

Research shows that when teachers read aloud to students, comprehension increases; teachers give a voice and meaning to text that students often cannot give to the reading themselves.

- Gay Ivey



"Extensive research has proven that reading aloud to a child is the single most important factor in raising a reader. If reading to children were common instead of a rarity, we'd be facing fewer academic and social problems in this nation."

- Jim Trelease

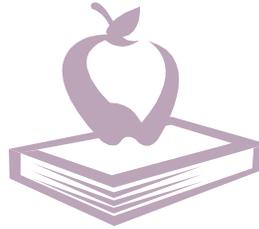


"You may have tangible wealth untold:  
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.  
Richer than I you can never be –  
I had a mother who read to me."

— Strickland Gillian  
*The Reading Mother*

The single most important activity for building knowledge for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to your child. Reading helps to learn about language. Reading helps prepare for school success. Reading gives new experiences. Reading strengthens the relationship with your child. Books help expand understanding of the whole world. Books develop imagination.

*First Connections with Families*  
Nebraska Department of Education  
Office of Early Childhood



Visit the following web sites for additional information on

*Reading Aloud*

Read Aloud Nebraska

[www.readaloudnebraska.org](http://www.readaloudnebraska.org)

Nebraska Department of Education

[www.nde.state.ne.us/read](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/read)

Kim Larson, Reading/Writing Director

# Reading Aloud



*Never too young,  
Never too old*

## Benefits of Reading Aloud



- Increases the love for reading
- Builds a rich vocabulary
- Develops reading attributes such as predicting & summarizing
- Increases understanding of the target language
- Creates an understanding of story structure, organization, and language
- Develops sentence sense, patterning, and an ear for the rhythm of language
- Models appropriate phrasing, inflection, and fluency
- Introduces a variety of authors and their voices
- Serves as a springboard to discussion of big ideas
- Enhances listening skills
- Develops relationships among readers

Rachel Billmeyer  
*Strategic Reading in the Content Areas, 2004*

## Important Considerations



- Read selections you enjoy and care about to guarantee thoughtful reading
- Set expectations for how to listen; some students need to doodle
- Bring the author to life so students know writers are real people, but don't fill reading time with lengthy lectures
- Incorporate interactive read-alouds between the students and teacher
- Read slowly so students can create mental pictures

Rachel Billmeyer  
*Strategic Reading in the Content Areas, 2004*



**"Reading aloud should be an instructional routine in all classrooms at all grade levels."**

- Rachel Billmeyer

## Read-Aloud Resources



Rachel Billmeyer . . .



Dr. Rachel Billmeyer, an internationally known consultant and presenter, has taught at all levels and worked with renowned educational researchers. In 1993, she received the Nebraska Literacy Award.

Dr. Billmeyer has published numerous articles and is the author of the book series, *Literacy and Learning: A Trilogy*

- [Strategic Reading in the Content Areas: Practical Applications for Creating A Thinking Environment](#)
- [Strategies to Engage the Mind of the Learner: Building Strategic Learners](#)
- [Capturing All of the Reader Through the Reading Assessment System: Practical Applications for Guiding Strategic Readers](#)

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Additional Resources . . .

- [For Reading Out Loud: Planning and Practice](#), Bobbie Fisher & Emily Fisher Medvic
- [Hey! Listen to This](#), Jim Trelease
- [Read All About It!](#), Jim Trelease
- [Read for Joy](#), Claudia Quigg
- [The Read-Aloud Handbook](#), Jim Trelease
- [Reading Aloud and Beyond](#), Frank Serafini & Cyndi Giorgis
- [Reading Magic](#), Mem Fox