

## Storytime: Listening through Children's Literature

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**SUMMARY:** In this session we will engage with children's literature (kids' books!) as we investigate different ways to listen to ourselves, to others, and to the world around us.

**GOALS:**

Participants will...

Feel more connected to their community, something bigger than themselves, and have a tool to use with campers of all ages.

**AUDIENCE:** 30 seasonal staff working at camps – but able to be used and adapted for groups of 5-50 and ages 4-40.

**TIMING:** 45 minutes

**MATERIALS:**

White printer paper

Colorful construction paper

Clipboards

Crayons

Glue sticks

Chalk

Book - The Circles All Around Us, by Brad Montague

Book - Milo Imagines the World, by Matt de la Pena

**SET-UP:**

Circle of couches or other comfortable seating – with access to outdoor sidewalk for chalk-drawing

## SESSION TIMELINE

00:00-00:05 – *Welcome*  
00:05-00:10 – *Reading “The Circles All Around Us”*  
00:10-00:20 – *Chalk Circles*  
00:20-00:30 – *Reading “Milo Imagines the World”*  
00:30-00:45 – *Torn-Paper Collages and Wrap Up*

## SESSION OUTLINE

00:00-00:05 – *Welcome*  
Invite folks to find a comfy spot and settle in.

00:05-00:10 – *Reading “The Circles All Around Us”*  
Read the book and share the photos.

00:10-00:20 – *Chalk Circles*  
Invite folks to think about how this relates to their personal lives, the circles they have all around them.  
Have folks find a buddy / chavruta, along with a piece of chalk, and head outside. Each person should draw some concentric circles and write or sketch inside the layers the different circles of people, community, and places that surrounds them with care. Share with their buddy the circles they’re drawing.  
Time permitting, invite a few participants to share back to the larger group.

00:20-00:30 – *Reading “Milo Imagines the World”*  
Read the book and share the photos.

00:30-00:45 – *Torn-Paper Collages and Wrap Up*  
Invite participants to think up their own multi-layered story of an imaginary person. Or think of someone in a scene at their camp and imagine what might be going on in their world. Invite participants to create that scene using colorful paper along with glue sticks and crayons (no scissors, just tearing/ripping paper).

If time permits, invite folks to share their creations.  
We may never know what is going on in someone’s world, but we can share some empathy and imagination.