



Recommended Read Alouds and Corresponding Activities for Young Children

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 for younger children that will encourage them to think about reading in an active and responsive way. These read alouds can be done at home, or in a library, community center, or classroom. We hope you find them useful as you plan your day!

Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox (Ages 4-8)

- Make a box with a family member of items that remind them of special events (photos, postcards, trinkets, etc.)
- Draw a picture of a special memory and make a paper frame for it

Wish I Were A Butterfly by James Howe (Ages 4-8)

- Paint a beautiful butterfly
- Discuss a time when you learned to do something on your own
- Discuss what you are proud of

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes (Ages 8 and up)

- Write a letter to Maddie, Peggy or Wanda describing how you wish the story had ended
- Write an extended ending

The Big Orange Splot by Daniel Pinkwater (Ages 4-8)

- Draw a picture of your own "dream house"

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle (Ages 3 and up)

- Have an adult draw an outline of a caterpillar and have little ones decorate using stickers, paint with brushes or q-tips, collage, or just simply color with crayons or markers

Sam and the Firefly by P.D. Eastman (Ages 3 and up)

- Make a list of readable words that the firefly wrote
- Draw a picture of your favorite part of the story

Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman (Ages 3 and up)

- Sequence the different animals and things the bird meets along his journey
- Make large replicas of each character and have the children mount them up for everyone to see and retell the story

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak (Ages 4-8)

- Draw/paint a picture of your own “Wild Thing”
- Talk about how Max felt when his mother scolded him and then when he was away from home, and about how Max might feel coming back to his room and finding his hot dinner
- Make a “Wild Thing” mask or crown and have a Wild Rumpus!

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss (Ages 3 and up)

- Make green eggs and ham using food coloring
- Talk about rhyming words

Piggie and Gerald by Mo Willems (Ages Birth-3)

- Read and retell them again and again
- Act out the dialogue

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Jr. & John Archibald (Ages 3 and up)

- Get a drum or make some percussion with found objects to read and drum to the beat
- Read the story like a Rap

Marianthe’s Story- Painted Words/Spoken Memories by Alike (Ages 8-10)

- Talk about what it feels like to be different and how people can help someone who is new to a environment, such as a school or an after school activity

My Subway Ride by Paul Dubois Jacobs & Jennifer Swender (Ages 4-8)

- NYC kids make your favorite subway line car (paint or draw)
- Look at a subway map and find your favorite places in the city
- Take a trip on the train

My Taxi Ride by Paul Dubois Jacobs & Jennifer Swender (Ages 4-8)

- Describe a taxi ride you’ve taken
- Illustrate the ride and retell the story in pictures or words
- Paint a large taxi

Koala Lou by Mem Fox (Ages 4-8)

- Make an “I Can...” book, and a “Sometimes I Need Help With...” book