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for kids
by kids

Turn this newspaper into flowers

BY LAUREN MURPHY

Of No Adults Allowed

Newspapers have been going out of style since the internet was invented; thankfully like all classic things, it's making a comeback. While they're good for getting news and connecting with the community, newspapers are also used in a lot of crafts and pictures. This particular craft is easy, fun and will only take up a couple hours (depending on how many you make)

make it
CORNER

What you'll need:

- Paint
- Paint brushes (or fingers if you're feeling adventurous)
- Newspaper
- Different sized circles (small medium and large)
- Scissors
- Wire (even a paperclip will do)
- Buttons



You can make the circles out of anything, cups, bowls, anything circular. The flower can have as many "petals" as you want it to (I made two large, two medium and two small just to keep things simple). Lay out the newspaper and draw as many circles as you think you'll need. Depending on how many flowers you make, and how many petals per flower, and how big each petal is will determine how much newspaper you need. Stay away from pictures because they can change the color of your paint and make it look funny.

After you've traced all your circles, paint them. Be sure to

make the edges nice and dark so that they stand out. You can make each petal a different color, make them all the same, use multiple colors per petal, whatever you want to do. Once the paint has dried, cut the circles out. Cut them in a wavy pattern to give it the petal effect.

After you've cut out all of the circles, layer them as you wish. Once you're happy with the way it looks it's time to add the center. Bend the wire into a U-shape and push it through the holes in the button. Ask an adult to help you gently poke a tiny hole in the newspaper. Push the wire through the hole and lay it out flat. If you want to make it even more secure you can tape the bottom so that it won't come undone.

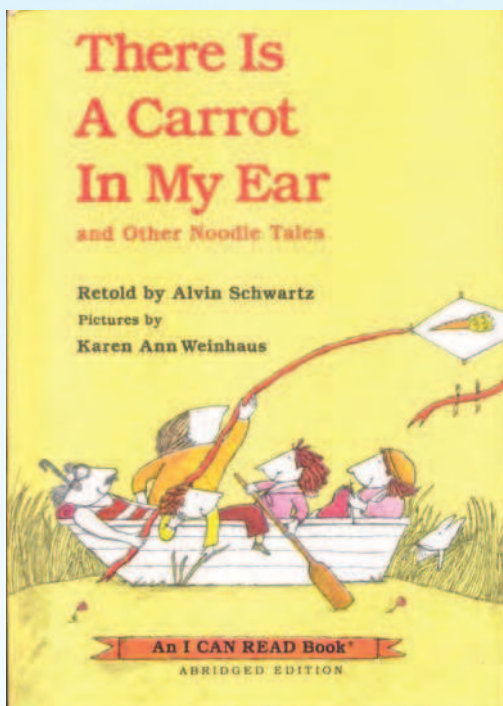
Strange tales of stranger family make for fun read

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) is an organization dedicated to helping kids learn how to read. Part of what they do is donate books to schools so that every child can own a book they can learn to read with. The greatest day of the third grade was when the people with all the old books came. At the time, I didn't know who they were, nor did I care, I was just excited that I got to take home my very own book. I searched the piles for new books, eagerly waiting for a title to jump out. I didn't leave that day with a new, exciting book, I left with the book *There is a Carrot in my Ear, and Other Noodle Tales*.

That book was my favorite growing up not just because it was about a family of ridiculous people, but because of how it was read to me. When my grandpa babysat my sister and I, I would insist that he read my favorite book, the *Noodle* book. He would sit in a chair and I would plop down on his knee while he dramatically read the book to me.

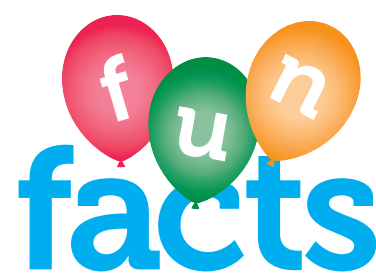
He would shout when the characters whispered, and whisper when they shouted. I would sit there and giggle while he made the sound effects and funny faces.

While my fond memories from my childhood may affect the way I see the book now, it will always have a special place in my heart. I believe a lot of why I am the quirky teen I am today is because of the books I read when I was



younger. The people I looked up to and admired the most: camp counselors, my grandpa, my favorite teacher, they all had one thing in common, they weren't afraid to be silly. This book taught me that being a silly person is not only fun to watch, but fun to be as well.

The pun-filled book teaches about bedtime routines, laundry, how to properly hatch a pumpkin and other quirky things. It's geared toward younger readers and is a reading level one. *There is a Carrot in my Ear, and Other Noodle Tales* can be found online at Amazon or Walmart.



- Pluto isn't a planet because it shares its orbit with other objects.
- Shrimps' hearts are in their head.
- A lot of what we know about ancient Egypt we learned from their art.
- More than 85 percent of all plant life on earth is found in the ocean.
- The Tyrannosaurus Rex's front arms were about the same size as human arms.
- A semicolon is a punctuation mark that signals the end of a thought; it also connects a new thought.
- Americans consume more than 16 million jelly beans at Eastertime, enough to circle the globe three times.
- An ostrich's legs are powerful enough to kill a lion.
- The Dark Ages of Greece (1,100 – 800 B.C.) is a period of time where very little can be found about their culture (art, reading, writing etc.).
- Most elephants weigh less than the tongue of a blue whale.
- The top six foods that make your fart are beans, corn, bell peppers, cauliflower, cabbage and milk.

-LAUREN MURPHY