



# STORY TIME

## BLACK BOOK OF COLORS

### Story Time Description

Sight, sound, smell, taste and touch are the five senses. Our eyes tell us about colors. But what if you are blind? Can you still know colors? Our story today is about a boy named Thomas who is blind and likes all the colors because he can hear, touch, taste, and smell them. The black pages with embossed drawings help readers understand how someone who is blind uses other senses to explore the world around them. Grab your imagination and let's take a color walk with Thomas!

### RELATED CHILDREN'S FICTION AND NONFICTION BOOKS

- *The Seeing Stick* by Jane Yolen
- *Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille* by Jen Bryant
- *Some Kids Are Blind* by Lola M. Schaefer
- *The Right Dog for the Job: Ira's Path From Service Dog to Guide Dog* by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent
- *Different Abilities: Celebrating Differences* by Rebecca Pettiford
- *DK Braille: Counting* by DK Publishing
- *We All Have Different Abilities: Celebrating Differences* by Melissa Higgins
- *Playing and Learning Together Meeting Mimi: A Story About Different Abilities* by Francie Dolan
- *All My Stripes: A Story for Children with Autism* by Shaina Rudolph
- *Yes I Can! A Girl and Her Wheelchair* by Kendra J. Barret
- *The Listening Walk* by Paul Showers
- *My Five Senses* by Aliko
- *I Hear a Pickle: and Smell, See, Touch & Taste it Too* by Rachel Isadora
- *Look, Listen, Taste, Touch and Smell: Learning About Your Five Senses* by Pamela Hill Nettleton
- *My Five Senses* by Margaret Miller
- *My First Book About the Five Senses* by Patricia J. Wynne
- *Daniel Finds a Poem* by Micha Archer

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## HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

### What's your name in braille?

Using the chart below have children create their name using Elmer's school glue to make dots on heavy cardstock. Visit [www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org) to download.

BRAILLE ALPHABET					
A	B	C	D	E	
⠁	⠃	⠉	⠙	⠑	
F	G	H	I	J	
⠋	⠗	⠓	⠏	⠊	
K	L	M	N	O	
⠅	⠕	⠍	⠎	⠕	
P	Q	R	S	T	
⠏	⠒	⠗	⠎	⠞	
U	V	W	X	Y	Z
⠥	⠧	⠺	⠭	⠽	⠵

### Make Your Own Black Book of Colors

Young readers who are blind or severely visually impaired rely on tactile books. See [www.makingtactilebooks.com](http://www.makingtactilebooks.com) for more ways to promote early tactile literacy.

### Make a Touch and Feel Box

This is an easy science activity you can do using a recycled tissue box and any open-ended materials. Visit [www.prekinders.com/tissue-box-science](http://www.prekinders.com/tissue-box-science) for instructions on how to make one.

## **EXPLORATION – TAKE A SENSORY WALK IN YOUR BACKYARD AND NEIGHBORHOOD**

As you explore your neighborhood or backyard find a sit spot where you can enjoy the sights and sounds of the outdoors. Nature is brimming with sights, sounds, textures, colors, just waiting to inspire young children. Encourage children to use as many senses as they can to make observations about the natural world. Adults can help by asking questions such as:

- What do you see? (Notice colors, shapes and movement)
- What do you feel? (Notice details and feel texture on natural items)
- What do hear? (Listen for bird songs, insects and other natural sounds)
- What do you smell? (Smell flowers, leaves and herbs)
- What do you taste? (Create an edible garden by planting herbs, vegetables and fruit)

## **THING TO DO AT HOME TO REINFORCE A POSITIVE CONNECTION BETWEEN CHILDREN AND NATURE**

- Use binoculars to help see things that are far away, up in trees, or flying in the sky
- Provide a magnify lens to help see things that are small or to see more details on things like leaves, pinecones, and seashells
- Provide non-fiction books and concrete materials
- Encourage children to use their sense of sight, sound, smell and hearing on nature walks
- Keep a nature journal to draw or write down things you notice and see
- Provide a camera or take photos with your phone
- Remind young children to ask before touching and tasting any plants, seeds, berries they may find
- Utilize the resources from this blog post