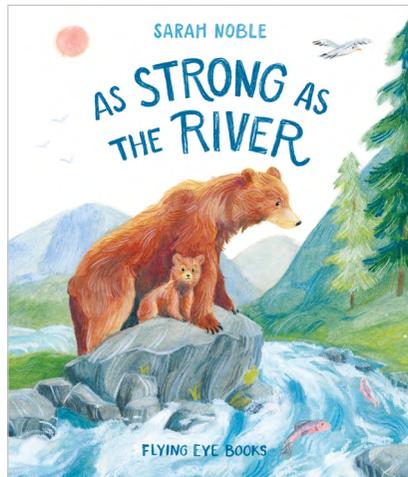


AS STRONG AS THE RIVER

TEACHING GUIDE



GRADES: Pre K-K, 1-2
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TEACHING PACK FOR KS2 TEACHERS

Suitable for: Pre K-K, 1-2

Includes: illustrated extracts from the book and comprehension questions and suggested activities

Contents:

- Book Summary and About the Author
- Before Reading Questions
- After Reading Questions
- Topics for Discussion
- After Reading Activities for Grades 1-2
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AS STRONG AS THE RIVER

BOOK SUMMARY

Little cub wants to be big and strong like all the other bears because there's nothing bigger or stronger than a bear... or is there? Join this curious bear cub as it learns from its mother how to hunt, fish, scratch and be patient in this beautiful debut picture book from Sarah Noble. Touching on themes of nature, nurture, and the importance of family, this is the perfect story for any curious young reader starting to question the world around them. In the vein of a classical animal picture book, *As Strong as the River* is designed to be the perfect bedtime story reading for parents and children.

Praise for *As Strong as the River*: "A nature-respecting read with an emphasis on an edifying parent-child relationship."

- Publishers Weekly

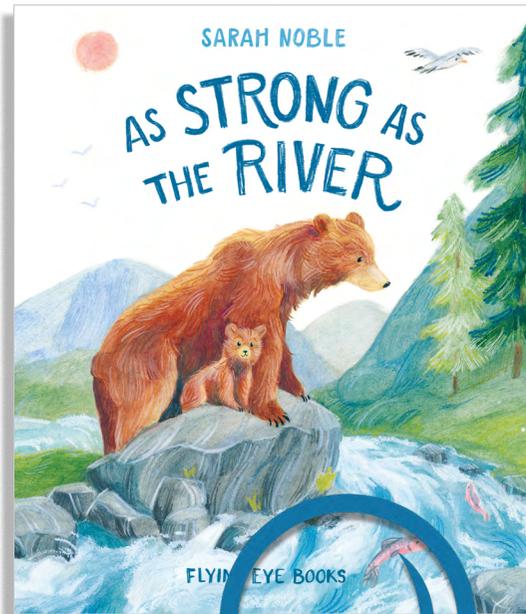
ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Sarah Noble is an American illustrator/author with a passion for color, composition, and storytelling. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Brigham Young University and a Masters in Children's Book Illustration from the Cambridge School of Art in the UK. She enjoys creating narratives using a variety of techniques, including pen & ink, watercolor, and oil pastels. Much of Sarah's inspiration is drawn from nature and unique, atmospheric, or moody environments. Her goal is to create beautiful, thought-provoking narratives that resonate with both young and old audiences.



Before Reading Questions



1. Describe what is on the cover:

2. What do you notice about each bear?
(The way they are standing, or their body language, for example)

3. What is the relationship between the two bears?

4. What else is strong in nature? Take turns sharing.

5. What makes a river strong? How do you think the river will come into play in the story?

After Reading Questions

1. How does mama bear show strength?

2. What are some different ways you show strength, or feel strong?

3. What is something that has made you stronger? How has it made you stronger?

4. What are some things that baby bear is curious about?

5. What are some things that you are curious about?

6. How do you practice patience in your everyday life?
Take turns sharing.

7. Describe a time you weren't patient. What was the outcome?
In what ways did you find it to be difficult? What did you learn?

8. Do you think baby bear wants to grow up? Why?

9. What are some possible reasons that mama bear tells baby bear not to hurry?

10. Describe something in nature that you think is beautiful.

11. Do you share any similarities with baby bear? Why or why not?

12. How do you feel when someone or something is stronger than you?

13. Does baby bear change by the end of the story? How?

14. What does mama bear teach baby bear?

15. What does baby bear learn?

16. What is a similarity that you and your parents or guardians share?

17. What is something your parents or guardians learned that they passed down and taught you? How has it helped you grow?

18. What is something you have learned on your own, without the help from your parents or guardians?

19. What is something you have taught someone else, whether that be a friend or a family member?

20. What is the problem and solution of the story? The message?

Topics for discussion

1. What is a ritual? (Explain the concept)

- What are your favourite rituals?
- Where did you learn them?
- Who taught them to you?

2. What is a role model? (Define)

- Identify what qualities you admire in a role model
- Give examples of people in your community who are a good influence on others, e.g. teachers, coaches, parents, grandparents, siblings, family members, or characters from books, TV, movies, etc.
- Talk about people you look up to for inspiration

3. What does it mean to be patient?

- Put the word 'patient' in a thought bubble and draw lines in different colors for each answer on a sheet of easel paper. On another sheet of paper, write down examples of things that require practicing patience.
- Repeat the exercise with the word "strength"

4. What materials did Sarah Noble use to create the illustrations?

- Talk about oil pastels, watch the [illustration video](#) from Sarah Noble's Instagram together



After Reading Activities for Grades 1-2:

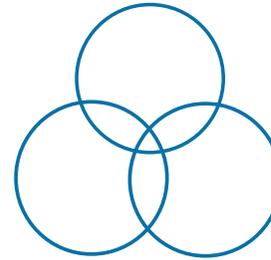
1. Create a venn diagram with your children or students.

In one circle, have them write down details about themselves.

- What do they like to do?
- What is their favorite activity, food, or place?

In the other circle, write down details about baby bear.

In the middle, write down things they share.



2. Have the children investigate and observe the different way in which they have grown and developed

- » If this is a homework assignment, send a note home to families requesting baby and current photos of each child earlier in the week, if not, help your kids find two photographs, one when they were younger, and another that is current.
 - A. Have them record things used to do under their old photos, and changes or lessons that have since occurred under their current photos.
 - B. Engage them in a discussion about how they have grown since they were babies. If you choose to take it a step further, develop a venn diagram to record differences and similarities between babies and themselves.
 - C. Encourage children to add drawings!

(This exercise is adapted from Risa Young's "Look How We've Grown!" teaching lesson originally published in Scholastic)

3. Watch a brown bear or grizzly bear live stream, and see what you notice!

(try: <https://explore.org/livecams/brown-bears/brown-bear-salmon-cam-brooks-falls>)

4. Engage in a reading comprehension exercise on the next page with your children to see what they noticed about the relationship between the two bears. Answer the questions in each row, and observe how each character acted and responded. Discuss lessons learned!

AS STRONG AS THE RIVER

Answer the questions in each row, and observe how each character acted and responded. Discuss lessons learned!

	What baby bear says	Does mama agree or disagree? What does she say?
1	Strength is the key to fishing	Mama disagrees. She says "The key is patience."
3		
4		
5		
6		

After Reading Activity for Preschoolers:

Teach your kids how to practice patience by catching fish, just like baby bear!

Materials:

- Colored pipe cleaner
- 5-6 toilet paper rolls
- Colored construction paper
- One large sheet of blue felt, or a blue poster board
- Googly eyes for the fish
- Straws to use as fishing nod

Instructions:

1. Construct 4-5 fish for each color using pipe cleaner
2. Cover the toilet paper rolls with a different color construction paper for each one, according to the colors of fish
3. Place the blue felt or paper on a firm surface, and scatter the fish on it. This will be the “ocean”
4. Line up the toilet paper rolls in a straight line at the edge of the “ocean”
5. Give each child a straw, and ask them to place each color fish into the appropriate roll, which will act as the “bucket”

(This activity is adapted from Homeschool AEC)



