

Read Aloud Guide & Tips

Read alouds offer a chance to model good reading and thinking strategies and to expose youth to a rich variety of books. Reading should be interactive, and encourage supportive and engaging discussions. Children are able to extend their world-view and develop important critical thinking skills with repeated reading opportunities.

Before reading

- Preview the book before you read it with the group so you can anticipate questions or reactions.
- Practice reading the book through so you can decide where to pause for emphasis and where to elicit questions, predictions, or reactions.
- Note words that children may not know, or places where you might want to ask questions.

During reading

- Introduce the book to the group. Point out the cover illustration, title, and author. Invite children to predict what the book is about, and talk about how the book might connect to their own experience or to other books they have heard or read.
- Be expressive! Change your voice for different characters, pause and emphasize important parts. Allow time for children to study the pictures, make comments, and ask questions throughout.
- Ask children to make predictions about what will happen next.
- Point out words that children may not know and tell them the definition.
- Have fun!

After reading

- Talk about how the story might relate to you and/or the children.
- Ask if the book made them curious, or ask if children have questions.
- End with how much fun it is to read, and how much can be learned from books.

Adapted from: *Reading Aloud to Children: Helpful Hints*. (August, 1997). America Reads at Bank Street College of Education. Available at <http://bankstreet.edu/literacy-guide/sample-tutoring-lessons/reading-aloud-children-helpful-hints/>.