

From the



Volunteer Reader's Manual



Volunteer reader Casey Willson reads "Waiting Is Not Easy" by Mo Willems with first graders at Gerrardstown Elementary School in Berkeley County.

Rules for Read Aloud WV volunteers

1. Practice. Practice. Practice.

Practice each picture book at least three times. Read each chapter book at least once. There is a reason why this is Read Aloud West Virginia's first rule. Do not grab a book on the run or read whatever someone puts in your hands. That is not the Read Aloud way. A poor read-aloud volunteer is worse than no reader at all.



2. Choose good books.

Good books are age-appropriate, in both subject matter and emotional level. Choose books that you enjoy. Remember you are "selling" this book, and you can't sell what you don't like.

3. Be a good classroom guest.

Arrive and leave on time. Plan for time to sign in at the office. Follow all school rules. Swap contact information with your teacher and let the teacher know if an illness or

a schedule conflict arises. Teachers should do the same for readers.

4. Understand your role, and the roles of other professionals.

Remember that you are a guest. You are not the teacher, and not a disciplinarian. The teacher handles discipline issues. The teacher stays in the room throughout your visit. You are not to be left alone with children.

5. Respect children's privacy.

If you overhear personal details at school, forget them. Do not gossip about children. Treat them with the respect and confidentiality that you would want for yourself.

6. Do not proselytize.

Do not read books, even children's books, meant to advance a particular religious or political goal. Volunteers are there to inspire children to read, not to serve another cause. What is suitable at home may not be appropriate at school, where there may be children of many different backgrounds. When in doubt, leave it out. Or, when in doubt, consult your teacher or a librarian.

7. Be professional.

Follow school rules. Be respectful. Do not contradict or criticize the teacher or school in front of students. This extends to social media and in the community. Use good judgment in what you post and how you talk about your school in your role as a Read Aloud WV volunteer.

