

Farmington Literacy Instruction

Reading Aloud

Why use reading aloud?

- Inspires students to read for enjoyment and motivates students to read.
- Creates community of readers through enjoyment and shared knowledge.
- Builds prior knowledge.
- Develops knowledge of written language syntax.
- Increases vocabulary.
- Develops a sense of story structure.
- Develops knowledge of how texts are structured.
- Supports text-to-text connections.
- Makes complex ideas available to students.
- Sets expectations for student learning and practice during independent reading.

How do teachers select books for reading aloud?

- Select texts from a variety of genres.
- Select favorite texts for special features (i.e. writer's craft).
- Select texts that will inspire students.

What does reading aloud look like?

Teacher's Role:

- Model fluency strategies (using expression, phrasing)
- Make thinking explicit through think alouds

Students' Role:

- Be active listeners & participants during the read aloud
- Be aware of their thinking processes (may track their thinking in reading journals, on post-its, or during discussions)
- Identify modeled strategies
- Share their thinking

Some processes/strategies to create and sustain meaning:

- Making connections
- Making and confirming predictions
- Questioning
- Monitoring understanding
- Rereading to regain meaning
- Setting a purpose for reading
- Visualizing
- Negotiating unknown words
- Inferring
- Highlighting how surface features signal text structure and meaning
- Highlighting how meaning is embedded in fiction and nonfiction text structures
- Summarizing to sustain meaning
- Synthesizing information

How do teachers support students through reading aloud?

- Reading aloud provides an opportunity for teachers to demonstrate, through think alouds, how they make meaning of text.
- Reading aloud introduces students to concepts and vocabulary across the curriculum.
- As teachers model their thinking aloud, they demonstrate how to use reading strategies (i.e. questioning, making connections, inferring, summarizing, synthesizing).
- Through demonstration, teachers show explicit ways in which readers engage in text and share their pleasure in reading.
- Reading aloud develops awareness of a variety of text structures.
- Reading aloud opens new doors to students and provides them with new ways of thinking about life and the world around them.