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## **Suggestions for Books to Read Out Loud Together**

### **Before Bedtime**

#### *Picture Books*

#### **1. Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobidkina**

This easy-to-read story about a peddler and a band of mischievous monkeys is filled with warmth, humor, and simplicity and teaches children about problem and resolution. Children will delight in following the peddler's efforts to outwit the monkeys and will ask to read it again and again.

#### **2. Miss Nelson is Missing by Harry G. Allard Jr. & James Marshall**

The students don't proffer a shred of respect for their good-natured teacher Miss Nelson, but when the witchy substitute Miss Viola Swamp appears on the scene, they start to regret their own wicked ways. Also read: Miss Nelson is Back, and Miss Nelson Has a Field Day.

#### **3. The Flat Man by Rose Impey**

At bedtime as he tries to fall asleep, a young boy has fun scaring himself by imagining the noises he hears are coming from the Flat Man, who is creeping up to get into bed with him.

#### **4. Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig**

Sylvester can't believe his luck when he finds a magic pebble that can make wishes come true. But when a lion jumps out at him on his way home, Sylvester is shocked into making a wish that has unexpected consequences.

#### **5. Sammy the Seal by Syd Hoff**

Sammy the seal is bored with life at the zoo, so he leaves to go to the city. There, he finds a school full of kids and new things to do! Sammy sings with the students, becomes the star of the volleyball team, and even learns to read. He can't wait to tell his friends back at the zoo how much fun he's having!

## **6. Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin**

Dragons love tacos. They love chicken tacos, beef tacos, great big tacos, and teeny tiny tacos. So if you want to lure a bunch of dragons to your party, you should definitely serve tacos. Buckets and buckets of tacos. Unfortunately, where there are tacos, there is also salsa. And if a dragon accidentally eats spicy salsa . . . oh, boy. You're in red-hot trouble.

## **7. Waiting is not Easy by Mo Williams**

Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can. Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to. Gerald and Piggie are best friends. In *Waiting Is Not Easy*, Piggie has a surprise for Gerald, but he is going to have to wait for it. And Wait. And wait some more...

## **8. The Lorax by Dr. Seuss**

In this cautionary rhyming tale we learn of the Once-ler, who came across a valley of Truffula Trees and Brown Bar-ba-loots, and how his harvesting of the tufted trees changed the landscape forever.

## **9. How do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? By Jane Yolen & Mark Teague**

"How does a dinosaur say good night when Papa comes in to turn off the light? Does a dinosaur slam his tail and pout? Does he throw his teddy bear all about? Does a dinosaur stomp his feet on the floor and shout: 'I want to hear one book more!?' DOES A DINOSAUR ROAR?" Most certainly not. Dinosaurs give their mommies and daddies big hugs and kisses, tuck their tails in, and whisper "Good night!"

Every sleepy little dinosaur will recognize the tricks of the trade in these bedtime shenanigans. The chuckle factor is sky-high here, with giant, full-page pictures of cleverly identified *Tyrannosaurus rexes*, triceratopses, and *Pteranodons*.

## **10. If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff**

Who would ever suspect that a tiny little mouse could wear out an energetic young boy? Well, if you're going to go around giving an exuberantly bossy rodent a cookie, you'd best be prepared to do one or two more favors for it before your day is through. For example, he'll certainly need a glass of milk to wash down that cookie, won't he? And you can't expect him to drink the milk without a straw, can you? By the time our hero is finished granting all the mouse's very urgent requests--and cleaning up after him--it's no wonder his head is becoming a bit heavy.

## *Chapter Books Suggestions*

### **1. Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll**

Lose yourself in Alice's story as she tumbles down the rabbit hole, swims through her own pool of tears, and finds herself in a rather curious place called Wonderland. There, she'll encounter the frantic White Rabbit, have a frustrating conversation with an eccentric caterpillar, and play croquet with the hot-headed Queen of Hearts. Follow Alice on her wild adventure through the eyes of the artist in this definitive gift edition.

### **2. The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame**

Mole has a sudden case of spring fever, gives up on his house-cleaning, and wanders in the fields and meadows. He finds himself by a river (he has been such a stay-at-home that he has never seen it before) and meets the Water Rat, who invites Mole into his boat, something else he has never seen before. A world of friendships, the joy of carefree wandering, of picnicking, and playing has opened for Mole. Half way through the book, the Mole, the Water Rat and the Badger go to Toad Hall to try to help their friend Mr. Toad who has a bad habit of reckless driving. Toad has quite a few adventures. His irresponsible living and extravagance lead to the loss of his home to the barbaric stouts and weasels. The four friends go to battle to regain Toad Hall.

### **3. Akiko on the Planet Smoo by Mark Crilley**

4th grader Akiko is taken from Earth to the planet Smoo, where she is put in charge of a mission to rescue the kidnapped Prince Froptoppit. On her journey she encounters many interesting characters and discovers new places. (First book in a series of 8)

### **4. The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien**

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.

### **5. The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan**

Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse-Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she

knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he go to the one place he'll be safe. She sends Percy to Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods (on Long Island), where he learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea. Soon a mystery unfolds and together with his friends -- one a satyr and the other the demigod daughter of Athena -- Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld (located in a recording studio in Hollywood) and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.

#### **6. The Phantom Tollbooth by Juster Norton**

The story of a bored young boy named Milo who unexpectedly receives a magic tollbooth one afternoon and, having nothing better to do, decides to drive through it in his toy car. The tollbooth transports him to a land called the Kingdom of Wisdom. There he acquires two faithful companions, has many adventures, and goes on a quest to rescue the princesses of the kingdom—Princess Rhyme and Princess Reason—from the castle in the air. The text is full of puns, and many events, such as Milo's jump to the Island of Conclusions, exemplify literal meanings of English language idioms.

#### **7. The Magic Treehouse Series by Mary Pope Osborne & Will Osborne**

This series is about Jack and Annie, a brother and sister who discover a magical tree house filled with books. As they read the books they are taken on many adventures where they have to solve riddles and codes to help a character and complete their mission. Each book introduces new topics and adventures.

#### **8. The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary**

When the ever-curious Ralph spots Keith's red toy motorcycle, he vows to ride it. So when Keith leaves the bike unattended in his room one day, Ralph makes his move. But with all this freedom (and speed!) come a lot of obstacles. Whether dodging a rowdy terrier or keeping his nosy cousins away from his new wheels, Ralph has a lot going on! With a pal like Keith always looking out for him, there's nothing this little mouse can't handle.

#### **9. James and the Giant Peach by Ronald Dahl**

James Henry Trotter, a poor orphan, is being raised by two horrible aunts. Magic crystals change his humdrum existence, and soon he is off on a great adventure on a giant peach with new friends who are, to say the least, unique. There are sharks, seagulls, and irate cloud people to add interest along the way.

#### **10. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Ronald Dahl**

Everyone always wonders what goes on in Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory and the doors are opening for five lucky contest winners. Charlie Bucket, a disadvantaged boy in town is one of

the lucky winners and gets to go on a tour of the strange factory with four other children. While this is a trip of a lifetime, there are rules to follow and when they are broken strange consequences happen.

*\*\*\*Some book summaries taken from Amazon.com, Goodreads.com or another online book review site.*