

Great Read-Alouds

Not all great novels are wonderful when read aloud. Every page has to hold the listener's interest with action, suspense, or humour. Read alouds are a great way to introduce students to a series or an author. Please send me titles that you have used successfully to add to this list for updating on www.pita.ca (under resources).

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Grades	Author	Title	
4-6	Avi	Poppy	Adventure; rich language; mouse stands up to owl bully
4-6	Avi	Poppy & Rye	Sequel to Poppy; adventure & humour; family of beavers threaten survival of other animals by damming river
4-6	Berton	Secret World of Og	humour and adventure; children discover a world underground inhabited by little green people who have set up their world based on the western genre they have seen in comic books
4-6	Clements	Frindle	Humour; Kids invent new word and battle establishment; understanding dictionaries
3-6	Cuffe-Perez	Skylar	Humour; told from perspective of a flock of migrating geese who learns to migrate; ties to Science topic of wetlands
3-4	Dahl	BFG	Humour; Child and friendly giant defeat the fierce giants who eat "human beans"
6-7	DuPrau	City of Ember	Adventure; nuclear war forces the creation of a city underground; long but full of suspense; ties to SS topic of city development
6-7	DuPrau	People of Sparks	Sequel to City of Ember; adventure; town struggling to begin again after the world's near destruction is forced to share its meager supplies with refugees; ties to SS topic of immigration an refugees
4-6	Funke	Dragon Rider	Long but full of adventure; a boy joins with other creatures to try to save dragons from the huge dragon villain
4-6	Gutman	Million Dollar Shot	Humour and suspense; boy & girl team up to try to win a million dollars in a basketball contest; ties to basketball, advertising, and ethical dilemmas
4-7	Gutman	The Homework Machine	Humour and thought-provoking; story told in the voices of students who use a machine to do their homework; probably too confusing if teacher does all the reading but students who are comfortable reading aloud could take turns reading the parts
5-7	Haddix	Among the Hidden	Suspense; Since third children are banned in this over-populated world, they hide with no rights; ties to SS topics of overpopulation and human rights
3-5	Howe	Bunnicula	Humour; dog & cat decide that bunny adopted by family is a vampire
4-6	Kehret	Don't Tell Anyone	Adventure & mystery; lots of suspenseful incidents including a car crash, robbery, and kidnapping
3-5	Kimmel Smith	War With Grandpa	Humour; boy declares war on grandpa, rather than give up his room; he learns about the importance of relationships
6-7	Lowry	The Giver	Suspenseful and thought-provoking; set in futuristic utopian world; provokes discussion about the value of individuality and choice
3-6	Naylor	Shiloh	Boy saves dog from abuse

3-6	Park	Kid in the Red Jacket	Humour; friendship; empathy; new boy is befriended by a pesky little girl and learns to sort out important traits in friends and reject kids who try to be cool and funny by being mean
4-6	Park	Mick Harte Was Here	Girl tells story of her brother who died because he didn't wear a bike helmet; lots of humour as well as understanding about grief
4-6	Paterson	Bridge To Terabithia	Inner strength; family relationships; empathy; good for prompting discussion about values and families
4-6	Scrimger	Nose From Jupiter	Humour; standing up to bullies
5-7	Spinelli	Crash	Humour; tough jock torments and then befriends kind nerd
4-6	Walsh	Moses, Me, and Murder	Adventure; based on a true story in Gold Rush Barkerville; man is charged with murder and sentenced by Judge Begbie; prompts discussion about trials and the controversy of capital punishment
3-5	Walters	Three-on-Three	Basketball; friendships between boys and girls and confronting stereotypes of kids who are poor