

Create Your Own World Read Aloud Day Event!

World Read Aloud Day is an opportunity to Read It Forward and celebrate reading and storytelling with your entire community. Use this easy guide to create a joyful celebration in your school, community center, business, or with your friends and family, leading up to the big day, or on March 6, 2013.

Don't forget to take lots of pictures and videos and share them with LitWorld on Facebook or Twitter, or by email at wrad@litworld.org!

◆ Step 1: Read Aloud

Reading aloud is important to everyone's literacy development. Reading aloud allows you to share your love of reading, and helps everyone around you become readers too.

Here are some tips to guide you:

- Be animated and use a big voice during a read aloud to bring the experience alive for listeners
- Use different voices for different characters
- If your book has a lot of text, try a story walk instead of reading every word of the text. Summarize what is happening on each page, pointing to the illustrations to help explain the action

Example: With *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, you can read directly from the text, because there is not a lot of it. You can use the colors of your voice to enhance the story, for example when the text reads:

One Sunday morning the warm sun came up and – pop! –
out of the egg came a tiny and very hungry caterpillar.

You can emphasize the word "pop!" to capture the sound and engage the listeners.

Check out LitWorld's "7 Strengths" suggested read aloud booklist on the following pages.



BELONGING

Picture Books

- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox

Poetry

- *My People* by Langston Hughes
- *Sweet Corn: Poems* by James Stevenson

Chapter Books

- *The House on Mango Street (Four Skinny Trees)* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

KINDNESS

Picture Books

- *The Friendship Doll* by Kirby Larson
- *14 Cows for America* by Carmen Agra Deedy

Poetry

- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- *The Frog* by Hillaire Belloc

Chapter Books

- *Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata
- *One for the Murphy's* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

COURAGE

Picture Books

- *Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai* by Claire Nivola
- *Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart* by Candace Fleming

Poetry

- *Black Eye Ball* by Steve McCiciche
- *Helen Keller* by Langston Hughes

Chapter Books

- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
- *Capture the Flag* by Kate Messner

FRIENDSHIP

Picture Books

- *Bear Has a Story to Tell* by Philip C. Stead & Erin C. Stead
- *The Gift of Nothing* by Patrick McDonnell

Poetry

- *The Glory of Friendship* by Ralph Waldo Emerson
- *May Our Friendship Last Forever* by Nicolas Gordon

Chapter Books

- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
- *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green



CONFIDENCE

Picture Books

- *Free to Be... You and Me*
by Marlo Thomas and Friends
- *Me...Jane* by Patrick McDonnell

Poetry

- *The Dream Keeper*
by Langston Hughes
- *The Road Not Taken*
by Robert Frost

Chapter Books

- *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen
- *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein

CURIOSITY

Picture Books

- *Island: A Story of the Galapagos* by Jason Chin
- *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin

Poetry

- *Reflection* by Shel Silverstein
- *I'm Glad I'm Me* by Phil Bolsta

Chapter Books

- *Being* by Kevin Brooks
- *Liar and Spy* by Rebecca Stead

HOPE

Picture Books

- *Henry's Freedom Box*
by Ellen Levine
- *The Empty Pot* by Demi

Poetry

- *The Invitation* by Shel Silverstein
- *In the Land of Words* by Eloise Greenfield

Chapter Books

- *Journey Through Heartsongs*
by Matti Stepanek
- *Bitterblue* by Kristin Cashore



◆ Step 2: Group Activity

Choose an idea from LitWorld's suggestions below, use the worksheets in the WRAD Activity Packet (downloadable at litworld.org/worldreadalouddayactivities), or come up with your own inspiring plan!

Suggested World Read Aloud Day Activities

- **Read Aloud.** Simply make some devoted time to read aloud with a group on March 6, and take a minute to think about how fortunate we are to be able to read and to share stories and poems with one another. You can take time during a staff meeting in your office, during dinner at home, or during class, recess or lunch time at school.
- **Read Aloud with someone extra special.** Reach out to a group in your local community and set up a time to read aloud or do the WRAD Activity Packet worksheets together. This could be an event with friends and family, or a new connection with a school, library, hospital or elder care center. If you are a teacher or student, you can arrange a read aloud exchange between different grades or classes in your school.
- **Read Aloud with someone across the world on March 6.** Set up your own video chat with a long-distance friend, family member, or colleague via Skype, Google Hangout or another video chat platform and share a poem or a story together.
- **Read Aloud with a special guest.** Browse WRADvocate Kate Messner's website katemessner.com and get set up with a special guest author to read aloud with your group on March 6, or arrange for your own guest reader, who could be a local celebrity such as the favorite security guard in your building at work or school!
- **Spread the word about the World Read Aloud Day online.** Post about World Read Aloud Day on Facebook, Twitter, your blog, or your website. Find ideas for tweets, status updates and blog posts at litworld.org/worldreadalouddayblog. Change your picture to the WRAD badge on your social media profiles. Host a marathon WRADvocating session for you and your friends before March 6 to spread the word together and create a megaphone effect! Start a friendly competition to see who can get more re-tweets, likes, or comments on their WRAD posts.
- **Host a read-a-thon.** Take turns reading aloud with your class, family members, or friends for a marathon read aloud session. Make it as long as you want- stay up late and make it a slumber party! Or set group goals weeks ahead and read independently, counting down to March 6. Use the Reading Tally in our Activity Packet to keep track of your reading minutes.



- Host a dress-up party. Dress up as your favorite book character and get together with friends or your class. Try to act like your character all day if you can!
- Create a Story in the Round. Sit in a circle and make a group story by having each person add a sentence one at a time going around and around the circle. The sillier the better! You can come up with a theme or a description of the key characters at the beginning to get everyone's ideas flowing.
- Launch a Pop-Up Poetry Café. Invite friends, family, classmates, or colleagues to gather for snacks and invite everyone to read their own writing or a favorite poem or short story to the audience.
- Have a Screening Session of Great Orators. Get together with a group and have everyone share their favorite video or audio recording of an inspiring speech. Watch and listen to these great speeches and talk together about what makes them so powerful.
- Build a Story Quilt. Cut squares out of paper or fabric and bring together a group of thoughtful readers. Have each person write or draw on their square in response to a group read aloud book, or to individual favorite books, and put all the squares together on the wall to form a quilt.
- Host a book swap party. Invite your friends, classmates or colleagues to bring in their favorite books and exchange them one to one, or sell them to one another to fundraise for a local community center or charity, or for LitWorld.
- Start an Online Fundraiser. Help LitWorld spread the power of literacy by starting an online fundraiser and encouraging your friends to support the cause. Visit the LitWorld CrowdRise page at [crowdrise.com/litworldinternational](https://www.crowdrise.com/litworldinternational) to begin.

◆ Step 3: Have fun!

We look forward to seeing your shared photos and videos as we raise our voices for World Read Aloud Day and advocate together for the right to read.

