

The Paper Kingdom

Written by Helena Ku Rhee



Before Reading: Get Ready

Review the book synopsis with the student to confirm interest in reading the book. Share the title, author, and illustrator. Talk about the cover.

Activate comprehension and set a purpose for reading. In this story, a boy named Daniel goes with his parents one night to clean office buildings. His parents are janitors, which means they clean up places like office buildings and schools. When he is there, his parents pretend that the office building is really an imaginary place they call the “paper kingdom.” Let’s read to answer questions I am going to ask you about Daniel, his parents, and the paper kingdom!

Introduce important vocabulary and ask your student to listen for these words during reading.

- **favor:** When you do a favor for someone, you do something really nice or kind for someone to help them.
- **kingdom:** A kingdom is a place where a king or queen are in charge or the rulers of the place. The title of our book is The Paper Kingdom.
- **throne:** A throne is a fancy and special chair on which a king, queen, prince, or princess sit.
- **shrug:** When you shrug your shoulders, you move them up and down as a way to tell someone you don’t know or don’t care about something.

During Reading: Read Together

Sit side-by-side to share the book. Follow the conversation prompts and invite your student to ask questions or comments connected to the text to ensure their comprehension.

- **Preview the following graphic organizer with your student.** Explain to them that you will write down your questions and their answers while reading, which will help them to understand the book they are reading even better and pay attention to some of the important parts in the story:
 - <https://freeology.com/wp-content/files/whowhatwherewhenwhyhow.pdf>

- **After reading p. 4:** My first question I want to ask you is a “who” question. Who are the main characters in the story?
 - Help your student to articulate that the main characters are Daniel and his parents.
- **After reading p. 8:** My next questions are “where” and “when” questions. Where are Daniel and his parents going? When are they going there?
 - Guide your student to the answer that they are going to the place where his parents work at night, an office building.
- **After reading p. 14:** “Why” did Daniel’s parents tell him that the office building was a paper kingdom?
 - Answers could include that his parents did not want him to be bored or that they wanted him to use his imagination.
- **After reading p. 24:** “How” did Daniels’ parents explain the reason the office was so messy?
 - Support your student in understanding that his parents told him that little dragons made the mess.
- **After finishing the story and reading the “Author’s Note” at the end of the book:** “What” do you think the author wanted to teach the reader connected to this book?
 - Answers could include that the other was honoring how hard-working her parents and many other people are, or the importance of being responsible so that other people do not have to clean up after you!

NOTE: This book does not have page numbers. These conversation prompts will be marked in the book for your use.

After Reading: Discuss and Extend

After reading, briefly discuss the text and revisit vocabulary words to ensure your student understands the text. Extend the conversation with writing to give your student multiple opportunities to show understanding.

- **How did answering questions help us understand this book?**
- **Let’s write to respond to this story.** (Choose a prompt for student response and copy the selected frame into your student’s notebook.)
 - At the end of the book, Daniel learned that _____.
 - The title of the book was The Paper Kingdom because _____.
 - If I were Daniel, I would _____.