

Using Our Book

Our customers have found some really interesting ways to use our publication. Here are a few examples:

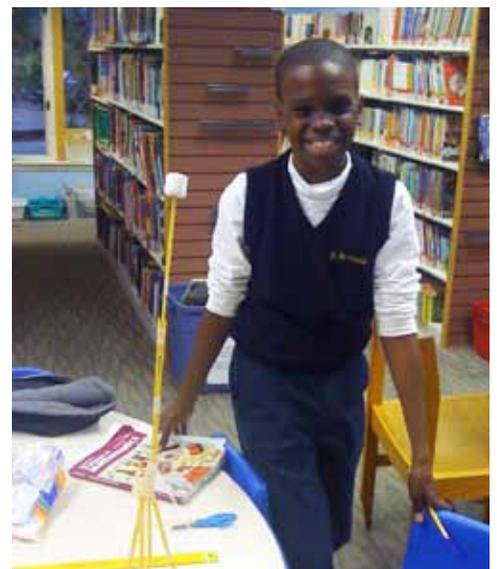
Outreach – The Department of Defense Starbase program is using the book as part of a pilot program aimed at teaching children about engineering design and careers. The teachers think that the book gives the children an overview of engineering as a career and will be having the kids read it aloud. They also plan on using the marshmallow challenge (an activity in the book) for an engineering design challenge and competition throughout the program.

After-School Programs – A number of elementary schools have after-school STEM programs at which they use the book to engage the students about engineering, relying heavily on the activities in the back of the book—puzzles, word searches, etc. The teachers believe that the diversity found in the illustrations of the book helps kids of all backgrounds see themselves as engineers.

Libraries – The city of St Paul, MN bought a large quantity of books for every elementary school library in the city. We believe that they are planning special readings in all of these libraries. It's a great book for parents or older children to read to young children.

Teacher Training – The United State Naval Academy is handing out the book to all of the teachers who come through their training program.

Family Engineering Night – Some schools invite the parents to come in with their children to do the marshmallow challenge (at the back of the book). More information about the challenge (and examples of finished products!) here. Each family could then take a book home to read together to encourage a greater understanding of engineering careers.



To order books or for more information please see www.start-engineering.com or call us at 202-244-5575.

Classroom Ideas



What is Engineering?

- Start out by asking your class, by raise of hands, if anyone knows what an engineer is or does.
- Write down the all of their answers on the board.
- Tell the class that engineers are involved with almost every aspect of their lives.
- They come up with the coolest phones, games and gadgets. Engineers design rockets, robots and underwater vehicles, and much more.
- Bascially, engineers are creative problem solvers. They use math and science to invent, design, build and improve structures, devices, materials and processes.

Reading the Book

- A younger class could have the book read to them; an older class could have the students taking turns reading rhymes aloud.
- If you read to the class, you could pause at the end of each stanza and have your students try to finish the rhyme, or come up with their own alternative rhymes.
- After you read the rhymes on each page, read aloud the information in the border text and discuss.

Questions to Ask Your Class

1. What other inventions or designs might each type of engineer dream up?
2. How have the inventions on each page changed or improved over time?
3. What were things like before you were born? What might they be like in the future?
4. If you were this type of engineer, what type of invention would you like to come up with?
5. How would you improve each invention? What would you change or add? Think big! There are no wrong answers.
6. Look around your house or classroom and try to identify items that you think were created by engineers. How have these objects changed or improved over time?
7. Which page of the book is most interesting to you? Why?
8. What would you enjoy about being each type of engineer, and what wouldn't you like?

Get Creative!

- Have your students to draw their own engineering inventions.
- Ask your students to make their own rhymes for each page. They could even put them to music or a beat, and record a rap.
- Have older students research the field of engineering that appeals to them the most and write a short essay with more information on the field.

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