Reading Together

Watching your daughter grow as a reader has been our favorite part of working at the Brearley library. Your daughter has favorite authors and series, and knows how to find just what she is looking for on our library shelves. When paired with the decoding and comprehension skills she learned in Language Arts, our students are well on their way to becoming independent readers.

Though your daughter can read on her own, we still encourage you to read aloud to her. To develop a love of reading students must think of reading as something that brings them pleasure and enjoyment, and listening to a story read aloud is the best way to build this bridge. Even as students are able to read independently, being read to has great benefits. Jim Trelease explains that until about eighth grade “children can hear and understand stories that are more complicated…than what they can read on their own.” Being read to presents a chance to introduce rich vocabulary and think empathetically about complex character motivations.

Of course, the academic benefits of reading aloud pale in comparison to the bonding that occurs when families read together. Reading and talking about books creates a very special connection that is hard to replicate in other activities.

The list on this page is “tried and true” Brearley favorite read alouds that have been read together by many Brearley families through the years. We also encourage you to check out A Family of Readers and The Read-Aloud Handbook, which have further information about the benefits of reading aloud and suggestions of other read aloud books.

Favorite Family Read Alouds for Class K, I, & II

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
Toys Go Out by Emily Jenkins
Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren
Bliss by Kathryn Littlewood
Betsy-Tacy by Maud Hart Lovelace
Anne of Green Gables by L.M Montgomery
Charlotte's Web by E. B White
The Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Resources for Parents

A Family of Readers: The Book Lover's Guide to Children's and Young Adult Literature by Roger Sutton
The Read-Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease