did it feel like?
- What are some things that you think makes the main character feel like a king?

Target Vocabulary

- **Blares:** To make a very loud sound
- **Royal chiclets:** A type of gum that looks similar to teeth
- **Garments:** Clothes
- **Reign:** To rule as the King or Queen
- **Carriage:** A four-wheeled vehicle that is pulled by horses and carries people
- **Grand Fortress:** A strong and large place (like a castle) that can defend an attack
- **Recite:** To say something that you have memorized out loud
- **Farewell:** A fancy way to say goodbye
- **Dawn:** The time of day when the sun first starts to shine

MAYA'S BOOK NOOK

The VILLAGE
FLORIDA CENTER for READING RESEARCH



BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child re-read the book in their own words using the illustrations.
- The main character in this story shows us about his day. What are some things you do every day to get ready for school?
- The King in this book is kind. What are some of the things he does to show kindness to his new friends?
- Using materials available, let's draw things that remind us of kings and queens!
- Using materials available, such as a blanket, make your child look and feel like royalty. Play pretend with them!

Example Questions to Ask

- "Not only will she say yes, but she'll lead the way in helping you save the kingdom by battling a fire-breathing _____!"
- What were some of the things that the boy in the story did to feel like a king?
- What did you see on the playground on page 22 and 23 drawn in chalk?
- How did King get to school?
- Do you think King felt happy to go to school? Does this make you excited too?
- Tell me about a time you tried something new.