THE IMPORTANCE OF READING ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD

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WHAT IS A READ ALOUD

A read aloud is when someone reads a text aloud to another. Often times this is when a parent reads a book to a child. This is when students are exposed to what good reading sounds like.

- One way to do this is to read a book or other text to a child and talk about what is going on as you read.

- A second way to do a read aloud is to read a few chapters or pages and talk about the big ideas.
FAST FACTS...THE RESEARCH

- Reading aloud is “a way to introduce students to the pleasures of reading and books.” (Barrentine, 1996)
- Reading aloud improves student test scores. (Serafini and Giorgis, 2003)
- The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children. (Anderson, Hieger, Scott & Wilkinson, 1984, p33)
- For the young child, an interactive read aloud is an important method for learning about the conventions of texts that ultimately lead to independent reading. (Wiseman, 2010)
- Conversations around a text can build community and engage in topics in critical and significant ways. (Wisemen, 2010) (Serafini and Giorgis, 2003)
- Read aloud increases students interest in independent reading. (Serafini and Giorgis, 2003).
HOW TO…

- Select a book.
  - Something that your child is interested in.
  - Try some nonfiction (Dorian, 1994) or poetry.
  - Choose text that is challenging.
  - Try something new or different.
  - Check out your local library or school library.

- Find a time when you can do it – anywhere from 5-20 min is great. Try bedtime.

- Find a comfortable and quiet space.

- Read the book and talk with your child about the book as you are reading. It’s okay for your child to interrupt and share ideas.
TIPS

- Engage students during the read aloud
- Select fiction, nonfiction, poetry or articles – remember nonfiction books don’t need to be read from cover to cover.
- Select books you like (or liked as a child) (Doiron, 1994)
- If the text is short read the book ahead of time so you know what’s coming.
- Reread favorite books over and over again.
- Reading in your native language is appropriate.
- Be sure to spend time on the illustrations and other parts of the book too. (Doiron, 1994)
BEST BOOKS TO READ ALOUD K-2

- Where the Sidewalks Ends by Shel Silverstein
- Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems
- Lily’s Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes
- The Very Hungary Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- The Napping House by Audrey Wood
- The Recess Queen by Alexis O’Neill
- Corduroy by Don Freeman
- Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst
- Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
- Stellaluna by Janell Cannon
- Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White
BEST BOOKS TO READ ALOUD 3-5

- *Cheyenne Again* by Eve Bunting
- *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulson
- *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor
- *Henry's Freedom Box* by Ellen Levine and Kadir Nelson
- *The Moon Book* by Gail Gibbons
- *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles
- Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowlings
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
TAKE AWAYS

- Great places to find texts
  - Local Library
  - School Library
  - Book Store
  - Yard sales
  - Amazon
  - Magazines
- Take books with you everywhere – in the car, doctors office...
- Read aloud everything – menus, directions, food labels, maps….

Reading aloud is the key to the world of literature; it is our duty to open the door for our students. (Reading aloud and beyond)


