

Juno in the Lab

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Engineering, Community, Safety, Problem-Solving, Curiosity

Book Brief: Join Juno, a curious chocolate Labrador, and her mom, Holly, as they explore how engineers help keep our communities safe. Discover how engineering is all around us!

Author:
Holly P. Trisch

Illustrator:
Natalia Larguier



BEFORE READING

The Cover & Pictures: Look at the cover and flip through some pictures together. Ask, “What do you notice about Juno and her surroundings? What roads or signs do you see?”

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “What signs do you see on your way to school or around your neighborhood? Why do you think we need them?” (Think-Pair-Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, let’s discover how engineers design roads, sidewalks, and signs to help keep people safe!”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What roads, sidewalks, or signs do Juno and Holly notice?
- How does this road or sign help people stay safe?
- Why do you think engineers designed it this way?
- What questions does Juno ask about her community?
- What might happen if this road or sign wasn’t there?



Think Aloud: “I notice that roads and signs aren’t just placed anywhere! Engineers think carefully about where things should go to help keep people safe. I wonder what other things engineers design in our communities!”

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Ask, “What did Juno teach us about engineering? How do roads, sidewalks, and signs help keep our communities safe?”

Extending Our Thinking: Invite children to think like engineers and design a sign that could help keep people safe at school or in their neighborhood. Have them draw their sign and explain what it means, where it should go, and how it would help others.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.

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KEEP READING & EXPLORING

Community Safety Hunt

Materials: Paper, crayons

Directions: Take children on a walk around the school or playground to look for signs, sidewalks, and other safety features. Have them draw what they notice and discuss how each feature helps people.



Build a Safe Community

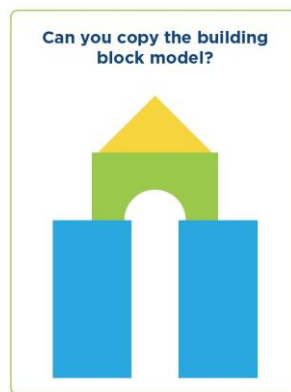
Materials: Blocks, toy cars, paper, crayons

Directions: Invite children to work together to build a pretend community with roads, sidewalks, and signs. Encourage them to explain how their designs help people travel safely.

Think Like an Engineer

Materials: Paper, pencils, crayons or markers

Directions: Ask children to identify a problem in their school or community, such as a crowded walkway or confusing directions. Invite them to draw a solution and explain how their design would help.



*Visit rif.org/ece for more play-based literacy activities and resources that help children explore and build connections within their communities.