

Brave Learner Book Club 3
The Four Forces of Enchantment
Homeschool Alliance Webinar - March 20, 2019

Using the Alliance

- In the Alliance, you can introduce yourself in Community Coaching in the Find an Ally thread
- There are replays of previous Book Club sessions and previous master classes in the Alliance
- The Companion Guide is available inside the Alliance and also at <https://thebravelearner.com/>

More on Continents of Learning

- Stephanie: Continents of Learning is not a unit study! It's a way to get curious about your kid and what they are getting out of it!
- Don't "do the solar system TO them"
- Seed your imagination and then naturally draw in connections you're creating inside yourself

Working with the Super Powers

- Use the icons on Page 11 from the Companion book in your Scatterbook™
- You could do one super power PER MONTH
- And you don't have to go in order with the superpowers
- Heather: You can Superpower from behind too. Note your day in your Scatterbook and then see which ones you're naturally pulling in. Works for Type As too, I'm one!
- Cater to your personality; give yourself permission to imagine your personality in new conditions
- Honor your Self from the space of how things WORK for you. If you love systems and lists, find a way to work with yourself so you still like yourself at the end
- Heather: Type A can use your checklist but keep your relationship with your children the basis of your homeschool.
- Public school: get through, get done, test, evaluate - but there are teachers who find a way to think about it as a way to engage learners
- The One Thing principle is a sanity saver. Julie's goal is to give you lots of options and then you take your time exploring things one at a time
- Do you have to FOIST something ON kids like a unit study, or could you introduce things in a way that uses the surprise factor and a sense of discovery?
- Allow that day to be about that THING
- When Julie introduced birdwatching to her kids, she looked through the field guide and binoculars herself.
- While you are living the moment of mystery and execution, don't take a phone call or text; live in the present with your kids in that moment
- When the moment is over, you move on. On Enjoyment Day, you can do ONE thing. To create momentum, a week later, you do the crystallizing part of the One Thing practice: reminisce!
- We are so busy rushing to the next thing, we don't give ourselves credit for what we did well. Then we miss reminding our children that they have an amazing life. We do it for fun things, but we forget to do it for meaningful things.
- Your kids start to trust you that good things are ahead.

- If you do something well ONCE, they'll think you did it all the time. If you do something well two or three things, they'll DEFINITELY think you did it all the time. And if you do something all the time, your kids will do it with THEIR kids, because that will have become the culture.
- Show up as yourself. Be the uptight anxious person you are if you need to be. Be yourself, and give yourself permission to have the homeschool you've been wanting. Prepare, execute, enjoy and reminisce.
- Stephanie: The more you can work with how you naturally work the easier things will work. Goes for your kids too!
- You are on a learning journey together with your kids.

Surprise

- What are surprising things about your relationship with your kids that have made things feel new or surprising
- Sharing positively about your child within their earshot is a great surprise
- Can you reframe your worry in such a way that you support your child?
- Cool tools and good lighting go a long long way in homeschool

What Surprise Does (as shared in Chat)

- TIngalls: ignites curiosity
- MelodyHolz: It helps them change the way THEY see
- heather mccoey: i think it communicates that i care
- Mindycummings: memorable
- Jennybethke: Changes a sour mood
- MelodyHolz: they feel loved
- Kelly Bikurgurl: Surprise creates memories
- Lisa Jones: It's memorable.
- Teresa: It excites!!!
- Kate Johnston Tucker: It sparks a new brain pattern.
- Kelly Bikurgurl: memories
- elena grover: throws them off their regular track
- Annie: Like in a book, it hooks you in!
- jennifer: Surprise opens a window on something the kids don't know about or an opinion they haven't considered.
- dcullen: connection
- mariapeters: connection
- Timery Reis: They don't always know what is out there to be interested in!
- Lisa Jones: Helps the relationship. They don't want their mom to be BORING.
- Adrienne: Opens the door to delight
- April Dugger: Makes things feel new.

Adding Surprise (as shared in chat)

- Heidi Adams: I added a coffee table tray with magnetic poetry and an easel...it has been fun...I found a nice rimmed tray that keeps them contained...
- Ash H (Smash): strewing has been my savior
- Hsiaolei: Scavenger hunts

- Mariapeters: Looking my kids in the eyes
- Annie: When I engage in my own studies like learning Greek or Latin the kids are curious
- Teresa: Picking up a book from Goodwill on my daughter's Guinea pigs
- Adrienne: We skipped PE at the Y one day last week and went to visit the Wright Brothers Memorial in NC! Such a fun day!
- Jessica Sparks: skip the hard subjects!!
- Jill Jarvis: Canceling our plan when the cousins plan a last minute trip to see us!
- Kelly Bikurgurl: I brought home pizza and churros from Costco while my guys were finishing homework today ;-)
- Wendy: Partnership - we are on the learning journey together and both asking questions and getting excited
- Kate Johnston Tucker: A random weekday platter of cinnamon rolls and bacon when they walk into the kitchen.
- Jeanne: Talking to them about THEIR interests like their videos or video games
- TIngalls: new art items
- Jill Stabeno: Asking to play video games together
- MelodyHolz: reading with a full on accent!
- dcullen: big juicy conversations about what I thought was a boring topic
- mali: surprise trip to the museum
- heather mccoey: moving writing class to dunkin donuts with my son
- jennybethke: Writing phonograms on Easter eggs and hiding them...then having an Phonogram hunt.
- Kelly Bikurgurl: Dropping everything and going to the zoo
- Wendy: Solving gardening problems together
- Brie Sessa: Learning in a fort built in the living room
- Sarah: going outside with the read aloud with snacks
- elena grover: Surprise trip to japanese dollar store and sushi
- Kelly Bikurgurl: playing Fortnite together <3
- Hsiaolei: watching lego movies together
- Mariapeters: Saying "yes" as often as possible
- Jessica Sparks: Helping them when it's unexpected
- Ashley Glassner: allowing dessert before lunch
- Adrienne: surprising them with a yes they're not expecting to hear
- Teresa: Play fighting in the kitchen.
- Wendy: Agreeing that yes this book is boring and we are going to stop reading it!
- Kelly Bikurgurl: dropping everything for donuts and coffee for read alouds
- melanie: i've started asking my early teens to pull the car into the driveway. I'm right there guiding all their moves but I've started to say, 'ok - let's do this!' And they're loving it.
- Teresa: Notes left for them in surprising places
- Teresa: We just got sticky note sized scratch off notes the kids have loved them. They turn out so cute and glittery!
- Lisa Jones: Last week, I asked my son if he would show me how to play one new video game a day for the whole week. He was excited. I was terrible at most of the games. Lol
- Timery Reis: I just watched two episodes of James Charles with my teenagers! They were definitely surprised and delighted!

- Wendy: I sat down and binge watched Carmen SanDiego with my kids. Their invitation. Wow the learning that happened and we stayed in PJs and watched until 3 pm.

Mystery

- Insight generation comes from the capacity to interact with a wide variety of viewpoints.
- Shifting perspectives creates mystery - exploring "the edge of knowing"
- Experiencing mystery gives a concrete experience that helps us reimagine expectations. The goal of mystery is to look for clues to a bigger truth
- Is there more to math than solving the problem someone chose for you?
- The willingness to let go of what we know in favor of what we MIGHT discover
- The book Julie used is called Drawing from the Right Side of Your Brain
- Live your learning right in front of the kids, taking up important time
- The danger of so much traditional education is that they aren't actually focused on deepening for mastery of learning
- Invisibility of mystery: Not everything you know is visible
- Heather: Mystery is also living between the either/or space. Moving between those two viewpoints (it's either this or that - all video games or none) & critically examining what we know beyond those two viewpoints of either/or.

Risk

- Risk can include the pleasure of using adult tools - it's one of the fastest ways to spur a child's interest and growth
- Risk can be physical, in their bodies, or emotional
- Heather: Teens like risks because it can provide profound memories, helping them shape a narrative of their life.
- Not everything with risk turns out with a happy ending. Sometimes it's about learning resiliency. Sometimes risk is about telling the truth. Sometimes risk is academic risk.
- Sometimes risk means doing violence to the right way of doing something academically

Adding Risk (as shared in chat)

- Wendy: Climbing rocks
- melanie: competitive gymnastics - tons of risks. It makes me want to hide but my daughter is RISING to the challenge and succeeding!
- TIngalls: we explored a new park yesterday
- melanie: We got interested in Rome by watching a risky documentary on Hulu. Way violent but so good and they are hooked.
- Lisa Jones: like when I show my piano students what happens when you ignore all the sharps in a song that requires sharps.

Adventure

- Adventure is not just about leaving the house - having an adventure means there is some level of journey attached to it: Looking forward to something, some unknowns I can't predict in advance, there is probably a planning aspect, it often tests your self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Adventure involves some risk, but it also has some narrative arc

Final Thoughts

- Don't feel you have to do Surprise, Mystery, Risk and Adventure all at once. Pick one and see what happens. Treat it like an experience; don't worry if it flops. Your job isn't to do it right, it's to DO it.
- Comment on things in a natural way when you are engaged in your child's interest. Seed your own imagination so you can notice things and comment on things naturally
- Some kids are suspicious of your best efforts.
- Kids need to know that you are partners - and that your wellbeing does NOT depend on validation from your kids.
- If they are not interested in your things, flip the script: how much have I been interested in THEIR things
- Julie is not asking us to stage a Broadway level play to get a child to do fractions. Sometimes the surprise is that you're not mad; you're sitting with your child and working with them.
- Stephanie: The truth is that you don't know how they will get there and that is ok. Because you can figure it out together.
- Cheerleading doesn't pull kids out of it - climbing down in the mud WITH them does help
- You will help them climb out of the mud, or they'll keep escalating becoming more behind and resistant. Drop the rope and get on their side
- Liam says: YouTube has been invaded by bots and infiltration of channels for children. When Julie is talking about video games and videos, she's expecting us to be as present as we would be in other areas of our kids' lives