

Building Stories

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Architecture, Urban Life

Book Brief: Take an architectural tour of some of New York City's most interesting buildings! In this fascinating book, you can discover the animals and other features hidden in plain sight on buildings

throughout New York.

Author and Photographer: Isabel Hill



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: Look through the pictures with your child. Explain that animals, plants, and other images are often carved onto buildings as decoration.

While reading, practice vocabulary: This book contains several high-level vocabulary words. As you

read together, see if your child can use clues in the text to figure out the meanings of the new words. Take note of any words that your child is still unsure of so you can look up the meanings later.

After reading, ask questions: Ask your child to think about your neighborhood and community. Do any buildings near you have animals or decorations on them like in this book? If not, on which buildings would you add decorations?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

NEIGHBORHOOD STROLL

Materials: camera or camera phone, paper, pencils

Take a walk with your child in your neighborhood or downtown area. Pay close attention to the buildings and architecture. Have your child take pictures of architectural details and other things that interest them. After you return home, have them choose 2-3 pictures to write about in a style similar to that of the text in the book.

ARCHITECTURE ONLINE

Go to www.takus.com/architecture/types.html. After you read the information, do the **Try This!** activity at the bottom of the page. Explore other famous architectural wonders from around the world online at the Google Cultural Institute: www.google.com/culturalinstitute.

OWLS OF FUN!

Make an owl just like the ones on the building in the book.

Ingredients: graham crackers, candy corn, chocolate chips, marshmallows

Directions: Start with a graham cracker. Place two marshmallows on top of the graham cracker. Put a chocolate chip on each marshmallow. Last, put a piece of candy corn at the bottom of the two marshmallows. See WHOse owls disappear first! (For a more healthful option, replace marshmallows with banana slices.)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

The Aspiring Architect: An Activity Book for Kids, Travis Kelly Wilson (2013), *Look at That Building: A First Book of Structures*, Scot Ritchie (2011), *13 Buildings Children Should Know*, Annette Roeder (2009).



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