



## **How Can Schools Celebrate 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.

Here are some ideas for activities to engage in with preschool and elementary school classes as you celebrate World Read Aloud Day. We hope you find them useful as you plan your day!

### **Story Pals-**

- Based on "Pen Pals," one class writes the titles of their favorite books in a letter and sends it to a second class at another school or daycare
- To take this idea further, the second class can read the books from the list they receive and discuss which was their favorite and why, and then send their notes back to the first class!

### **Act out a book-**

- Teachers and staff select one or two books to perform for the students
- Or, older elementary age students can take turns acting out their favorite books

### **The Power of the Read Aloud-**

- The class invents a story about "The Power of the Read Aloud," our official World Read Aloud Day illustration, which shows animals reading together on top of a globe
- This can be done as a group activity with the entire class, separated into small groups, or as an independent activity followed by story sharing for older students

### **Story in a Round-**

- The class sits in a circle, the teacher starts by saying one sentence and then each child adds a sentence to the story: the sillier the better!
- Use "The Power of the Read Aloud" as a jumping off point, or just start from scratch

### **Favorite Book-**

- Each child brings their favorite book to school and one is read to the class each day leading up to or following March 3
- Parents, guardians, or grand parents can be invited as guest readers

### **Invite a Guest Reader-**

- Send out an announcement to parents and staff to find out if someone knows a person in the area who might like to do a special read aloud at your school
- This could be a professional author or performer, or anyone who loves to read with kids!

**International Books-**

- Try reading a popular children's book from another country
- Use this as a way to discuss similarities and differences between kids around the world

**Story Tree-**

- Each child writes the title of his or her favorite book on a paper leaf; their teachers build a tree on the wall and add the children's leaves
- This can be done class-wide, grade-wide, or school-wide
- Children enjoy having a visual reminder of their favorite books and seeing others' may inspire them to explore new reading material!

**Donate a Book-**

- Inexpensive books can be found all over the web, but it is hard or impossible for many people to gain access to them
- Hold a book drive and raise funds to support shipping the books to someone who doesn't have any books of their own
- You can also collect very gently used books, but every one deserves to break in their own books so make sure the books are not in bad shape before shipping them

**Informational Letter-**

- Send a letter describing LitWorld and World Read Aloud Day home with parents, giving an understanding of the day and of LitWorld's work