

READING ALOUD MATTERS



In his best-selling book, *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, author Jim Trelease stresses a greater need for teachers (and parents) to read aloud to their children and students, regardless of their age. Whether you think the kids won't be interested or that they might be too old, or that technology has taken away from the read-aloud experience, the seeds of enthusiastic readers are being planted by the example of those around them.

This is an excerpt from Jim Trelease's *The Read-Aloud Handbook* about a mother he met at a conference and the incredible story of her son, Derek.

“ Upon investigation, I learned that Derek's mother did not start reading to him when he was three. Beginning with the day he was born, she did not let a day go by without a book—often more than one. She began with Jack Prelutsky's *Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young*, along with nursery rhymes. What started as a handful of books from the library grew into bagsful of books, so by three he was ready for his first novel.

By four years of age, he had taught himself to read. Not with a commercial phonics program, however. One thing can be said in favor of such products: they're right when they say, “there are only forty-four sounds in the English language.” And all of those forty-four sounds—every ending, blending, and diphthong—can be found in *Goodnight Moon* and *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Charlotte's Web*. Which is just the way Mrs. Kline gave them to Derek. Although she was trained as a teacher, she did no formal teaching with Derek other than to answer his questions and read to him.

Now I want you to jump ahead to the day Derek sat down at the kindergarten learning table for the first time. Think about the dozen novels he'd heard by that day; the thousand picture books he'd heard, as well as the ones he'd read himself; and the tens of thousands of words he knew from all those readings. And then I want you to think about the child on his left and the one on his right—who, if they were typical American kindergarten children, had heard no novels and only a handful of tired picture books over the last five years. Which child had the larger vocabulary with which to understand the teacher? Which one had the longer attention span with which to work in class?”

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Finish the story and learn more about the not-so-secret secret behind Derek's success on the next page!

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Join your child on a reading adventure!
The more time spent reading, the more gold they can earn to exchange for gear to transform their own dragon avatar. Download the mobile app—reading every day will become a habit the whole family looks forward to sharing!



THE REST OF THE STORY

“Mrs. Kline [Derek’s mother] brought a child to the classroom ready and willing to learn. Did she have to invest \$230 in a seventeen-pound box of flashcards and phonics tapes? Did she have to enroll him in an elite and expensive preschool? Did she have to bring him down to the computer store and plug him into expensive software? All Kelly Kline needed--all anyone needs--is a free public library card and the determination to invest her mind and time in her child’s future. Nothing on Wall Street ever will pay dividends as rich as that.

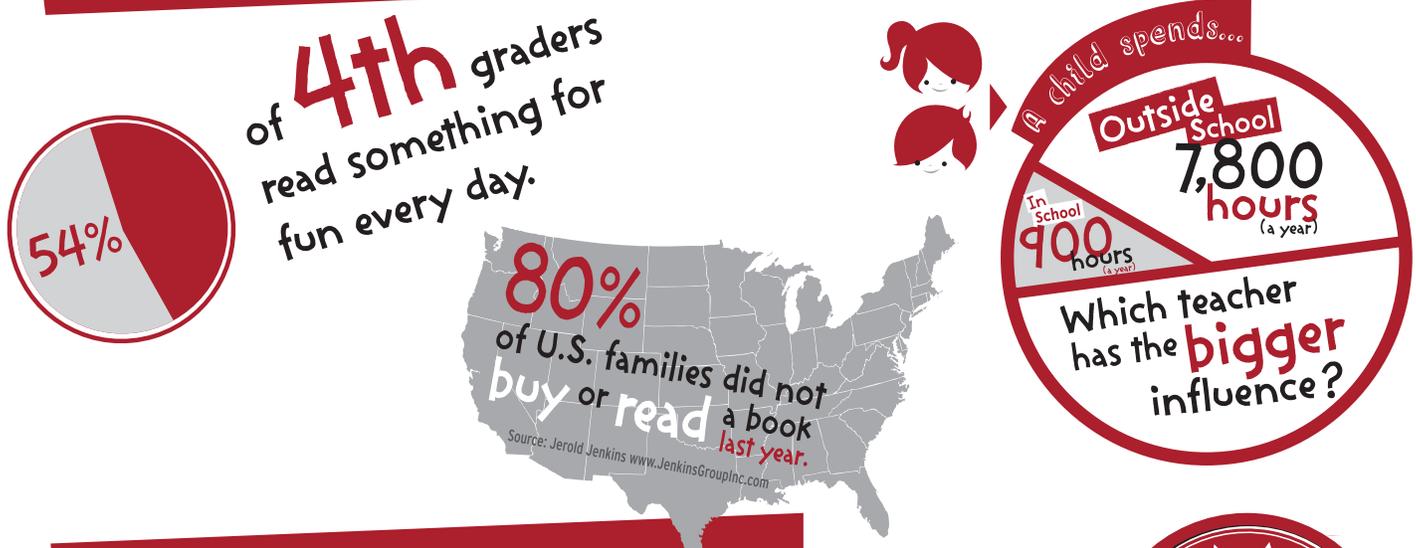
I recently called Kelly Kline to see how Derek was progressing at age six. He now reads picture books to his mother and she does novels with him. They’d just finished *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli and Roald Dahl’s *Matilda*.

Imagine how bright a world we would have if all parents behaved like Derek’s. Extensive research has proven that reading aloud to a child is the single most important factor in raising a reader. It is also the best-kept secret in American education. This inexpensive and pleasureable fifteen minutes a day--either in the home or in the classroom--is more effective than worksheets or any other method of reading instruction.

“What we teach children to love and desire,” goes an education adage, “will always outweigh what we teach them to just do.” And while this is going on, the emotional bonding that occurs between reader and listener is magnified and strengthened.”

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THE FACTS: WHY READING MATTERS



GETTING STARTED

Free Resources and Projects Available at pizzahut.com/bookit

- Read Aloud Tips
- Top Literacy Apps
- Help for Struggling Readers
- 100 Great Read Alouds
- Read for the Record
- Recipes for Readers
- Read and Do Activities
- Reading Adventure Packs

