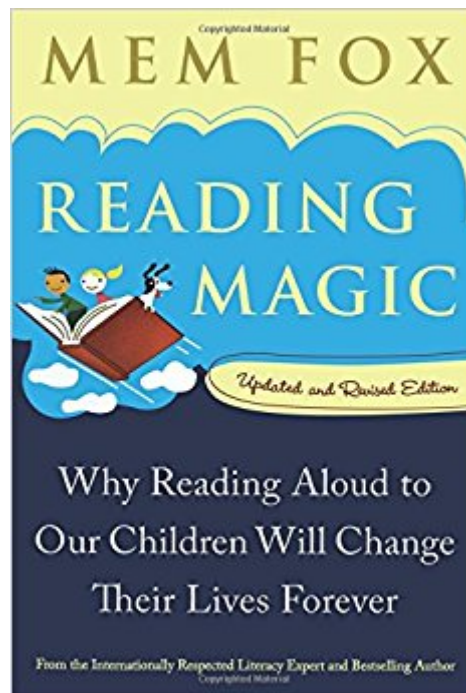




The book was found

Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud To Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever



Synopsis

The must-have guide to reading with children, now in a new and revised edition! Best-selling children's author and internationally respected literacy expert Mem Fox reveals the incredible emotional and intellectual impact reading aloud to children has on their ability to learn to read. With passion and humor, Fox speaks of when, where, and why to read aloud and demonstrates how to read aloud to best effect and get the most out of a read-aloud session. She discusses the three secrets of reading, offers guidance on defining and choosing good books, and—for this new edition—includes two new chapters on boy readers and phonics, a foreword, and a list of "Twenty Books That Children Love." Filled with practical advice, activities, and inspiring true read-aloud miracles, this book is a turn-to classic for educators and parents.

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Customer Reviews

Two books for adults pay tribute to children's books and to the artists and writers who create them. In *Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever*, bestselling picture book author Mem Fox extols the benefits of reading to preschoolers even newborns and gives suggestions for helping children learn to read by themselves. Line drawings by Judy Horacek inject some levity. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

An introduction for parents about reading aloud to their children. Fox explains that babies are born

learners, discusses the importance of books in the home, and stresses the value of a read-aloud ritual. She also includes a chapter on how to read aloud, which novice readers will find useful. Anecdotal stories are widespread, and "success stories" might intimidate parents whose children do not learn to read by age five, even with mom or dad reading aloud to them. Theories provided do not include reference to supporting research. In the chapter "Birth, Brains, and Beyond," Fox writes that "having deep-and-meaningful conversations with our kids.-[has] also been linked positively to IQ development" without reference to her source for this information. Proponents of phonics-based reading instruction will take issue with the author's "whole stories" approach. There are no age-appropriate reading lists for busy parents, and there is no bibliography for the works cited in the text. Libraries that already own Jim Trelease's *The Read-Aloud Handbook* (Penguin, 1995) or Bernice E. Cullinan's *Read to Me: Raising Kids Who Love to Read* (Scholastic, 1992) will find this new title an additional purchase. Shauna Yusko, King County Library System, Bellevue, WA
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A must read for new parents. Without realizing it my daughter could read when she started kindergarten and is an avid reader at 11 years old. Without wanting to play 'baby olympics' because she's certainly no child prodigy and this book isn't about getting ahead at all I highly recommend it. There was a marked difference in my daughter's speech development, attention span, ability to read at a very young age, than her peers who had not been read aloud to as much. For me .. Reading aloud from a very young age gave her these skills and I think it's fundamental in child development. If everyone read aloud to their kids from as early as possible, as much as possible the world would have a much higher literacy rate (in my humble opinion).

This is my first review - after years of being a customer, because this book warrants it. My precocious 4 year old is at this stage where he knows all the letters and has memorized a bunch of his favorite books, and I was feeling like I should help him with his reading skills by teaching him.... phonics? sight words/whole words? I was reading reviews on and came upon this gem. After reading it, I'm convinced that I should just continue (with more frequency and fun) what I've been doing anyway up to this point, which is read to him! I liked the book enough to purchase two of the recommended books at the end, *Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See*, and Mem's own good night book, *Time for Bed*. These were birthday gifts for my two year old daughter, and by the end of the week, she could "read" too! Something about these books is truly magical - the words, the rhythm and emotion, the pictures... everything! She insists on reading these two aloud every night.

And she can read along and say so many of the words, words that I didn't even know that she knew! This experience reinforced to me Mem's theory that reading trumps phonics and whole word methods any day. You'd think it was obvious that if you wanted to teach a child to read, that you would simply read to them but these days there are so many conflicting theories that it's hard to know for sure. All I know is that my children love being read to, they love the books Mem recommends (my 4 year old always comes over to hear these books too!), and I'm confident that the fun of reading will be what tips my kid into reading on his own. Mem also recommends some fun games in the books that you can play while reading that helps them along to recognize letters, sounds, etc.

Reading Magic is a quick and easily read resource to new parents and educators to help introduce them into the world of literacy. Mem explains how reading is crucial in the development of children even as early as 4 months old. As a nanny of two 7 year olds, a 3 year old, and a 6 month old, I can attest to how important it is to read aloud to children of all ages and stages. The strategies and tools Mem talks about helps encourage and motivate children to read on their own. Having said that, as an educator, Mem would benefit from citing more scientific sources to back up her opinions. She has great ideas for introducing reading to children, but somewhat neglects other helpful/necessary/scientifically proven data-- such as phonics and phonemic awareness. Reading aloud is very powerful but it is not the sole indicator for success in reading, there needs to be a balance between the love and desire for reading with the skills and tools each child needs for comprehension and success. This is a great book to help parents and educators to re-motivate themselves as well as a good introductory, but I'd also make sure to research other proven methods for a more well rounded view and opinion.

Excellent book on the importance of reading to children. Well-written. A must read for parents and parents-to-be! I used it as part of a baby shower gift, along with one of Mem Fox's children's books and a little (like in the book) stuffed animal/rattle...

I just finished this book for a graduate level class. This is quite possibly the worst thing I've ever read for school. It's a book that makes parents feel bad about everything related to reading. As a grad student, and a parent of two kids who can read, I found this book to be absolutely terrible. Nothing that was said was backed up by fact, which makes the entire thing completely unreliable.

What a fabulous way of simply explaining the importance of reading aloud to children of all ages. Every new parent should be given a copy of this book at their first pediatrician visit, and every teacher needs to own a copy of this book. Everything Mem Fox writes is well written and this book is just another example of her sharing her knowledge and love of reading.

Anything by Mem Fox deserves close attention from educators and this book is no exception! From the beloved author of children's books, comes "Why Reading is Magic". This work is sure to fuel the passion of anyone who knows that reading aloud to children is the single most important thing to be done to nurture a love of reading, stimulate curiosity and help children understand themselves, the world and the people who live in it. Truly an enjoyable, practical read!

This book was purchased for a group of teen moms. I reached out to the author's agent via email. To my surprise and delight, Mem Fox responded herself. As Ms. Fox shared and I affirm, this book is for anyone who has the opportunity to connect with children through reading aloud.

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