



# Reading for pleasure pedagogy: Reading aloud

## Practical classroom strategies



*“Through reading aloud we have texts in common – stories, poems, news – that we all share, laugh about, are shocked by and discuss together- so small but so important for building a sense of a reading community.”*

(TaRs teacher, Birmingham)

## **1. Read aloud PLUS**

Read aloud and pause occasionally to invite the children to engage with the text in some way. Try to avoid a battery of questions, but rather seek to offer a variety of brief, small group activities to promote children's involvement with the text. These could include:

- open-ended pair discussions of characters/themes/other books by the author
- making connections to the text ( to life or other texts/films, books etc.)
- group freeze frames of what might happen next
- the use of props/puppets/objects

## **2. Daily read aloud with your class**

Build up the class repertoire of 'texts in common'; select texts that you love but also be prepared to share texts that enthuse the children. Poetry and picture fiction often only take a few minutes and can be revisited and read again and again with pleasure.

Extracts from news articles can also be brief and engaging.

## **3. Weekly read aloud with your class**

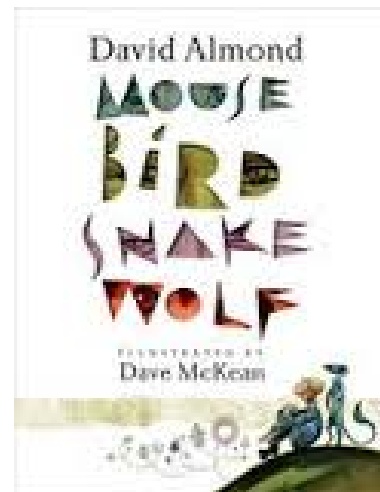
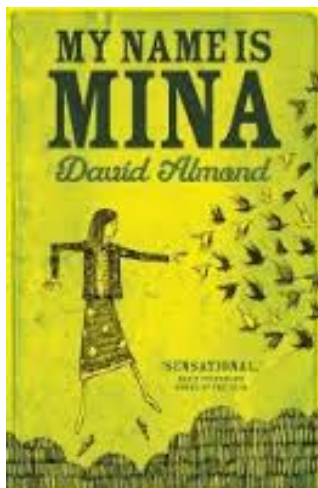
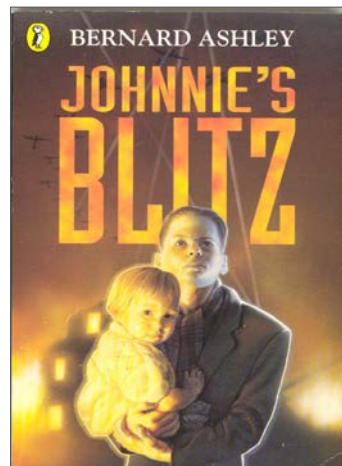
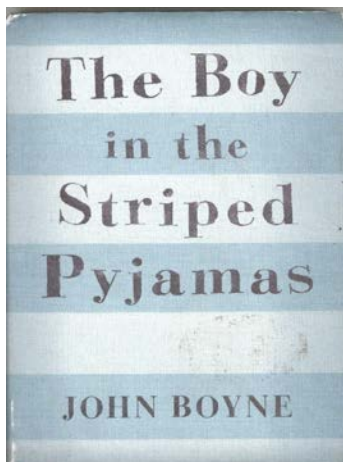
Choose ideas from the menu below to read aloud with your children.

- writing from a new author/illustrator/poet
- writing from a prize-winning author/illustrator/poet
- reading around a particular theme
- reading around a particular genre
- a novel/collection of short stories/anthology of poetry
- an opening chapter to entice and invite.

## **4. Who makes the choices?**

As well as making your own wise choices of books that are rich and engaging reads, consider regularly asking the children to choose/vote for the texts they would like to be read aloud. For example, you could offer 3 WWII books or 3 of David Almond's books...

Read the blurb for each as a taster and let your class vote. Alternatively profiling 3 illustrators or poets, with a reading/sharing of one of their works offers a taster to help the class choose.



## 5. Where and when does reading aloud take place?

Consider different environments where reading aloud can happen. This could be:

- in the school library
- in the playground/outdoor area
- on a story-telling chair, inside or outside the classroom
- as part of special school events

Reading aloud requires the highest quality texts. It is just one part of a reading for pleasure pedagogy, which itself is dependent upon teachers' knowledge of texts, of young readers, and an understanding of reading.

## 6. Who does the reading?

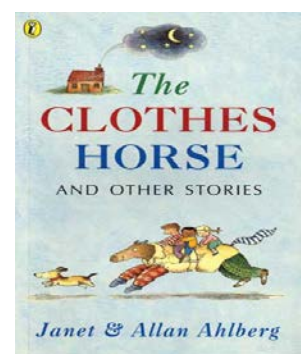
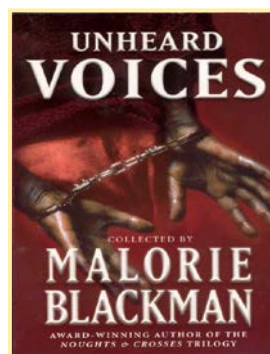
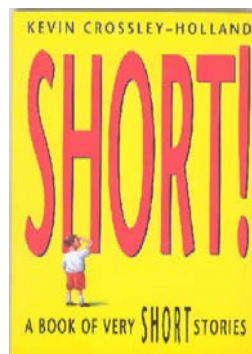
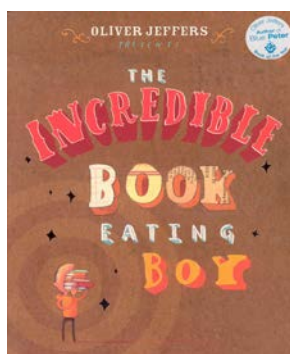
Invite a variety of readers to read aloud with the children. Consider the size of group – this could be for individuals, groups or the whole class. Invitations could be made to:

- The children in your class
- Children from other classes (e.g. consider setting up reading buddies)
- Support staff/TAs
- Parents/carers/family members
- Adults in the community speaking/reading/telling stories in different languages



## 7. Children move and choose

Once a week invite all the children in your year group/ school to select from a menu of reading aloud sessions. In these staff chose a focus/theme/book to read aloud for 15 minutes. After lunch, or at the end of the day, children go to another teacher's class to listen. This might also involve TAs enabling smaller groups in the library too and could be on a smaller scale or simply once a term.



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## **8. Read aloud and draw**

As you take your time, use your voice playfully and bring the text to life, allowing longish pauses at ellipses and chapter gaps, invite children to doodle or draw – IF they wish while you read.

## **9. Author readings**

Where school budgets allow, invite authors/poets/illustrators in to share their work. Ensure that children are familiar with the works before you do so. If budgets don't allow, there is plenty of material online (and audiobooks) where you can share children's authors' reading their work aloud.

<http://www.letterpressproject.co.uk/inspiring-young-readers/category/author-illustrator-publisher-interviews>

## **10. Annual big bedtime read aloud**

Once a year invite all the children, siblings, parents/carers and community in your Year Group/ school to a big bedtime sleepover/evening event. Suggest that they come in their pyjamas and bring a favourite text they want to re