The benefits of reading to your son

Christ Church Grammar School
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Many boys, even as they get older, enjoy being read to by their parents. Reading aloud to boys helps expand their literacy skills, love of reading, worldview and leads to improved academic success.

Here are some key reasons why it is important to read aloud to your older sons:

Models fluent reading

When you read to your son, you are modelling how to read language. You pause at commas and periods. Your voice inflection changes when you read questions or exclamation and you can show what you, a fluent reader, do when you come to a challenging word.

Helps expand their vocabulary

Children's auditory comprehension is higher than their reading comprehension. When you pick a challenging book that your son can't read on his own, you are exposing him to a wealth of new vocabulary. This exposure to words stretches a boy's language development, particularly if you stop to talk about the meaning of these harder words.

Exposes boys to new authors, texts and genres

Reading aloud can assist children to become 'hooked' on a new author or series of books. Once a child falls in love with the story or author, it is hard to hold them back from reading it on their own. Reading aloud gives boys a chance to explore genres and texts they wouldn't normally select.

Builds awareness and empathy

Literature is one of the best ways to help boys understand something without experiencing it for themselves. Books can do this with all sorts of subjects and concepts, building our children's understanding of humanity and the world around them.

Improves boys' long-term reading success

Research shows that reading aloud to a child daily is one of the most important activities for his reading success. That goes for older boys, too. Boys who are read to have greater vocabularies, write well, and do well overall in school.

The positive attitude towards reading begins well before boys enter school, even though reading skills are developed in the first few years of schooling. This is where parents really assist their boys. By allowing modelling, practice and engagement with texts, boys learn the value of reading at home. The skill of reading is something that should be celebrated at home and as such, opportunities for boys to read aloud, discuss something they have read or talk about things they would like to read, should be encouraged.

Some things to consider when encouraging your son to read:

Audio books

Some 8 to 10 year olds start to feel too old to be read to at bedtime. That does not mean that you cannot still share a story. Play an audio book before bedtime or pass the hours you spend in the car with an audio book. Pick a funny story read by an actor with a talent for voices.

Magazine subscriptions

National Geographic for Kids, *KIT Magazine*, *Aquila*, *Lego Life Magazine*, *Cricket* — just a few of the many magazines specific for children at this age. Your son will enjoy getting mail addressed to him, or looking at magazines online together.

Joke books

What 9 year old does not appreciate a good pun? Find a book of jokes at a library or bookstore. Encourage your child to memorise a few of his favourites. He can entertain his friends and family and improve his memory as well.

Reading Guide

YEARS 3 AND 4

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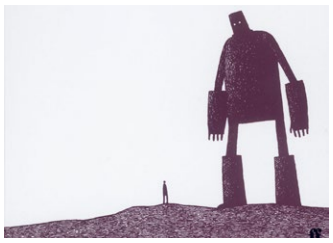
YEAR 3



The Tale of Despereaux
Kate DiCamillo



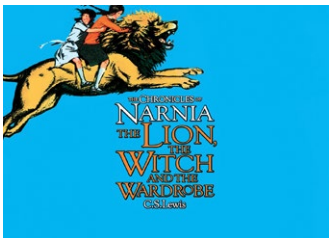
Ophelia and the Marvellous Boy Karen Foxlee



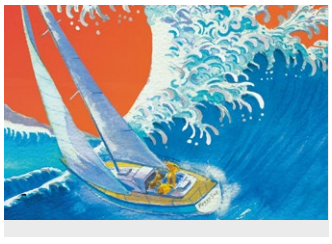
The Iron Man
Ted Hughes



The Sheep-Pig (Babe)
Dick King-Smith



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe CS Lewis



Kensuke's Kingdom
Michael Morpurgo



Hansel and Gretel
Anthony Browne

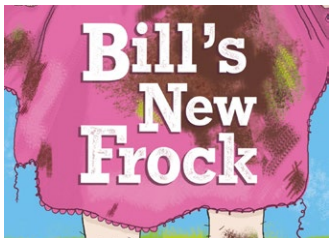


The Eleventh Hour
Graeme Base

YEAR 4



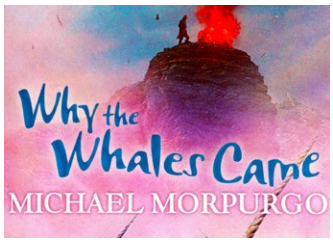
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane Kate DiCamillo



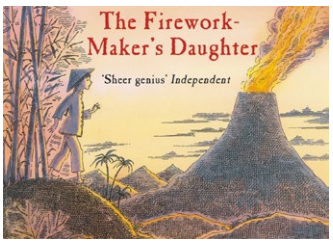
Bill's New Frock
Anne Fine



Parry Angel's Suitcase
Glenda Millard



Why the Whales Came
Michael Morpurgo



The Firework-Maker's Daughter Phillip Pullman



Storm Boy
Colin Thiele



Charlotte's Web
EB White



Voices in the Park
Anthony Browne



My Place
Nadia Wheatley



The Snow-Walker's Son
Catherine Fisher



Ned Kelley and the Green Sash Mark Greenwood



The Naming of Tishkin Silk
Glenda Millard