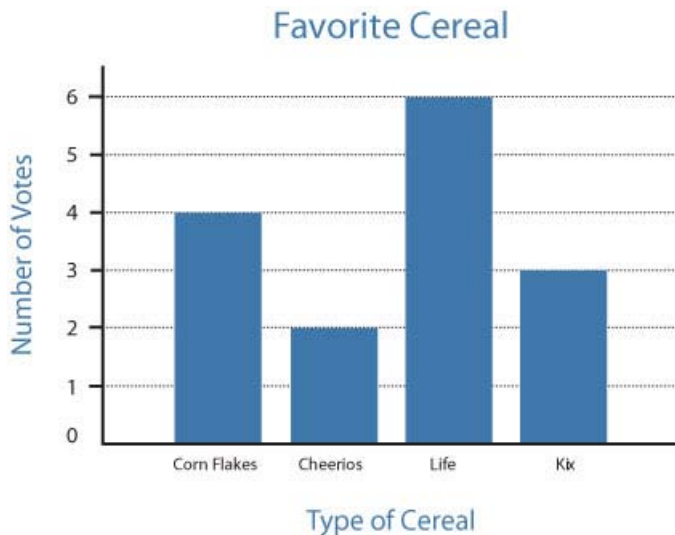


## Creating Bar Graphs, By: Reading Rockets (2011)

By creating simple bar or line graphs, children of any grade level will learn to ask questions and gather information about themselves and their surroundings. They learn to sort and organize objects based on information. Children can also represent this information using real objects, pictures, and graphs.

Bar graphs are simple graphs in which the height of each bar provides information. Here is a sample graph and a few vocabulary words that will help you understand the information in a graph:



- The **graph title** helps us know what information we can find on the graph. The graph title is usually found at the top of the graph. Our sample bar graph's title is "Favorite Cereal".
- The **axes** are the two sides of the graph. The **vertical axis** runs from top to bottom. The **horizontal axis** runs along the bottom of the graph.

- The **axes labels** tell us what information is presented on each axis. In our sample graph, one axis is "Type of Cereal". The other is "Number of Votes".
- The **scale** tells us how many or how much. In our example, the scale uses the numbers 1, 2, 3.
- The **bar height** tells us the value of each option. In our example, the height of the bars tells us how many people voted for each cereal.

Young children will love to create graphs based on all sorts of information. Some examples of graphs to create include: number of socks by color, favorite ice cream flavor, number of teeth lost, favorite thing to have for lunch.

As an alternative to paper-based graphs, have children use a large sheet of paper. Draw some simple grid lines, and ask children to use real objects, rather than a drawn bar, to display the information. For example, have your child lay out their socks by color, or line up bowls labeling them with their favorite foods.

Once a graph is created, ask your child to "read" the graph. What is the title of the graph? What information does each side tell us? Which item had the most votes? Which item had no votes? Can you list the items from most votes to least votes?

Graphs are widely used in math and science. Helping your child learn how to gather, organize, and share information using a graph is a great way to prepare them for success in school.

Adapted from

<http://www.ldonline.org/article/43814>

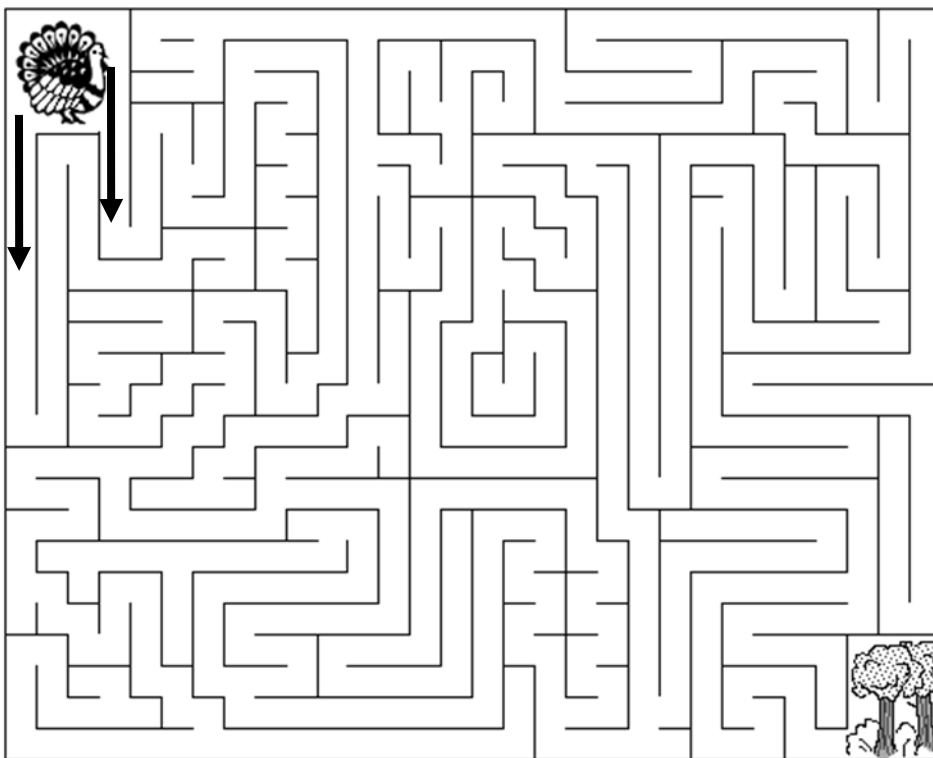
## Making Reading Magical and FUN!



It is no secret that raising lifelong readers requires family involvement and communication between parents and teachers. It is also important that parents read the same books that their children are reading and find creative ways to reflect on them together.

Here are some fun activities for your child to try—or you can make up your own activities together:

- Using your favorite book, create a list of words *that are unfamiliar*. Make your own dictionary with accurate definitions, examples and illustrations.
- Plan a “read-a-long” with popcorn and juice. Allow each person to pick the character he or she wants to be and make up a voice for that character.
- Create a new character for the story. Decide what part this character will play in the story. Write a vivid description of your new character.
- Pretend you will be helping the author write a follow-up book. Make up a short outline of characters and events. Design a cover for your new book



Help the turkey escape into the woods

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