



Read to a Child

Read to a Child's Read Aloud Tool Kit



Read Aloud Tips, & Best Practices

brought to you by Read
to a Child program staff





How to Select a Book for Your Next Read Aloud

Follow these tips to guide book selection

1

Choose books based on the child's listening level rather than their reading level

2

Guide children towards books featuring diverse characters and stories

Children can comprehend what they hear at a higher level than what they read. Exposure to these more sophisticated books will increase their vocabulary and listening comprehension.

Exposure to new places, ideas and cultures is an important part of a child's development of mind and affects their worldview. It is never too early to expose children to diverse and inclusive literature.

This strategy helps guide the child, ensures they are being read to at an appropriate level while still allowing them to participate in the book selection process.

3

Select a few titles in advance based on the child's interest and allow them to choose



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**Things
to keep
in mind
as you
read
aloud**



Draw attention to the cover

It's always a good idea to recite the title, author and illustrator of the book and discuss the cover illustrations before you begin your read aloud.

Choose books at their listening level

This helps challenge their mind and increase both vocabulary and listening comprehension.

Use plenty of expression

If possible, change your tone of voice to fit dialogue and adjust your pace to fit what is happening in the story.

Encourage involvement and interaction with the story

Ask questions, make connections, predict what will happen next. Allow plenty of time for discussion.

Read slowly

Ensure that the child is able to build mental pictures of what they heard you read and allow time for comprehension.



Tips for Keeping Kids Engaged During & After Read Aloud



1 Pause and Reflect Often

Many children have difficulty listening for any sustained length of time, and pausing to ask questions or recall what you have read can help to keep them engaged.

2 Model that Reading is FUN

Be enthusiastic. You are serving as a role model for just how exciting books and reading can be; children will catch on to this enthusiasm.



3 Align with their interests

Find a topic of interest to the child and think beyond books. Use your imagination and share a wide range of reading options.



4 Set Goals

Build self-confidence. Praise honestly and often. Celebrate reading milestones and goals met.



Tips to Guide Your Next Read Aloud

Making Connections

Research identifies three types of connections that can help aid comprehension: text-to-self connections, text-to-text connections, and text-to-world connections.

Text to Self

Encourage the child to make connections from the text with elements of their own lives. Ask questions such as, “How does this book remind you of something in your own life?” or “Have you ever been to a place like this?”

Text to Text

Encourage the child to make connections between two different texts. These connections can be in plot, characters, writing style, length, illustrations. Have them point out the similarities and differences they notice.

Text to World

Children are making text-to-world connections when something in the book makes them think about something that is happening or has happened in their neighborhood, community, country, or the world.



Reading Up



What is the Reading Up approach?

Reading up is the act of incrementally introducing a child to literature that presents more challenging vocabularies, plots, themes, and story length.

Think of Reading Up as taking one step at a time up a flight of stairs.



Read up with visuals

Both chapter books and picture books offer opportunities for discussions that enhance meaning, the ability to make inferences, and critical thinking skills. Illustrations may present new themes.

Read up with plot

A more complex plot requires closer attention to detail, more opportunity to make new connections and helps to expand a child's awareness.

Read up with vocabulary

Introduce new vocabulary words incrementally. Too much at once may be intimidating. Celebrate small success when learning new words.

Questions
Predictions
Observations

Help your reader reflect on their read aloud experience & encourage:





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References

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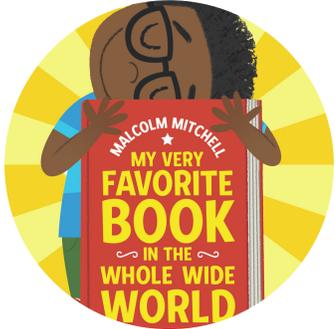
Check out these diverse, socially conscious & SEL-focused titles for your next read aloud



Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: by Lilly Workneh
100 Real Life Tales of Black Girl Magic

Dedicated to amplifying and celebrating the stories of Black women and girls from around the world; features the work of over 60 Black female and non-binary authors, illustrators, and editors; is designed to acknowledge, applaud, and amplify the incredible stories of Black women and girls from the past and present. Currently available for pre-order - out Sunday 10/10!

by Vita Murrow **High-Five to the Hero: 15 Classic Tales for Boys Who Dare to be Different**
What if heroes weren't always strong, silent and happier slaying monsters than talking to people? Focused on issues including self-image, confidence, LGBTQ, friendship, advocacy and disability, these stories are composed of 15 favorite fairytales have been retold for a new generation. Check out our Remote Read Aloud Library for a story time with Vita Murrow!

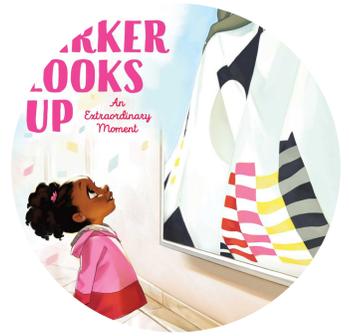


My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World by Malcolm Mitchell
Super Bowl champion and literacy crusader Malcolm Mitchell pulls from his own literary triumph to deliver a hilarious and empowering picture book for readers of all abilities. Through his advocacy and his books, Malcolm imparts the important message that every story has the potential to become a favorite. Check out our Remote Read Aloud Library for a story time with Malcolm Mitchell!

by Parker Curry &
Jessica Curry

Parker Looks Up: An Extra Ordinary Moment

This story is about an everyday moment that became an extraordinary one...that continues to resonate its power, inspiration, and indelible impact. Because, as Jessica Curry said, "anything is possible regardless of race, class, or gender," and that is certainly true for the book's main character, Parker Curry.



Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You

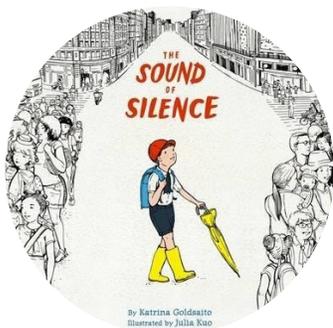
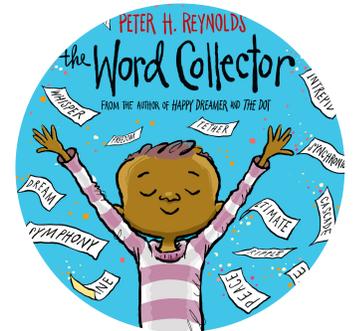
by Justice Sonia
Sotomayor

In Just Ask, United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor celebrates the different abilities kids (and people of all ages) have. Using her own experience as a child who was diagnosed with diabetes, Justice Sotomayor writes about children with all sorts of challenges—and looks at the special powers those kids have as well.

by Peter H. Reynolds

The Word Collector

Jerome discovers the magic of the words all around him -- short and sweet words, two-syllable treats, and multisyllable words that sound like little songs. Words that connect, transform, and empower. This book is a celebration of finding your own words -- and the impact you can have when you share them with the world.



The Sound of Silence

by Kaitrina Goldsaito

Beautifully illustrated by Julia Kuo, Goldsaito takes the reader on a journey of mindfulness while learning about life in Tokyo with the book's main character on a quest to find the beauty in the 'sound of silence' in the midst of one of the busiest cities in the world. In an author's note, Goldsaito acknowledges the influence of the Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu, who believed that "without silence, sound would be meaningless."

by Bob Raczka

Niko Draws a Feeling

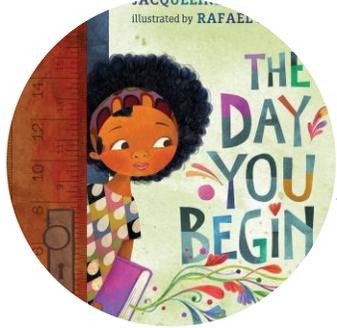
Touching and inspiring, Niko Draws a Feeling teaches about friendship, creativity, and our desire to be understood. This story is the perfect way to help children understand the varying lenses through which people make sense of the world and to teach them how to better understand differing perspectives.



by Jamia Wilson

Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present

Join us on a journey across borders, through time and even through space to meet 52 icons of color from the past and present in a celebration of achievement. Discover how their childhood dreams and experiences influenced their adult achievements. This book will help the next generation to chase their own dream. Check out our Remote Read Aloud Program library for a story time with Jamia Wilson.



The Day You Begin

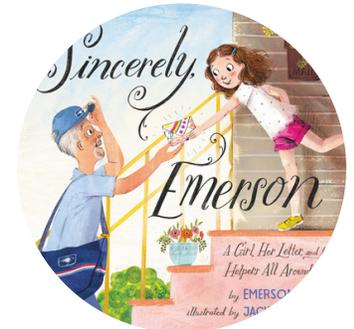
by Jacqueline Woodson

There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. This book teaches readers that sometimes, we all feel like outsiders -and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

by Emerson Weber

Sincerely, Emerson: A Girl, Her Letter, and the Helpers All Around Us

Based on a true story that quickly went viral, Sincerely, Emerson follows eleven-year-old Emerson Weber as she writes a letter of thanks to her postal carrier, Doug, and creates a nationwide outpouring of love. This is a story of gratitude, hope, and recognition: for all the essential helpers we see everyday, and all those who go unseen.



Every Little Letter

by Deborah Underwood

Every Little Letter shows how even the smallest among us can make a big impact, and how a single act of friendship can inspire whole communities to come together. How do you tear down walls? With words, at first. Then brick by brick.

by Margot Lee Shetterly

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race

This book explores the story of four female African American mathematicians at NASA, known as "colored computers," and how they overcame gender and racial barriers to succeed in a highly challenging STEM-based career.

