



How Can World Read Aloud Day Help Bring Together Different Age Groups?

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.

Here are some activities that will encourage students of varying ages to build a reading community together. These activities can be done in a library or community center, or in school. We hope you find them useful as you plan your day!

- **Bonding Through Books-** Older and younger students partner up and read to one another sometime throughout the day. Students may want to read together several times (leading up to or following March 3) to foster a greater bond through reading. Reading material may be books brought in from the library or from home, or self-created stories.
- **Breakfast and Books, Literature and Lunch, or Stories and Snack-** Give children an opportunity to eat and read together at some point during the day. The activities can be done in one large group, or separated into small groups or individual pairs depending on space arrangement and noise level. This can become a regular weekly or monthly program, or it can be a special activity done just once in celebration of World Read Aloud Day.
- **Read and Respond-** Students read something together, it could be a fictional story, or non-fiction, such as a magazine or newspaper article, a blog entry, or even a joke book. Each child records his or her response to the reading material. If some of the children do not yet know how to write, they can partner with another student or an adult and dictate their response, or they can draw a picture. The students then present their responses, either on their own or with the help and direction of an adult.
- **Story Quilt-** Students read something together, then each student decorates a "quilt piece" in response. The pieces should be uniformly cut out beforehand and should be cut in a shape that fits together evenly, such as squares or diamonds. The pieces can be paper or cloth. When all the pieces have been decorated, the adult leader or teacher, or the older students, can put the pieces together on the wall and create a Story Quilt. This can be done where all the pieces are responses to the same book, or where the pieces show responses to different books that are on the same theme or that relate to each other in an interesting way.
- **Exercise Your Mind and Body-** Children and teens read to one another during Recess, Physical Education, or in an Afterschool play or exercise setting. Either half the time is spent reading about the importance of a healthy lifestyle (good eating habits, the value of exercise, the dangers of drugs, good hygiene, etc) and the other half is spent exercising, or most of the students exercise while one reads aloud and they take turns reading.