

# STORYTIME @ HOME GUIDES

## WE BELONG TOGETHER

### Fingerplays and Songs

[Smile, Smile, Smile](#) by Dan Zanes and Friends

Every time that I think of you,  
I smile for a while.  
That's the one thing you always do,  
You always smile, smile, smile.  
Acting out stories and hugging your  
friends,  
Smile for a while.  
I know what I'll do when I see you  
again, I'm gonna smile, smile, smile.  
Chorus: Like ripples in a pond, or  
runners who pass the baton. The  
good feelings will go on for mile after  
mile. And your big heart circles the  
world, every time that you smile.  
Doing those voices and telling your  
jokes, smile for a while. The crazy  
hairdos and the thrift shop coats, they  
make me smile, smile, smile.  
Every time you break into a Broadway  
song, smile for a while. Everyone  
around you starts singing along, you  
smile, smile, smile.  
Well you know I love you and I'm glad  
you're my friend, smile for a while. You  
know what I'll do when I see you  
again, smile, smile, smile.  
Smile, smile, smile.

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### Read Aloud Stories

As you enjoy these read aloud stories with your child, ask them open-ended questions about the stories. Open-ended questions help children to think more deeply about the world around them.

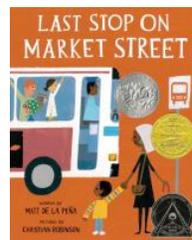
[Thank You, Omu!](#) by Oge Mora

Who doesn't love gathering around to share a delicious meal? In this story, Omu makes a big pot of stew that her neighborhood can't get enough of. What surprise did her neighbors have for Omu at the end of the story? How do you think Omu felt after the surprise? What could you do to say thank you to your friends and neighbors?



[Last Stop on Market Street](#) by Matt de la Peña

On a bus trip across town, CJ and his grandmother discuss ways to think about disappointments in life, and act to spread kindness to others. What are some of the ways CJ and his grandmother are kind to others in the story? What are some things you and your family could do to show kindness to others?



[Maybe Something Beautiful](#) by F. Isabel Campoy

Mira's world is gray until a muralist arrives and, along with his paints and brushes, brings color, joy, and togetherness to Mira and her neighbors. How does Mira try to bring beauty to her neighborhood? Do you think her neighborhood looks better at the end of the story? Why?



## Fun Activities To Try At Home!



What kind of art do you notice when you walk around your neighborhood? Are there murals, sculptures, sidewalk poetry or other cool works of art? Create your own neighborhood art by drawing with chalk on the sidewalk, coloring a picture and putting it in your window or making a nature mandala. Be creative!

[Making a Nature Mandala](http://sproutingwildones.com) from [sproutingwildones.com](http://sproutingwildones.com)

Gather your materials. This is an outdoor activity, so before starting, you will need to find a peaceful place out in nature to create your nature mandala. Once you've picked a location, you will need to gather some organic materials around you to use. Things like twigs, leaves, grasses, flowers, berries, pinecones, and acorns work really well.

Create your mandala. First, place a meaningful item in the center. Use something that is significant to you, because it will be your "unifying center." After that is in place, use other items you gathered to form the rest of your mandala. Place items near the center first and then continue moving outward from the center until you've created a circular design.

Complete your mandala. Continue making patterns until your items are used up and your nature mandala looks complete. And remember, you can create it however you like! You could use bright colors or muted earth tones. Make it big or small. Make it as simple or complex as you want.

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