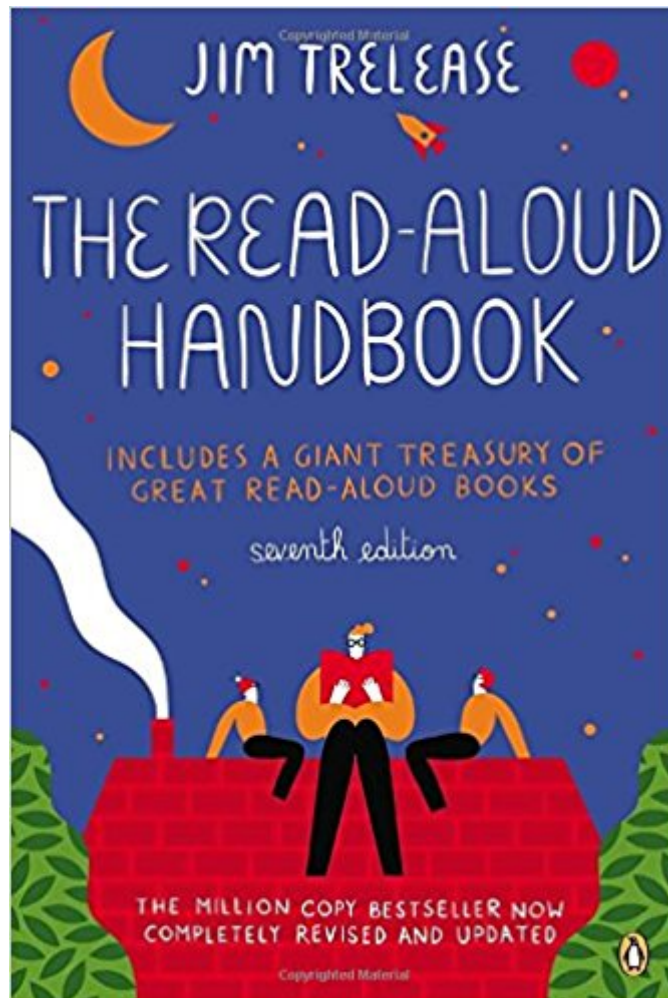




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The Read-Aloud Handbook: Seventh Edition



Synopsis

The classic million-copy bestselling handbook on reading aloud to children – revised and updated Recommended by "Dear Abby" upon its first publication in 1982, – millions of parents and educators have turned to Jim Trelease's beloved classic for more than three decades to help countless children become avid readers through awakening their imaginations and improving their language skills. It has also been a staple in schools of education for new teachers. This updated edition of The Read-Aloud Handbook discusses the benefits, the rewards, and the importance of reading aloud to children of a new generation. Supported by delightful anecdotes as well as the latest research (including the good and bad news on digital learning), The Read-Aloud Handbook offers proven techniques and strategies for helping children discover the pleasures of reading and setting them on the road to becoming lifelong readers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This book is about more than reading aloud. It's about time that parents, teachers, and children spend together in a loving, sharing way." – The Washington Post
"As I read this treasure of a book, I became more and more fascinated with its contents – I give it my unqualified recommendation." –
"Dear Abby" –
"Reading aloud is a joyous experience for child and for parent. The Read-Aloud Handbook offers useful hints as to why the experience is so mutually rewarding and how to make it work." – Arthur

Schlesinger" The Read-Aloud Handbook promises to give parents, teachers, and all others who care about children, reading, and the pursuit of happiness new inspiration." • The Denver Post "Fresh, vital, and inspirational" bravo for Trelease! I urge everyone who cares about literacy and that should include people without children to read this book. • Los Angeles Herald Examiner

Jim Trelease is a frequently cited author who has spent thirty years addressing parents, teachers, and librarians on the subjects of children, literature, and the challenges of multimedia to print. His other books include *Hey! Listen to This*, for grades K-4, and *Read All About It!* for preteens and teens. He lives in Enfield, Connecticut.

I am devoted follower of the Read-Aloud Handbook, and I thought for sure Jim Trelease was officially retired, so imagine my delight when this seventh edition appeared on ! To make things even better, there is tremendous amount of new material in this edition. I have read the sixth edition front to back multiple times (I even did a blog series reviewing it chapter by chapter), and I have a copy of the first edition that I found at the used bookstore, but now I think I might have to invest in copies of editions 2, 3, 4 and 5 as well! Trelease really does replace at least 40 percent of the content and significantly revise the book list. This is definitely worth ordering if you already have a previous edition.

You already believe in reading aloud and feel comfortable enough doing it... so do you really need a Read Aloud Handbook? You probably don't NEED it, but I think you'll be grateful to have this book. As both a parent of young children and as a teacher of low-income middle school students (on a break to stay at home while my kids are young), I'm getting so much from it. The biggest lure for me was the Handbook's "Treasury" - the annotated list of great read-aloud books that makes up the last third of the Handbook. I get overwhelmed when selecting books and wanted to be able to choose from a list of reliably loveable books for my children, as well as to make sure I wasn't missing any especially good choices for my middle school students. I'm pleased with the Treasury so far, both in the quality of books described and in the range of ages represented (There are a great few pages on reading to infants in Ch. 3 and any age toddler-8th grade should find several great recommendations in the Treasury). The bulk of the books described are picture books, short novels, and longer novels (100 pages and up), but there are some recommendations for poetry and reference books as well. The first 170 pages of the Handbook covers topics like why we should be

reading aloud, suggestions for reading aloud at each stage of development from infant up, tips for Sustained Silent Reading, and good and bad news about the growing dependence on digital reading. I'm surprised at how much I enjoyed these chapters. Here's what I loved:

- * Inspiring: Trelease gives more than a sales-pitch for reading aloud - he makes the love and joy of reading with children contagious. I was already "sold" on reading aloud, but feel re-energized to make read-alouds more frequent and more fun.
- * Challenging: The many anecdotes of inspiring educators and parents made me think. A teacher of 3 and 4 year olds reads chapter books as well as picture books... am I right to have assumed my 3 year old can't handle hearing a chapter book yet? And a mother read to her young child at meals as long a duration as the child showed interest... where can I work in more fun reading to our days? I could go on.
- * Filled with practical suggestions: Some examples: great specific book recommendations when transitioning from picture books to novels, an anecdote of a clever ipod/text program for struggling readers, what we can learn from Oprah, and of course many practical dos and don'ts while reading aloud (before, during, and after reading). Several seem common sense, but they're still helpful.
- * Readable: This reads like a conversation with a knowledgeable veteran educator who has formed strong opinions after years of getting to know how kids learn. It's filled with research, but not at all dense. I'd also recommend Pam Allyn's *What to Read When*. There's not too much overlap; its book recommendations are more about teaching or opening up conversations on many different topics while the suggestions in Trelease's book are more about learning to love to read. Both are helpful to me.

I've been giving this book to all first time parents I know for many years. Explains the importance of family reading and the benefits to both the child(ren) and parents, and why to start very early and continue well beyond when they learn to read. Improves child's vocabulary, teaches them to focus on something and sit still for awhile which is very helpful school preparation. But most importantly, reading becomes a wonderful, loving bond between parents and children, not to mention creates life-long readers. Gives helpful tips to parents reluctant to read or uncomfortable doing so. Treasury of books at the back is useful, too.

Love Jim Trelease and I have his older edition of the book. He gives you suggestions and statistics of why you need to read to children at the earliest age possible. Almost half of the book is suggested reading. I only gave it 4 stars instead of 5 was because he didn't really add too many more books from the last edition and the reason I bought it was to get more book ideas.

Similar to 'The New York Times Parent's Guide to the Best Books for Children' and Kathleen Odean's 'Great Books for Boys' and 'Great Books for Girls', one third of this book is dedicated to listing books. These are organized by book type -- wordless books, predictable/cumulative books, picture reference, picture books, short novels, novels, poetry, and fairy and folk tales. Books within each category are listed alphabetically by title, and one-paragraph descriptions include suggested age level, page count, and reference to other books by the same author. There is also an author/illustrator index. What makes this book unique and invaluable is the reasoned and persuasive text that precedes the book listing. The author is obviously passionate about the issue of reading to kids, and he makes a strong case in support of this belief, pulling together classroom experiences, case studies, headlines and research to form an accessible and compelling narrative. As a parent, a librarian and a former researcher in cognitive and learning science, I was very impressed with the author's command of so many aspects of this issue, and his ability to summarize what is known in an interesting and informative way. We all hear statistics about reading scores, or know a teacher who tells us that student performance has degraded over the years, but in this volume the author has gathered the information from many sources together; furthermore, the author discusses reading in the context of our experience, addressing issues of athlete readers and the influence of television, for instance. As well as answering the question of *why* we should read to our children, there is a terrific chapter on *how* to read and discuss books with children at various ages and stages. If you want to help your children love reading, this would be an invaluable resource. I give this book my very highest recommendation.

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