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 cannot.

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

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

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

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