

YO! PLAY?

In the book, two boys begin talking to each other and decide to become new friends. Ask your child to tell you about fun activities they do together with a good friend. Encourage them to complete the comic strip below by drawing and writing about the activities they shared with you. To be extra creative, they could try writing just one word, with an exclamation mark or other punctuation, just like the book!

**new
worlds
reading**

INTERACTIVE READING GUIDE

Yo! Yes?

by Chris Raschka

Two lonely boys who don't know each other meet on a city street. Brought together with a simple "Yo!" answered by the other one's "Yes?" and the bounce of a basketball, this modern classic will strike a chord with every child who's ever longed for a friend.

Want to read more books like this one? Visit your local or school library to check out more!

Create Successful Reading Habits

Research suggests that when children understand the purpose of why they're reading, they are more motivated to engage with books in a meaningful way.* When children are motivated and engaged, they are more likely to comprehend what they have read, and it encourages them to explore the deeper meanings of a text. When children understand what they read, they begin to see themselves as successful readers. Here are some ways to motivate your child to read and engage with books:

- Encourage your child to see the value in each reading activity by showing them how they use their reading skills in everyday settings. Whether it is reading a book, a grocery list, or a road sign, you can emphasize the importance of reading by pointing out the information that can be learned from real-life examples.
- Relate a new book to other books that your child has already read and enjoyed.
- Identify books on topics that your child is interested in reading. Work together to discover new reading material.
- Allow your child to choose the book they want to read. When children have a choice, they are more comfortable and motivated to read.

* U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, What Works Clearinghouse. (n.d.). Practice Guides. <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/PracticeGuides>

WORD WORK

Help your child identify and read words with short vowel sounds. The five vowels in the alphabet are *a, e, i, o, u*. Consonants are the other letters in the alphabet. CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words are some of the first words that children learn to read. CVC words are three-letter words that have one vowel in the middle of two consonants. The vowel in the middle will make a short vowel sound. For example, *mom, dog, cat, bug, and dot* are all CVC words with short vowel sounds. Here is an example of how to do this, using words from the book.

yes (p. 5) **not** (p. 13) **fun** (p. 15)

Practice with the word *yes* on page 5.

- Say, "Let's break the word *yes* apart and read it together."
- Point to the first consonant (*y*) in the word *yes* and say, "Can you tell me what sound the first letter makes?" If your child doesn't know the sound, say the sound, and ask them to repeat it to you.
- Point to the vowel *e* and say, "This letter is the vowel *e*. What sound does it make?" Stretch the sound of the vowel.
- Say, "Let's put the two sounds together." Say the first letter and the vowel sound.
- Point to the last letter (*s*) and say, "What sound does this letter make?"
- Say, "Now we'll add it to the other sounds."
- Say, "Put all three sounds together to read the whole word." (*yes*)

Repeat with the words *not* and *fun*.

Practice using other examples of words in the book that follow the consonant-vowel-consonant pattern. Remember to stretch the vowel sound, as this will make it easier for your child to blend the letters together and read the word.

TALK ABOUT NEW AND INTERESTING WORDS

When children encounter unfamiliar words, take a moment to talk about the words using child-friendly explanations or definitions. In this book, the character uses the synonym "Yo" to say hello. **Synonyms** are words that are very close in meaning. Here are some interesting synonyms to discuss from words in the book:

Yes:

ok, sure, yup

Hello:

hey, hi, yo

Much:

lots, many, plenty

ASK QUESTIONS TO CHECK UNDERSTANDING

Help your child understand what they read by pausing to have conversations before, during, and after they engage with a book. Encourage them to make connections to their lives, other books, and the world around them. Have your child go to the page numbers listed to help them answer the questions.

Before Reading:



- Look at the front cover. How many words does the title have?
- What punctuation marks do you notice in the title?
- What do these marks tell us about how to read the words?
- Look at the illustration. What are the characters doing?
- What do you think this book will be about? Let's read together and find out!

During Reading:



- Why do you think the second boy looks surprised when the first boy calls out to him? (p. 9)
- How can you tell that the boy is asking a question? (p. 9)
- How is the boy feeling? How do you know? (p. 19)
- Why is the second boy surprised that the first boy wants to be his friend? (p. 23 – 25)
- Why do you think there aren't any words on this page? What is the character thinking? (p. 28)
- How does the story end? How would you have changed the ending if you wrote the book? (p. 32)

After Reading:



- Each character stays on their own page until the end of the book. What happens that makes them share the same page? (p. 30 – 32)
- If you ever feel lonely, what are some things you can do to cheer yourself up?
- If a new kid joins your class, what could you do to help them?
- Tell me about other books you have read about characters who become great friends.

FUN ACTIVITY

After reading *Yo! Yes?*, help your child complete the activity on the back page.