

Read Aloud 2000

The Honolulu Advertiser ISLAND LIFE

by Jed Gaines

Saturday, September 2, 2000

Books let us read between our own lines

In the past, I have discussed how children learn values from positive role models, usually parents or guardians. I have also argued that reading good books aloud also subtly teaches values. Now I want to go into more depth as to why I feel this way.

Listening to a story being read, the first thing that happens is that we start to relax and let go subconsciously. Slowly, our defenses let down without us even realizing it, and our hearts begin to open and take in what is being read.

Our inner selves will accept or not accept what's right for us as individuals. We don't have any attachment because the author is a neutral or impartial third party. Since we don't know the author personally, we don't see this individual as a teacher, preacher, parent or friend. Our defenses are down. We are more willing to accept what feels right deep inside and to trust. This can also be true when we read silently.

This is strictly my theory, which has grown from my observations during 20 years of reading to children and adults. When speaking to my audiences, I know I'm connecting because

of the responses I receive verbally as well as the written feedback from evaluations.

I continually experience the positive energy, a lightness, an understanding that comes from the person or persons I'm reading to. Reading aloud wonderful books entices people to want to hear and read more, thus learn more, while enjoying the experience.

Here are some of my favorite books that support the teaching of values. I continue to use them in classrooms, my **Read Aloud Program (RAP)**, faculty presentations and at home with my family:

● Pre-K / Kindergarten

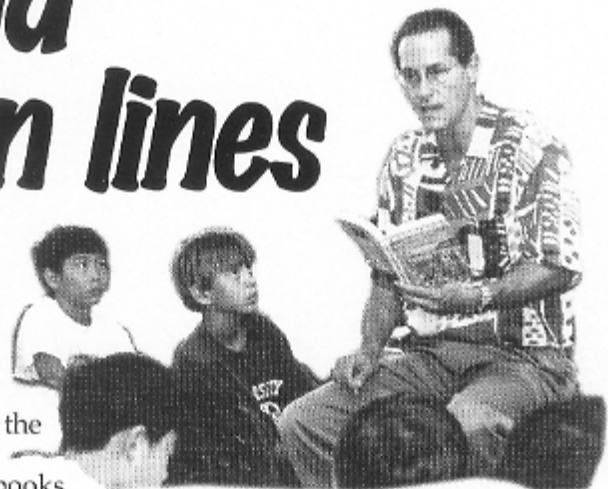
The Story of Ferdinand by M. Leaf
The Little Engine That Could by W. Piper
The Runaway Bunny by M. Brown

● Grades 1-2

The Empty Pot by Demi
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
The Little House by V. Burton

● Grades 3-4

Dear Mr. Henshaw by B. Cleary
The Hundred Dresses by E. Estes
Sarah, Plain and Tall by P. MacLachlin



Jed Gaines, the father of two public-school children, has been working with the read-aloud concept for the past 15 years. He conducts presentations for educators, parents and their Hawaii School communities. Send questions or a self-addressed 55¢ stamped envelope for his K-12 reading list to: **Read Aloud America**, 1937 Keeaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822. Call 531-1985, fax 531-1984 or email to: readaloudamerica@lava.net.

● Grades 5-6

Where the Red Fern Grows by W. Rawls
Maniac McGee by J. Spinelli
Danny, the Champion of the World by R. Dahl

● Grades 7-8

Always Wear Clean Underwear by M. Gellman
Holes by L. Sachar
Out of the Dust by K. Hesse

● Grades 9-12

Tuesdays With Morrie by M. Alborn
To Kill a Mockingbird by H. Lee
Way of the Peaceful Warrior by D. Millman

"It's easy to read aloud to anyone. Simply pick up a book and start!"



Building Communities of Lifetime Readers

Read Aloud America®

1937 Keeaumoku St. ■ Honolulu, HI 96822 ■ Phone 808. 531-1985 ■ email readaloudamerica@lava.net

Many adults continue to ask me why the Harry Potter books are so successful. Next month, I will address this questions, along with tips on reading aloud.