



## **Activity Ideas for World Read Aloud Day**

March 3rd, 2010 has been established as LitWorld's first World Read Aloud Day to celebrate and encourage the invaluable practice of reading aloud and to bring attention to the importance of literacy across all countries and for all of humanity. Reading aloud brings us together—brings meaning, enhanced understanding, and shared experience to our words and our stories.

These activities will help your community engage in reading aloud and sharing stories, whether you are hosting an event at home for friends and family, or creating an event at a school where you are a parent or teacher, or in a community center, library, or hospital. We hope you find our recommendations useful as you plan your day!

### **Share and Create-**

- Participants bring in their favorite books and share excerpts with the group
- Everyone chooses a new book and illustrates a scene or designs a new cover for it
- Put the pictures up in a public place, or take photos or scan copies and post them on your blog or website

### **Create a Partnership-**

- Partner with a school, a family, or a community group in a different part of the country or world and share stories, read or spoken, over video chat about you and where you live

### **Have a Poetry Café-**

- Invite families to gather for tea and coffee and snacks and invite everyone to read their own poetry or a favorite poem to the audience

### **Build a Storytelling Center-**

- An area in your home, classroom, or community center filled with your favorite books, paper and pencils and even dress up clothes for the youngsters, will provide an open invitation for children and teens to enjoy sharing their stories.

### **Listen to the Past-**

- Listen to some influential speeches throughout history like Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have Dream Speech" and President Obama's Inauguration speech
- Invite the group to write or talk about the power of words and using them to tell our stories, thoughts and beliefs
- Many recordings of these speeches can be found in libraries and on library websites, but if you can't find recordings of the speeches you are interested in, the group can practice presenting by reading them aloud

### **Cross Generations-**

- Read aloud Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox
- Visit a home for the elderly or invite grandparents to come in and share stories from their childhood
- Encourage the group to make comparisons between what they hear and remember about the past and how their lives are today

### **Pick a Theme-**

- Read a text aloud with a universal theme like going to sleep, making friends, or eating
- Work with partners or small groups, inviting everyone to tell stories from their lives connected to the chosen theme
- Draw pictures on the theme and share and compare with your partner or group
- Videotape or audio record the story telling and post them on your website or blog, being sure to share them with LitWorld so they can be posted on litworld.org!

### **Find a Cause-**

- Create a group read aloud around a social cause that is of interest to you, your school or your community
- bankstreetbooks.com has a fabulous list of books by topic that can be used as a source of inspiration as you choose what to read, but don't forget that you can also read from newspapers, magazines, blogs, etc- don't feel restricted to books!
- The group can simply read to one another and have a discussion, or can create drawings or collages, make music or a dance performance, or write in response to the cause you choose

*Some topics and children's books to consider working with:*

- Environmental Issues- On Meadowview Street by Henry Cole
- Friendship- Yo/Yes by Chris Raschka
- Healthy Living/Eating- I will Never, Not Ever Eat a Tomato by Lauren Child and Corina Fletcher
- Celebrating Differences- Don't Laugh at Me by Peter Yarrow or All The Colors of the Earth by Sheila Hamanaka
- Creativity- Galimoto by Karen Lynn Williams

### **Make Stories Multilingual-**

- Bring together a group of people who speak different languages
- This can be done in person, or long-distance over video chat
- Create a group story using different languages, pictures and gestures, and if people in the group are fluent in multiple languages, have them translate the whole story into each language they know
- Discuss the difference that comes out in sound and tone in each language

### **Let Imaginations Flow-**

- Take turns telling crazy stories from your imagination or create a silly add on story where each person adds on the next line of the story until you get to the end.
- See how quickly you can go!
- Videotape or audio record this session so you can remember what you all said, and so you can share it with LitWorld and the rest of the world!