



## Books to Read Together

“The experience of being read to is so very powerful and joyful that it is a key determinant of a child’s independent reading for pleasure. The most important thing a parent can do for their child’s reading is to continue to read to them throughout their childhood, even when they are capable of reading for themselves. Independent reading flourishes alongside being read to.”

Alison David, Egmont UK

“Children of all backgrounds who were read to regularly by their parents at age five performed better in maths, vocabulary and spelling at age 16 than those who were not read to”

Sullivan and Brown, 2013

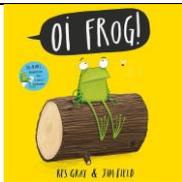
### What makes a good book to read aloud?

- A book that the reader enjoys too!
- Rhyme, repetition, rhythmic language and distinctive illustrations
- A book that can tell even a simple story in rich language. The more words a child encounters the better!
- A book that may deal with more mature topics or sensitive issues in a safe space with a familiar adult
- A very funny book can be a great way to maintain the interest of a child in a longer book and there is nothing better than a twist in the tail or a cliffhanger ending to a chapter a day

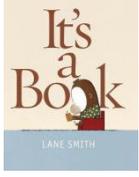
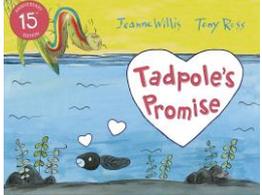
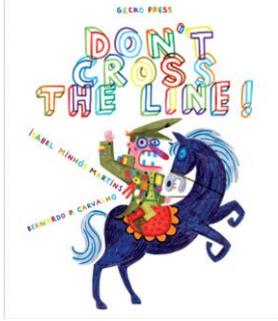
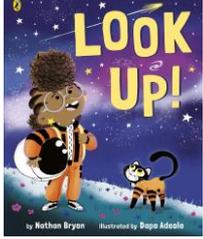
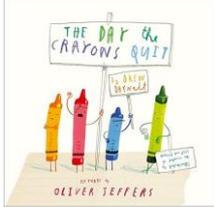
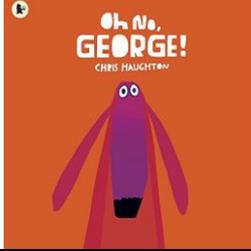
Compiled by Joy Court, SLA Book Reviews Editor

### Picture Books

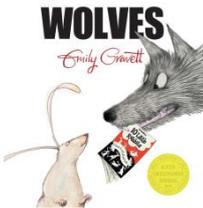
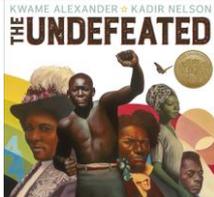
Every home should have classics such as *The Gruffalo* (Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler), *The Owl Babies* ( Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson), *We’re Going on a Bear Hunt* ( Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury), *Where the Wild Things Are* ( Maurice Sendak), *Not Now Bernard* ( David McKee), *Rosie’s Walk* ( Pat Hutchins), *Giraffes Can’t Dance* ( Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees) etc.

<p><b>Oi Frog</b>  <b>Kes Gray and Jim Field</b>          Hodder ISBN: 978-1444910865          Truly hilarious this first book in a winning series focuses on the Cat explaining the rules to the Frog about what things different animals can sit on. Clever rhyming text and loads of vocabulary.</p>	
<p><b>I Want my Hat Back</b>  <b>Jon Klassen</b>          Walker Books ISBN: 978-1406338539          Deliciously black humoured story of a bear whose hat has gone. And he wants it back. Patiently and politely, he asks the animals he comes across, one by one, whether they have seen it. The ending will provoke laughter and debate.</p>	



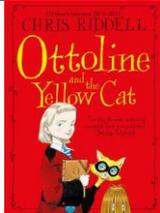
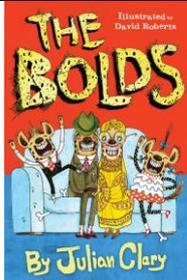
<p><b>It's a Book</b>  <b>Lane Smith</b>          Macmillan ISBN: 978-0330544023          This is the tale of a Monkey's attempt to explain to a techie donkey what a book is and that, no, it doesn't need a password! Has the perfect punchline.</p>	
<p><b>Tadpole's Promise</b>  <b>Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross</b>          Andersen Press ISBN: 978-1783445868          A wickedly funny love story which explains growth, changes and the seasons with a devastating denouement. A perfect use of the physical book (the gutter being the boundary between water and the land) to help tell the tale.</p>	
<p><b>Don't Cross the Line</b>  <b>Isabel Minhos Martins (Author), Bernardo P. Carvalho (Illustrator), Daniel Hahn (Translator)</b>          Gecko Press ISBN: 978-1776571840          A slapstick postmodern tale that is also a profound statement about dictatorship and peaceful revolution. The guard always follows the general's orders without question. The right-hand page of this book must be kept blank for the general. As the crowd builds up on the border, the guard is under pressure. If no one is allowed onto the next page, what will happen to the story? And then a ball bounces across the line . . .</p>	
<p><b>Look Up!</b>  <b>Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola</b>          Puffin ISBN: 978-0241345849          Rocket is going to be the greatest astronaut, star-catcher, space-traveller that has ever lived! But... can she convince her big brother to stop looking down at his phone and start LOOKING UP at the stars? Full of energy and passion about science and space, this will have readers turning off their screens and switching on to the outside world.</p>	
<p><b>The Day the Crayons Quit</b>  <b>Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers</b>          Harper Collins ISBN: 978-0007513765          Poor Duncan just wants to colour in. But when he opens his box of crayons, he only finds letters, all saying the same thing: We quit. Empathy delivered via crayons. Witty and wise.</p>	
<p><b>Oh No George</b>  <b>Chris Haughton</b>          Walker Books ISBN: 978-1406344769          Harris is off to do some shopping. "Will you be good, George?" he asks his dog. George hopes he can. He really wants to ... but chocolate cake is just so very delicious and he does love to chase cat... What will George do now? The struggle to be good is universal for any age.</p>	



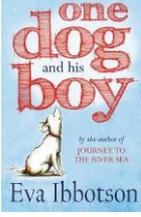
<p><b>Wolves</b>  <b>Emily Gravett</b>          Macmillan ISBN: 978-1509836666          Rabbit borrows a book about wolves from the library. He can't put it down! But soon a sinister figure with sharp claws and a bushy tail starts to creep right off the pages. You won't believe your eyes – but if you're a rabbit, you probably should. Brilliant and ingenious.</p>	
<p><b>The True Story of the Three Little Pigs</b>  <b>John Scieszka and Lane Smith</b>          Viking 978-0451471956          Irreverent introduction to the concept of the unreliable narrator. Pure genius. A Wolf was just trying to borrow a cup of sugar to make his poor old granny a birthday cake. Who should you believe, the pigs or the wolf? You read. You decide.</p>	
<p><b>The Undefeated</b>  <b>Kwame Alexander and Kadir Nelson</b>          Andersen Press ISBN: 978-1783449293          A magnificent poetic anthem to the black American experience with luminous and unforgettable illustrations will generate invaluable discussions.</p>	

### Chapter Books

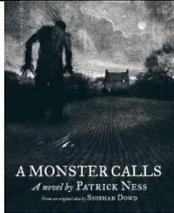
Classics the adults may remember with pleasure and want to share include Charlotte's Web (E.B.White), Alice in Wonderland (Lewis Carroll), The Iron Man (Ted Hughes), The Borrowers (Mary Norton), Mrs Pepperpot (Alf Prøysen) and, of course, any Roald Dahl, Tolkien or C. S. Lewis!

<p><b>Ottoline and the Yellow Cat</b>  <b>Chris Riddell</b>          Macmillan ISBN: 978-0330450287          Introducing Miss Ottoline Brown, an exceptionally inquisitive Mistress of Disguise, and her partner in crime, Mr. Munroe. No puzzle is ever too tricky for the two of them to solve. Genuinely entertaining for all ages.</p>	
<p><b>The Bolds</b>  <b>Julian Clary and David Roberts</b>          Andersen Press ISBN: 978-1783443055          Mr and Mrs Bold are just like you and me: they live in a nice house (in Teddington), they have jobs (like writing Christmas cracker jokes) and they love to have a bit of a giggle. One slight difference: they're hyenas. Yes, that's right - they're covered in fur, have tails tucked into their trousers, and they really, really like to laugh. Innocent humour capable of having adults in stitches.</p>	



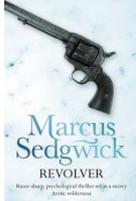
<p><b>Saving Winslow</b>  <b>Sharon Creech</b>  Guppy Books ISBN: 978-1913101145  Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small animals. So, when his father brings home a sickly newborn little donkey, he's determined to save him. Taking care of him helps Louie feel closer to brother Gus, who has just left home.</p>	
<p><b>One Dog and his Boy</b>  <b>Eva Ibbotson</b>  Macmillan ISBN: 978-1407124247  An incredibly moving book about the importance of love and friendship and the power of people and animals to provide it. Terrier Fleck arrives on Hal's birthday, but when Hal discovers that his dog must be returned, he runs away. Hal and Fleck are joined by a group of pedigree breeds joyfully escaping from the unscrupulous.</p>	
<p><b>The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents</b>  <b>Terry Pratchett</b>  Corgi ISBN: 978-0552562928  Every town on Discworld knows the stories about rats and pipers, and Maurice - a streetwise tomcat - leads a band of educated ratty friends (and a stupid kid) on a nice little earner. Piper plus rats equals lots and lots of money. Works on so many levels.</p>	
<p><b>Cosmic</b>  <b>Frank Cottrell Boyce</b>  Macmillan ISBN: 978-1529008777  Long-legged Liam makes a giant leap for boy-kind by competing with a group of adults for the chance to go into space. Is Liam the best boy for the job? Sometimes being big isn't all about being a grown-up. Hilariously funny but with great humanity and heart.</p>	
<p><b>Oliver and the Seawigs</b>  <b>Philp Reeve and Sarah McIntyre</b>  Oxford ISBN: 978-0192734884  Along with his new friends, a grumpy old albatross, a short-sighted mermaid, and a friendly island called Cliff, Oliver goes off in search of his missing parents. Brilliantly illustrated tour de force.</p>	
<p><b>I Cosmo</b>  <b>Carlie Sorosiak</b>  Nosy Crow ISBN: 978-1788003872  The story of one dog's attempt to save his family, become a star, and eat a lot of bacon. Wise, funny and moving.</p>	
<p><b>When You Reach Me</b>  <b>Rebecca Stead</b>  Andersen Press ISBN: 978-1783449637  A thought provoking mystery with a mind blowing twist. Shortly after a fall-out with her best friend, sixth grader Miranda starts receiving mysterious notes and whoever is leaving them has an uncanny ability to predict the future.</p>	



<p><b>Coraline</b>  <b>Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell</b>          Bloomsbury ISBN: 978-1408841754          There is something strange about Coraline's new home. It's the other house - the one behind the old door in the drawing room. Another mother and father with black-button eyes and papery skin are waiting for Coraline to join them there. She knows that if she ventures through that door, she may never come back. Deliciously creepy.</p>	
<p><b>A Monster Calls</b>  <b>Patrick Ness and Jim Kay</b>          Walker Books ISBN: 978-1406361803          Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill. But tonight is different, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth. Unforgettable and deserving of all the awards won.</p>	

## Teens

Don't stop reading together! The delicious nuances of classics like Frankenstein (Mary Shelley), Dracula (Bram Stoker), Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen), Middlemarch (George Eliot), Lord of the Rings (JRR Tolkien), To Kill a Mockingbird (Harper Lee) and Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry (Mildred Taylor) deserve to be savoured before the life is studied out of them.

<p><b>Saffy's Angel</b>  <b>Hilary McKay</b>          Hodder ISBN: 978-0340989043          Meet Saffy, Indigo, Rose and Caddy Casson. This colourful and hilarious series will make you wish you were part of the family! After Saffron discovers that she's adopted, life is never quite the same. So when her grandfather bequests a stone angel to her, Saffy knows she has to find it.</p>	
<p><b>Revolver</b>  <b>Marcus Sedgwick</b>          Orion ISBN: 978-1444000054          Sig Andersson has a choice to make - use the gun or die. An unforgettable, razor-sharp psychological thriller set in the snowy wilderness of the Arctic Circle.</p>	
<p><b>The Book Thief</b>  <b>Marcus Zusak</b>          Penguin ISBN: 978-1909531611          Set in Germany during 1939, The Book Thief follows Liesel as she rescues books from the tyranny of Nazi rule. Meanwhile, her family has hidden a Jewish fighter in their basement and death looks down on the family, narrating our tale. Experience bravery that is rarely found in the world, and friendship that is formed in the most unlikely of situations.</p>	



<p><b>The Graveyard Book</b> <b>Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell</b> Bloomsbury ISBN: 978-0747594802 When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard? Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead. But for Bod there is also the danger of the murderer still looking for him.</p>	
<p><b>Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki</b> <b>Kevin Crossley-Holland and Jeffrey Alan Love</b> Walker Books ISBN: 978-1406361841 Extraordinary illustrated anthology of dramatic, enthralling and atmospheric tales based on the Scandinavian myth cycle.</p>	
<p><b>I Capture the Castle</b> <b>Dodie Smith</b> Vintage ISBN: 978-0099460879 A timeless, witty and enchanting novel about growing up. Cassandra Mortmain lives with her bohemian and impoverished family in a crumbling castle in the middle of nowhere and all their lives are turned upside down when the American heirs to the castle arrive and Cassandra finds herself falling in love for the first time.</p>	
<p><b>Dark Matter</b> <b>Michelle Paver</b> Orion ISBN: 978-1409121183 A terrifying 1930s ghost story set in the haunting wilderness of the far north. Jack is poor, lonely and desperate, so jumps at the chance to join an Arctic expedition to the remote, uninhabited bay where they will camp for the next year. Gruhuken. One by one, his companions are forced to leave. He faces a stark choice. Stay or go. And Gruhuken is not uninhabited. Jack is not alone. Something walks there in the dark...</p>	