

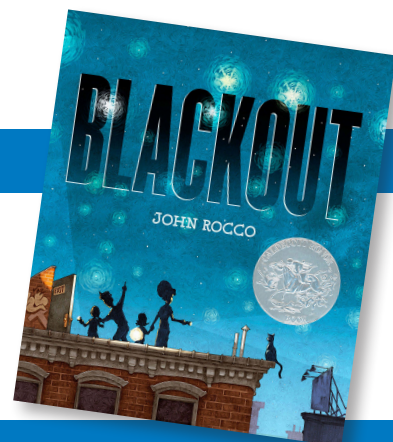
Blackout

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Electricity, Family, Technology, Community

Book Brief: One hot summer night, the power goes out. A boy and his family discover that being in the dark is not that bad!

**Author and
Illustrator:**
John Rocco



TIME TO READ!

Before reading, make predictions: What does the term “blackout” mean? Based on the cover illustration, where do you think the story takes place?

While reading, make connections: Have you ever been at home when the power went out? What types of things do you do as a family? When does the power typically go off where you live?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why might the power have gone off in the summer?
- ◆ How long was the power off?
- ◆ What clue did you use to help you figure that out?
- ◆ What items still work if the power goes off?
- ◆ Why is power important?
- ◆ Would you have liked to have lived during the time before homes had power?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

NO-POWER PARTY MIX

Ingredients: cereal, pretzels, crackers, small candies, baggies

Oh, no! The power is out and you want a snack. It is best to leave the refrigerator closed to help food stay cold; the oven and microwave don't work. Grab a baggie, open up the pantry, and see what goodies you can find to make party mix. Put a couple of spoonfuls of different snack items into your bag, gently shake, and then munch and crunch until the lights come back on.

GLOW STICK SCULPTURES

Materials: thin glow sticks

In a typical tube of 20 glow sticks with connectors, see what you could build by connecting the glow sticks together. Construct away and then turn out the lights to see your masterpiece at its brightest!

SILLY SHADOWS

Turn out the lights and turn on a flashlight. What happens if you put your hand in front of the light? Have a family member shine the light several feet away from you while you make silly shadows in front of it. Can you make recognizable shapes, animals, or objects? Play a guessing game with the family.



MEET THE NEIGHBORS

Don't wait for the power to go off to do something fun with your neighbors! Organize a neighborhood night out. Ask each family to bring a light snack to share and a game to play.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS BY JOHN ROCCO

Moonpowder (2008)
Super Hair-O and the Barber of Doom (2013)
Wolf! Wolf! (2007)

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