



Powered By

Learn 2 Read Read 2 Learn®

K-8 Parent Guide

Support Today  A Brighter Future Tomorrow



STRONG
READERS
BRIGHTER
FUTURES

FAMILIES



LEARN



BELONG



SUCCEED

Valedictorian

K-8 Parent Guide

Read. Listen. Practice. Reflect.

Valedictorian
Read to a Dog!

Boost reading confidence and help shelter dogs find forever homes!



- 1 Choose a book you're comfortable reading aloud.
- 2 Call **(520)796-6323**.
- 3 Enter **CENSORED**. Start reading aloud!

Read as many times as you'd like... every story helps a shelter dog feel calm and loved.



Valedictorian
Dial-a-Story

Listen to Valedictorian anytime, read by the author!



- 1 Call **(520)796-6323**.
- 2 Enter **CENSORED** to hear the story.
- 3 Listen to the story and follow along in your book.

Perfect for children who can't yet read on their own!

Valedictorian is more than a story.

It is a simple way to help your child build stronger literacy skills while learning to set goals, believe in themselves, and strive for excellence.

You do not need to be a teacher. You do not need to create lesson plans. Just follow four simple steps.

1

READ

Read together or independently.

2

LISTEN

Use Dial-a-Story to hear it again.

3

PRACTICE

Use Read to a Dog or choose an age-appropriate activity.

4

REFLECT

Connect the story to your child's life.

HOW OFTEN?

2 to 3 short learning sessions each week.

A session can be as short as 15 to 30 minutes, depending on your child's age and attention span.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- Valedictorian
- Dial-a-Story access
- Workbook, paper, or notebook
- Pencil, crayons, or markers

THE GOAL

Do not rush through the book. Read it. Listen to it. Talk about it. Come back to it. Each time your child experiences Valedictorian, the learning can grow with them.

CHOOSE YOUR CHILD'S LEVEL

The story stays the same. The way your child interacts with it grows.

K - 2 DISCOVER

Focus on listening, talking, vocabulary, and understanding the story.

- Listen as you read aloud.
- Use Dial-a-Story to hear the story again.
- Identify characters, feelings, and important events.
- Learn and practice new words.
- Retell, draw, or talk about favorite parts.

ASK:

What happened?
How did the character feel?
What are you good at?

3 - 5 EXPLORE

Build independence and begin thinking deeper about the story.

- Read independently or take turns reading.
- Use Dial-a-Story to reinforce fluency and understanding.
- Identify main idea, details, and theme.
- Use context clues for new vocabulary.
- Write short responses and set a personal or academic goal.

ASK:

Why did the character make that choice?
What lesson can we learn?
What goal do you want to work toward?

6 - 8 ANALYZE

Use the story for deeper reading, reflection, and discussion.

- Analyze theme, character motivation, and important decisions.
- Support ideas with evidence from the text.
- Discuss perseverance, academic identity, and leadership.
- Write reflective or analytical responses.
- Connect the story to future goals and personal responsibility

ASK:

What is the bigger message?
What evidence supports your opinion?
What actions move you toward your goals?

REMEMBER

Meet your child where they are. A younger child may learn through listening and drawing. An older child may learn through discussion and writing. The learning grows with your child.

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YOUR SIMPLE 4-WEEK PLAN

You don't need to teach the whole book in one day. Spread the learning out.

WEEK 1

READ + DISCOVER

Read Valedictorian together. Younger children can listen while you read aloud. Older children can read independently or take turns with you.

- Who is in the story?
- What happens?
- What words are new?
- What does "Valedictorian" mean?

Goal: Understand the story.

WEEK 2

LISTEN + UNDERSTAND

Use Dial-a-Story to hear Valedictorian again. A second experience helps your child notice details they may have missed the first time.

- New vocabulary
- Important details
- Character feelings and choices
- The message of the story

Goal: Notice something new.

WEEK 3

THINK + PRACTICE

Choose one or two activities that fit your child's age and ability. Keep the activity connected to the story and to your child.

- Retell or draw
- Write about a character
- Explain the story's lesson
- Complete a workbook activity
- Set a personal or academic goal

Goal: Connect the story to you.

WEEK 4

REFLECT + APPLY

Finish the month by helping your child think about what the story means in their own life.

- Who is in the story?
- What happens?
- What words are new?
- What does "Valedictorian" mean?

Goal: Use what you learned.

THEN START AGAIN

Return to Valedictorian whenever it makes sense. Ask new questions. Choose new activities. Go a little deeper. The same story can support different skills as your child grows.

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QUESTIONS TO KEEP THE LEARNING GOING

A few good questions can turn reading time into a meaningful conversation.

K-2

- Who was your favorite character?
- What happened first?
- How did the character feel?
- What new word did you learn?
- What are you really good at?

3-5

- What was the main idea?
- What lesson did the character learn?
- What would you have done differently?
- What does striving for excellence mean to you?
- What can you do this week toward a goal?

6-8

- What is the bigger message?
- What evidence supports your answer?
- How did mindset affect the outcome?
- Is success only about grades? Why or why not?
- What habits could help you reach your goals?

KEEP IT FUN

Talk during breakfast. Discuss the story in the car. Let younger children draw their answers. Let older children debate an idea. Turn a question into a journal entry, voice recording, presentation, or family conversation.

FOLLOW YOUR CHILD'S LEAD

Some children want to talk. Some want to write. Some want to draw. Some need to hear the story several times before answering questions. That is okay. The goal is understanding, growth, and connection.

USING VALEDICTORIAN WITH ARIZONA ESA

The Valedictorian K-8 Literacy Program uses Valedictorian as its required core text. The complete Valedictorian K-8 Literacy Curriculum & Standards Guide provides the course of study, learning objectives, instructional activities, grade-band differentiation, assessment guidance, and standards alignment.

Families using Arizona ESA funds may keep the full guide with their educational records as supporting curriculum documentation. ESA requirements can change, so follow current ADE guidance when submitting purchases.

YOU'RE READY

Start with the book. Read together. Listen together. Ask questions. Help your child connect what they learn to who they are becoming. That is where the real learning begins.