

THE READING POWER: BENEFITS OF READING ALOUD

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The significance and art of reading aloud stretches far beyond childhood bedtime stories. From enhancing comprehension to strengthening relationships, the act of reading aloud holds profound benefits for both individuals and communities.

For children, hearing stories read aloud helps develop phonemic awareness and vocabulary. As they listen to fluent readers, they internalize language patterns and modulations, laying the foundation for proficient reading skills. In addition, the interactive nature of reading aloud encourages critical thinking as listeners actively engage with the text through questions and discussions.

Reading aloud stimulates various cognitive processes, aiding in language development and comprehension. When words are vocalized, they are not only heard but also seen and felt, engaging multiple senses simultaneously. This multisensory experience enhances understanding and retention, particularly for complex or abstract concepts.

When teachers are engaged in reading aloud sessions with students, both comprehension and motivation are evident. Students are stimulated to decipher readings and find greater enjoyment in reading when their teachers read aloud to them, which also correlates with higher academic scores (Spencer, 2012).

Beyond cognitive development, reading aloud fosters emotional connections among individuals. Whether it's a parent reading to a child or friends sharing passages from a favorite book, the act of reading aloud creates intimate moments of shared

experiences. These shared experiences strengthen bonds and nurture empathy, as listeners empathize with characters' struggles and triumphs.

To support this notion, Alshehri (2014) conducted a study to Saudi students using the Reading Aloud Strategy that confirmed that when teachers use read aloud strategy to students, their understanding and motivation levels increase. The findings revealed that employing the reading aloud technique had a beneficial impact on enhancing the comprehension skills. They have demonstrated the ability to relate their personal experiences and knowledge to texts they encountered, enabling them to express their opinions and exhibit a strong grasp of the material.

In a fast-paced world plagued with distractions, the simple act of reading aloud offers a reprieve—a chance to slow down, connect with others, and immerse oneself in the beauty of language. Whether sharing stories with loved ones or presenting to an audience, the power of reading aloud transcends age, culture, and circumstance, enriching lives and communities in profound ways. So, pick up a book, raise your voice, and let the magic of storytelling unfold.

References:

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