

Spinelli, Jerry*Maniac Magee*

“One part fact, two parts legend, and three parts snowball,” Maniac Magee brings a racially divided town together through his amazing exploits, and finds a home.

Wrede, Patricia*Dealing With Dragons*

Princess Cimorene would rather not learn dancing or marry a prince, so she runs away to the enchanted forest to become a cook for a dragon in this humorous and lively fantasy. (Series title: The Enchanted Forest)

Middle and High School

Avi*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*

Traveling alone by ship from England to America in 1832, Charlotte is drawn into danger as she joins a mutinous crew.

Card, Orson Scott*Ender's Game*

Ender Wiggin is a genius, one of several who are selected to attend an elite battle school in outer space, in preparation for saving the universe from an alien attack. (Book One of the Ender Quarter)

Farmer, Nancy*The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm*

Three strangely gifted mutant detectives set out to save three kidnapped children in a futuristic Zimbabwe of blue monkeys, mile-high buildings, and twisted characters living in toxic dumps—thrilling, comic, and bizarre.

London, Jack*Call of the Wild*

Buck, a domesticated dog from California, is taken to the Klondike to become a sled dog. He survives a harsh working life and eventually triumphs as he rejoins his wolf ancestors.

Matas, Carol*The Burning Time*

Rose and her mother are accused of witchcraft in sixteenth-century France.

Paulsen, Gary*Hatchet*

Brian is the sole survivor of a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness, with only a hatchet to help him keep going as winter approaches.

Peck, Richard*Long Way From Chicago*

Seven episodic and memorable tales of gruff Grandma Dowdel and her city-bred grandchildren.

Taylor, Mildren*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

Unforgettable story of a black family's struggle to retain their dignity and humanity in rural Mississippi during the depression. Sequels: Let the Circle Be Unbroken; The Road to Memphis.

Poetry and Classic Tales

Aesop*Aesop's Fables*

Ancient tales that teach lessons about human nature and right behavior.

Mel, Glenn*My Friend's Got This Problem, Mr. Chandler*

Story poems in the first person, as told to the high school guidance counselor.

Hamilton, Virginia*The People Could Fly*

From Wiley and the Hairy Man, to less well-known black folk tales by an accomplished writer.

Mahy, Margaret*Bubble Trouble and Other Poems and Stories*

Poems for giggling!

Pass It On: African-American Poetry for Children

Poems on life, love, family, hope, and tradition, selected by Wade Hudson.

Prelutsky, Jack*The Beauty of the Beast; Tasty Treats for Animal Appetites*

Poems of the animal kingdom that are fun to read and to look at, with beautiful watercolors by Meilo So.

Wyndham, Robert, ed.*Chinese Mother Goose Rhymes*

Poems, lullabies, counting rhymes, and songs for the very young from the Chinese oral tradition.

Einstein, our mascot, is a smart bird who reads a lot. He was named after Albert Einstein who once said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” Reading aloud feeds the imagination and fosters creativity.

This brochure was made possible in part with LSTA funds administered by the Library of Virginia. Contact: Pat Muller, 1-800-336-5266, Ext. 6923765 or pmuller@lva.lib.va.us

Read
Aloud
Virginia

*The most important
20 minutes of your day are
reading aloud to your child.*

Great Books for Reading Aloud

Choose a book that is at least 2-3 grade levels above your child's reading level. Children can listen to language at a higher level than they can read. The grade levels here are suggestions—let your child's interests and maturity guide you in selecting an appropriate book.

Born to Read

Bang, Molly

Ten, Nine, Eight

A father and his little girl count down warm bedtime activities.

Ginsburg, Mirra

Good Morning Chick

A just-hatched chick trying to imitate a rooster provides fun for the youngest child.

Keats, Ezra Jack

Whistle for Willie

Peter wishes so much that he could surprise his dog by whistling for him.

Martin, Jr., Bill

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

A classic picture book with large, colorful illustrations by Eric Carle.

Martin, Jr., Bill

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

A lively alphabet rhyme with an enticing beat and cheerful pictures.

Opie, Iona Archibald, ed.

My Very First Mother Goose

Rosemary Wells introduces the youngest child to favorite Mother Goose rhymes.

Pinkney, Andrea

Pretty Brown Face

A baby boy lists the parts of his face, which come together to make him unique.

Preschool

Balian, Lorna

The Aminimal

Wonderful interactive read aloud that demonstrates the concept of imagination.

Daly, Niki

Jamela's Dress

Jamela promises to guard her mother's precious dress fabric—but ends up parading joyously through town, wrapped in the cloth.

Gackenbach, Dick

Harry and the Terrible Whatzit

Harry must confront the terrible two-headed monster in the cellar when his mother goes missing.

Henkes, Kevin

Wemberly Worried

Wemberly is going to school, and there is plenty to worry about!

Kasza, Keiko

Don't Laugh, Joe!

Learning to play possum is serious business to his Mother—but Little Joe Possum can't stop giggling!

King, Bob

Sitting on the Farm

A young girl having a picnic can't get rid of the increasingly larger animals she invites in this rhythmic cumulative tale.

Wood, Audrey

Napping House

Appealing and humorous bedtime story about various critters who head off to sleep, except for one wakeful flea.

Early Elementary

Aardema, Verna

Anansi Does the Impossible

The clever spider Anansi outwits the Sky God, claiming his stories for the people.

Catling, Patrick Skene

The Chocolate Touch

John Midas loves candy and is thrilled—at first—to find that everything he touches turns to chocolate.

Dahl, Roald

James and the Giant Peach

James is the saddest and loneliest boy imaginable, but his life is transformed when he climbs aboard a magical house-sized peach.

Gannett, Ruth Stiles

My Father's Dragon

The fun begins when Elmer Elevator runs away to rescue a flying baby dragon.

Grahame, Kenneth

The Wind in the Willows

Ratty, Mole, Mr. Toad, and friends embark on unforgettable adventures in this classic story.

Scieszka, Jon

Knights of the Kitchen Table

From the Time Warp Trio series, Joe is given a magic book that transports him and two friends back to King Arthur's Britain.

White, E. B.

Charlotte's Web

Charlotte is a very literate spider whose innovative plan saves her friend, Wilbur the pig, from his unpleasant fate in this classic fantasy.

Older Elementary

Babbitt, Natalie

Tuck Everlasting

Ten year-old Winnie discovers the Tuck family secret—water from the well of eternal life, in this powerful, yet poignant story.

Lewis, C. S.

Chronicles of Narnia (Series)

Follow four children through the wardrobe and into the magical land of Narnia, where a golden lion rules and evil threatens—a timeless masterpiece. Book 1: *The Magician's Nephew*.

Naylor, Phyllis R.

Shiloh

When Marty finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, he tries to hide it from his family, and from the dog's mean-spirited owner.

Curtis, Christopher Paul

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963: A Novel

Kenny Watson's family drives "home" to Birmingham, Alabama, from Detroit during the summer of church bombings.

Lowry, Lois

Number of Stars

Annemarie and her friend, Ellen Rosen, must pose as sisters in order to smuggle Ellen and her family out of Nazi-occupied Denmark.

Rowling, J. K.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Apprentice (Series)

Harry's stifling life with his horrid relatives is transformed when he learns that he is in fact wizard, and the heir to a mantle of great magic.

You read to your children when they were young, but once they are school-aged and reading on their own, will you still read aloud? All it takes is 20 minutes a day!