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Reading Aloud with Children Twelve & Older

Introduction by Ellen Rappaport

The Children's Book Committee
Bank Street College of Education

Reading Aloud With Children Twelve & Older

Perhaps you are wondering if all the benefits of reading aloud to younger children can be just as effective with those entering the teen and young adult years. Yes, teenagers participating in the read aloud experience will, like younger children, build background knowledge, increase their vocabulary, make more meaningful connections to thoughts and ideas as well as associate reading with pleasure.

Beyond this, however, the impact of this activity may be even greater and more crucial at this point in a young person's life. A great read aloud tells a teenager they are not alone in feeling awkward and uncertain. Through the characters' fictional or real-life emotional journeys young adults learn strategies to handle social situations and conflicts resulting in their own increased self-confidence.

In addition, teens struggling to find the words to express their emotions find rich vocabulary and phrases filling these books and readily at their fingertips..

The books we have listed in *Reading Aloud With Children Twelve and Older*, whether classics or contemporary, allow adults to match their listening audience with powerful texts focusing on the issues that have historically concerned teens as well as themes particularly relevant today. How do I fit in? How do I stay true to myself when confronted with peer pressures? How will I find my life's work? How can I create a world free of violence, hunger, want and filled with natural beauty?

We anticipate the books will stimulate conversations about these and other topics particularly meaningful to this age group and that it will provide unique opportunities for teens and adults to engage in a positive nurturing dialogue for sustained periods of time. As a result, and perhaps most importantly of all, the read aloud experience should generate a mountain of wonderful memories that adults and teens can draw on forever.

By ***Ellen D. Rappaport***

Selection Considerations in Choosing Read Aloud Titles

- The book lends itself to being read out loud. The flow of the language, dialogue and plot are enhanced when read out loud.
- The text furthers the adult's ability to understand the perspective of the teenagers being read to and enhances the teenager's understanding of the adult.
- The book has the language, plot and imagery to make teenagers value the ideas, issues, concerns expressed in the text and desire to discuss them further.

- The issues, ideas, concerns explored in this text are relevant to the young person's life and will facilitate discussions leading to self-awareness and understanding of other points of view.
- The issues, ideas, concerns explored in the text promote an opportunity for the teen to understand his family's history as well as the history and direction of families on the national and global scene.
- The books empower the teen to take action to alter his own situation or those in the larger community, nation or world.

Hints for Reading Aloud

- Select several titles from *Reading Aloud With Children Twelve and Over* whose descriptions appear to match your intended audience. Does your listener like fantasy, science fiction, books of information?
- Read several of the books from cover to cover
- If the book's language or content makes you uncomfortable choose another title.
- Offer the teenager an opportunity to choose between at least two titles you have read and are very enthusiastic about.
- Use post-its to or other page markers to divide the text into read aloud segments. These segments should have natural breaking points that leave the teen at a particularly crucial time in the character and story line.
- Use post-its to mark dialogue, important transitions and/or sensitive topics that will influence how you read the text. Do you need to be dramatic? Should the text be spoken loudly or softly, quickly or slowly?
- Let the teenager know that the books may discuss some sensitive issues and have vivid descriptions. Ask the teen how she/he wishes to handle these passages. Some readers develop a code word for these segments and have the listener read these passages on their own.
- Practice reading out loud so that you feel relaxed when reading to your audience.
- Create a reading log or journal. Enter the titles and dates of books being read aloud. List the pages read at each session. Prepare a comment section reporting on the response of the teen to the segment as well as to the whole book. This will influence future selections.

- Remember if the read aloud time isn't successful you can always stop and try again at a later date and time and/or offer the audio version of the book.
- Most of all have fun!

The Children's Book Committee was founded more than 100 years ago to help parents, teachers, and librarians choose the books that children will find captivating and transforming.

Books to Read Aloud With Children Twelve and Older

A Maze Me: Poems for Girls

by Naomi Shihab Nye
(Greenwillow, 2005)

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

by Sherman Alexie
(Little, Brown, 2007)

Adoration of Jenna Fox

by Mary E. Pearson
(Square Fish, 2009)

After Tupac & D Foster

by Jacqueline Woodson
(Putnam, 2008)

Airman

by Eoin Colfer
(Hyperion, 2009)

Amulet of Samarkand: Bartimaeus Trilogy - Book One

by Jonathan Stroud
(Hyperion, 2004)

Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl

by Anne Frank
(various editions available)

Ask Me No Questions

by Marina Budhos
(Atheneum, 2007)

Bamboo People

by Mitali Perkins
(Charlesbridge, 2010)

Best Shorts: Favorite short stories for sharing

selected by Avi with Carolyn Shute, illustrated by Chris Raschka
(Houghton Mifflin, 2006)

**Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine
1845- 1850**

by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
(Houghton Mifflin, 2001)

Book of a Thousand Days

by Shannon Hale
(Bloomsbury, 2009)

The Book Thief

by Marcus Zusak
(Knopf, 2007)

Borderline

by Allan Stratton
(Harper, 2010)

**Borrowed Names: Poems about Laura Ingalls Wilder,
Madam C. J. Walker, Marie Curie and Their Daughters**

by Jeannine Atkins
(Holt, 2010)

A Bottle in the Gaza Sea

by Valerie Zenatti
(Bloomsbury, 2008)

Bound

by Donna Jo Napoli
(Simon Pulse, 2006)

The Boy Who Dared

by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
(Scholastic Press, 2008)

Boys Will Be

by Bruce Brooks
(Holt, 1993)

Brave New World

by Aldous Huxley
(Harper, 2006)

The Call of the Wild

by Jack London
(various editions available)

Carbon Diaries 2015

by Saci Lloyd
(Holiday, 2010)

Books to Read Aloud With Children Twelve and Older

Carbon Diaries 2017

by Saci Lloyd
(Holiday, 2011)

Chains

by Laura Halse Anderson
(Atheneum/S&S, 2010)

Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith

by Deborah Heiligman
(Henry Holt, 2009)

The Chosen

by Chaim Potok
(Ballantine, 1996)

Code Talker

by Joseph Bruchac
(Penguin, 2006)

Crossing the Wire

by Will Hobbs
(Harper/HarperCollins, 2007)

Dairy Queen

by Catherine Gilbert Murdock
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2007)

Don Quixote

retold by Martin Jenkins, illustrated by Chris Riddell
(Candlewick, 2009)

The Ear, The Eye and The Arm

by Nancy Farmer
(Scholastic, 2012)

East

by Edith Pattou
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2005)

Edgar Allan Poe's Tales of Mystery and Madness

by Edgar Allan Poe
(Atheneum/S&S, 2004)

Tales of Terror from Edgar Allan Poe

by Edgar Allen Poe, illustrated by Michael McCurdy
(Knopf/Random House, 2005)

Endymion Spring

by Matthew Skelton
(Delacorte/Random House, 2008)

Eyes of the Emperor

by Graham Salisbury
(Laurel Leaf/Random House, 2007)

Factory Girl

by Barbara Greenwood
(Kids Can, 2007)

Fever Crumb

by Philip Reeve
(Scholastic, 2011)

Finding Miracles

by Julia Alvarez
(Laurel Leaf/Random House, 2006)

Forge

by Laurie Halse Anderson
(Atheneum/S&S, 2010)

Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley
(various editions available)

Goddess of Yesterday

by Caroline B. Cooney
(Delacorte/Random House, 2002)

Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth

(also *Milk* and others by this author)
by James Cross Giblin
(Clarion/HMH, 2005)

The Goose Girl

by Shannon Hale
(Bloomsbury, 2003)

The Great Fire (also *Blizzard*)

by Jim Murphy
(Scholastic, 2006)

Books to Read Aloud With Children Twelve and Older

The Green Glass Sea

by Ellen Klages
(Viking/Penguin, 2006)

Heart of A Samurai

by Margi Preus
(Amulet/Abrams, 2010)

Here in Harlem: Poems in Many Voices

by Walter Dean Myers
(Holiday House, 2004)

Here Lies Arthur

by Philip Reeve
(Scholastic, 2008)

**Hitler Youth: Growing Up in
Hitler's Shadow** (and others)

by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
(Scholastic, 2005)

Last Summer of the Death Warriors

by Francisco X Stork
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2010)

The Legend of the Wandering King

by Laura Gallego Garcia
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic 2005)

Lemonade Mouth

by Mark Peter Hughes
(Delacorte/Random House, 2007)

Letters From A Slave Girl: The Story of Harriet Jacobs

(also *Letters From a Slave Boy*)
by Mary E. Lyons
(Simon Pulse/S&S, 2007)

Leviathan and **Uglies** (series)

by Scott Westerfield
(Simon Pulse/S&S, 2009)

Little Brother

by Cory Doctorow
(Tor Teen/Macmillan, 2010)

Lock and Key

by Sarah Dessen
(Viking/Penguin, 2009)

Lockdown (also *Monster*, and others by this author)

by Walter Dean Myers
(HarperCollins, 2010)

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

by Ishmael Beah
(FSG/Macmillan, 2008)

Marcelo in the Real World

by Francisco X. Stork
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2009)

Martha Graham: A Dancer's Life

by Russell Freedman
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1998)

Monster

by Walter Dean Myers
(HarperCollins, 1999)

Nation

by Terry Pratchett
(HarperCollins, 2009)

Night of the Howling Dogs

by Graham Salisbury
(Wendy Lamb/Random House, 2007)

Nothing

by Janne Teller
(Atheneum/S&S, 2010)

Nothing But the Truth: A Documentary Novel

by Avi
(HarperCollins, 1993)

Of Mice and Men

by John Steinbeck
(various editions available)

The Once & Future King

by T.H. White
(Penguin, 2011)

Books to Read Aloud With Children Twelve and Older

Orange Houses

by Paul Griffin
(Dial/Penguin, 2009)

Ostrich Boys

by Keith Gray
(Random House, 2010)

Over a Thousand Hills I Walk With You

by Hanna Jansen
(Carolrhoda/Lerner, 2006)

Peak

Roland Smith
Sandpiper/HMH, 2008)

Rules of the Road (also *Peeled*)

by Joan Bauer
(Penguin, 2005)

Private Peaceful (and others)

by Michael Morpurgo
(Scholastic, 2004)

Rash

by Pete Hautman
(S&S, 2007)

Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems On Being Young & Latino in the United States

by Lori Marie Carlson
Henry Holt, 2005)

Reformed Vampire Support Group

by Catherine Jinks
Houghton Mifflin/HMH, 2009)

Revolution

by Jennifer Donnelly
(Delacorte/Random House, 2010)

Riot

by Walter Dean Myers
(Egmont, USA, 2009)

Sunrise Over Fallujah

by Walter Dean Myers
(Scholastic Press, 2008)

Ship Breaker

by Paolo Bacigalupi
(Little, Brown/Hachette, 2010)

Slob

by Ellen Potter
(Philomel/Penguin, 2009)

The Smile

by Donna Jo Napoli
Dutton/Penguin, 2008)

Song of the Sparrow

by Lisa Ann Sandell
(Scholastic, 1997)

Sprout: or my salad days, when I was green with judgment

by Dale Peck
(Bloomsbury, 2009)

Stitches: A Memoir

by David Small
(W.W. Norton and Company, 2009)

Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle For Freedom

by Margarita Engle
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2008)

Poet Slave of Cuba; a Cuba, a Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano

by Margarita Engle
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2008)

Tending to Grace

by Kimberly Newton Fusco
Laurel-Leaf/Random House, 2005)

The Tiger Rising

by Kate DiCamillo
(Candlewick, 2002)

Books to Read Aloud With Children Twelve and Older

The Things A Brother Knows

by Dana Reinhardt
Wendy Lamb Books/Random House, 2010)

Time Machine

War of the Worlds (and others by this author)
H. G. Wells
(various editions available)

Time's Memory

by Julius Lester
(FSG/Macmillan, 2006)

To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee
(HarperCollins, 2010)

Traveling the Freedom Road

by Linda Barrett Osborne
(Abrams, 2009)

**Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild,
Wild West**

by Syd Fleischman
(HarperCollins, 2008)

Unwind and Skin Jacker Trilogy

by Neal Schusterman
(Simon & Schuster, 2007)

Wager

by Donna Jo Napoli
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2010)

War to End All Wars: World War 1

by Russell Freedman
(Clarion/HMH, 2010)

The Whale Rider

by Witi Ihimaera
(Harcourt/HMH, 2003)

When My Name Was Keoko

by Linda Sue Park
(Clarion, 2002)

White Time

by Margo Lanagan
(Harper Teen/HarperCollins, 2006)

**Written in Bone: buried lives of Jamestown and
Colonial Maryland**

by Sally M. Walker
(Carolrhoda/Lerner, 2009)

Wuthering Heights

by Emily Bronte
(various editions available)

Yellow Star

by Jennifer Rozines Roy
(Marshall Cavendish, 2006)