



# Why READ ALOUD matter

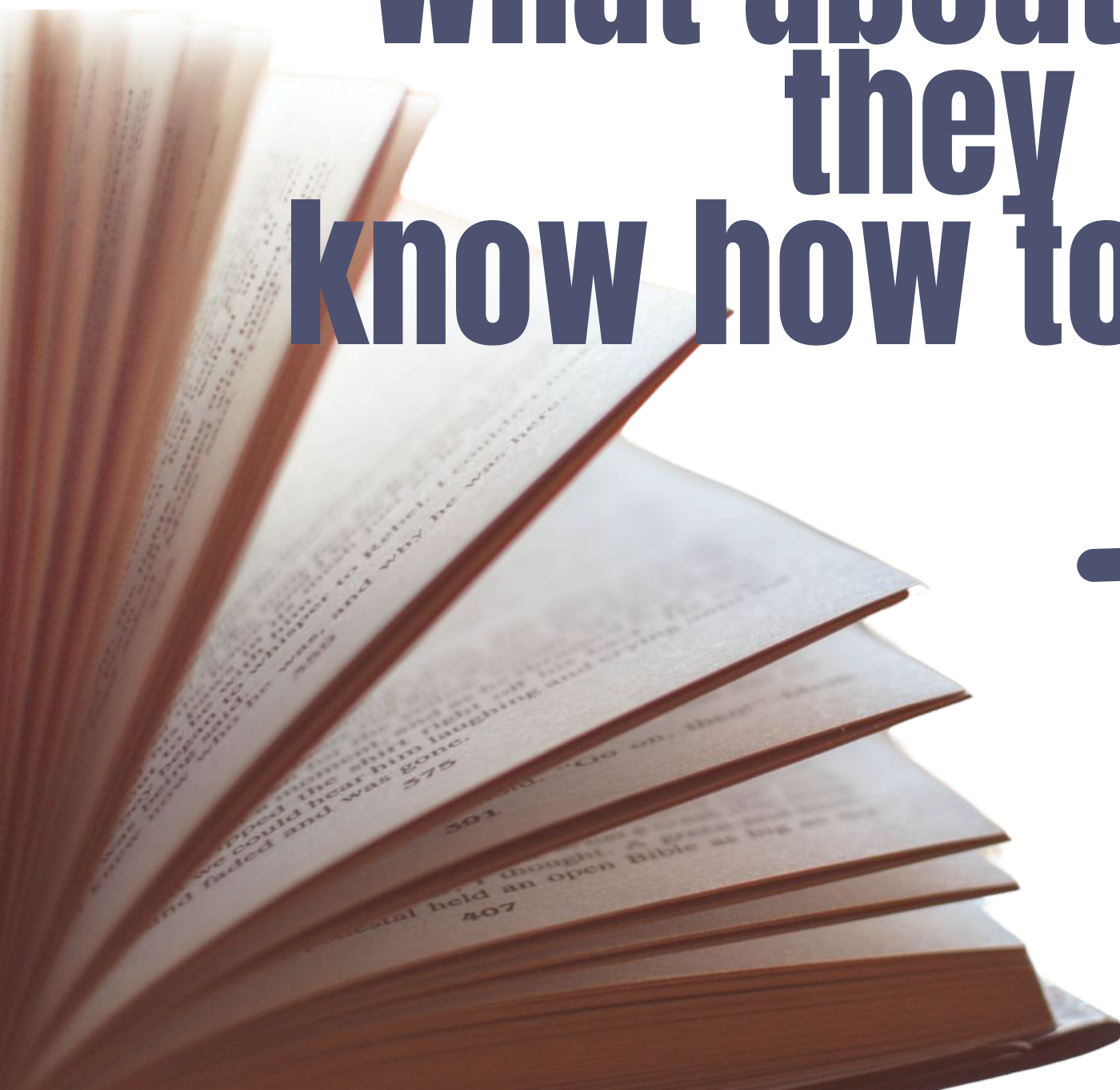
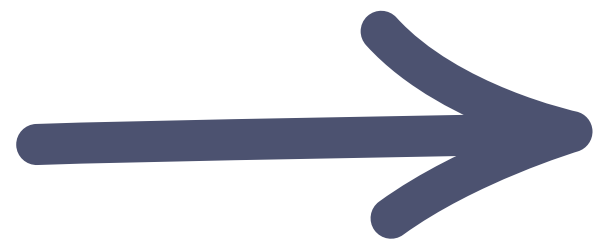
(for 8-12 year olds)

@kittoreads

# STILL READ TOGETHER

Every parent knows it's important to read to their children when they're little. Picture books galore. family reading time, book trips to the library, etc.

**What about when  
they  
know how to read?**



# Read alouds FOR BIG KIDS TOO

As upper elementary teachers, we often notice that once children become independent readers, many parents start stepping back from their child's reading life. But **continuing to stay involved matters.**

According to Common Sense Media,  
"Research shows that continued reading aloud after age 5 (and well beyond) **improves reading and listening skills**".

Even as kids grow, they continue to feel connected through the shared experience of being read to. @kittoreads



# Read alouds= EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

According to Psychology Today, “Reading **increases** a child’s capacity for **critical thinking**, develops **empathy** skills, gives them the **support** they need during challenging times, and builds much needed **resilience** promoting skills which can help protect against various **mental health** conditions such as depression and anxiety.” Linda C. Mayes M.D.

@kittoreads



# Read alouds= NEW VOCABULARY



The fun thing about reading to older kids is that they can listen to harder books that might also be more interesting for adults 😊💧 This also means kids will be more likely to learn new words, and have a chance to ask about them.

According to CommonSense Media, “Kids who are read to encounter more words -- and learn how to recognize and pronounce them -- than they would by just being spoken to.”

# Read alouds= NO WRONG WAY

Kids aged 8–12 often stay up later, but reading together doesn't have to wait until bedtime—any time you can read is a good time. Read on the couch, in the kitchen, at the restaurant—no fancy setup required.

Worried you're not doing it "right"?  
Just grab a book,  
pick a spot, and start.

**Bonus: They might  
just sneak off to finish  
the book on their own.  
Total score.**



# Read alouds WHERE TO START

Stop by your school or local **library** and explore the shelves with your big kid.

Think **variety**:



picture books



sports stories



nonfiction



chapter books



Sometimes kids want to read what their classmates are reading, but the text might feel too hard. Ask your child if there's a book they've been **curious** about — and try it together!

Not sure about reading it aloud yourself? No problem! Find the **audiobook** and enjoy the story together.

@kittoreads

# SHARE/COMMENT/LIKE

## Resources

**Scholastic: Kids & Family Reading Report**

<https://www.scholastic.com/readingreport/summer.html>

**10 Reasons You Should Read Aloud to Big Kids, Too**

<https://www.common sense media.org/articles/10-reasons-you-should-read-aloud-to-big-kids-too>

**Psychology Today:**

**The Mental Health Benefits of Literacy**

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/happy-healthy-child/202305/the-mental-health-benefits-of-literacy>

@kittoreads