

# How Do You Read Aloud Stories?

If you're looking for ways to amp up your reading time with your kids, you might try some of these tips to ensure they're engaged, entertained, and always following along:

- **Preview the book.** Even if we're talking about a short picture book, you'll do a better job narrating if you have at least an idea of what to expect.
- **Prepare a comfy reading area.** Whether you're reading for a classroom of 25 or one sleepy toddler, make sure that all listeners will be comfortable for the duration of the reading.
- **Hold the book open wide.** Don't forget that someone else is following along, so you want to give your audience the best view possible of the images and words.
- **Do your best acting.** We can't all be Meryl Streep, but your listeners will definitely appreciate some dramatic sound effects, hand motions, facial expressions, and different voices for different characters.
- **Involve your audience.** Give your listeners a line to repeat, a sound effect to make at a certain cue, or some other way to participate.
- **Discuss.** Brainstorm some engaging questions for after the reading session to keep your listener's minds on what they've just heard and read

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