



# connect

## Best Practices: Facilitating a Reading & Discussion Activity

### **TIP 1: Set the Room Up for Success**

Group: Circle or semi-circle so everyone can see each other. One-on-One: sit beside the person.

### **TIP 2: Give Everyone Their Own Copy**

Provide each participant with their own booklet on a tablet.

### **TIP 3: Start with the Cover Page**

Pause on the cover before reading. Ask simple questions like, "What do you notice?" or "What does this image make you think of?"

### **TIP 4: Take Turns Reading Aloud**

Begin by reading the first page aloud to model the activity. Then invite others to read out loud for the group. But make reading aloud optional.

### **TIP 5: Support Reading Without Correcting**

If someone struggles, give them time and offer gentle support. Point to the words, show one line at a time, or read together

### **TIP 6: Read a Little, Talk a Lot**

Reading is just the starting point. Pause often and encourage discussion. Ask follow-up questions.

### **TIP 7: Ask Easy-to-Answer Questions**

Use simple questions, especially at the beginning. Offer choices or yes/no questions to help participants start talking.

### **TIP 8: Let the Conversation Flow**

If participants become engaged in a memory or story, follow the conversation. It's okay to move beyond what's written on the page.

### **TIP 9: Repeat Comments from Soft-Spoken Participants**

If someone speaks quietly, repeat their comment so the whole group can hear. This helps everyone stay included in the conversation.

### **TIP 10: Encourage Everyone to Participate**

Invite quieter participants by name and ask simple questions. Even a brief response or laugh is a success and helps build confidence.

***NOTE: Never print reading materials double-sided, as this can be confusing for people with dementia***