

Wednesday February 2, 2022

# WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

☆ presented by LITWORLD.ORG





# World Read Aloud Day

## WHAT

World Read Aloud Day, founded by **LitWorld**, is an international advocacy day celebrated by over 170 million people worldwide.



## WHY

Storytelling creates connections among people, and communities that exchange stories and engage in reading aloud together become stronger and show improved family health and nutrition, civic engagement and participation in the labor market..



## HOW

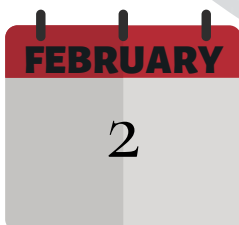
Read aloud and tell stories on World Read Aloud Day, *wherever* you are! Visit [litworld.org](http://litworld.org) for ideas on how to celebrate!



## WHEN

February 2, 2022

and annually the first Wednesday of February



# World Read Aloud Day

## What is World Read Aloud Day?

**LitWorld** founded **World Read Aloud Day** in 2010 in celebration of the power of reading aloud to create community, to amplify new stories, and to advocate for literacy as a foundational human right. Over the last ten years, World Read Aloud Day has evolved into a global movement of millions of readers, writers, and listeners from communities all across the world coming together to honor the joy and power of reading and sharing stories, and continue expanding the definition and scope of global literacy.

## Top 3 Reasons to Celebrate

**1** World Read Aloud Day is a celebration of oral storytelling, an ancient tradition for sharing information and building community. Sharing stories has always been the way we connect to each other as humans. On World Read Aloud Day, embrace the power of storytelling to create community with people both near and far!

**2** World Read Aloud Day is an opportunity to advocate for equity in storytelling. Sharing stories is how we learn about the world- how to navigate it and how we define our own place in it. Traditional publishing hasn't always embraced the diversity of perspectives and experiences there are in the world, and World Read Aloud Day allows us to celebrate stories in all of their forms and from wherever they come. This World Read Aloud Day, make it a point to read a story from a point of view or perspective you don't often consider!

**3** World Read Aloud Day is a time to advocate for literacy as a foundational human right. Studies show that daily reading aloud to children puts them almost a year ahead of children who do not receive daily read-alouds regardless of income, education level or cultural background.<sup>1</sup> This World Read Aloud Day, help share this powerful and accessible action with everyone you know!

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<sup>1</sup> University of Melbourne

# World Read Aloud Day

## How to Celebrate!

World Read Aloud Day is an opportunity for people all around the world to create community through storytelling. Whether you decide to connect with others in person, online, or in some combination of both, oral storytelling offers us unique opportunities to create meaningful and long lasting connections.

### Embrace Technology

Technology can provide creative and accessible ways of sharing stories with people around the world on World Read Day! On February 2nd, here are some things you can do to take your World Read Aloud Day celebration online!

1. Commit to telling a story to someone you know via video chat, social media, or email and encourage them to do the same by paying it forward to someone else. Let us know which stories you share on LitWorld's social media by using #worldreadaloud day, or by letting us know directly on our facebook, instagram or twitter!
2. Go to [www.litworld.org/worldreadaloud day](http://www.litworld.org/worldreadaloud day) for a calendar of Read Aloud experiences, resources, and activities that you can engage in virtually on February 2nd and all year round! Make sure you participate with your families, friends, schools, and colleagues!



### Become a WRADvocate

On February 2, use your platforms to encourage others to celebrate the power of reading aloud and storytelling! You can post about it on social media and share your stories with the world. You can also take action locally by organizing a book drive for your neighborhood community center or volunteering to read aloud via video conference to a local classroom. Visit [litworld.org/worldreadaloud day](http://litworld.org/worldreadaloud day) for more examples of creative ways to advocate for storytelling and voice on World Read Aloud Day!

### Start Your Own Storytelling Traditions

Use World Read Aloud Day as an opportunity to establish new storytelling habits with your family and friends. Start a weekly read aloud night at home or begin a book club with your coworkers. Use February 2nd to kick off new storytelling traditions that you'll keep all year round!



# World Read Aloud Day

## StoryTelling 101: The 5 Story Elements

On World Read Aloud Day, you can write and share your own stories! While there is no wrong way to tell a story, knowing about the 5 story elements can help make your story interesting and easy to understand!



**Character:** The characters are the people (or animals, or objects!) that experience the main action of a story. Interesting characters have motivations and personalities. The more well rounded and interesting your characters are, the more interesting your story will be.

*Tip:* Try to understand who your characters are before you begin writing your story. What are your characters like? Are they loud or quiet? Are they thoughtful or impulsive? Are they timid or bold?

**Setting:** The setting of a story is when and where it takes place. A story may take place in a city or a country, a house or a school. A story can also take place in a different time period, or in a magical or fantastical space as well!

*Tip:* Sometime it helps to do a little “world building” before you start writing your story. What is important about when and where your story takes place? Write down the rules your characters have to follow to make the setting believable. For example, if your story is set in the 1500’s, it wouldn’t make sense for a character to check the time on their cell phone!

**Plot:** The plot of a story consists of all of the events that happen in it! A good plot has a clear beginning, middle, and end.

*Tip:* Before you start writing your story, outline the big events that your characters will experience. Make sure all of the events lead up to or affect the climax—the most exciting part—of your story.

**Theme:** The theme of a story is typically the lesson that the reader learns from what the characters experience.

*Tip:* Before you begin writing your story, think about what you want your readers to walk away understanding. For example, maybe readers of your story can learn from your characters actions that they should “Always be kind to others.”

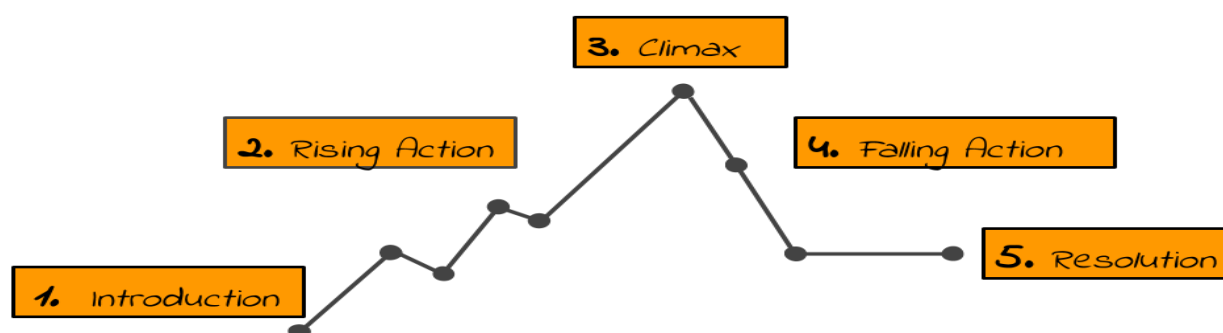


**Conflict:** The conflict of a story is the main problem. Stories need problems, it’s what drives the characters to do what they do!

*Tip:* The main conflict in a story may be between two characters. It could also be between a character and the society that the character lives in, or be between a character and nature. As you write your plot, make sure it revolves around how the characters address the main conflict.

## StoryTelling 101: The Story Mountain

On World Read Aloud Day, you can write and share your own stories! Most narrative stories (stories with a beginning, middle, and end) have a familiar structure. You can use the story mountain to help you lay out the plot of your story so that it makes sense and is compelling.



**1. Introduction:** Start by introducing the main characters, the setting, and the problem.

*Ex: In the story of Three Little Pigs, we are introduced to each of the three little pigs and their personalities- we know that one little pig is smart and a hard worker and the other two pigs are not as clever and are lazy. We are also introduced to a hungry wolf who wants to eat them!*

**2. Rising Action:** The rising action is where your main characters encounter twists and turns as they attempt to solve the main problem. In traditional stories, there are often three obstacles that characters must overcome before they can do so!

*Ex: In the story of the Three Little Pigs, the hungry wolf first destroys the youngest brother's house made out of hay (obstacle 1), then the hungry wolf destroys the middle brother's house made out of sticks (obstacle 2), finally the hungry wolf attempts to destroy the eldest brother's house of bricks (obstacle 3).*

**3. Climax:** The climax of the story is the most exciting part! Here your main characters go for what they want. It's up to you whether they succeed or not.

*Ex: In the story of the Three Little Pigs, the hungry wolf tries several things to destroy the eldest brother's house of bricks; he tries to blow it down, he tries to push it down, and then he finally decides to climb down the chimney to get to the little pigs inside.*

**4. Falling Action:** The falling action is what happens right after the climax of a story. It's where we discover what happens as a result of the exciting climactic moment.

*Ex: In the story of the Three Little Pigs, the hungry wolf falls into a boiling pot of water the brothers placed under the chimney! He does not get the pigs and runs off with his tail between his legs.*

**5. Resolution:** The resolution is the last part of a story. It's where we tie up all the loose ends and discover what lessons the main characters learned over the course of the story.

*Ex: The younger brothers learn to work hard like the eldest little pig. All three live happily ever after.*



# World Read Aloud Day

## LitWorld's "Build a Story" Challenge

The world has changed a lot since World Read Aloud Day was conceived in 2010, but the power of building community through our shared stories has never been more important. Work with your friends, colleagues, and/or family to create your own World Read Aloud Day story and share it with the world!

### How to "Build" your Story!

There is no wrong way to create a story! If a structure is helpful, however, you can use the 7 prompts on the next page to guide you. Complete the prompts on your own, or work together with a group of family, friends, or colleagues.

#### If you are working with a group:

Have each person submit a one-sentence response to the first prompt. As a group, choose which response you like best and use it to inspire responses to the next prompt. (If you are familiar with the game "Apples to Apples", you can use a similar process to determine the best responses for each prompt.) Continue in this way until you've completed the story!

For more storytelling games, visit [litworld.org/WorldReadAloudDay](http://litworld.org/WorldReadAloudDay).

### Share your story!

Upload the text of your story or a video of yourself reading your story aloud to the **Build a Story** padlet on the World Read Aloud Day Activity Hub at [litworld.org/WorldReadAloudDay](http://litworld.org/WorldReadAloudDay). You can also post your story to social media with #LitWorldBuildAStoryChallenge and #WorldReadAloudDay! Don't forget to tag @litworld on Instagram and Facebook or @litworldsays on Twitter.



## “Build A Story” Challenge Prompts

### **Prompt 1:** “Once upon a time, there was...”

**Come up with a character (or characters) and a description of them.**

Ex: “Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Red Riding Hood who liked to break the rules.”

### **Prompt 2:** “Everyday, ...”

**What is the character’s objective? What do they want to accomplish?**

Ex: “Everyday, Little Red Riding Hood went picking flowers in the woods by her house so that she could build a beautiful bouquet for her grandmother.”

### **Prompt 3:** “But...”

**What stands in the way of the character’s objective?**

Ex: “But there was a ferocious wolf in the woods. Little Red Riding Hood had been warned not to go outside of her fence or she would get into lots of trouble.”

### **Prompt 4:** “So...”

**What does the character do to overcome their obstacle?**

Ex: “So Little Red Riding Hood crawled on her hands and knees underneath her mom’s window so that she could escape notice and get to the really beautiful flowers further off in the woods.”

### **Prompt 5:** “But then...”

**Add a conflict!**

Ex: “But then, a big bad wolf popped out from behind a tree and threatened to eat Little Red Riding Hood!”

### **Prompt 6:** “Because of that...”

**How do the characters respond to the conflict?**

Ex: “Because of that, Little Red Riding Hood had to think fast! She stood as still as she could and pretended to be a statue to confuse the wolf.”

### **Prompt 7:** “Finally, ...”

**How does the story end?**

Ex: “Finally, unable to find the little girl he thought he saw moving around in the woods, the wolf went home. As soon as he was out of sight, Little Red Riding Hood let out a sigh of relief and ran home, never to break the rules again!”



# World Read Aloud Day

## Storytelling Games

World Read Aloud Day is an opportunity to celebrate stories in all of their forms. It is a day that empowers you to become a storyteller. Writing and sharing your own stories helps you share your voice with the world!

**Try these fun Storytelling activities alone or with a group to celebrate World Read Aloud Day!**

**It Happened To Me  
Story in the Round  
A Picture is Worth 1000 Words**



## It Happened To Me

This activity will help you share stories of small but important life moments with others. You can play this game in a group or use this method to think of stories you want to write on your own.

### Materials:

- Small slips of paper
- A hat, bucket, or cup
- Notebooks or paper for every participant
- Pencils or pens for every participant

### Directions:

1. On each of the small slips of paper, write down one of the prompts below:  
*A time you learned an important lesson*  
*A time you were very scared*  
*A time you discovered something new about yourself or about the world*  
*A time you were incredibly happy*  
*A time you were incredibly excited*  
Feel free to add any other prompts you would like!
2. Put all the slips of paper into a hat, bucket, or cup.
3. Have all participants sit in a circle.
4. Pull one of the slips of paper from the hat, bucket, or cup and read what it says to the group.
5. Allow each participant 5 minutes to respond independently in their notebook or on paper to the prompt.
6. Complete 3 rounds of this- pulling a prompt and allowing participants to independently respond.
7. Once each participant has responded to all three prompts in their notebooks, allow time to share. You can give each participant an opportunity to share what they wrote about any one of the prompts or allow people to volunteer to share on their own.

### Tips:

- Never force anyone to share their writing. Creating an encouraging and positive environment for this activity will help make everyone more comfortable with sharing, but sometimes participants simply won't want to. Make sure you do not put undue pressure on anyone to do so.
- You may want to provide a reader's chair or stage area for participants to share their stories. After each participant shares their story, encourage others to clap, snap, or throw shooting stars their way!



## Story in the Round

Telling a Story in the Round is a fun, exciting, and creative way to share stories together. Don't be afraid to get silly!

### Materials:

- (Optional) Chart paper

### Directions:

1. (Optional) On a chart paper, write down the following reference prompts and hang it in a place where all participants can see:

Beginning: [ once Upon a Time...

Middle: [ Then...  
And...  
But...  
Next...  
So...  
After that...  
Because of that...

End: [ Finally...



2. Have participants sit in a circle.
3. Explain that you will be creating a "Story in the Round" together. This means that each participant will add a sentence to a story you all create together on the spot!
4. Start the story with "Once Upon a Time." The first prompt should include some characters and a setting (for example; " *Once Upon a time there was a young girl who lived in the woods.*").
5. The person to your right should continue the story. If needed refer them to the chart and encourage them to start their sentence with any one of the "Middle" transition words (for example: " *And she had a little dog who loved to wander around*")
6. Each participant around the circle should continue adding sentences to the story. At any point, someone can use the ending prompt " *Finally*" to end the story.

### Tips:

- Encourage participants to listen to the prompts that come before theirs. Remind them that your goal together is to create a story that makes sense.
- It might help to announce a genre before the first prompt is given. You can create a scary story, a funny story, an adventure story, etc.

## A Picture is Worth 1000 Words

This activity helps participants create new stories using pictures and images. Feel free to get creative as you stretch your imagination!

### Materials:

- A collection of 3-5 images (*these can be famous pictures downloaded from the internet, pictures from storybooks, personal photographs or any other images you can find. Try to find a variety of subjects- one photo might be of groups of people or a person, one might be of landscapes, one might be abstract, or of animals, or drawings that the participants themselves have done*)
- A notebook or paper for each participant
- Pencils or pens for each participant
- Chart paper (optional)

### Directions:

1. On the chart paper provide the following story prompts:

*The Pixar Pitch:*

*once upon a time....*

*Every day...*

*one day...*

*Because of that...*

*Because of that...*

*Until Finally...*



2. Select one of the images and put it in a space that all participants can see.
3. Tell participants that they will each write a quick story based on the image. Encourage them to come up with characters, a conflict, a theme, and a plot based on what they see in the picture. They can use the “Pixar Pitch” to lay out the story by completing each sentence using the ideas they imagine after looking at the image.
4. Allow 5-10 minutes for each participant to write down a story.
5. Allow each participant to share the story they created based on the image.
6. Repeat the process for each of the images.

### Tips:

- Create a positive environment to encourage participants to share their stories. You may want to provide a reader’s chair or stage area for participants to share their stories. After each participant shares their story, encourage others to clap, snap, or throw shooting stars their way!

# World Read Aloud Day

## Read Aloud Tips from LitWorld

Reading aloud improves listening skills, vocabulary acquisition, and the understanding of common story themes and structures that will factor into children's future success. Even for adults, reading aloud is a fun, easy way to connect people. *Use these tips to create a powerful, memorable read aloud experience!*

- Read the book beforehand to familiarize yourself with the story.
- Try a story walk instead of reading every word. A story walk is when you summarize what is happening on each page while pointing to the illustrations to help the reader follow.
- Ask questions out loud as you read. Ask listeners to predict what will happen next, how they would feel if they were in the story, or the meaning of an unfamiliar word.
- After you finish a story, discuss it with your audience! How does it connect to the listeners' lives and experiences?
- Invite your audience to act out parts of the story. Let the listeners take turns being their favorite characters and having fun!
- Make sure to *talk about the Read Aloud experience itself!* Ask listeners to reflect upon how it feels to be part of a Read Aloud community and encourage them to engage others in their family and friend circles and communities in Read Aloud experiences!



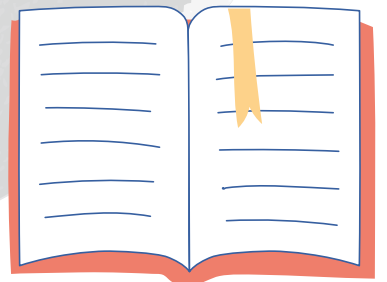


# World Read Aloud Day

## Storytelling Tips from LitWorld

Storytelling is one of the oldest art forms and is a way to share knowledge, inspire, teach and forge connections amongst people and ideas. Stories tell us about life, about ourselves, and can promote a positive understanding of others. Stories can also come in many shapes and forms! Some stories are read, some are watched, and some are told from memory and imagination. No matter what your way of telling stories is, read on to learn about making a memorable storytelling experience for all!

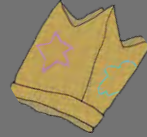
- **Know your audience:** whether you are telling a story to a group of children, adults or both, make sure the language and message are easy to understand and accessible to everyone!
- **Decide what kind of story you're telling!** Are the characters, events and setting real or imagined? Does it come from personal experiences or is it inspired by real life? Know the main message of the story before you begin!
- **Invite interaction with the audience of your story!** Just like a *Read Aloud*, it is important to create a positive and exciting atmosphere to keep your listeners engaged and attentive. Encourage the audience to ask questions, maintain eye contact, be aware of your voice level and your body language. You can tell your story with your body - using your hands, feet, legs, and head. Or, you can ask the listeners to perform certain simple movements during certain parts of the story.
- **Know your ending!** Before you start telling your story, brainstorm the plot, main events and your ending. When you feel comfortable with your story, you can tell it in a different way each time, but the main points will stay the same and keep you on track and your audience following along well.





# WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

## READING CROWNS



Reading is often considered a solitary and quiet pastime, where one experiences the story internally. We imagine the characters, events from the story, the setting and experience countless feelings and emotions as we read our favorite tales. But, what if there was a way to bring all of these imaginary parts to life and show others how you see and experience the story?



Reading Crowns are a signature **LitWorld** activity that allows for all that is in the reader's mind to become visible! In order to participate, just follow the following easy steps:

1. **FOLD** your Reading Crown! Make sure it fits you and you can comfortably wear it during your time of reading and celebrating!
2. **DECORATE** your Reading Crown with anything you like - characters, stories, quotes, letters, stickers...the sky is the limit!
3. **START READING!** When you wear your crown, you are in a special reading mode and can have fun reading aloud, reading by yourself, listening to a story or writing your own stories!



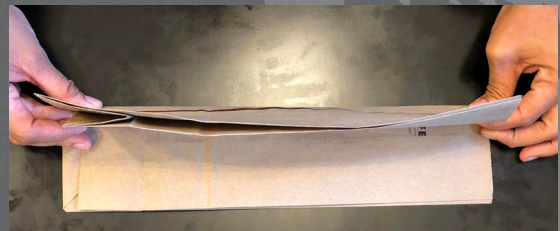
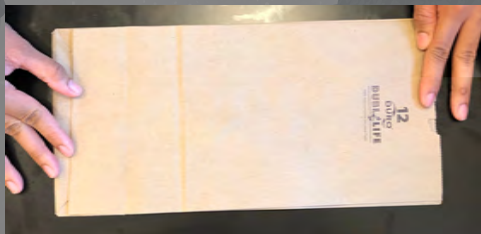
## **FOLD, DECORATE, & READ!**

# PAPER BAG READING CROWNS

One way of making a Reading Crown is by using a brown paper bag. Follow the instructions below to make your own World Read Aloud Reading Crown, the special LitWorld way!

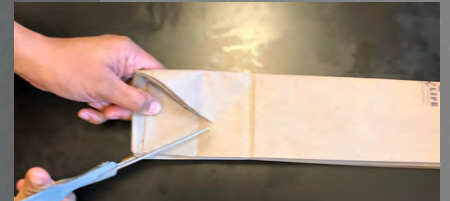
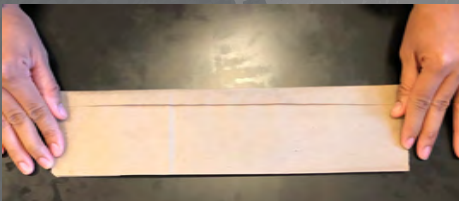


## DIRECTIONS



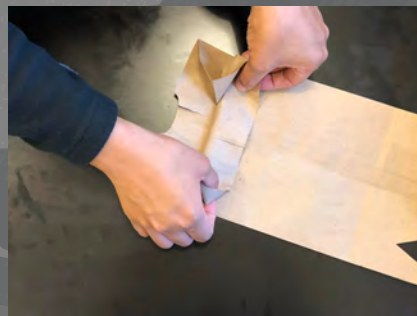
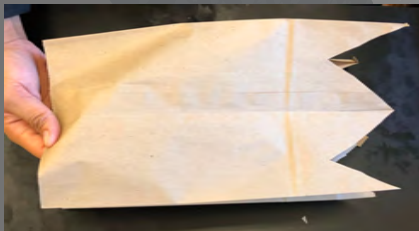
1. At the closed end of the brown paper bag, fold the loose flap down towards the bottom side of the bag.

2. Now, fold the entire bag in half.



3. Use scissors to cut a sideways "V" (>) into the corners of the thick end (the flap) of the bag.

4. Open the bag. One end should now have the spikes of the crown. Carefully fold the bottom end (without the spikes) about one inch up and over itself, to create a wearable crown.





# World Read Aloud Day

## Spread the Word on Social

Help us build the movement of World Read Aloud Day by sharing your participation, ideas, and pictures from the day with **#WorldReadAloudDay!**

### What to Do

Take pictures and videos of your WRAD celebrations, then tag LitWorld on social media so we can share your content with the online community.



### Social Media Graphics




Check our [Google Drive folder](#) for free graphics to use!

### Sample Messages for Twitter

- Reading is better when we do it together. That's why I'm celebrating **#WorldReadAloudDay** today, along with millions of other booklovers across the world! Retweet and spread the word. 🧡 @litworldsays @scholastic
- Save the date for **#WorldReadAloudDay** this February 2! When we read together, we change the world - one story at a time. 📚 @litworldsays @scholastic
- #Didyouknow that reading aloud every day puts kids ahead by 1 year, no matter their background? That's just one of many reasons to join me in celebrating **#WorldReadAloudDay** today - tag a booklover in your life and spread the word! @litworldsays @scholastic
- Every story deserves the chance to be heard! This **#WorldReadAloudDay**, join

me and @litworldsays to celebrate diverse stories from all around the globe!

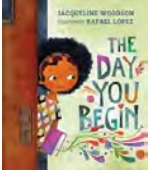



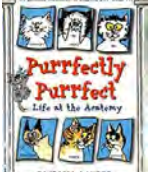
## Sample Messages for Facebook and Instagram


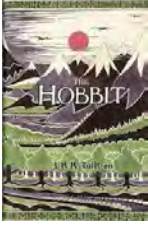
- When I was growing up, the book [-----] had a huge impact on me. My [-----] read it aloud to me, and I can still remember the words. This **#WorldReadAloudDay**, tag a fellow booklover to share their favorite read aloud memories and celebrate together with @litworld and @scholastic!
- Here's one of many reasons to celebrate **#WorldReadAloudDay**: reading aloud every day is proven to put kids ahead by 1 year, no matter their background.  Grab a book, spread the word, and join @litworld and @scholastic in making a global difference!
- Booklovers, join me and millions across the world for **#WorldReadAloudDay**! Share a story, spread the word, and let's make this year's celebration one for the books.   @litworld @scholastic

# World Read Aloud Day

## LitWorld's Staff Reading Suggestions

**World Read Aloud Day** is an opportunity to create and explore new stories. Whether you're sharing an old classic with a loved one, discovering new favorite books with friends, or creating a story you've always wanted to hear by writing it yourself, here are some of LitWorld's favorite books and book resources to get you started.

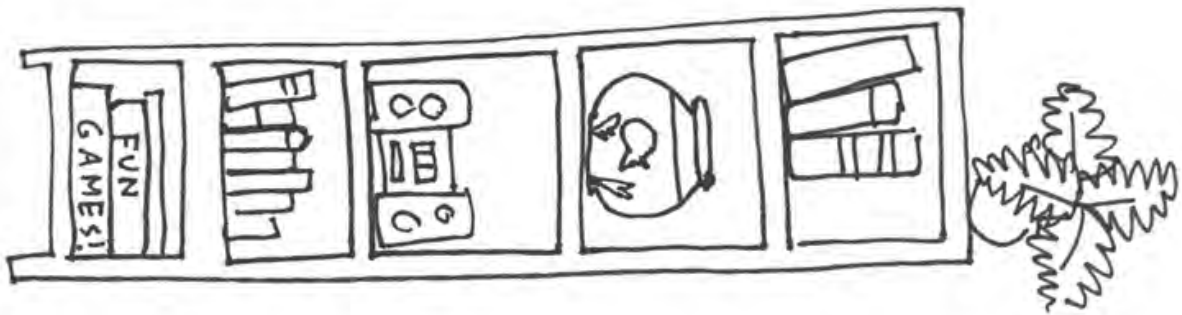
LitWorld Staff Picks	
	<u>The Day You Begin</u> by Jaqueline Woodson
	<u>How to Read A Book</u> by Kwame Alexander
	<u>Sky Color</u> by Peter Renyolds
	<u>The Gift of Nothing</u> by Patrick McDonnell
	<u>Purrfectly Perfect: Life at the Acatamy</u> by Patricia Lauber

	<p><u>Something from Nothing</u> by Phoebe Gilman</p>
	<p><u>The Hobbit</u> by J.R.R. Tolkien</p>

For more book lists, check out the amazing resources at WeNeedDiverseBooksNow:  
<https://diversebooks.org/resources/where-to-find-diverse-books/>



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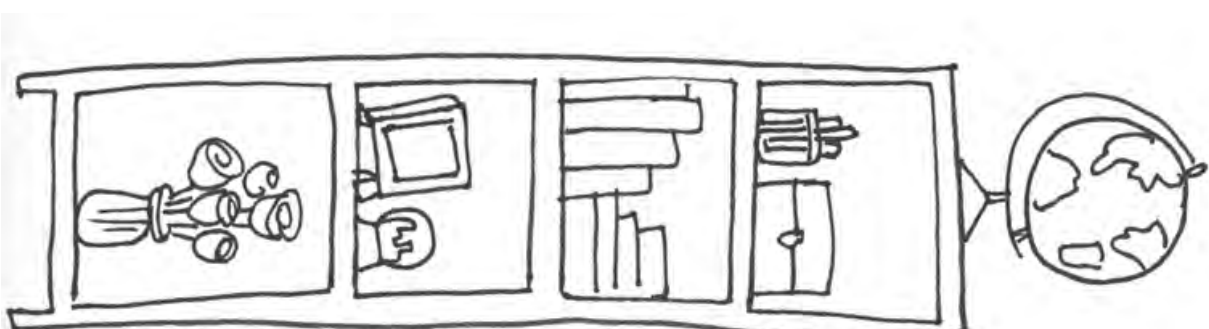


LitWorld

# WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

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WORLD READ  
ALOUD DAY



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WORLD READ  
ALOUD DAY



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# READ ALOUD

Change the World.

LitWorld

WORLD READ  
ALoud DAY

*My Story*



by \_\_\_\_\_

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WORLD READ  
ALoud DAY

My favorite quote is

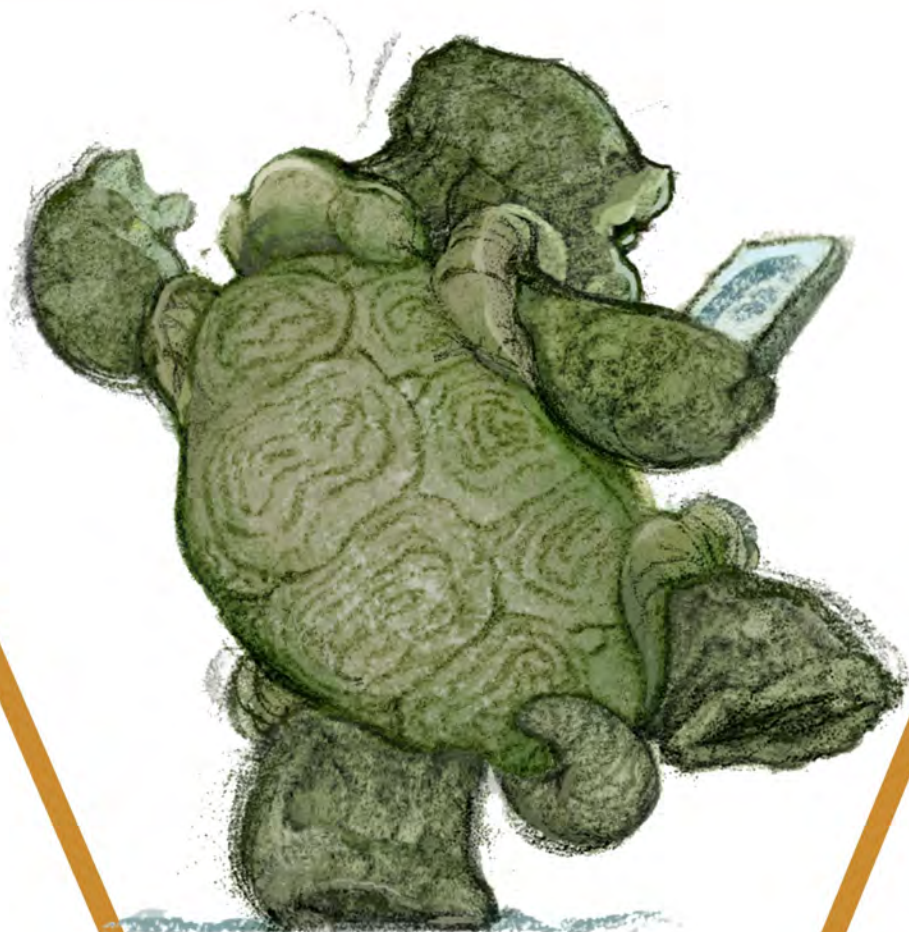
by \_\_\_\_\_

LitWorld

# WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

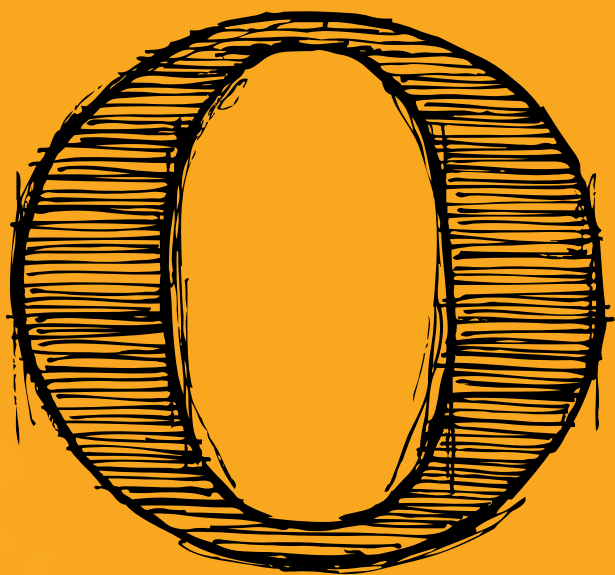
My favorite book is...

LitWorld



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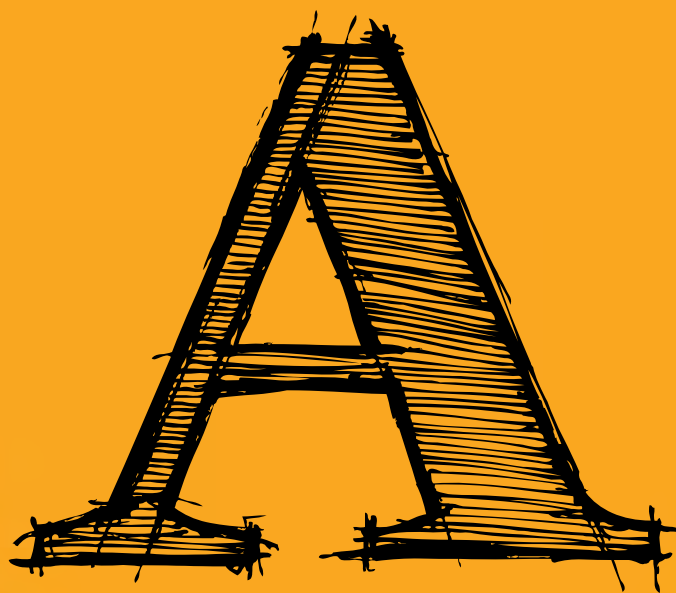
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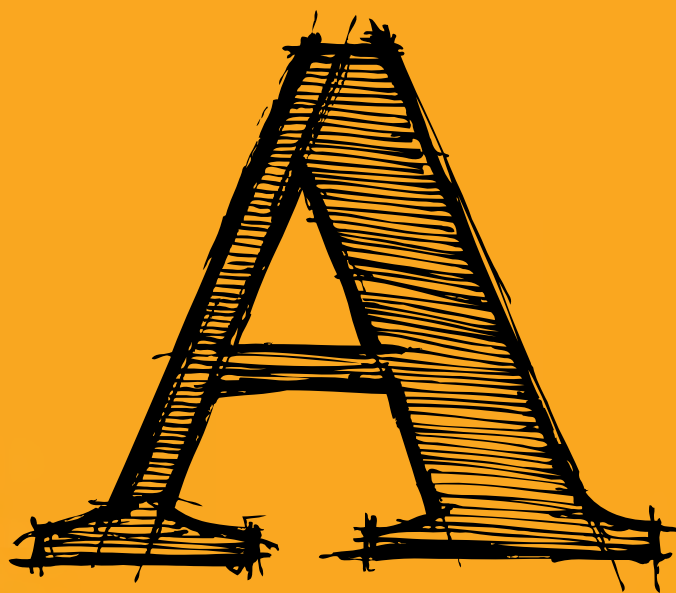
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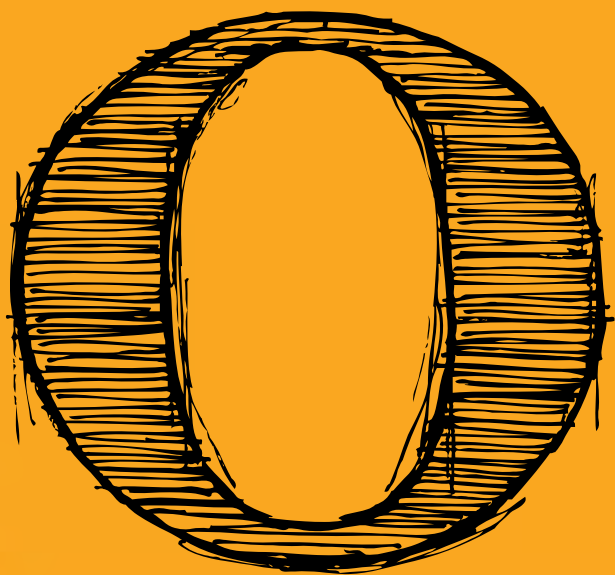


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