

READ ALOUD

WEST VIRGINIA

NEWSLETTER

What readers say

Each year we survey our classroom readers to learn about their experience. Here are some of the responses from last spring's survey:



This is a great program, and I hope I can continue in my local Great Cacapon school.



After completing *How To Eat Fried Worms*, the teacher let the kids watch the movie in class. I brought in a "worm snack" of pudding and Oreos with gummy worms. Then we discussed how different a book can be from the movie because this was very much the case with this book.



Already spoke to both 3rd grade classroom teachers and principal and will be reading in both classes this coming school year... Thank you for the opportunity!!!

(continues throughout)

SHOW, DON'T TELL

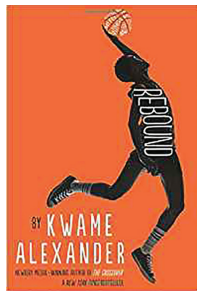
Newbery winner makes the case for poetry, relevance for middle schoolers

By Dawn Miller

"What would you say to the kids in the room to encourage them to read?" Newbery Award winner Kwame Alexander was asked at the West Virginia Book Festival in Charleston.

"I wouldn't say anything," Alexander answered.

"Who wants to be told? If you really want to connect and make somebody feel engaged, show them. That's the real way to reach anybody. Make them feel something."



From one of the readers in the crowd, Alexander borrowed a copy of his novel *Rebound*, a story about a 12-year-old boy who is dealing with loss, who can't play basketball, but wishes he could. "This is what I would do," he said, and recited an excerpt from the



Kwame Alexander (left), poses with Kerry Rafferty and friend, musician and collaborator Randy Preston at the West Virginia Book Festival on Oct. 27, 2018.

novel, which like all his books, is written in almost singable poetry.

It's so singable, Alexander's musician best friend Randy Preston, a retired teacher, brought his guitar and sang a song from it. The two perform together now. They have visited almost 900 schools in the last three years.

"I don't think you have to tell kids why they need to read," Alexander said. "I think you've got to show them."

Alexander grew up in a family of readers. His parents studied literature in graduate school. His mother read to him, and as the family grew, he read to his younger sister and she read to the baby of the family.

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Want to help Read Aloud? One way is our annual fund drive

Our annual fund drive is under way. Any amount helps to change the literacy landscape of West Virginia. Remember that donations of \$500 or more made by Dec. 31, 2018 may qualify for Neighborhood Investment Program tax credits (NIP) while supplies last. NIP tax credits can lower individual or corporate net income tax by as much as half of the gift amount.

For more ways to support the work of Read Aloud West Virginia, see page 8.

West Virginia's generous, and literary, spirit

When we begin gathering stories for a newsletter we typically do not have a theme. Nevertheless, it is amazing how often themes, or at least strong connections, emerge. This issue is no exception.

Reader Betty Cuthbert (page 5) refers to the joy students find in rhyming words, and even though we don't believe they ever met, Kwame Alexander reiterated that lure of poetry in his Book Festival presentation (page 1). To help our readers find rhyming gems, we engaged our volunteers throughout the state to come up this issue's "Ten To Try" poetry suggestions.

As a culture, we talk a lot about thankfulness and gratitude this time of the year, and I would be remiss not to note

all that we have to be grateful for at Read Aloud. The inspiration and dedication of our readers and chapter volunteers, the schools and teachers who choose to partner with us to introduce children to the joy of reading, the strong corporate support we see from companies like Brookfield Renewable, Contemporary Galleries, Books-a-Million and the many donors who have already responded to this year's Annual Fund campaign enable us to continue to grow.

We are deeply grateful to these people who enable Read Aloud to grow in terms of number of counties served (page 7) but also in depth as we expand the reach of our programs and services provided.

This fall we have seen Snuggle & Read programs go countywide in Fayette and

Greenbrier counties and continue to grow in others. We are also beginning to reach middle schools and I fervently hope this trend will continue.

The need to keep the chatter going for students beyond elementary school is great and beautifully explained in a commentary that appeared recently in Education Week which we felt warranted sharing with you (page 6).

Evidence of the generous spirit of West Virginia citizens and corporations abounds. We are happy to share just a few of the many examples we at Read Aloud witness everyday.

Mary Kay Bond
Executive Director
Read Aloud West Virginia

It's Snuggle & Read season



Parents and children at Smoot Elementary School participate in the Greenbrier County chapter's recent Snuggle & Read event. Children receive a new book and fleece blanket, then snuggle and read with parents. Reading to children builds vocabulary, listening comprehension, reading comprehension and even family relationships. Giving children literally warm, fuzzy feelings about books helps to motivate children to want to read. Enjoyable practice leads to greater fluency.



Steve Keenan/The Montgomery Herald

Fayette County educators, parents, Read Aloud volunteers and Brookfield Renewable employees gather to mark the company's recent donation. At center, Read Aloud West Virginia Executive Director Mary Kay Bond, Kevin Moriarty of Brookfield Renewable; and Andrew Davis, Brookfield Renewable director of stakeholder relations, North America, hold the ceremonial check.

Brookfield Renewable donates \$15,000 for local youth programs

MONTGOMERY — Brookfield Renewable has donated \$15,000 to Read Aloud West Virginia to support literacy for the children of West Virginia.

"As a member of the West Virginia community, and particularly the Fayette County and Montgomery areas, we are proud to be able to make this donation," said Andrew Davis, Brookfield Renewable Director of Stakeholder Relations, North America.

"Read Aloud West Virginia has done tremendous work in promoting the importance of reading among the youth of West Virginia by keeping books in children's hands and by teaching them how reading is not only a valuable life skill, but how fun and enjoyable it is," Davis said.

Brookfield Renewable owns and operates two hydroelectric facilities in West Virginia, Hawks Nest Hydroelectric and Glen Ferris Hydroelectric. Combined, they generate more than 105 megawatts of clean, reliable energy to power homes and businesses throughout the region.

This donation supports Read Aloud's mission of promoting literacy through its four key program areas:

■ **Volunteer Readers.** Community volunteers attend a one-time orientation and are placed in classrooms and other settings to read regularly. Their consistent involvement serves as a commercial for reading and sends a powerful message that reading is an enjoyable lifetime activity.

■ **Book Distribution.** Access to books and other reading materials is essential to raising a generation of readers. Read Aloud puts books and magazines in the

hands of students through a variety of efforts.

■ **Classroom Enrichment.** Read Aloud maintains an inventory of materials which are available to teachers and schools upon request, including Author Week information, Life Stories Units for middle and high schools, book sets and trunks and other materials designed to stimulate interest in reading.

■ **Public Education.** Schools cannot bear the sole responsibility for raising readers. Read Aloud reaches parents, relatives and neighbors to encourage these critically important role models in the lives of children. These individuals have the opportunity to influence a child's perception of education and help him or her develop positive habits.

"Brookfield Renewable's commitment to their employees and the communities they live in is tremendous," said Mary Kay Bond, executive director of Read Aloud West Virginia. "This generous donation in support Read Aloud's programs is a wonderful example of that commitment, and we are incredibly grateful for that support."

"Funding provided by this donation will enable us to strengthen all facets of the programs we offer to encourage children to WANT to read," she said. "Brookfield's gift will help us promote the joy of reading by giving more students access to books through our book distribution program. Additionally, these funds will enable us to build our volunteer reader program and expand our public education and classroom enrichment programs."

Being a police officer, it's important to make a connection with young children, especially high-risk children, as early as possible. I have met several amazing students during my time reading to my four kindergarten classes. ... I have noticed a big change in the reactions of the students from when I first started reading to them. In the beginning they were shy, would not interact with me.... Towards the end the students would give me hugs, draw me pictures and even invite me to their birthday parties. I have had an amazing time and will continue to read as long as I can.

Being able to read to a remarkable group of first graders was such a rewarding experience for me. I am so pleased that the teacher made the time extremely pleasant and was very welcoming.

Both classes really enjoyed (chapter books). I tried very hard not to read books that were gender specific, but books that all of the kids were interested in.

Children always looked forward to my coming to read.



Read Aloud West Virginia is grateful to these generous corporate donors

Thank you, Contemporary Galleries

Read Aloud West Virginia is very grateful to Mary Russell and Contemporary Galleries of Charleston. Their hard working crew made short work of assembling heavy-duty, professional shelving for us, a valuable in-kind donation that advances our book distribution efforts.

Thank you, Ernst & Young volunteers

Susan Wheeler, a partner at Ernst & Young; her daughter Marcie Wheeler, a student at Charleston Catholic High School; and Valerie Jones, also of Ernst & Young, made a useful inventory of books as part of their firm's Day of Service.

Ten to try: Poetry

Coming and reading to the kids is one of the highlights of my week. I absolutely love doing it!

During the year I could only do Read Aloud every other week because I was helping take care of my mother. One week in April I told the teacher that I could start coming every week because my mother had passed away. The next week when I arrived in the classroom, the kids had each made me a sympathy card. They were very heartfelt and meant a lot to me.

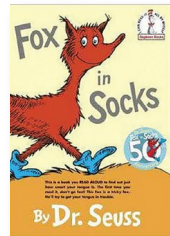
Early in the school year, students started requesting I read their books, which I wove in with books of my choosing. They really seemed to be into this idea of books!

Encourage readers in every classroom. The reading skills grow but so do the imagination and love for other subjects. Reading really is the key to unlocking doors for kids.

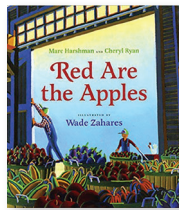
Enjoyed reading with the students.

Every year on my birthday, the class (first Grade) gets to guess how old I am. I got answers from 30 to 105. (Correct answer is 89.) They all seem to enjoy guessing. When I first started my current stint, one of the students exclaimed, "You look like my GrandPa!" I explained that it was okay, because I was a Grandpa.

Our classroom readers from around the state share some of their favorite poetry books to read aloud:

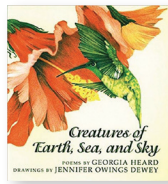


Fox in Socks
by Dr. Seuss
None other than 3-year-old Kwame Alexander recommends this book as repeat-worthy: "Fox Socks Box Knox. Knox in box. Fox in socks." Fun before babies can even talk and well into beginning reading age.



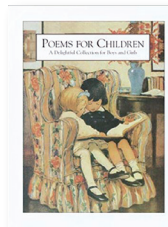
Red are the Apples
by Marc Harshman and Cheryl Ryan
Both West Virginia authors, Harshman is now the West Virginia poet laureate. With rich illustrations by Wade Zahares, these couplets take readers around a farm "in the fall of the year," often looking up from a child's point of view. There are colors, foods, animals, whatever you want to explore.

— Fayette County Chapter, president Marion Tanner

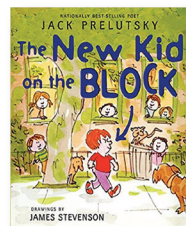


Creatures of Earth, Sea, and Sky
by Georgia Heard
Short poems for new readers feature animals such as bears, eagles, bats and frogs. Beautifully illustrated by naturalist Jennifer Dewey.

— Fayette County chapter



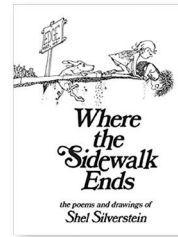
Poems for Children
collected by Kate James
It contains some classics, such as "The Spider and the Fly," "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," and "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe." Fun reading on a rainy morning. — Casey Willson, Berkeley County reader



The New Kid on the Block
by Jack Prelutsky
I've read this book to second, third, and fourth graders. It is one of their favorites and they ask for me to read more of the poems. One year, when each child was given the book, instead of reading to them, they wanted to read

to me, so each child read a poem aloud. I also read from Jack Prelutsky's other books, *Something Big Has Been Here* and *A Pizza The Size of the Sun*. The children love the silliness and the use of words in silly situations.

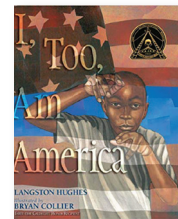
— Aletta Moffett, Marion County chapter president



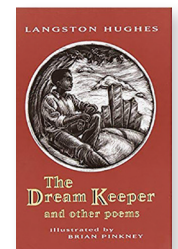
Where the Sidewalk Ends
by Shel Silverstein
Silly, but also deep, Silverstein rhymes, makes kids laugh, and understands what stresses them. Our all-time favorite, along with *The Light in the Attic*.
— Fayette County Chapter



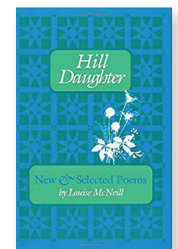
John Denver's Take Me Home Country Roads
adapted and illustrated by Christopher Canyon
Try and read this picture book aloud, and the audience, of any age, will simply start singing along. The original book came with a CD, a nice addition if you can arrange to play it. Canyon's meticulously painted scenes look as if they were quilted, and invite the class to linger and spot connections, as with old family photos. — Dawn Miller, Kanawha County reader



I, Too, Am America
by Langston Hughes
This poem, turned into a picture book illustrated by Bryan Collier, is layered with meaning and grows with the listener.
— Terri McDougal, director of children's services at the Kanawha County Public Library



The Dream Keeper and Other Poems
also by Langston Hughes.
This Harlem Renaissance poet resonates for fifth graders on up. "Hold fast to dreams," the narrator cautions, and students immediately start thinking about their own dreams, timely as ever. A good edition is illustrated by Brian Pinkney. — Dawn Miller, Kanawha County reader



Hill Daughter
by Louise McNeill.
These poems by a former West Virginia poet laureate may resonate with older listeners, particularly those with rural roots, or any who appreciate the beauty and the stories of their home counties.

Send your short read aloud book recommendations to the Read Aloud West Virginia Newsletter at newsletter@readaloudwestvirginia.org. Be sure to tell us about yourself.

25-year reader Betty Cuthbert: 'It makes you feel good'

By Bob Fleenor

Betty Cuthbert was surprised to realize she's been a volunteer reader at Berkeley Heights Elementary School in Martinsburg for the past quarter century.

"I didn't know it had been 25 years. If you enjoy it, you don't count (the years)," she said. "I feel sorry for people who spend their time doing nothing."

Cuthbert is one of approximately 175 Read Aloud West Virginia volunteers who visit Berkeley County classrooms each week.

Cuthbert, a native of Queens, N.Y., is one of Read Aloud's longest-tenured readers. She and Bob, her husband of 55 years, moved to Berkeley County about 30 years ago when Bob took a job at Dulles International Airport.

"I found it frustrating that when I moved here, people didn't seem to be interested in reading," she observed. "If you can't read, you can't do anything."

She soon began volunteering at Berkeley Heights, including some one-on-one reading with a first-grader. In 1993, a fourth-grade teacher asked Cuthbert to begin reading to that class. She said yes, and attended a local Read Aloud West Virginia training session.

Twenty-five years later, Cuthbert is still at it, spending about 30 minutes each Tuesday with students in Teresa Feldman's second-grade classroom and another half-hour with Haley Jones' kindergarteners.

"I'd like to spend hours with them if I could," she said. "If I can't be there for some reason, there's a little void there."

"She's wonderful," said Bev Hoffmaster, instructional specialist for Berkeley County Schools, who has known Cuthbert since Hoffmaster was a teacher at Berkeley Heights. "She's dependable, she's sincere, and she's really, really dedicated."

Cuthbert doesn't drive, so her husband brings her to school each week. While Betty reads, Bob waits patiently in the car, usually with Jackie, their 2-year-old black Lab/



Betty Cuthbert began volunteering with Read Aloud in Berkeley County in 1993.

pit pull mix adopted from the local Humane Society.

Cuthbert typically stands in front of the class to read as the children, seated on a mat, gather close so they can see the pictures.

"They prefer books with pictures," she said. "Second-graders love rhyming books" as well.

The material "can't always be 'once upon a time' books," she cautioned. "They've got to learn something."

Cuthbert knows from experience what Read Aloud volunteers are encouraged to do -- keep students interested. While reading a book, she'll pause to ask the children, "would you do that?" or say "I wouldn't do that!"

"I like the thought of reading aloud," she said. "I also know you have to have a lot of emotion to read."

"If you're reading a book about a forest, or the Amazon, you have to know how to make it seem real. If you can do that, you've got it made."

In addition to reading to the group, Cuthbert will sometimes pair up with a student chosen by the teacher. She and the student will read to each other, alternating pages.

Children's lives have changed during the last 25 years, she said.

"I saw the difference when I go into the classroom when they're having breakfast. I don't see the same enthusiasm for school. Kids are constantly moving (to and from the school district). You'll see them for a few weeks, then not see them again."

"If you can have a great attitude when you see them, it helps a lot. That's one thing that hasn't changed."

Cuthbert, a mother of three, grandmother of three and great-grandmother of two, isn't slowing down after 25 years of volunteering.

"As long as I can read, and I'm able to get there, I'm not going to stop. It's important," she said.

"I just hope all the years I've been reading have helped someone along the way. When you leave the classroom and the kids are happy, it makes you feel good."

Bob Fleenor is president of the Berkeley County chapter of Read Aloud West Virginia.

Everyone who can read should become a Read Aloud volunteer at your local school.

I always gave the book I read to a student in the classroom. By year's end, every student had received a book. (I was busy with Amazon!)

I am inspired by the children of Mary C. Snow Elementary. I receive much more than I give to them by reading aloud. It is a pleasure that I look forward to weekly.

I am rewarded by the receptive reactions from these students. I am so impressed by their interest and understanding.

The volunteer in [one] kindergarten classroom was ill, so the [the teacher] kindly allowed me to substitute.... I had a wonderful experience sharing books. The children were well behaved and we enjoyed our time. I gave them each a going away book and [the] class gave me a fingerprint tree titled "Thanks for helping us grow!"

I brought the books I read in a small tote bag decorated with Dr. Seuss' Thing 1 and Thing 2. Sometimes I would let them choose which story to read, other times I kept the books hidden, so they would be surprised with the selection. I also brought books they requested, such as *Pete the Cat* stories.



Betty Cuthbert has been reading to elementary students in Martinsburg for 25 years.

Great program!

Great program, great fun. Students always enthusiastic and engaged.

I also brought some photography books and we talked about what we saw in each picture.

Finding just the right books each week was so not simple, but the search was satisfying -- and at the end, I sent home a list of every book we read, and in which library to find it.

I dress up sometimes ... Aqualicious ... beach things.

I dressed as a pirate wench when I read *Dirty Joe the Pirate*. The book is hilarious -- about Joe who collected dirty socks and his sister stinky Annie who collected boxers. The students roared with laughter.

I read three or four of Marc Harshman's books. His *Mountain Christmas* makes the students listen silently with awe.

When you walk in the classroom to read to them their faces light up with a smile. You know you are doing something good. Thanks.

I enjoy reading to the students. As a bonus, I buy a book and after reading, give it to the students in a drawing until each student receives a book. This is a whole school year project but to be able to read takes a student further in life.

Why I drop-kicked a book out of class

A teacher laments that her college students have not read a book since 6th grade

By LaTonya Pinkard

When was the last time you read a book? What was the last book you have read?" These are usually the first questions I ask my junior college students, particularly the athletes. Their most common response is, "Ms. P., I haven't read a book since about 6th grade."

How on earth does a student reach junior college without having read a book since middle school? It's astonishing. Being a Black woman who appreciates education, it hurts me when I hear young Black people tell me they haven't read. I understand people are tired of hearing about slavery, but its legacy is still felt in many Black communities in this country. This should matter to all of us.

I will not let the efforts of my ancestors who were beaten, tortured, or killed trying to write the alphabet, spell their name, or read the bible be in vain. I will not allow this stigma to endure. Many of my ancestors may not have had the credentials to teach and empower others. I have those credentials, and I am proud of them. I enter my classroom with a passion to educate, with the knowledge of an education system that has failed many students, particularly our athletes of color. To quote Maya Angelou, "I come as one, but I stand as 10,000." I teach the world.

Let me tell you what happened this summer.

I kicked a book during class. I did not want to do it. It sort of just happened during my visual explanation. I was teaching Introduction to Literature to a junior college class of freshman football players — a great group of young men from across the nation who were hungry to learn. One of my students asked me about the length of a short story that I had assigned.

The next day, I thought, I have to help them understand how this kind of questioning shines a bad light on them — that they only want easy or less challenging work. I want them to understand that they are supposed to grow, to become better, to not always look for "easy."

I had them to chant: Condition. Practice. Play. Condition. Practice. Play. They had no clue what I was about to do. I picked up our literature book and put it back on the desk. Condition. Practice. Play. Their deep bass filled the classroom.

I picked up the book again. This time, I thumbed through the pages, then dropped this precious book on the floor without shame. I went through the process of looking like I was about to pick up the book. I moved my hands in a circular motion for them to keep the mantra going. In the same breath, I looked at the book on the floor, kicked it out of the classroom, and I shut the door.



And then I told them: This is what you have been doing to your education for a long time now. You have kicked your education to the point of almost no return. You have trained your bodies for hours to be in peak condition, but you have not trained your minds to learn.

There is a great deficiency in our education system toward people of color, and if these students are athletes, it is worse. Student athletes are often praised for their athleticism alone. I have seen many students who lack the confidence because they know there is an academic deficiency, and then they try to hide it. Once students realize they are not being judged because of what they are lacking, self-respect and confidence begin to take over. Students become more comfortable in their academic environment and want success—no longer just to please a coach or a parent. They want success for themselves. This motivates me.

Educators, we are here to challenge student athletes, to tell them learning will hurt, even though we know many will fight us. Somewhere along the way from Little League, to becoming the top player in junior high, to the star player in high school, they have been let down academically. Only a very few of the eight million high school athletes will compete at the professional or Olympic level, leading to a vicious cycle of disappointment.

Parents, teachers, and coaches, we are accountable to these young athletes, but so many of us have looked the other way. This must stop. We must remind these young men and women that it is possible to create change, but not without meeting academic challenges.

To student athletes everywhere, I beg you: Do not hide. Be honest. Allow us to help you. That's what we're here for. If you come across an instructor who will challenge you, then move a mountain or two. We want to cheer for you on the field, on the court, and in the classroom.

LaTonya Pinkard is an associate professor of English at Independence Community College in Kansas and has been an educator for more than 10 years. She was featured in the third season of the Netflix documentary series "Last Chance U." This commentary first appeared on EdWeek.org on September 11, 2018 and is reprinted with permission from the author.

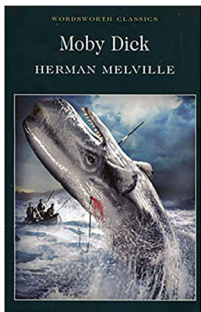
SHOW, DON'T TELL (continued from page 1)

He listed his poetic influences for the crowd: Langston Hughes, Shel Silverstein, Pablo Neruda and Nikki Giovanni.

"And when I was 3 years old, my favorite poet of all time was," he paused, "Dr. Seuss!"

His favorite poem was from *Fox in Socks*.

"Loved that. Loved it so much I wanted to read it every night and every morning. I memorized it," he said.



Over time, that enthusiasm faded. Reading was not optional in his family. It became both punishment and reward. Parents and teachers all made him read, but by age 12, he hated it.

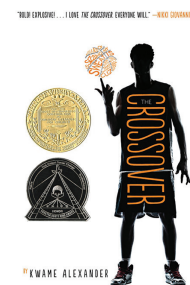
"I don't like this term 'reluctant readers,'" he said. "If kids aren't interested in a book, then yeah, they're not going to be into reading it. I wasn't into *Tuck Everlasting*. I wasn't into *Moby Dick*."

"For some reason, the teachers and librarians and parents never understood that books are amusement parks. And sometimes kids have to be able to choose the rides," he said.

Then he discovered *The Greatest* by Mohammed Ali, and books were cool again. It was 400 pages. He described it as "unputdownable."

Adults must find the books that connect with their children, that are accessible, relatable and interesting.

His first novel, *The Crossover*, is the book Alexander would have liked for an adult to have put in his middle school hands.

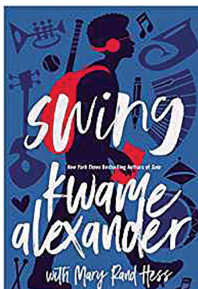


After it was published, he learned from a teacher in Dallas that she had to lock up her copies because the boys were stealing them. They would read them, then raffle them off to the girls.

"How cool is that?" he said.

His publisher gave him 150 copies, and Alexander flew to Dallas. He gave every student a book. "I felt like I was Oprah Winfrey," he said.

More than 20 years of writing for kids and visiting them in schools has taught Alexander that for many, poetry is that accessible, relatable entry to a reading habit.



"Poetry is so concise," Alexander said. He held open a copy of his book *Swing*, with narrow lines of text set on the left and blank space on the right, visible from across the room.

"Look at all that white space on the page," he said. "It's misleading. It's cool because kids will build confidence. They'll get through it ASAP. The white space is for the journey that the reader takes."

"The words that are there are cool, but it's the words that aren't there that make the kids really get engaged and make them think and use their imagination."

"As educators and adults we've got to connect with our kids in a way that we know what kinds of books will interest them," he said. "We've got to know our kids so we can help them find books that are going to make them want to read. Right?"

"That's what it's about, making kids want to read," he said. "Not making them read."

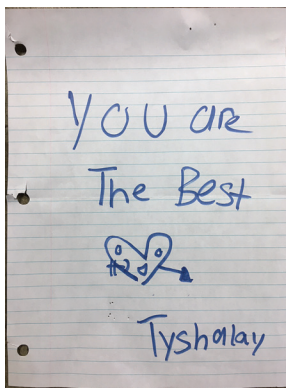
Dawn Miller, a classroom reader in Kanawha County, is Read Aloud's communications director, and a former writer and editor at the Charleston Gazette-Mail

WELCOME, MINERAL COUNTY!

Congratulations to Mineral County, Read Aloud West Virginia's newest chapter.

For more information, to schedule orientations for classroom readers or to inquire about donating, please contact stateoffice@readaloudwestvirginia.org or 304-345-5212.

Letters?



Letters from children

In the last issue, we heard from teachers. In this issue, we read comments from volunteer classroom readers. Can we hear from students next time?

Read Aloud readers routinely receive impromptu notes, cards and drawings from the students they read to. Would you share yours with us?

Don't send your precious originals. Just send a high-resolution photo to newsletter@readaloudwestvirginia.org.

org. Please include your name and where you read, as well as any context that would help readers understand the submission.

Letters from readers

How is it going? Would you like to share the magic of your last Read Aloud? Have some feedback for the newsletter? Please send us a letter. Be sure to include your name and affiliation, and send it to newsletter@readaloudwestvirginia.org.

Thank you to Books-a-Million

Books-a-Million stores around West Virginia invited Read Aloud into stores on October 27, 2018 to greet customers and share with them what valuable role models they are when they read to children, read in front of young people in their lives and put books and magazines in kids' hands.

The stores agreed to donate 10 percent of qualifying sales that day to Read Aloud West Virginia to support Read Aloud's mission to motivate children to want to read.

We deeply appreciate the opportunity and support given to us by Books-a-Million.



Linda Mitchem (Mother Goose), a board member for the Raleigh County chapter of Read Aloud, and Valerie Hartling (the butterfly), Raleigh County chapter president, greet customers at Book-a-Million in Beckley during the recent fundraiser.

Courtesy photo



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How can you support Read Aloud?

You can help Read Aloud West Virginia keep books on the minds and in the hands of West Virginia children throughout the year in several ways:

Give to our annual fund

Any amount is welcome. For donations of at least \$500, we have Neighborhood Investment Tax Credits available, which can lower West Virginia personal income tax bills or corporate net income tax bills by as much as half the gift amount. Donations made by Dec. 31, 2018 qualify for tax credits that apply to taxes due in 2019. Make checks payable to Read Aloud West Virginia and mail to P.O. Box 1784, Charleston WV 25326.

Kroger Community Rewards

When Kroger shoppers log in to their Kroger Plus card accounts, customers can choose a charity to support. Then as you buy groceries and swipe your card throughout the year, a percentage flows to Read Aloud. You must choose your charity each year, so please remember to log in and update your account to Read Aloud West Virginia.



Select a charity to start shopping (You can change it any time.)

Choose from almost a million charities, schools, and other nonprofits. We will reach out to the organization you select to ensure it is ready to accept donations from Amazon.

Read Aloud West Virginia

Showing 1-2 of 2 Results Sorted by: Relevance

Read Aloud West Virginia, Inc. Charleston WV

[About](#)

Amazon smile

You can cause a percentage of your Amazon purchases to go to Read Aloud when you remember to go to smile.amazon.com and do your shopping there. Just below the search field is a line that says, "Supporting." If you haven't already, choose the pull-down menu, click change and search for "Read Aloud West Virginia." Be sure to choose "Read Aloud West Virginia Inc." to direct Amazon's donations to the right place.

Thank you to all our donors and supporters.

WATCH THE CALENDAR

Read Aloud wants to fill all vacancies for classroom readers. We are scheduling reader orientations for the coming weeks. Please check our calendar online for orientation dates, weather postponements and other upcoming events.

readaloudwestvirginia.org

Together, we are changing the literacy landscape of our state.

What are YOU reading, West Virginia?

CONTACT US

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