

# Winnie-the-Pooh Book Club Outline

A good book is a magic gateway into a wider world of wonder, beauty, delight, and adventure. Books are experiences that make us grow, that add something to our inner stature. Children don't stumble onto good books by themselves; they must be introduced to the wonder of words put together in such a way that they spin out pure joy and magic.

Gladys Hunt, *Honey For A Child's Heart* (Zondervan, 2002), p. 17.

## Beginning Thoughts:

You can use these ideas within your own family or gather with friends to enjoy the various elements of A.A. Milne's stories. This outline is designed for five sessions. Begin with Week One as a group and then read two chapters together with your child at home. Keep in mind that the original *Winnie-the-Pooh* embodies a slightly more mature storyline than many children receive from common Disney versions adapted for toddler use. Younger children may prefer short portions of the stories at first as their attention span grows. Proceed at their pace and enjoy the journey! I will be sharing our Winnie experience on my blog at [letslearnkids.com](http://letslearnkids.com) starting September 1, 2015. I would love to hear about your book club too, so stop by and share with me!

## Week One:

### Materials-

1. Small pocket notebooks, store bought or handmade (can be as simple as cutting a few sheets of paper in half, fold those halves in half and staple together in the crease. Easy!
2. Butcher paper, poster board, or standard size paper taped together. Just use what you have.
3. Craft materials such as paint, paint brushes, markers, glitter, dried flowers, glue, etc...

### Activity- Word Journal

1. Hand each child their own word journal and help them to put their name on the cover. If they want to get fancy with it, provide craft materials such as markers, glitter, dried flowers, etc...
2. Explain that there are all sorts of words and that your children use them all day long.
3. Invite the children to listen for words in the story that pop out for them. Perhaps there are words they have not heard before, or others that are fun to say. Encourage them to write one word per page and sketch a picture of what they visualize when they think of that word.

\*Parents can write in the word for pre-writers.

This activity will help children develop a broader vocabulary, as well as an appreciation for interesting and more descriptive words.

### Activity- Show-and-Tell

1. Introduce the idea of show-n-tell if they are not already familiar with it.

2. During the time between gatherings, encourage your children to find anything that reminds them of the stories. They may find an acorn or a dandelion, for example, and bring it to show others.
3. Parents can help them find out a little more information about that object if they choose.

This activity encourages social interaction and helps children to put ideas into their own words. This activity also provides opportunity for children to observe their surroundings and grow in their understanding of the items they find.

### **Activity- Hundred Acre Wood (100 Aker Wood) Mural**

Begin a collaborative mural by weekly adding an element to the backdrop. Kids can paint the sky and grass or cut and glue on hills made out of green construction paper one week. Then they can add trees and clouds the next. And so on..

This activity provides artistic awareness and more social interaction. The completed mural will be used for an activity later on.

**Don't forget the snack!**

### **Reminder-**

Remind them to bring their word journals and show-n-tell items each week. They will read chapters 1-2 before next gathering.

## **Week Two:**

### **Materials-**

1. Craft materials such as paint, paint brushes, markers, glitter, etc...
2. Sentences chosen ahead of time for Word Guessing activity. You can write out the sentence on a large piece of paper, chalk board, or dry erase board as you read it aloud if you choose.

### **Activity- Word Guessing**

1. Select a sentence or part of a poem from the next chapter, one the children have not read yet.
2. Read it aloud and leave out certain words, pausing to give the kids a chance to fill it in with ideas of their own.

For example- In the chapter Eeyore Loses a Tail (last paragraph on page 45 in my book), you could read them the sentence "Little soft clouds played happily in a blue sky, skipping from time to time in front of the sun as if they had come to put it out, and then sliding away suddenly so that the next might have his turn."

But you would want to leave out strategic words, giving them the chance to suggest something appropriate or maybe just plain humorous.

It could be read like this-

“Little soft clouds played happily in a \_\_\_\_\_, skipping from time to time in front of the \_\_\_\_\_ as if they had come to put it out, and then sliding away suddenly so that \_\_\_\_\_.”

This activity may require a few takes, but it may help children get their creative juices flowing.

### **Ongoing Activities-**

Continue word journal, show-n-tell, and mural activity. Determine your own order of activities.

### **Snack Time**

## **Week Three:**

### **Materials-**

1. Art materials such as paint, paint brushes, markers, glitter, etc...
2. Scissors and glue
3. White and/or colored construction paper

### **Activity- Mini Hundred Acre Wood Scene**

1. Hand out scissors, paper to be used as a backdrop (I usually choose 8 1/2 X 11 because I want to keep it in a page protector in my kids' binders), markers or paint with brushes, glue/tape and extra sheets of construction paper.
2. Have children cut the extra pieces of construction paper in the shape of 6 (or more) tall tree trunks at least 1 1/2 inches wide.
3. Use the markers or paint to color the tree trunks.
4. Tape or glue down one entire side of each tree trunk. The tree should open on one side.
5. Add extra details to the scene if desired, such as grass, tree tops, flowers, etc...
6. Let dry and keep for week four.

\*This activity will be in two parts. Children will begin with the first part this week.

### **Activity- Poems**

1. Recite one of the poems to the children.
2. Ask if they remember any and which is their favorite.
3. Read some of them aloud and act them out if possible.
4. Have children pick a poem they want to memorize and remind them to practice it for the next several weeks. They will have a chance to recite it from memory in front of their completed 100-Acre Wood mural on the last week. They can bring a prop and act it out if they choose. (This is a good time to bring out your camera.)

This activity provides a fun way to strengthen memory skills and gives children a comfortable opportunity to give a presentation, of sorts. ;)

### **Ongoing Activities-**

Continue word journal, show-n-tell, and mural activity. Determine your own order of activities.

## Snack Time

## Week Four:

### Materials-

1. Art materials such as paint, paint brushes, markers, glitter, etc...
2. Scissors and glue
3. Printed 1-inch, black and white images of characters from Winnie the Pooh- Christopher Robin, Winnie, Piglet, Rabbit, Kanga, Roo, Owl (Tigger doesn't arrive on the scene until *House at Pooh Corner*, if I remember correctly.) You can easily find clip art images like these.



### Activity- Describe Characters in Pictures (similes/metaphors)

1. Explain how people, animals, and things can be described in words that make a picture (No need to give these young ones the technical names “simile” or “metaphor” yet. My opinion is that they’ll have plenty of time to get technical in future grade school lessons, but it’s up to you.)
2. Encourage them think about ways to describe the characters using words that make pictures or give sounds. Have them (or parent) write descriptions down on a piece of notepaper. A couple examples- Winnie the Pooh is like the color of honey. Or, Winnie the Pooh is like a humming honey pot.

**Activity- Complete Mini Hundred Acre Wood Scene**

1. Hand out printed character images for children to color
2. Parent can transfer character descriptions from previous activity to the inside of tree flap from Mini Hundred Acre Wood scene.
3. Children can glue their completed characters to the space behind the tree flaps, opposite the description. Now they have made their own pop-up scene with personalized character descriptions!

**Ongoing Activities-**

Complete Hundred Acre Wood mural activity.

Continue word journal and show-n-tell. Determine your own order of activities.

Remind children to continue practicing the poems they selected in week three.

**Snack Time****Week Five:***Party Day!***Possible options-**

1. Potluck meal, honey tasting table, condensed milk
2. Reenact the Expedition to the North Pole (Chapter 8)
3. Show time- recite poems in front of Hundred Acre Wood mural
4. Take pictures as a group in front of the mural
5. Watch a Winnie the Pooh movie

I hope you and your children have a blast with Winnie and pals!

More book club ideas to come...

Much Love,  
Hosanna

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