

DYNAMIC READ ALOUD PROGRAMS AND TITLES THAT WORK

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“Children should be read to everyday. No one would quibble with this statement if I were talking exclusively about primary children, and I think it’s true that most kindergarten, first, and second-grade teachers regularly read aloud to their students. But fewer teachers read aloud to students in grades four, five, and six, and fewer still in grades seven and eight. This may be a serious mistake.”

- Ralph Fletcher

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Benefits of Reading Aloud

It is fun

Reading and listening skills are improved/reinforced

Positive attitudes are fostered toward books

Interests and tastes are broadened

The imagination is exercised/background knowledge is built

Reading maturity develops

Reading independence is promoted

Lifelong readers may be developed

Establishing A Successful Read Aloud Time

- Make a do not disturb sign and use it.
- Make decisions regarding seating that are simple and clear.
- Plan an ample amount of time for reading/discussion the first 2-3 days in a new book (30-40 minutes daily).
- Do not skip any reading days the first 2-3 days in a new book.
- Plan carefully for the ending of the book – let it be a longer session with lots of time for discussion!
- Select an amount of time that you consistently read aloud (15-20 minutes is great if you can do it)!
- Do not allow too much time to lapse between days when you read.
- Don't let read aloud be the first thing cancelled when you get behind.
- Deal with misbehavior swiftly; be sure consequences for interrupting read aloud with misbehavior are clear to all students and follow through on the consequences.
- Guide students in making predictions, drawing conclusions, and creating mental images of story events.
- Allow interested students to have their own copy but do not force them to have one or to "follow along."
- Establish an agreement with students for those who acquire their own copy and read ahead.
- Decide how you will handle the question of "drawing" while you are reading to them.
- What about "Books on tape?"
- Let them know you can't wait to read to them each day!

Selecting Books for Read Aloud Time

- Try to read from every genre throughout the year and identify the genres for the students.
- Read as many of your favorites as possible.
- Never, NEVER, read a book aloud that you have not already read in its entirety.
- Be open to suggestions from students but tell them that you must read the book on your own first.
- Try to select books that will have your students "listening UP" whenever possible.

The Art of Reading Aloud

- Work on reading expressively and ask for feedback or listen to yourself on tape.
- Take the risk of giving different voices to the characters in the books you read aloud.
- Use dynamics to draw students in when you are reading long passages filled with lots of descriptive language (when their minds start to wander).
- Ask if the students are "seeing the movie in their mind." Have them act out a quick scene.
- Highlight "relevant reads" from within the books you are reading aloud as well as great vocabulary and different literary devices (foreshadowing, flashback, comic relief, cliffhangers, etc.) that you want to mention to the students. This way, you won't forget to do it!

Ten Great Read Alouds for Kindergarten

Carlo Likes Reading	Spanyol
T is for Teachers	Layne/Layne
Boo to a Goose	Fox
A Fine, Fine School	Creech
The War between the Vowels and . . .	Turner
One Duck Stuck	Root
Over Land and Sea	Layne
Two Terrible Frights	Aylesworth
My Little Sister Ate One Hare	Grossman
The Magic Hat	Fox

Ten Great Read Alouds for 1st Grade

The Bravest Ever Bear	Ahlberg
My Dog, Cat	Crisp
Do Like A Duck Does	Hindley
How Do Dinosaurs Say ...	Yolen
Thomas's Sheep and the . . .	Layne
Lily's Purple Plastic Purse	Henkes
A Story for Bear	Haseley
One Dog Canoe	Casanova
Charlotte's Web	White
Thomas's Sheep & the Great Geography Test	Layne

Ten Great Read Alouds for 2nd Grade

Miss Alaineus: A Vocabulary Disaster	Frasier
Beany Goes to Camp	Wojciechowski
You Read to Me, I'll Read to You	Hoberman
26 Fairmount Avenue	DePaola
Winnie Dancing on her Own	Jacobson
Testing Miss Malarkey	Finchler
Whoever You Are	Fox
The Teachers' Night Before Christmas	Layne
Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days	Manes
If You Hopped Like a Frog	Schwartz

Ten Great Read Alouds for 3rd Grade

The Other Side	Woodson
Little Wolf's Book of Badness	Whybrow
The Chocolate Touch	Catling
Stone Fox	Gardiner
The Whipping Boy	Sid Fleischman
James and the Giant Peach	Dahl
My Brother Dan's Delicious	Layne
Oonawassee Summer	Forney
The Whipping Boy	Fleischman
Thomas's Sheep & the Spectacular Science Project	Layne

Ten Great Read Alouds for 4th Grade

The Secret Knowledge of Grown-ups	Wisniewski
The Principals' Night Before Christmas	Layne
The Kid in the Red Jacket	Park
Flying Solo	Fletcher
Because of Winn Dixie	DiCamillo
Anastasia Krupnik	Lowry
The Phantom Tollbooth	Juster
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Rowling
The True Confessions of . . .	Avi
The School Story	Clements

Ten Great Read Alouds for 5th Grade

Alias	Ryan
The Book of Three	Alexander
Bridge to Terabithia	Paterson
The Landry News	Clements
Tuck Everlasting	Babbitt
The Cay	Taylor
Skullduggery	Karr
My Brother Sam is Dead	Collier & Collier
Running Out of Time	Haddix
A Wrinkle in Time	L'Engle

Ten Great Read Alouds for 6th Grade

Hope's Crossing	Goodman
Getting Near to Baby	Couloumbis
The Kidnappers	Roberts
The Dark Side of Nowhere	Shusterman
The Westing Game	Raskin
Dancing in Cadillac Light	Holt
Wolf Rider	Avi
Stormbreaker	Horowitz
The Junkyard Dog	Tamar
The Shadow Club	Shusterman

Ten Great Read Alouds for 7th Grade

Dovey Coe	Dowell
Among the Hidden	Haddix
Choosing Up Sides	Ritter
Fever 1793	Anderson
The Doom Stone	Zindel
This Side of Paradise	Layne
Hope Was Here	Bauer
Out of the Dust	Hesse
Crossing Jordan	Fogelin
A Single Shard	Park

Ten Great Read Alouds for 8th Grade

Rules of the Road	Bauer
Night Hoops	Deuker
Harris and Me	Paulsen
Invitation to the Game	Hughes
Stargirl	Spinelli
Homeless Bird	Whelan
Coraline	Gaiman
Winner and Losers	Hoffius
The Giver	Lowry
The Thief of Always	Barker

Ten Great Read Alouds for 9th Grade

Z for Zachariah	O'Brien
And Then There Were None	Christie
Backwater	Bauer
Turnabout	Haddix
Monster	Myers
House of Stairs	Sleator
To Kill a Mockingbird	Lee
Deathwatch	White
In the Middle of the Night	Cormier
The Golden Compass	Pullman

Ten Great Read Alouds for 10th–12th Grade

The Body of Christopher Creed	Plum-Ucci
Counterfeit Son	Alphin
Give a Boy a Gun	Strasser
Kissing Doorknobs	Hesser
Night	Wiesel
She Said Yes	Bernall
Speak	Anderson
They Cage the Animals at Night	Burch
Whale Talk	Crutcher
What Daddy Did	Shusterman