

## About ASL Tales and Games for Kids

ASL Tales and Games for Kids is an original story series that takes place in a fictitious town, called Pawstown, USA. Each street in Pawstown contains three stories appropriate for young children. Each Pawstown street is designed in a similar way with consistent icons and procedures. All story content is accessible in ASL, as well as English text and audio. Each story occurs in a commonly known community facility. In addition to Paws, the signing dog, Pawstown is populated by a group of children who are from different ethnic backgrounds and are variously deaf, hard of hearing, multiply disabled, and hearing. You will note that the pictures show many of the children signing, and some stories give glimpses into Deaf culture and experiences.

Many of the stories use educationally-proven predictable structure, wherein sentences or phrases are repeated. Your child may notice these patterns and be able to sign/say those parts of the story as they are shown. The story themes and words are those found in most preschool/early elementary materials. Reading is emphasized in each section, with vocabulary repeated over several stories for reinforcement. In addition, features of American Sign Language (ASL), such as handshape, fingerspelling, and facial grammar are included. Basic computer skills, such as clicking or dragging items and using icons to access parts of the program, are also included.

### Pawstown Characters



Arf! My name is Paws, the signing dog. I belong to Horatio, one of the Pawstown kids, and we go everywhere together. Because I am such a doggie star, I sign all the stories in ASL Tales and Games for Kids.



Hola! Horatio—That's my name! My parents are from Mexico, but I was born here. I am deaf, and my family and dog Paws sign with me. My name sign is an "H" on the chest. I love animals! I am 6 now, but when I grow up, I am going to be a lion tamer. My older sister Maria says she wants to put me in a cage sometimes anyway.



Hey! What's up? Arnold's my name. I am hearing, but Horatio gave me the name sign, "A" on top of the head, because he thinks I have a wild imagination. My parrot Crackers and I like to get books from the library and information off the computer about outer space. I may be six, but I am a secret agent for F.E.E.T. (Find Every Extra Terrestrial)!



Hi! My name is Chiu-Chin. I was born in China. I am deaf and five years old. My name sign is a "C" on the chin. Everyone thinks I am very helpful. Last week, I even helped my teacher make a bulletin board about baby and mother animals. I like to take my stuffed panda bear everywhere with me, even to preschool!



Hello! Hello! We are Josh and Jurry, identical twins. We wear different color hats so people can tell us apart although Jurry is deaf and has a cochlear implant. Josh is hearing. We love to confuse people by trading hats and scaring people with our pet snake Slither. This drives our parents crazy!!!



Hello! My name is LaWanda. My name sign is an "L" on the side of the head because everyone says I am so smart. I read all the time and often read stories to my Pawstown friends. My teacher says I will probably grow up to be a teacher like her or a librarian someday.



Holà! My name is Maria, and I am Horatio's older sister - I'm 8. Horatio gave me a name sign, an "M" on the cheek. I know three languages – English, Spanish, and ASL! Maybe, I will grow up to be an interpreter! How cool will that be!



Bonjour! My name is Marissa, but my family and friends call me Muffy. My sign name is an "M," drawing on the other hand. When I grow up, I am going to be a famous artist and live in Paris. I practice speaking French to my cat Licks, so she can go with me. My mother lets me paint, but boy, does she get frustrated when I get the paint on my clothes and her floors!



Hello there! My name is Rama, which is short for Ramalinga. My family is from India, and, wow, do they love soccer! You can find me at the Pawstown park as often as possible practicing. By the way, my sign is an "R" on the side of my chest where my team logo is. Guess what? My family is taking ASL classes!



Hi! My name is Tyrell. I am hard of hearing. My name sign is a "T" on the forehead because I am often forgetful. I am 7 years old. My mom is so funny! She says I eat her "out of house and home," but that is because I want to get big and strong enough to play football when I grow up. My mom says I won't play football if I forget where I left it!



Well, hello! My name is Whitney. I am five, almost six. I am deaf. My name sign is a “W” on the chest. This shows I like to act and am very dramatic. In the summer, my friends and I put on plays in my back yard. We write the stories for the plays ourselves! Everyone in Pawstown comes to watch. Do you think a Hollywood talent scout will come too and discover me?

## **About Each Pawstown Street and Story**

**Woof-Woof Way** – stories about the library, toy store, and pet store

### **What Pet Should I Get?**

Horatio, Paws’s owner, loves animals. Upon going to the pet store, he lets different animals out of their cages to help decide what pet he should buy. The story is cumulative, wherein one animal and its action are added to each page of the story. As your child reads through the story, he/she should be aware of the story pattern and begin to sign/say the words as they appear. The story focuses on sequencing, memory, animal names, and action verbs.

### **Panda, Panda, Where are You?**

Chiu-Chin is on a mission to find her stuffed panda who is lost in the toy store. As Chiu-Chin is looking for her panda, she asks the different toys where he might be. Each time she asks, she is given a possible location for her beloved panda. Then, she goes to that toy and looks behind it, in it, etc. The focus for this story is on descriptive words including color, size, the position of those objects, asking and answering questions, and conversations in ASL. Unlike the other stories in the Pawstown series in which pages are turned by using the dogs in the corners of the screens, this story requires the child to click on the item that was mentioned in the story to move to the next screen.

### **A Book with a Space Alien**

Arnold, a child with a vivid imagination, visits the library in search of a “book with a space alien.” This story includes the word “look” used in many ways and signed differently, depending on the context. There are three signs for “look”—look (made by pointing the first two fingers in the direction of the gaze), look for (made by using a C hand shape in a circular motion in front of the face), and look like (made by using the index finger in a circular motion in front of the face). Also, as just noted, the first sign for “look” can be modified depending upon the direction of the action. For example, when looking up, the fingers point up; when looking around, the fingers move in a circle. Point out to your child the many ways that “look” is used in the story and who Arnold discovers each time. Have them predict who or what Arnold will see as he explores the library and if he will ultimately find a book with a space alien.

***Biscuit Boulevard*** – stories about a restaurant, department store, and theater

### **Watch Me!**

The Pawstown kids are all set to see a play, but Whitney makes them late by insisting they witness her acting skills. She demonstrates how a wide variety of adjectives can be modified in sign language to demonstrate their intensity. Watch the videos to better understand how.

### **Menu Mix-up**

This story is about Chiu-Chin's attempts to order a meal in ASL. Unfortunately, every time the waitress brings Chiu-Chin's order, she confuses one of the food signs with another that is similar (e.g., onion instead of apple). Back and forth she goes until Chiu-Chin gives up and changes her order completely. By using signs that differ little from each other, this story teaches young children to attend to small differences in much the same way that we change a single letter in a word when teaching children to read. Pictures of signs and their concepts enhance understanding. This story also uses iterative phrases to reinforce reading.

### **A Different Trick**

In this story, identical twins, Josh and Jurry, decide to play a trick on a department store salesman and their mother by asking for various items of clothing and then swapping places. Every time the salesman returns with the requested clothes, a different twin is there (and the other hiding), insisting that he wants something else. The story reinforces the concept of twinning by relying on signs that use both hands identically (e.g., pants, shirt). Ask your students to identify the signs that do that. Clothing, color, and opposites vocabulary are reinforced.

***Leash Lane*** - stories about the police station, post office, and the school bus

### **My Best Friend is Missing!**

Paying close attention to visual detail is an important aspect of ASL. In this story, Horatio goes to the police station, and with his sister Maria who interpreting, asks for help in finding his missing friend. The police officer asks a number of questions regarding the missing friend's appearance (e.g., facial features, body size). Gradually, a picture of the friend comes into focus, and the friend is found. Have your students predict who this friend may be. The story uses a situation frequently encountered by deaf children (i.e., using a family member to interpret), but clearly, Horatio is doing the communicating. This is a good time to talk about the right way to use an interpreter and the interpreter's role.

### **Is It Here Yet?**

There is a whole series of steps between ordering something you want and its arrival in the mail. Most young children do not grasp the steps involved and are impatient with the time it takes. This is the situation with Muffy, who pesters her mother as the days of the week tick by, trying to understand what happened to her letter and money while she waits for her Pawstown t-shirt to arrive. This story uses repetitive phrases, and postal service and days of the week vocabulary to support reading.

### **Hop on the Bus!**

All of the neighborhood kids appear in this story, hopping on the bus at their respective stops as it drives through Pawstown on the way to a surprise location. Though they each try to quiz the bus driver on possible destinations, the surprise is not revealed until the end of the story. The story uses repetitive phrases and focuses on numbers and addition, as various size groups of children get on the bus.

***Doghouse Drive*** – stories about the dentist, food store, and community

### **Anything But My Tooth!**

Arnold's imagination runs wild (per usual) when his mother threatens to take him to the dentist to have a ready-to-fall-out baby tooth removed. As he recites the people who might potentially successively collaborate to tug the tooth out (e.g., the dentist, hygienist, receptionist), the items that pop out of his mouth become more and more silly. The story reinforces reading by emphasizing dental vocabulary and using repetitive phrases.

### **Don't Forget the Bread!**

Mommy has quite a long list of items she wants Tyrell to pick up at the food store. He refuses to write them down despite Mommy's warning. As he walks down Doghouse Drive, he passes a number of stores. Items in the store windows, signed similarly to the food he is to pick up, cause confusion. By the time he arrives at the food store, he has a shopping bag full of items that don't match the shopping list Mommy gave him. Pictures of the signs and concepts help clarify the story. By using signs that differ little from each other, this story teaches young children to attend to small vocabulary differences in much the same way that we change a single letter in a word when teaching children to read. See what happens when Tyrell finally gets home.

### **Trading**

Whitney is determined to get her doll back from Maria but finds out that it has been traded for another toy from Arnold. When she confronts Arnold, she finds out that it has been traded again. See what happens as she goes from one Pawstown kid to another trying to retrieve her doll. This cyclical story uses repetitive phrases and toy vocabulary to reinforce reading. Can your students predict where she will go from screen to screen and what will be traded?

ASL Tales and Games for Kids Manual					
Street/Story	Community Site	Character(s)	Deaf/Hearing	Vocabulary (# of words)	Educational Focus
<b>Woof Woof Way</b>					
What Pet Should I Get	Pet Store	Horatio	Deaf	30	cumulative story/sequential phrase memory, action verbs, animals
Panda, Panda, Where are You?	Toy Store	Chiu-Chin	Deaf, Multiply	53	preposition, size and color vocabulary, question and answer form
A Book with a Space Alien	Library	Arnold	Hearing	40	how the word "look" is signed differently depending on context, color
<b>Biscuit Boulevard</b>					
Watch Me!	Theater	Whitney and friends	Deaf/Hearing	50	facial expression, variations in adjective vocabulary and intensity
Menu Mixup	Restaurant	Chiu-Chin	Deaf, Multiply	32	sequencing, how signs vary by one parameter (e.g., location, movement)
A Different Trick	Department Store	Josh and Jurry	Deaf	47	opposites, twin signs (both hands are used identically, colors and movement)
<b>Leash Lane</b>					
My Best Friend is Missing	Police Station	Horatio and Maria	Deaf/Hearing	56	description of body features, facial expression, question and answer
Is It Here Yet?	Post Office	Muffy	Deaf	64	circular sequence, postal vocabulary and process, directionality, counting
Hop on the Bus!	School Bus	Pawstown Kids	Deaf/Hearing	70	counting, addition, directionality
<b>Doghouse Drive</b>					
Anything but my Tooth!	Dentist	Arnold	Hearing	26	sequential memory, dental vocabulary
Don't Forget the Bread!	Community/Food Store	Tyrell	Deaf	43	how signs vary by one parameter (e.g., location, movement), food
Trading	Community	Whitney and the Pawstown Kids	Deaf/Hearing	39	circular sequencing, toy vocabulary

ASL Tales and Games for Kids Vocabulary List by Story											
Woof Woof Way			Biscuit Boulevard			Leash Lane			Doghouse Drive		
What Pet Should I Get?	Panda, Panda, Where are You?	A Book with a Space Alien	Menu Mixup	A Different Trick	Watch Me!	My Best Friend is Missing	Is It Here Yet?	Hop on the Bus!	Anything but my Tooth!	Don't Forget the Bread!	Trading
at	asked	aliens	and	and	actors	a	a	a	anything	a	and
barks	balloon	all	apples	are	angry	asked	address	Alley	but	an	answered
bird	behind	a	asked	bears	Arnold	best	an	and	dentist	and	Arnold
bowl	big	are	cake	bright	at	big	and	are	doesn't	apple	asked
cat	bike	Arnold	carrots	can	be	bit	asked	Arf	even	better	back
catches	blue	asked	chicken	clothes	brave	blue	at	Arnold	fall	bread	ball
chases	both	at	Chiu-Chin	dark	can	brown	box	asked	helps	butter	bowl
dog	brown	behind	cookies	different	cold	can	brought	at	hygienist	buy	can
dunks	can	books	corn	don't	excited	color	buy	beach	if	carrot	Chiu-Chin
fish	car	bottom	do	games	feelings	does	can	Boulevard	it	cheese	dinosaur
for	Chiu-Chin	doesn't	eat	get	for	else	carrier	Biscuit	mommy	chicken	doll
get	dinosaur	elephant	French fries	great	frustrated	eyes	dropped	bus	my	don't	fish
Horatio	doll	for	hamburger	hard	full	fat	envelope	car	nevermind	down	gave
I	find	found	here	hat	good	find	Friday	children	no	go	have
in	found	frog	I	Josh	happy	five	give	circus	not	food	her
is	green	giraffe	instead	Jurry	Horatio	friend	handlers	construction	oops	for	Horatio
on	have	gorilla	is	just	hot	hair	here	dealer's	out	forget	I
owner	he	himself	juice	light	how	have	house	Dog	patient	I	it
pet	help	it's	milk	long	hungry	he	I	down	Paws	is	Josh
scared	here	left	no	me	hurry	help	in	driver	pull	it	Jurry
should	here's	librarian	not	monkeys	I	him	is	drove	receptionist	key	LaWanda
sits	him	library	onions	mother	late	Horatio	it	five	said	me	Maria
snake	home	like	orange	need	like	how	letter	four	the	mommy	me
store	house	look	signed	new	look	interpreted	look	going	they	movie	Muffy
swims	I	looked	the	no	love	is	mail	have	tooth	newspaper	my
that	in	looking	to	OK	me	kind	mailbox	here	will	no	paints
the	is	over	turkey	pants	noon	like	mommy	hop		not	panda
this	large	right	waitress	places	now	little	Monday	Horatio		oh	puzzle
what	lost	said	want	play	play	long	money	House		paint	Rama
window	my	shelf	what	said	proud	look	Muffy	Josh		remember	robot
	need	space	you	salesman	sad	lot	must	Jurry		replied	she
	no	thanks	your	same	said	Maria	near	it's		said	snake
	not	that		shirt	scared	me	not	left		sighed	soccer
	now	the		shoes	see	mind	office	LaWanda		something	to
	oh	there		short	show	missing	on	Maria		store	traded
	panda	to		socks	signed	my	our	Muffy		the	Tyrell
	pink	top		soft	silly	never	out	now		to	us
	puppet	what		the	starts	of	Paws	off		toothbrush	we
	face	with		their	the	old	post	on		Tyrell	Whitney
	red	you		to	thirsty	or	put	Pawstown		won't	
	ride			together	time	orange	replied	playground		write	
	seen			traded	tired	policeman	right	pool		wrong	
	signed			twins	to	red	said	pulled		you	
	small			want	too	scarf	Saturday	Rama			
	some			we	Tyrell	signed	slot	ride			
	the			with	upset	the	stamp	right			
	think			you	very	there	store	said			
	to				watch	thin	Sunday	seven			
	wagon				Whitney	to	take	site			
	we				will	tongue	the	stop			
	with					very	there	surprise			
	yellow					was	they	swimming			
	you					wearing	Thursday	Tail			
						what	to	ten			
						years	took	Terrace			
						you	truck	the			
							t-shirt	there			
							Tuesday	three			
							Wednesday	turned			
							where	Tyrell			
							write	up			
							yes	Wagging			
							yet	was			
							you	Way			
								we			
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								Woof			
								yeah			