

## Bookstore Manager's Corner

By Rosalie Marez



[Pictured above, center: Rosalie at the Bookstore; Left and right: springtime flowers]

Hello, El Paso Community! Hope our April newsletter finds everyone safe during these challenging times. We are thinking of you. This is an opportunity to increase your reading and expand your knowledge with many resources. Parents and children can take a moment to read a favorite memory. I cannot believe what I found in my little home library.

Books are GEMS is waiting for the safe opportunity to open our doors and put free books into your hands. We are looking to change children's lives, one book at a time.

Stay safe and Books are GEMS hopes to see you soon.

### Activity Time: Creating Your Own Stories!

Looking for something fun to do? Why not create your own stories? I bet you can even draw cool pictures for them, too! Here are some questions to help you get started:



- **What is your favorite book about?** Try to describe it without looking at the original. You can even throw in some fun, new story details, if you want (I hope there are unicorns!). Ask your family and friends what their favorite books are too, and what makes these particular stories special.

- **Who is your favorite character?** Create fun adventures by imagining them visiting different real or imaginary places. What do they find when they arrive there?
- **What is your favorite animal?** What kind of adventures do they go on?
- **What is your favorite story / memory to listen to?** Ask your family and friends what their favorite stories are from real life, and then write them down.
- **What kind of story do you want to be in?** Write about your own adventures, real or make-believe, starring you, your family, and friends! Do you climb mountains, fly out into space, or try to eat the world's largest ice cream cone? It's up to you!



### Friendly Reminder – Book Donations

During this time while Books are GEMS is closed, please do not leave your book donations outside the store. We are practicing **Stay Home, Stay Safe** and our staff is not available to pick up your donations and take inside the bookstore. Please hold your generosity until we reopen. Thank you for your support!



[Pictured above, left: donations outside Books are GEMS; Right: Thanks for your holding onto your generous donations!]

### Storytime Reading (for Free)

By Mary Shaner, Social Media Coordinator



Hi, everyone! Even though our bookstore is closed right now, there are currently a lot of free, online resources for reading to children (for a limited time). Many publishers and book distributors are currently offering free access to a wide variety of kids' stories online (in print or audio format, and in multiple languages). Below are some examples. As always, happy reading!

- Audible Stories:
  - [www.stories.audible.com](http://www.stories.audible.com)
  - The first Harry Potter audiobook, read by Stephen Fry (streaming only, not for download):
    - [https://stories.audible.com/pdp/B017V54W6O?ref=adbl\\_ent\\_anon\\_ds\\_pdp\\_pc\\_cntr-2-0](https://stories.audible.com/pdp/B017V54W6O?ref=adbl_ent_anon_ds_pdp_pc_cntr-2-0)
- Marvel Comics:
  - <https://www.marvel.com/comics/discover/1626/read-these-free-comics>
- Neil Gaiman's works:
  - For young adult readers, MouseCircus.com has videos and audio of Gaiman and others reading entire novels, such as *Coraline* and *The Graveyard Book*, etc.
- The Open Library:
  - <https://openlibrary.org/>

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