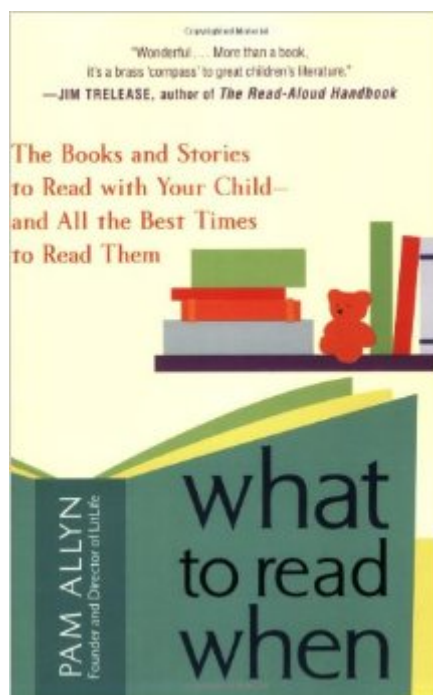


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# What To Read When: The Books And Stories To Read With Your Child--and All The Best Times To Read Them



## Synopsis

Read Pam Allyn's posts on the Penguin Blog. The books to read aloud to children at the important moments in their lives. In *What to Read When*, award-winning educator Pam Allyn celebrates the power of reading aloud with children. In many ways, books provide the first opportunity for children to begin to reflectively engage with and understand the world around them. Not only can parents entertain their child and convey the beauty of language through books, they can also share their values and create lasting connections. Here, Allyn offers parents and caregivers essential advice on choosing appropriate titles for their children—taking into account a child's age, attention ability, gender, and interests—along with techniques for reading aloud effectively. But what sets this book apart is the extraordinary, annotated list of more than three hundred titles suitable for the pivotal moments in a child's life. With category themes ranging from friendship and journeys to thankfulness, separations, silliness, and spirituality, *What to Read When* is a one-of-a-kind guide to how parents can best inspire children through reading together. In addition, Pam Allyn includes an indispensable "Reader's Ladder" section, with recommendations for children at every stage from birth to age ten. With the author's warm and engaging voice throughout, discussion questions to encourage in-depth conversations, as well as advice on helping kids make the transition to independent reading, this book will help shape thoughtful, creative, and curious children, imparting a love of reading that will last a lifetime. These Penguin Young Reader's Books are referenced in *What to Read When*: *Sylvia Jean: Drama Queen* by Lisa Campbell Ernst (Penguin Young Reader's Group: 2005) *Two Is For Twins*, by Wendy Cheyette Lewison, illustrations by Hiroe Nakata (Penguin Young Readers: 2006) *Remember Grandma?* by Laura Langston (Penguin Group (USA): May 2004) *Soul Looks Back in Wonder* compiled by Tom Feelings (Puffin Books) *Time of Wonder* by Robert McCloskey (Penguin Books USA, Incorporated: December 1957) *When I was Young in the Mountains* by Cynthia Rylant illustrated by Diane Goode (Penguin Young Readers Group: January 1993) *Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs* by Tomie DePaola (Puffin Books, an imprint of Penguin Books, Inc.: 1973) *Good Night, Good Knight* by Shelly Moore Thomas, illustrations by Jennifer Plecas (Penguin Young Readers Group: 2002)

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## Customer Reviews

Even though I'm a librarian, I sometimes have trouble finding age appropriate books. I mean, I know how to help college students conduct research, I know how to preserve documents and I know how to make early American history relevant to today's present but sometimes finding a children's book stumps me. That is where *What to Read When: The Books and Stories to Read with Your Child ~ and All the Best Time to Read Them* by Pam Allyn comes in handy. Pam Allyn is the founder and executive director of LitLife, an internationally recognized organization that trains hundreds of K~12 teachers each year. She is also the founding director of Books for Boys, an award~winning mentoring and reading initiative at The Children's Village. Allyn is also the recipient of a Points of Light/Disney award and two James Patterson PageTurner Awards for excellence in bringing literacy to underserved populations. In other words, a librarian's dream...The idea behind the book is the belief that reading aloud to your children is important in the development of happy, healthy, well~rounded children. And while most read~aloud book guides are geared towards children from birth until roughly 5 years of age, this book also offers book suggestions for children up to the age of 10. Yes, it is just as important to read to older children as it is to younger children. The book begins by explaining why parents should read aloud to their children ~ think bonding, developing an interest in reading and expanding your child's imagination. The next part provides an annotated list of what to read to your child at every age and ends with a reading guide for books by theme, such as adoption, courage, death, loneliness and spirituality.

Have you ever wondered how best to influence your child's thoughts? Are you a good example of an avid reader? Or, have you ever said, "I want my child to be a good reader. But I don't like to read?" It all starts with your attitude about reading and how you identify yourself as a reader. No one can exist without reading something. You might like the sports page. Or, maybe you like the comics. How about the online blogs? You do read. And, it's important that you start identifying yourself as a

reader, and that you share with your child what you like to read. It's also important to inspire your child to choose books that resonate with your child. Maybe you remember landmark books from childhood, like "Curious George," or "Charlotte's Web." While these are great examples of books to read aloud, and for your child to read, at the appropriate age, what about books on subjects that reflect how the world has changed? Allyn has identified, in "What to Read When," many examples of landmark books, most of which were published between 1990 and 1999, reflecting subjects that can help you to discuss with your children what they think, need, want and feel. And when you or your child has chosen a book for you to read aloud, it's important that you show a physical appreciation for the book; that you pause and talk between the pages; and that you reflect back, with your child about the book. By doing so, you inspire choices, in your child. You also encourage dialogues and a love for language. While not all books are appropriate at any age, Allyn has listed the chronological "when," and the emotional "when," to select certain books with your child.

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