

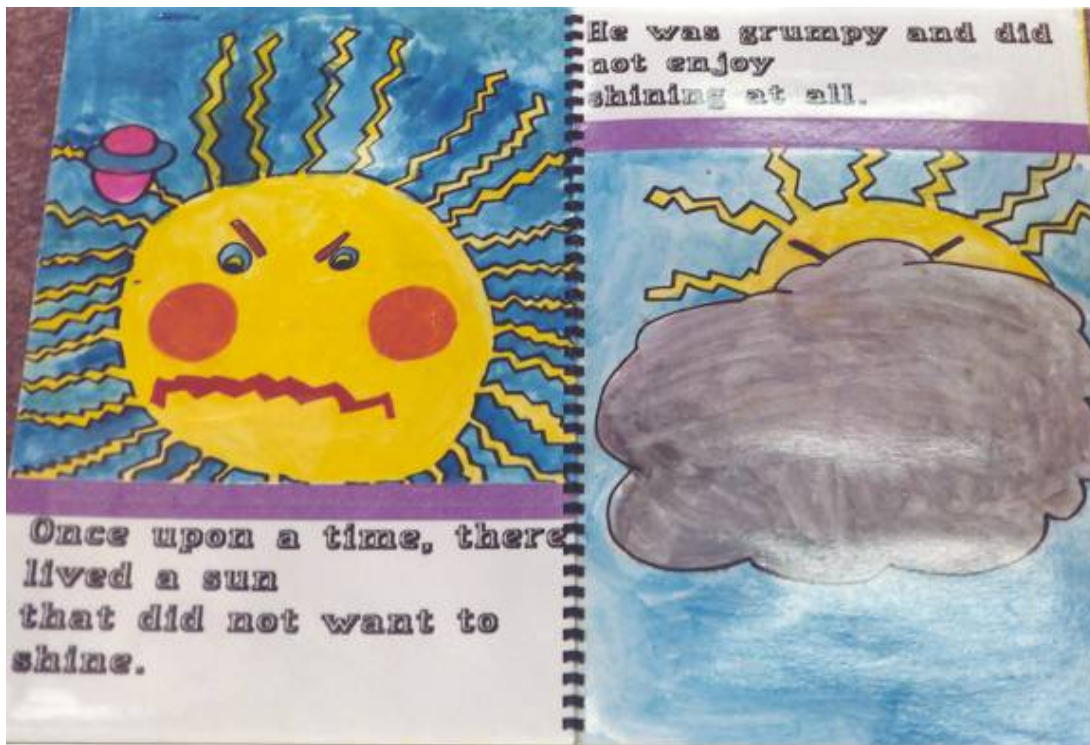
Big Books Created By Classmates

Many students will listen and seem to enjoy some books, when these are read with an **animated or expressive voice**. A little acting always makes the story more engaging for students and can allow one to build in humour, which appeal to the student. When looking for reading material that provides a simpler format and the opportunity to interact with a switch for voice output, it is often difficult to find interesting topics that are also **age appropriate**. One possibility could include class made books that are prepared by peers utilizing creative writing, art and computer skills.

In this activity, peers are requested to write simple, short stories incorporating a repetitive phrase (word, sound effect, statement, or question) occasionally throughout the story (for use with the BIGmack or Step-by-Step.) Once these stories are printed out on the computer, they can be enlarged on the photocopy machine and then pasted on large Bristol board pages to create age appropriate BIG books. Art work can incorporate guidelines as advised by the student's Teacher of the Visually Impaired (e.g., **contrast, simplicity, bright colours**, etc.) and use various mediums such as paint, bright tissue paper, or discarded wallpaper books. These can then be laminated and bound with plastic coils into permanent books. The student could have an instant library of 15 -25 class made BIG Books available to him/her (depending if peers work in pairs or not).

The following are some examples created by a grade 2/3 class with assistance from their big buddies (grade 7 class).





Also keep in mind that any visually stimulating book can be used with a BIGmack if peers create their own repetitive phrase, word, sound effect or question to pair with their reading.

Peers, classroom teachers and teaching assistants can **create their own repetitive...**

- words (e.g., ding-dong)
- phrases (e.g., the door bell rang)
- questions (e.g., "What do you think will happen next?" "Who's at the door?")
- sounds effects (e.g., "hmmmm-hmmmmm cookies" ...)

which relate to a specific theme from the story.

