



LOLA AT THE LIBRARY

AUTHOR: ANNA MCQUINN

ILLUSTRATOR: ROSALIND BEARDSHAW

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Lola at the Library](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Lola loves Tuesdays because that is the day she and her mother go to the library. Everything about the trip is an exciting adventure—from packing her backpack with books and her all-important library card, to story time and singing, to choosing new books and the walk home, when they always stop for a special treat. But the best time of all is when Mommy reads her a story at bedtime. ([School Library Journal synopsis on Amazon](#))

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anna McQuinn was born and raised in the west of Ireland in a small town called Castleisland. Her favorite author as a child was Enid Blyton. She also loved comics (her dad disapproved). In 1988 she moved from Ireland to England where she taught English/reading to 12-16 year olds. She said, “It was very challenging but very rewarding work.” Currently, she is best known as the author of the Lulu/Lola books. Ms. McQuinn says, “I believe that books should broaden children’s horizons and imaginations; introduce them to new things and worlds and feelings; and help them to open up to possibilities beyond their immediate circumstances – as the #We Need Diverse Books campaign says, ‘books need to be a mirror and a window.’” ([annamcquinn.com](#))

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Rosalind Beardshaw writes: “I really enjoy being a children’s book illustrator and have always loved to draw. I’ve illustrated lots of picture books, including two of my own stories. My desk is very messy, but there’s always space for a cup of earl grey tea and a piece of cake! I take my big shaggy lurcher, Basil, to the studio with me, he lays under my desk and keeps my feet warm. My studio and home are in York, England, where I live with my young family.” Her most recently published book is titled: *Just Right for Two*, published by Nosy Crow. ([rosalindbeardshaw.com](#))

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- Who has been to a library? Who takes you there? What do you do there?
- What do you think this book will be about?
- What is one animal Lola wants to read about?

LOLA AT THE LIBRARY

TOPICS & THEMES:

- The library experience
 - librarian
 - borrowing
 - story time,
 - library card
 - library behavior
 - love of books

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

“Tell me more, why do you think that?”

“How do you know that?”

“What do you think they feel like that?”

“Interesting, did you notice anything else?”

- Look at words in the book title – Lola and Library – how are they the same? (What letter do they both start with – what sound does that letter make)?

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:

- Look at the title page – what do you think Lola is doing?
- (p.1-2) – Who is Lola with? Who do you think woke up first?
- What do you think Lola might be saying to her mother?
- I wonder why Lola has gotten up so early. What do you think?
- (pp. 3-4) – What does it mean to borrow a book? (If you have a library card, show it to the class.)
- Who does Lola see on the way to the library – do you think the baby is going there also?
- (pp. 7-8) What’s Lola doing with the book from last week?
- (pp. 9-10) Is it okay to talk in the library? What kind of a voice might be a good idea (yelling or inside voice)?
- (pp.11-12) Can anyone guess from the picture what the story might be about?
- (pp. 13-14) I wonder why it takes a long time choosing.
- (pp. 15-16) Can Lola keep these books forever?
- (pp. 17-18) What’s a cappuccino? Why does Lola have a white lip?
- Last 2 pages – What does it mean to be tucked into bed? What’s the “end of the day”? What kind of story do you think Lola and her mom are reading about in this picture?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:

- Who remembers what’s in Lola’s backpack?
- Why was she so excited to get up?
- I wonder what Lola’s favorite time of day is.

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- Have any of you ever sung a song at the library? What does it mean to know the words and the hands of the song?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Sing “*Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*” with words and hands like Lola did.
- What do we call the person who works at the library? Practice saying the word librarian all together (a long word).

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Pretend play “visiting a library” in the book area of class, kids could make a library card with their initial(s) on it, one could be the librarian, one could return a book, one could be a story reader, etc.
- Encourage parents who don’t have a library card to apply for one. Give directions to the closest library for families to use.
- Have the children draw a picture of something they’d like to read about in a story.