

Author
Patty Lovell

Have Fun, Molly Lou Melon

Illustrator
David Catrow

Book Language

Front Cover Back Cover
Spine Page
Title Author
Illustrator Publisher
Non Fiction Fiction

Vocabulary

Overflowed, Hollyhocks,
Crumbly, Crevice, Crates,
Chandeliers, Cicada, Turbo,
Willow



Take Our Survey

Discovering Characters

Introduce the characters from the story to your child. Share what you notice.

Before Reading Setting the Stage

Have Fun, Molly Lou Melon follows the story of a little girl who has learned how to have fun with her imagination thanks to her grandma. She meets a new friend who has different ideas of having fun. Let's see how far her imagination can reach.

While Reading Exploring the Story

While reading the story, pause and ask your child what they can think up. How can they have fun with just the items in their room? On each page that shows Molly Lou Melon's creations, ask your child what they would build, create, or imagine.

After Reading Reflection

While reflecting on the story with your child, ask open ended questions about events in the story. Allow your child to answer and then you take a turn to speak. Turn-taking is a foundation for speech and language development.

Conversation Serve and Return

You may have heard the terms Serve and Return. This is the art of back and forth communication with your child.

- Notice what your child is interested in. Share the child's focus and attention. Try looking at the same item in the book.
- Return the serve by supporting and encouraging. Point at the picture and ask, "What else do you see?"
- Give it a name. "Oh you see a puppy!"
- Take turns.....and wait! Keep the interaction going back and forth. With infants, this can be as simple as responding to a gesture or glance.



Outdoor Experience

Go on a cloud hunt, looking for items in the clouds. What can you see? Do different clouds make different characters?

Music and Movement

Fingerplays are important for kids because it boosts oral language skills. When singing songs, your child is expanding their oral language skills by “working out” their mouth muscles. When a child engages with fingerplay they have to create images in their mind to accompany the songs.

I'm a Little Robot

I'm a little Robot, shiny and tall. Here is my laser, here is my claw. When I get all cranky, sputter and cough. Just flip the switch and turn me off.

Sung to the tune of "I'm a Little Tea Pot". See what hand motions your child wants to do with each verse!

S.T.E.M.

Molly Lou uses her imagination to have fun with ordinary objects, like using twigs and acorns to make a dollhouse. Here is a fun STEM activity you can do with objects around your own home: Blowing Bubbles Experiment. Make a simple bubble solution with dish soap and water (a recipe suggests 1 quart of warm water, 1 cup of good dish soap and 2-4 tablespoons of glycerin- but it will work without the glycerin).

Next, use your creativity! What objects will create different size and shape bubbles? Have your child predict what size bubbles will come from each item. You can even create your own bubble wand out of pipe cleaners, and see if a triangle shaped wand will make triangle bubbles. Experiment and see!

Social Emotional

Circle of Security is the idea that when children know they have a trusting, safe and nurturing relationship with an adult they will feel more confident to explore their surroundings and develop greater self-esteem. A secure attachment to at least one adult creates the foundation for healthy social-emotional development. Play together to create an imaginary landscape with found objects and/or craft items. Follow your child's lead to create a fabulous environment - whatever it may be!

What's That?

What is STEM?

STEM is science, technology, engineering and math. STEM for kids helps develop creative problem-solvers who can think, brainstorm new ideas, and get involved in their own learning. STEM focuses on getting kids to work on project-based lessons that look like real-world problems. Want to learn more? Visit newtonroad.org to find local resources, or talkingisteaching.org/resources/math to learn more.



United Way of
Northwest Michigan

www.unitedwaynwmi.org



Supporting Excellence in Early Education
1-877-614-7328

Dive In Deeper

Inspired by the Leviathan's Library model. Brought to you by the Literacy Hub Grant Region 2, a program of Great Start to Quality and the United Way of NW Michigan