

Bramble Brook Wonders

Reader Guide

A Storyland Magic companion for teachers, librarians, families, and anyone ready to step into the story with children.

Before Bramble Brook - Begin with the Classic

Before introducing the Storyland Magic version, read a traditional version of The Three Little Pigs. Then give children time to explore, retell, and act out the familiar tale. This helps them know the original story well enough to notice the surprises in Warren's side of the story.

Create a Three Little Pigs Dramatic-Play Area

Keep it simple. Let children experiment with the familiar houses and wolf before Warren enters the picture.

- Straw - hay, raffia, paper strips, or another classroom substitute.
- Wood - craft sticks, blocks, or other building materials.
- Bricks - LEGO-style bricks or classroom blocks.
- The Three Little Pigs - use pig puppets or stuffed pigs if you have them, or make simple pig puppets from paper lunch bags, pink construction paper, crayons, and classroom scraps.
- The Wolf - a wolf puppet or stuffed animal for retelling the traditional story.

USE WHAT YOU HAVE!

Storyland Magic does not require expensive props. Use classroom materials, craft supplies, and imagination. The goal is not a perfect set - it is helping children step inside the story.

The Storyland Magic Sequence

Read the classic -> Play the classic -> Experience the reimagined story -> Talk about it -> Create and extend it.

Live the Story - Now Enter Bramble Brook

Before you begin reading, invite the children into Bramble Brook with a hands-on experience that sets the stage for the new story.

Become a Bramble Brook Pig

Invite each child to make a pair of pig ears. Print the pig-ear template, cut a strip of pink construction paper to fit around each child's head, and attach the ears to the band. Once everyone has their pig ears on, they are ready to step into Bramble Brook!

Become Warren the Wolf

The reader gets to join the adventure, too! Put on a simple pair of wolf ears and a tail to become Warren the Wolf. Keep it friendly and playful - Warren isn't a scary wolf.

Enter Bramble Brook

The children put on their pig ears and gather outside the reading area. One at a time, each little pig enters. Warren greets each child by saying, "Welcome to my side of the story!" The child then takes a place in the reading circle. Once everyone has arrived, Warren settles in with the children and the story begins.

FIRST READING: JUST ENJOY THE STORY!

Keep the story moving and let the children enjoy the adventure. During the first reading, simply read and experience the story together. There will be plenty of time to come back later, revisit the clues, make predictions, and think about Warren's side of the story.

Go Back and Look for Clues

After the story, return to a few important moments and invite the children to become Warren Detectives. Encourage them to look and listen for clues that Warren may not be the wolf they expected. Don't give away the answer - let them use the clues to rethink Warren's side of the story.

- When Warren sneezes near the straw house: What did you notice? What else could have made the house fall down?
- When they learn about the bent nails and old wood: What clues tell us this house might not have been very strong?
- When Warren arrives carrying groceries: Does this look like something a wolf who wants to eat the pigs would bring?
- When Warren reveals that he's a vegetarian: What does this clue make you think about everything that happened earlier?

After the Story

The story may be over, but the adventure isn't! Take a few minutes to help the children think about what they learned, how the story made them feel, and what they can do with what they discovered.

HEAD - What Did We Discover?

- What clues helped you understand what really happened?
- Why did the straw house fall down?
- Why wasn't the wooden house very strong?
- What did you learn about Warren that surprised you?

HEART - What Did We Feel?

- How do you think Warren felt when everyone believed he was bad?
- How do you think the pigs felt when they learned what really happened?
- Have you ever been misunderstood? How did that feel?
- How can we be fair and kind when we don't know the whole story?

HANDS - What Can We Do?

- How can we make sure we hear someone's side of the story before we decide what happened?
- What can we do when someone is being misunderstood?
- How can we show kindness to someone others may be afraid of or unsure about?
- What is one kind thing you can do today because of Warren's story?

Keep the Magic Going

The story may be finished, but the fun isn't! Keep exploring, thinking, creating, and discovering with these free Storyland Magic activities.

Story Sequencing - What Happened First?

Cut out the story pictures, put them in the order they happened, and use them to retell Warren's story. Use the separate Sequencing Activity printable from the Bramble Brook Wonders page.

Walk in Warren's Paws

Think about how Warren felt during the story. What changed when everyone finally learned the truth? Use the separate Emotions Activity printable to help children explore Warren's point of view.

Build It Better!

Leonard and Marcus learned that a strong house needs more than a good idea - it needs to be built to last! Invite children to design a house that is strong, safe, and sturdy. Use the separate Build It Better printable from the website.

Take the Magic Home

The story doesn't have to end when children leave the classroom! Send a little Storyland Magic home and invite families to continue the conversation together. The Bramble Brook Wonders Family Note is available as a separate printable on the website.

Read it. Become it. Create it. Live it.