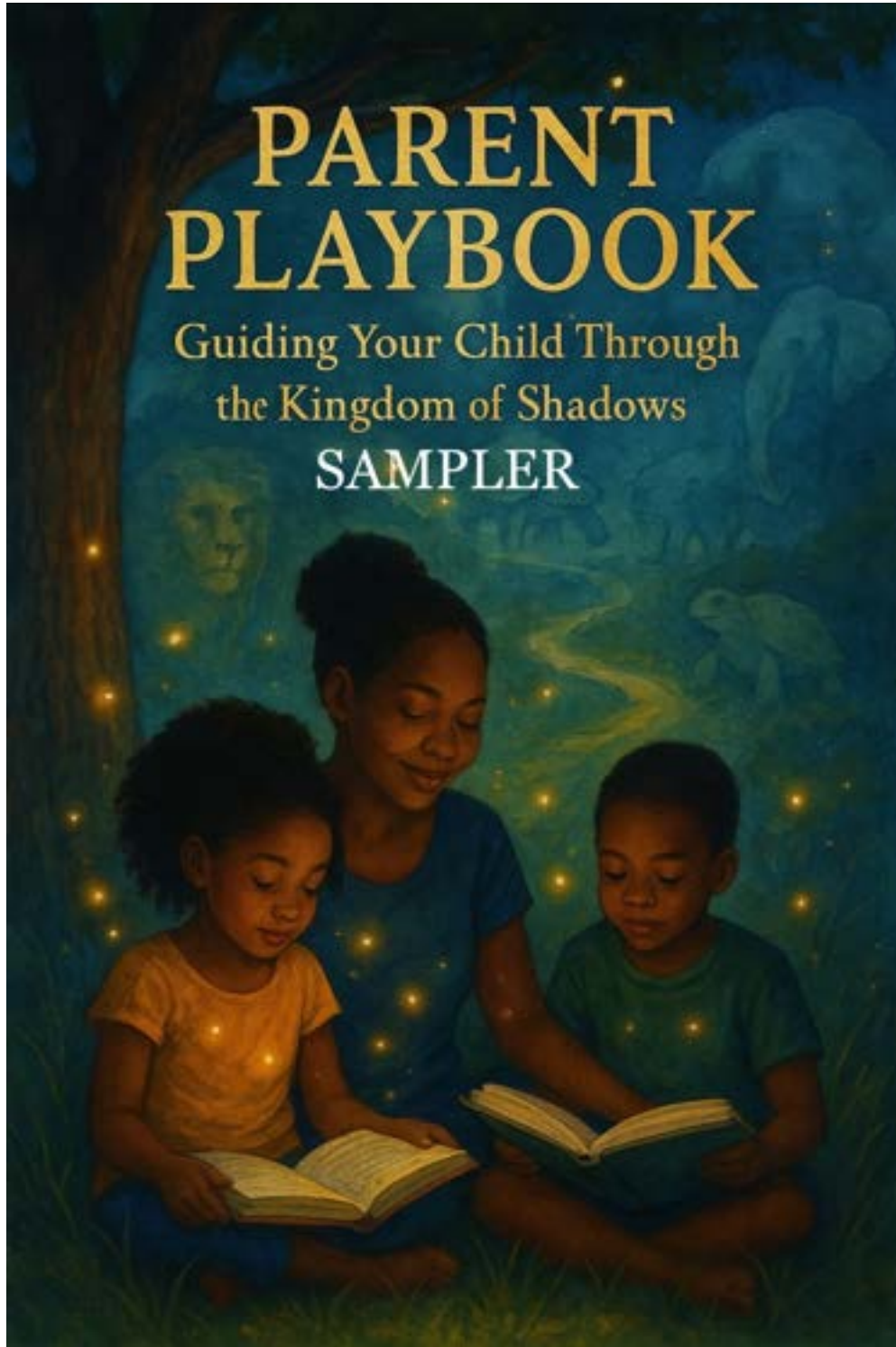


PARENT PLAYBOOK

Guiding Your Child Through
the Kingdom of Shadows

SAMPLER



Parent Playbook Sampler

A Companion to
Unleashing Greatness: The Kingdom of Shadows
By Robert G. Waugh

Welcome to the Journey

Every story is a bridge. And this one starts with you.

Dear Parent or Guardian,


Welcome! You are holding something more than a guide — this is your invitation to share a powerful reading adventure with your child.


Unleashing Greatness: The Kingdom of Shadows is a story filled with courage, transformation, and truth. But more importantly, it's a tool that helps young readers become stronger thinkers, more confident learners, and more connected family members. And the best part? You don't have to be a teacher to make it happen.


This Parent Playbook gives you simple chapter-by-chapter guides, activities, and reflection pages you can use at your own pace. Whether you read every night or once a week, this is your flexible toolkit for building reading confidence, emotional growth, and stronger family connections.

We created this Parent Playbook because we know how busy and overwhelmed families can feel. The good news?

Research shows that just 10–15 minutes of shared reading a day can make a lifelong difference.

 *According to the National Literacy Trust*, children who read with their parents at home are twice as likely to be above grade level in reading by 4th grade.

 *A 2022 meta-study* found that parent-supported reading improves fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension in grades 3–6.

 *The National Institute for Literacy* confirms short, consistent reading at home builds brain connections for stronger memory and thinking.

Before You Begin

3 Common Worries (And Why You're Not Alone)

1 ☐ “What if I don’t know how to teach reading?”

You don’t need to. This Playbook was built so you don’t have to be a teacher. You’re here to connect, not correct.


2 ☐ “What if I don’t have time to do all the activities?”

That’s okay. Even 10–15 minutes a day matters. Pick one question. One drawing. One moment. Your presence is the magic.

3 ☐ “What if my child doesn’t seem interested?”

That’s normal. Kids engage in different ways. Doodling, listening quietly, or asking questions later — it all counts.

Need more support?

 Turn to the FAQ section at the back for deeper answers and encouragement.

How to Use This Guide





A Quick Map for Busy Families

This Playbook is for parents and caregivers who want to support a child’s reading journey — even if time is short and energy is low. You don’t need to be a perfect reader — just a present one.





When to Use It

- Bedtime
- After school
- Weekend quiet time
- In the car (with the audiobook!)

Suggested 4-Step Routine

1.  **Read together** (aloud or audiobook)
2.  **Talk together** (pick 1–2 discussion questions)
3.  **Reflect or create** (draw/write together)
4.  **Try the “Reading Quest”** (a fun mission at home)

What’s Inside Each Chapter

-  What to Know Before Reading
-  Talk Together Prompts
-  Creative Response Activity
-  Real-World Quest

Chapter 1 – *Embracing the Unknown*

Theme: Courage • Curiosity • First Steps

Proverb: “*Courage is not the absence of fear, but the decision to act anyway.*”

What You Need to Know

Your child meets Maya, Jalen, Malik, and Zara — four friends who encounter a mysterious tear in the sky and an urgent message: Find the Tokens of Tariq before the eclipse.

They also witness a real-life challenge involving a classmate and a dangerous choice. Maya’s compassion shows that small acts of bravery can change everything.

Vocabulary Preview


- **Eclipse** – when the sun is blocked
- **Prophecy** – a message or warning about the future
- **Instinct** – a natural feeling that guides us
- **Courage** – choosing to do what’s right, even if it’s hard

 Try Saying:

“What do you think your instinct tells you in scary moments?”

Talk Together


Choose one to spark conversation:


 **Starter:** What would you do if the sky suddenly tore open?

 **Deeper:** Why does Maya help Jose even though she’s nervous?

 **Challenge:** Have you ever had to be brave without knowing what would happen?

Create or Reflect

 *Draw:* What might the “tear in the sky” look like? Add kids’ faces and feelings.




 *Write or Say:* One time I had to do something scary was... I felt ____, but I did it because ____.

Home Quest: “Courage in the Small Moments”

This week, help your child spot everyday bravery:

- Trying something new
- Speaking up kindly
- Asking a big question

Celebrate it!

-  Make a “Courage Token”
 -  Tell a friend or family member about it
 -  Just say: “That took real courage.”
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Parent Tip

Let your child define what courage looks like to them. A small moment to you — like raising a hand — might be huge to them. Call it out:

“That was a courage moment.”

FAQ Sampler

“You’ve Got This: Real Questions from Real Parents”

“How do I know if I’m doing this right?”

If you're showing up — you're doing it right. Your presence is more powerful than any reading strategy.

“What if my child doesn’t want to talk about the story?”

Let the story work. Ask gentle questions. Go first. Sometimes, drawing or roleplaying works better than words.

“Can we skip a writing or drawing part?”

Yes. These are tools, not tests. Talking is just as powerful as writing.


? “What if I get emotional during the story?”

Let it happen. When your child sees you connect deeply, they learn it’s safe to feel.

? “I’m not a strong reader. Will this still help?”


Yes. Listen to the audiobook. Take turns. What matters is that you're there — together.

 [Want More?](#)

 Unlock the full 26-chapter **Parent Playbook**

 Explore the printable **Parent Practice Sheets**

 Visit: **UnleashingGreatnessEDU.org/shop**

 *Bonus:* First-time downloaders get a free Courage Token + Tracker