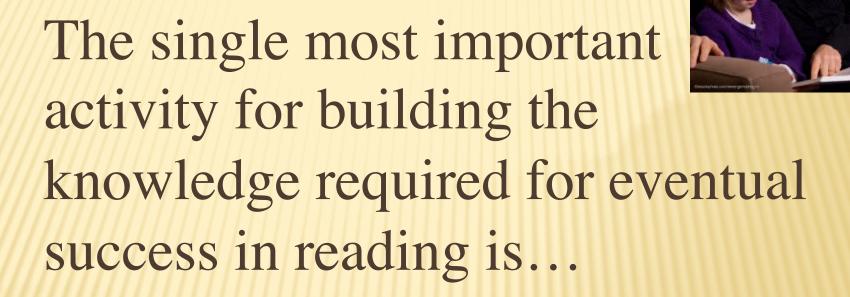
How to Strengthen Children's Reading Comprehension Skills by Reading Aloud to Them

Tips for parents







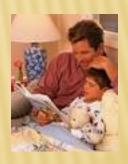


Reading Aloud to Children.

from <u>A Nation</u> <u>At Risk</u>, 1983

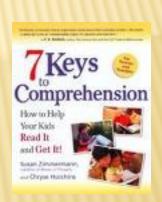
CHILDREN WHO ARE READ TO ...

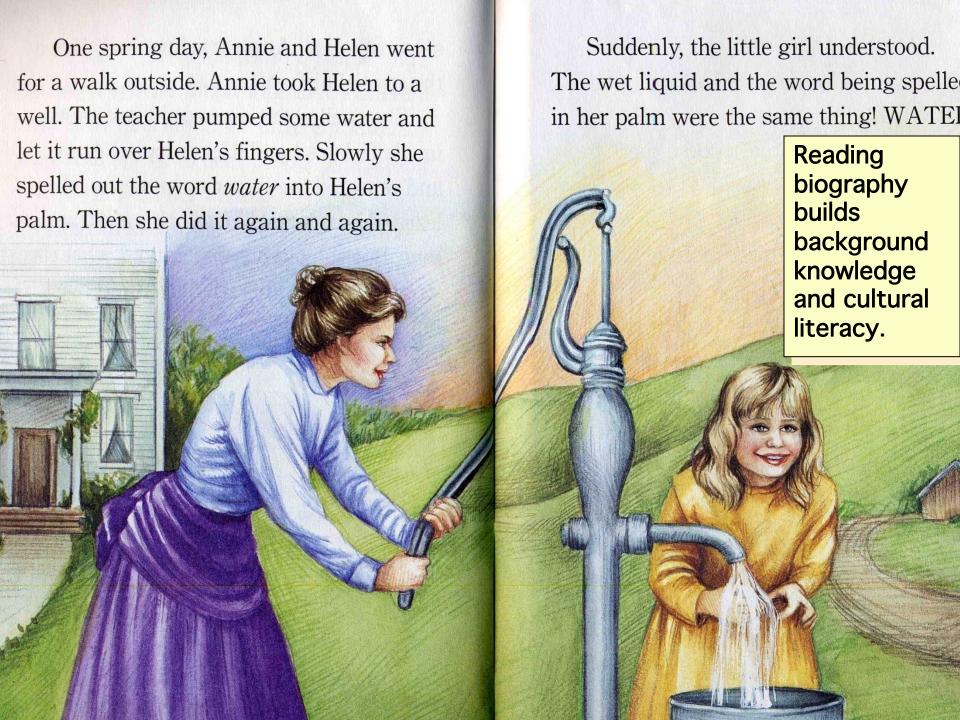
- Develop a strong sense of story
- Are used to <u>thinking</u> along with text
- Create mental pictures more readily
- Have longer attention spans
- Develop the habits of readers



THE POWER OF READING ALOUD TO YOUR CHILDREN

- Promotes a love of reading
- Develops listening skills
- Increases background knowledge and vocabulary
- Provides opportunity to model reading comprehension strategies





"When we read, we carry on an internal conversation. We debate the evidence and evaluate what we're reading. We determine if it makes sense with what we already know.

For children to read with understanding, they must develop these habits of mind."



Richard Allington

Reading Researcher

READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

- Monitor understanding (Huh? Do I understand this? What's going on?)
- Use fix up strategies (reread, read slower, read in chunks, read aloud)
- Visualize (or use a picture, diagram) "I can picture this in my mind..."
- Make connections, use benchmarks (This is like the time when...Dad is 6 feet tall...)

- Ask a question, wonder something ("Why is she doing that?" "What is the author trying to tell me?" "Who is that character?")
- Draw a conclusion, make an inference, predict ("That must mean..." "What he did made me think he's..." "I think the next thing that will happen is...")
- Retell/paraphrase
- Focus on new vocabulary



MODEL "THE READER'S JOB"

At the beginning of a book:

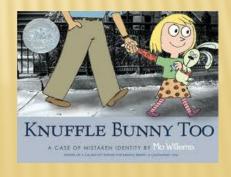
- Note the names of the author and illustrator.
- Look at the cover and read the book blurb. Tell your child what you think the book's going to be about.
- Figure out who's telling the story (narrator) and where and when it takes place. (setting)
- Identify the main characters.

THINK ALOUD AS YOU READ FICTION

- Talk about what the words are making you picture in your mind.
- Talk about what the words are making you feel.
- Tell your child when you're surprised, confused, wondering something, predicting something will happen...
- Encourage your child to share his thinking with you.

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO THINK CRITICALLY:

- Could this story be true?
- Do you like this character? Why/ why not?
- Does the character have a problem?
- Has anything like this ever happened to you?
- What would you do to solve a problem like this?

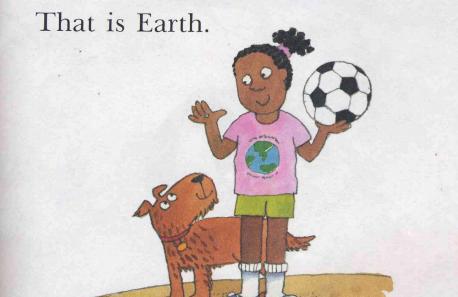


THINK ALOUD AS YOU READ NONFICTION

- Before reading, talk about what you and your child already know about the topic.
- Take the time to look at the pictures, maps, graphs, read the captions and headings.
- Stop and retell the facts you learn or find interesting.
- Find ways for your child to share what he/she learns from reading.

Slow down, act it out, use a benchmark, connect to what you already know.

Think of the biggest star and Earth like this. You have a soccer ball in one hand. That is the big star! You have one little grain of sand in your other hand.



Use the headings to wonder and predict what you will learn as you read each section. This sets a purpose for reading.

what might be described as a net or screen on which images are formed. I see you, too!

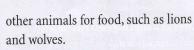
Animals See Colors Differently

Different colors have different wavelengths of light. To see in color, a person's or animal's eyes must be able to recognize wavelengths of different sizes. The more sensitive an animal's eyes are to changes in the size of the wavelengths, the more colors that animal will see. The leaves of a tree, for example, appear green or somewhat yellowish-green to our eyes, but to a flying insect or a pigeon flying above, those very same leaves might appear to be red or red-orange.

Predator and Prey

Our own eyes are placed squarely in the front of our heads. The fields of vision of the two eyes overlap, which helps us judge the distance between ourselves and another animal, or to throw a baseball neatly into the glove of a catcher. We share the ability to judge distance with other animals who, like ourselves, are predators, those who kill

Oh Dear! Does that make ME \ a predator?



Creatures of prey, such as rabbits and deer, have eyes on the sides of their heads. This enables them to see what might be coming up from

behind them.

The only place where an animal's eye position does not distinguish a predator from its prey is underwater, where every creature seems to be at risk from another one.

The eyes of the African chameleon can look in two directions at once—up and down or to either side. Reptiles were the first creatures to be able to follow an object with their eyes while keeping their heads still.







TIPS FOR PARENTS:

- Be patient. It takes time to cultivate the art of listening.
- Read picture books. Include nonfiction, (inc. biography) classics, nursery rhymes and poetry.
- Choose books about topics your child finds interesting.
- Be comfortable. Take your time.
- Ham it up- change your voice, slow
- down at important parts



FINAL THOUGHTS

- It is possible for young readers to read smoothly, quickly, and not comprehend a word. Reading aloud to children allows you to model the important focus on meaning.
- Readers need to feel competent, trusted, part of the "Literacy Club." Talk with your child about books. Avoid quizzing.
- It is important to limit screen time.
- Reading to your child develops their reading skills.

"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."



"The Reading Mother"
by Strickland Gillilan
from the Best Loved Poems
of the American People, 1936