



CRANBOURNE  
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Cranbourne Secondary College  
High Impact Literacy Strategies

# Read Aloud - Explainer

What is a Read Aloud?

How can we use Read Aloud in our classrooms?

Why should we consider using Read Aloud in our classrooms and across content areas?

## What is a Read Aloud?

*“The read-aloud process has enormous benefits to literacy learning. Read-aloud is an instructional practice where teachers, parents, and caregivers read texts aloud to children. The reader incorporates variations in pitch, tone, pace, volume, pauses, eye contact, questions, and comments to produce a fluent and enjoyable delivery. Reading texts aloud is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for successful reading (McCormick, 1977).”*

<https://bit.ly/3oqlsly>

## What's the point?

- Model fluent and expressive reading.
- Model active reading and metacognition.
- Remove the workload of decoding and free up space for students to engage in *thinking* about reading.
- Develop listening skills.
- Expose learners to texts that are beyond their own independent reading capability and to a wide range of texts on a wide range of topics.
- Promote the importance and pleasure of reading and build motivation for independent reading.
- Develop our students' comprehension skills and vocabulary.
- Support the acquisition of and reinforcement of new knowledge and skills.
- Stimulate rich conversations in our learning community.
- Develop connections in our learning community through sharing the joy of reading and learning.

## How can we use Read Aloud in classrooms across all content areas?

1. Choose tantalising texts, relevant to current topics as well as teacher and class interests, and plan ahead.
2. Review the text prior to the lesson to prepare. Plan and practice your delivery. Note the places where you will pause and discuss, ask questions, have students write a quick reflection (Quick Write!) or turn and talk with a partner.
3. Read aloud, with enthusiasm!
4. Don't just Read Aloud, but *think* aloud. As you read, pause and share your thoughts, make connections and ask questions about the text.

## Why?

### Reading for Learning:

- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/literacy/readingviewing/Pages/teachingpracmodelled.aspx>
- <https://www.chompingatthelit.com/reading-aloud/>
- <https://natlib.govt.nz/schools/reading-engagement/strategies-to-engage-students-as-readers/reading-aloud>
- <https://languageartsclassroom.com/reading-aloud-with-secondary-students/>
- <https://www.edutopia.org/article/using-read-alouds-boost-students-creativity>
- <https://www.hbe.com.au/shp8115.html>

### Videos for Learning

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysHf-udE07Q> (3 minutes)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBuT2wdYtpM> (9 minutes)

### Podcast Episodes for Learning

- <https://the-teachers-tool-kit-for-literacy.simplecast.com/episodes/true-tasks-the-importance-and-power-of-read-alouds>
- <https://the-teachers-tool-kit-for-literacy.simplecast.com/episodes/can-writing-live-without-reading-with-dr-brian-cambourne>
- <https://the-teachers-tool-kit-for-literacy.simplecast.com/episodes/quick-writes-using-mentor-texts>