

What to do when the kids say

I'm bored!

A weekly guide to summertime fun

ACTIVITY TIP

Arts and crafts: Children 5 and older can paint and put together a spunky monkey toy at Michael's Kids Club Imagination Saturdays. The event runs from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday at 1925 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. There is a \$2 fee, and it includes all project supplies for each child. No registration is required. For more information, call (602) 241-9285 or visit www.michaels.com.

Lydia Brooke

BOREDOM BUSTERS

Desert tales

1 Enjoy the final night of interactive storytelling at the Desert Botanical Garden's summer program.

The desert comes to life with audience participation in the story plots and characters.

Desert storytelling starts at 7 tonight at 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix.

It is a free event with paid admission. The cost is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for students and \$4 for children.

No registration is required. For more information, call (480) 941-1225 or visit www.dbg.org.

Star discovery

2 The entire family can discover how a planetarium works through a

behind-the-scenes tour of the Arizona Science Center's planetarium.

Learn about how projectors are used, how large the dome is and much more.

The tour begins at 12:30 p.m. every Monday through Aug. 16 at 600 E. Washington St., Phoenix.

It is a free tour with paid admission. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$7 for children. No registration is required. Details: (602) 716-2000.



Mike Ryan/Arizona Republic

Author and illustrator Brooke Bessen of Scottsdale reads her book, *Look Who Lives in the Desert!* at the Ritz-Carlton last week during the Phoenix hotel's Storybook Tea. The children and their parents enjoy tea, dessert, a reading and a signed copy of the book.

Ritz combines tea, story time

Authors read, sign children's books

By Mikaela Crank
The Arizona Republic

Children can escape summer boredom with a journey into the world of fiction at the Ritz-Carlton's first Storybook Tea summer series.

Kids and their parents enjoy one-on-one quality time in the Victorian tea lobby, surrounded by crystal chandeliers, fresh-cut flowers, comfy chairs, tables and sofas. The traditional afternoon tea consists of peanut butter and jelly and ham and cheese finger sandwiches, freshly baked scones and French pastries. A pianist plays in the background. Then it's story time.

At the July 16 kickoff, Arizona author Lisa Schnebly sat in a large chair as the kids relaxed on a sea of giant pillows on the floor.

Schnebly read the story she wrote about her ancestors, *The Three Sedonas*, which features a 6-year-old girl named Sedona who tells the story of her great-great-grandmother, a pioneer woman named Sedona Schnebly, who helped settle the Arizona frontier and for whom the town of Sedona is named.

"I usually read at school visits, but this is a wonderful event," Schnebly said. "Tea and literature are great together."

The children's eyes were glued to the pages, and at the end of the story she signed a copy of the book for each child. Then everyone finished the final bites of dessert and said goodbye to the fun setting.

"It was a great experience for my kids," said Wendy McIntyre, mother of two. "The food was delicious, and the author brings the story to life."

Storybook Tea will wrap up its summer program this week. It is limited to 40 people, and reservations are required. The \$29 fee includes food, beverages, storytelling and a signed copy of the book.

Reach the reporter at mikaela.crank@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-4968.

If you go

WHAT: Storybook Tea is offering afternoon tea and storytelling of *The Adventures of Samuel Blackthorne: The Case of the Cat with the Missing Ear*, by Scott Emerson.

WHERE: Ritz-Carlton, 2401 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix.

WHEN: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday.

COST: \$29 per person. Reservations are required.

DETAILS: (602) 468-0700.