

“When You Find Colors and Shapes”

by Angela Russ-Ayon

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Open-ended Questions and Instructional Support

Pg. 1

This book offers plenty of opportunity to take the reading experience for young children to a higher level of thinking. Explore STEM concepts together. Encourage observation, ask open-ended questions, wait patiently for a response, then forge ahead with another inquiry. The questions below follow the progress of the book. Choose one or more as you turn the pages. And don't forget to share your own experiences with the author.

EVERY PAGE TURN

- How do you know that's a SHAPE?
- Where else do you see this SHAPE inside/outside?
- What other things are shaped like this?
- What makes this SHAPE different from (another) SHAPE?
- What do you think of when you see a SHAPE?
- What do you think of when you see the color _____?
- Where else do you see the color _____ inside/outside?
- What do you notice about the shapes on this page?
- What do you notice about the colors on this page?
- How are the shapes/colors different or the same?
- How did the shapes change?
- Why do you think the shapes moved like this?
- What do you notice about how the shapes moved when we turned the page?
- How would you draw this shape in the air or on paper?

BLUE RECTANGLE | SHAKE

- What do you see when you look high/low in the pile of shapes?
- How can you move your body high and low?
- What things are high/low in the room or outside?
- How do you shake a little/a lot?
- Which parts of your body can you shake?
- What other things can you shake?

- Why do you think the shapes flew far and wide?
- What else do you see on this page? (Face)
- How would your body look if you spread far/wide?
- What other things are shaped like a rectangle?

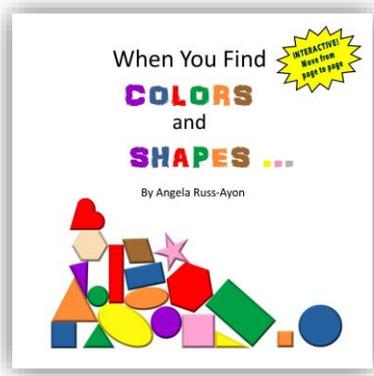
Rectangle: door, wallet, book, chalk board, brick, table, picture frame, television, cell phone, cracker, bus, desk, bed, box, lasagna pasta, playing cards.

Blue: blueberries, bluebird, jeans, bluebells, sky, sapphire, oceans, eyes, Cookie Monster, Grover, Blue Man Group, peacock, topaz, Horton, Dory, Eeyore, plums, lilac, blue jay, Smurfs.

RED HEART | TWIST

- How would you make a heart with your hands?
- How do you twist your body?
- Why do you think you can't twist your body all the way around when your feet don't move?
- Can you show me how to twist slowly / faster?
- What other body parts can you twist?
- What are things at home/in class you can twist?
- What do you think will happen to the shapes when you twist your body?
- What do you notice about the colors/shapes on this page? (patterns)
- Where do you see patterns around us?
- How can you make a pattern with shapes/colors?
- What else can you use to make patterns?

Red: fire truck, fire extinguisher, ketchup, tomatoes, cranberries, peppers, bell pepper, strawberry, raw meat, apple, raspberry, inside of a watermelon, red velvet cake, candied apple, stoplight, lobster, pepperoni, lady bug, The Flash, Elmo, Ironman.



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ORANGE SQUARE | LIFT ONE FOOT

- What do you think the author means by “across?”
- What happens when you lift one foot and hold it in the air? (balance)
- What would happen if you lifted one foot “low” in the air?
- Why do you think it’s so hard to balance on one foot for a long time?
- What if you tried balancing on the other foot?
- What if you balanced with your arms up, out, down, behind you?
- What other things can you balance?
- What will happen if you stack your toys/blocks this way?
- How would you stack toys/blocks differently to make them straight?
- You balanced on one foot. How did the shapes balance with you?
- Which shapes do you see at the top/in the middle/on the bottom?
- What do you notice about the colors/shapes on this page? (patterns)
- What other things are shaped like a square?

Square: game board, box, Rubik’s cube, block, window pane, dice, ottoman, tiles, cheese slices.

Orange: Pumpkin, carrot, marigold flower, clown fish, tiger, kumquat, caution cones.

PURPLE CIRCLE | SPIN AROUND

- How would you make this shape with your arms/body?
- How do you move your body when you spin?
- What’s the best way to spin so you won’t fall?
- What happens if you spin slowly/too fast?

- What if you hold a tissue/streamer/scarf in your hand when you spin?
- Why do you think the shapes flew into a circle?
- What does this big circle remind you of?
- What other things are shaped like a circle?

Circle: plate, eraser on a pencil, a light fixture, ball, orange, slice of fruit, bracelet, a snowman, a full moon, a button, bottle cap, wheel, coins, clock, tortilla.

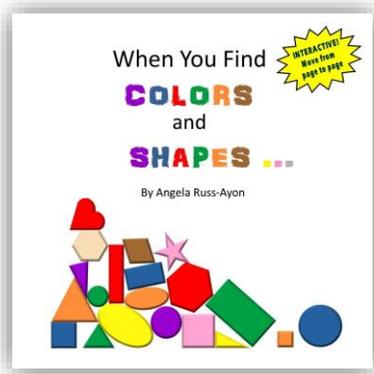
Purple: flower, eggplant, cabbage, grapes, blackberries, currants, figs, plums, beets, endive, Barney, Tinky Winky Teletubbie.

YELLOW OVAL | SWING

- How many other ways can you swing your arms?
- How do you swing high/low/close to your body/away from your body/in a circle/in a half circle?
- What other body parts can you swing?
- What does the shapes remind you of?
- What other things are shaped like a rainbow? (slice of watermelon, turtle shell, jellyfish, or a bowl)
- Where do you see rainbows?
- What can you tell me about rainbows?
- How do the colors look on a rainbow?
- What other things are shaped like an oval?

Oval: watermelon, egg, jewelry, stones, leaves, fake fingernails, loaf of bread, dishes, hair brush, toilet seat, head of a racquet.

Yellow: sun, daffodil, pencil, canary, baby chick, taxi, corn, squash, sponge, cheese, banana, butter, yolk, lemon, omelet, sunflower, school bus, mac and cheese.



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GREEN TRIANGLE | BEND & SWEEP

- How can you make a triangle with your hands/body?
- What happened when you swept side to side?
- Why do you think the shapes piled up like that?
- What happens when you sweep with a broom?
- What do you notice about the colors each side?
- How are the shapes different on each side?
- What other things are shaped like a triangle?

Triangle: “Yield” sign, slice of pizza, cone, hanger, slice of pie, pyramid, tee-pee, party hat, Toblerone candy box, roof.

Green: Leaves, garden hose, grass, pepper, bell pepper, artichoke, avocado, watermelon rind, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, celery, cucumber, pippin apple, cilantro, pea, honeydew melon, kiwi, mint ice cream, lettuce, spinach, zucchini, Shrek, Grinch, Hulk, Ninja Turtles, Gumby, Oscar the Grouch.

PINK STAR | CURL UP

- What can you tell me about the star shape?
- What do you have to do to make your body tight?
- What happened to the shapes when you curled up tight?
- How do you make your body open up and go wide, instead?
- How do you make a ball roll/bounce?
- Why do you think a ball rolls (round) and a cube (square) doesn’t?
- What can you do to make a ball roll faster/slower?
- How can you play with balls? (pass, roll, toss, catch, throw, kick, bounce)
- Who uses balls?
- How can you make balls bounce higher?
- What sounds do balls make?
- What different kinds of balls can you find?

- How can you make a ball?
- What other things are shaped like a star?

Star: star fish, star fruit, cookie cutter, ornaments, stickers.

Pink: pink lemonade, pink grapefruit, flamingos, the Pink Panther, pig.

BROWN DIAMOND | MARCH

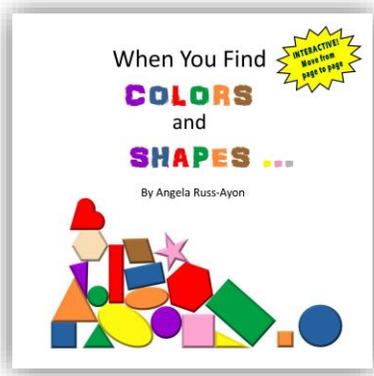
- What’s the difference between walking and marching?
- What happened to the shapes when you marched?
- What other things can you climb?
- What things can you see when you look up/down?
- Why do you think there are more shapes on the bottom than the top?
- What other things are shaped like a diamond?

Diamond: baseball field, jewelry, kite, pavers, “School Zone” sign, “Slow Down” sign.

Brown: chocolate, brown bear, paper bag, almonds, walnuts, dirt, wood, skin of a coconut, skin of a kiwi, brown sugar, toast, pinecone, skin of a potato, pancake.

GRAY CRESCENT | JUMP

- What other shapes does the moon make at night?
- How does your body move when you jump?
- How do your legs help you jump?
- How do your shoes/clothes feel when your jump?
- What happened to the shapes when you jumped?
- Why do you think the shapes flew in the air?
- Why do you think the small shapes flew higher than the big shapes?
- What do you think will happen to the shapes next?
- What happens when you toss something in the air?



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- What would you have to do to make the shapes go higher/lower?
- What happens if you toss something heavy/light?
- What if we used a parachute/sheet to toss things?
- What other things are shaped like a crescent?

Crescent: banana, hot pepper, croissant, moon, pasta, eyelid.

Gray: rain clouds, moon, coins, elephant, dolphin, hair,

TAN HEXAGON | WALK

- What’s the difference between walking and running?
- How does your body move when you walk?
- How fast can you walk without running?
- How do you walk softly vs. stomp hard?
- How do the shoes you wear change the way you walk?
- What would happen if you walked straight ahead and kept going?
- What do you know about paths?
- Where have you seen paths inside/outside?
- Why do you think paths form where you walk?
- What do you notice about how you walk compared to how animals and insects walk?
- What happens when you walk on water, sand, mud, gravel? (footprints, tracking, sliding)
- What other things are shaped like a hexagon?

Hexagon: bolt, honeycomb, stop sign, skin of a soccer ball, tiles, sections of a turtle shell.

WHITE | RUN

- How does your body move when you run?
- How does your body feel after you run?
- What are reasons you would want to run?
- Why do you have to be careful when you run?
- How does your breathing change when you run?
- How do your footprints differ when you run vs walking?
- Where did all of the shapes go?
- Why do you think the page has no color?
- What other things are white?

White: snow, dove, tooth, milk, sheep, polar bear, wedding dress, cotton ball, whipped cream, toilet paper, marshmallows, swan, paper, French tips, sugar cubes, baby’s breath flowers, cauliflower, coconut, salt.

BLACK | TAP

- Why do you think the page is black?
- What happens when you turn out the lights?
- Why do you turn out the lights?
- When do you turn out the lights?
- What things do you do in the dark?
- How do you move in the dark?

Black: black bear, panther, crow, beetle, bat, black widow spider, sunglasses, black tie, black tuxedo, black pepper, panda, Oreo.