

Amber Peterson from LitWorld is here to share about the power of reading aloud, and how you can use LitWorld’s 7 strengths pedagogy to build powerful read aloud rituals at home.

### Why is reading aloud important?

- It engages our reading comprehension, it enables us to interact with written text, it engages us visually, it engages us auditorily, and of course it allows us to speak and present. It’s an incredible tool that allows us a uniquely immersive literacy experience.
- Studies show that daily reading aloud to children puts them almost a year ahead of children who do not receive daily read alouds.
- Reading aloud is a form of oral storytelling- a practice that dates back millennia in human communities. Oral storytelling brings us together as families, as classrooms, and communities, in ways that more passive forms of storytelling

The **7 strengths model** was developed as a framework to help young people use literature as a tool to explore themselves, to explore the world, and to explore their own place in it.

### How to build **Belonging** with the Read Aloud:

- Use the texts you read aloud as mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors to explore ourselves and the world
- Cultivate diverse libraries with relatable characters
- Allow listeners to give input on what they’d like to read



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### How to promote **Curiosity** with the Read Aloud

- Connect what you are reading aloud with personal curiosities, worldviews, perspectives and thoughts
- Think aloud as you read, to affirm that curiosity is acceptable at any age
- Read aloud both informational texts and fictional texts to show how the new information fits into the real world



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### How to encourage **Friendship** with the Read Aloud

- Read books featuring both successful and imperfect relationships
- Make room for discussions about the Read Aloud that may forge new connections
- Provide opportunities for children to read together



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### How to celebrate **Kindness** with the Read Aloud

- Read stories about *choosing* to be kind
- Allow time to discuss how you would react when situations that test kindness come up
- Model ‘close listening’ and respecting all opinions



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## How to spur **Confidence** with the Read Aloud

- Switch up who gets to read aloud! Provide an encouraging and respectful audience for *all* readers.
- Read texts at a variety of levels
- Practice read alouds and performances to help young people improve diction and expression



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## How to explore **Courage** with the Read Aloud

- Read articles or biographies about courageous people
- Discuss personal experiences with listeners: *When were they courageous? When was a time when they wish they had courage, but did not?*
- Highlight big and small acts of courage. Remember that courage isn't always flashy!



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For questions about the information or if you have another workshop topic to suggest, email Kristen Rocha Aldrich at [krochaaldrich@reachoutandreadnyc.org](mailto: krochaaldrich@reachoutandreadnyc.org).