



Read Aloud Training

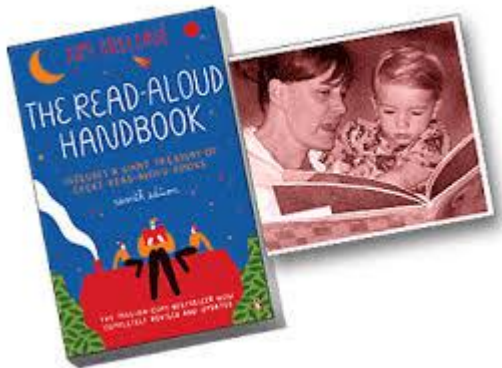
Who are we?

Springfield School Volunteers

- A non-profit organization that connects resources of the local community to Springfield Public Schools.
- Annually, SSV brings more than 2,000 volunteers from the local community into the Springfield Public Schools to serve as mentors, tutors, early literacy volunteers, general academic support and in a variety of other SPS support roles.
- SSV has coordinated the legendary Citywide Read Aloud Program.
- SSV's School Based Mentoring Program is currently the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is endorsed by our Superintendent of Schools, Daniel J. Warwick. He encouraged all SPS employees to mentor a student.

Read Aloud Program

- Westvaco Envelope Division started the program in 1984 as a pilot program at the Talmadge School.
- They released about 6 employees from work to read aloud once a week to classrooms on a rotating basis.
- Using that as a model, we met with Jim Trelease the international Read Aloud guru and the Reading Department Supervisor to create our program.
- We are now located in all 33 elementary schools with 600+ volunteers and 3000+ books.



How it works

- Once a month for five months (October – February), volunteers read aloud to classrooms in a participating Springfield public school of their choice. Approximately 650 volunteers are needed each year.
- Books are selected by the program. A different title is selected for each grade level, for each month of the program. SSV provides volunteers with background information on each book and suggestions for engaging the students in a dialogue before, during and after each reading.
- The day of the Read Aloud, volunteers gather at the school and wait for their student escorts to bring them to the classroom where the rest of the class will be eagerly awaiting their special Read Aloud volunteer.
- After the reading, the books are left with the teacher to help build the classroom libraries. Approximately 3,000 books are donated to schools each year.

Tips for Read Aloud

- Preview the book! (most books are available at your local library, you may also arrive early to the school and ask to see the book!)
- Dress Appropriately (Don't forget you can add some fun and associate your outfit to the book with clothing or props!)
- Introduce yourself to the class. Tell them a little about yourself and why you are there (Be a commercial for reading! Ex: I have always loved to read!)
- Before reading the story to the class “set the scene”. This could include telling the students where the story takes place, defining words that you think they might not know and giving any additional information that might enhance the story.
- Read the title, author, and illustrator's names. If you are in a kindergarten through grade 2 classroom ask the children to define author and illustrator. (Ex: what does the author do?)



Tips for Read Aloud (Cont.)

- Show the pictures! Be sure everyone gets a chance to look at them.
- Don't rush, read slowly enough for the students to build mental pictures of what you are reading.
- Use plenty of expressions while reading, if possible change the tone of your voice to fit the dialogue.
- Get the class involved in reading by asking them a question that will be answered in the reading or asking them to repeat particular phrases that will occur in the reading. (Ex: "Do you think Billy will find his blue shoes?")
- Adjust your pace to fit the story (Ex: Slow down during a suspenseful part)
- At the end of the story ask a few questions, such as "Why do you think they did that?" or "What would you have done?"
- Thank the students for being good listeners and say "Good Bye!"



Reading Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoagX-J-fs>



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Why read aloud?

- Reading aloud is the foundation for literacy development. It provides children with a demonstration of phrased, fluent reading. It reveals the rewards of reading, and develops the listener's interest in books and desire to be a reader.
- Reading aloud demonstrates the relationship between the printed word and meaning – children understand that print tells a story or conveys information – and invites the listener into a conversation with the author.
- Children can listen on a higher language level than they can read, so reading aloud makes complex ideas more accessible and exposes children to vocabulary and language patterns that are not part of everyday speech.

Keep in touch!

- **Facebook:** facebook.com/springfieldschoolvolunteers
- **Website:** springfieldschoolvolunteers.org
- **Phone:** 413-787-7015

Tell the world about our program!

THANK YOU!