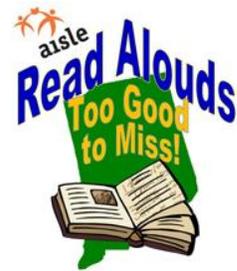


Annotations-Read Alouds 2016 Primary List



Hooray for Hat by Brian Won

Elephant is having a bad day when he receives a surprise at his door, and then the fun begins! Beautiful illustrations and simple text tell the story of how Elephant and his friends cheer up one of their own. Many repeating phrases throughout the book will invite audience participation!

I Don't Want To Be a Frog by Dev Petty

Little frog is having a bad self-esteem day preferring to be a cute, warm, wise, hopping, or garbage-eating animal. Thanks to being just a wet, slimy, full-of-bugs frog, he was spared from becoming a hungry wolf's meal. Repetition involved to foster prediction and audience story input.

Peanut Butter and Cupcake by Terry Border

Peanut Butter is new in town and looking for a friend, but as he tries to make friends it proves more difficult than he first thought. Who will save the day for Peanut Butter? A catchy and repeating chant will make this a storytime favorite!

Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses by James Dean

After starting his day in a bad mood, Pete the Cat tries wearing some cool magic sunglasses from his friend Grumpy Toad. Relying on his usual positive attitude to bring out that good mood inside of himself, Pete also helps Squirrel, Turtle, and Alligator see that the sun is shining and everything's alright! Fosters coping skills through worthy memorable jingles.

Sophie's Squash by Pat Zietlow Miller

Sophie redefines the meaning of a friend...not the girl next door, not the favorite stuffed animal...but a vegetable. Miller brings a new meaning to friendship as Sophie personifies a squash into a very special friend and then works through the challenges as this friend travels through life changes. A sensitive tribute to saying good-bye and starting over.

The Story of Fish and Snail by Deborah Freedman

Fish and Snail are great friends and are content in their book...until the day that Fish wants to take Snail to a different book he has found. Don't we belong here in this book, asks Snail? The two friends argue and leap off the page...oh no!! What will happen to them?

Lost Cat by C. Roger Mader

Slipper enjoys a comfortable life with her owner Fuzzy Slippers until one day when Fuzzy Slippers moves and accidentally leaves Slipper behind. Slipper is determined to find the right family. This is the story of her journey.

My teacher is a monster (No, I am not) by Peter Brown

Bobby believes his teacher, Mrs. Kirby, is awful. In Bobby's mind she has green skin, fangs and knotted hair. Bobby changes his mind after he gets to know Mrs. Kirby one day in the park. Monstrously Entertaining.

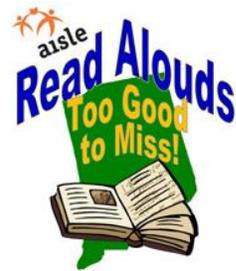
Sam and Dave Dig a Hole by Mac Barnett

In this highly engaging picture book, Sam and Dave, along with their dog, set out with their shovels to find “something spectacular”. As they dig, the reader is privy to a cross-section view, revealing ever larger gemstones hidden in the ground. But Sam and Dave keep changing the direction of their dig (in spite of helpful hints from their dog) and as a result, narrowly miss finding the treasures. The ending is unexpected and makes for a great discussion starter.

Moo! by David LaRochelle

This delightful picture book about a joyriding cow has only two words: moo and baa. The font, shape, and size of the words, along with punctuation and colorful illustrations of a very expressive cow, help the reader understand the story perfectly. *Moo!* is a unique treasure that will encourage readers of all ages to really ham it up!

Annotations-Read Alouds 2016 Upper Elementary List



Honey by Sarah Weeks

What does a little dog (Mo), and a little girl (Melody) have in common? They both live in Royal, Indiana, they are both a bit lonely, and they are both searching for something that will make their life complete. Come read this “honey” of a tale, as told by both Mo and Melody in alternating chapters, to see if they find what they are seeking and if that might lead them toward each other.

The Map Trap by Andrew Clements

Sixth-grade, map-lover Alton Barnes was doing fine until he began receiving “blackmail” notes after his portfolio of secret maps is stolen. Hopefully using the help of a popular classmate and sending “Apologize It Forward” notes to students and staff, Alton may keep the school body from knowing that he has been studying and mapping things about them. A great classroom read before/during a geography/social studies unit.

Nuts to You by Lynn Rae Perkins

Carried off by a hawk and then miraculously dropped from its talons, a young squirrel survives a soft landing and resolves to find his way home, while his loyal friends (one of whom saw where he landed) begin their search for him. In the journey back, they discover humans are clearing trees around the power lines and will thus threaten their homeland. Tune into your inner squirrel-ness and help save a tree.

Odd, Weird, and Little by Patrick Jennings

WHO will be a good friend? Outsider Woodrow learns the answer to this question in a very interesting way when very short and very wise Toulouse comes into his life....who is very comfortable with flying and sitting on tree branches. Both grow in different ways (and not in height).

Most Valuable by Amar’e Stoudemire

This is the latest book in the STAT (Standing Tall and Talented) series written by NBA star Amar’e Stoudemire and each book is loosely based on his life as a young boy. In this story, Amar’e must put in a lot of hard work and effort in order to save the annual streetball tournament from being canceled. A perfect fit for reluctant readers who love sports!

The Real Boy by Anne Ursu

Oscar is a shy and socially awkward boy who works in a shop for the most powerful magician in the village. Most of his days are predictable and safe as he works on mixing and grinding herbs in the cellar. But when the magician suddenly disappears, a dark magic enters the village and it’s up to Oscar and his friend Callie to save the people and village from being destroyed.

Sugar by Jewell Parker Rhodes

An orphan named Sugar is a ten-year old girl who works on a plantation five years after the end of the Civil War. Slavery is over yet Sugar is still living in slave quarters and working on the plantation. She hates her name and the sugar cane that she labors in the fields to cut. When the plantation owner brings in Chinese workers to help with the crop, Sugar is fascinated. This is a story of a young girl who becomes the bridge between two cultures.

Hook's Revenge by Heidi Schulz

Jocelyn Hook, daughter of Captain Hook, receives a letter from dear old dad. The letter was sent after Captain Hook's death asking her to avenge his death. Jocelyn is the kind of girl who keeps spiders in her pocket, eschews hair brushes and corsets, and gobbles up adventure novels by the dozen. Jocelyn jumps at the chance to ditch school and head out to captain a crew of woefully untrained men, outwit cannibals and irritate Peter Pan.

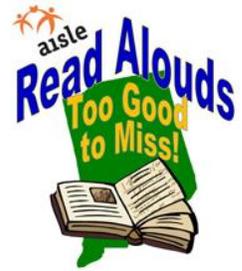
Fiona's Lace by Patricia Polacco

This touching story about Irish immigrants who move to Chicago, is based on the author's own family history. In Ireland, Fiona's parents Mick and Annie met with the help of bits of fine lace tied to bushes. Years later, when the family is separated in the Great Chicago Fire, Fiona remembers the family stories and uses bits of lace she made to help reunite her family. This book will inspire readers to learn about their own family's stories.

Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas by Lynne Cox

This is the true story of a "lovely elephant seal" named Elizabeth who lived in Christchurch, New Zealand. Elizabeth had a dangerous habit of resting on a warm city street; dangerous for Elizabeth and for traffic! Concerned residents tried repeatedly to relocate her to elephant seal colonies, but Elizabeth always found her way back. Additional information about elephant seals in the back of the book will satisfy the reader's curiosity about these enormous animals.

Annotations-Read Alouds 2016 Middle Grade List



Absolutely Almost by Lisa Graff

Main character, Albie, is “absolutely almost” when it comes to academic achievement in many things, but he is “absolutely almost” perfect when he spills his personality and affinity for donuts, art and seeing friends in those that others overlook. A gem of a story that transcends the average.

Counting by 7’s by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Willow Chance experiences the ultimate tragedy – she loses both (adoptive) parents in a car accident. An adolescent who is academically brilliant but socially less than brilliant, Willow struggles from this loss through an emotional journey with a surprising group of friends that leads to her a spot of triumph and growth.

Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan

Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise and a harmonica. Decades later three children find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica which held the power to save and change lives. Each character’s story echoes the one that came before it.

The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing by Sheila Turnage

When Miss Lana, Mo LeBeau’s guardian, unintentionally buys the old Tupelo Inn not realizing a bona fide ghost is listed in the fine print, Mo and her best friend Dale (aka the Desperado Detective Agency) set out to solve the ghost’s mystery and obtain extra credit at school for interviewing one of the town’s oldest “residents”. While stumbling upon old town secrets and mysteries along the way, will they solve the case, interview the ghost and pass history?

Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell

A young orphan named Sophie lives in London with her guardian, having lost her mother in a shipwreck. When the welfare agency threatens to send her to an orphanage, Sophie flees to Paris in search of her mother, following a clue that she first discovered in London. She meets Matteo and his gang who live and survive among the rooftops of Paris, and together they try to find Sophie’s mom, encountering lots of obstacles and adventures along the way!

The Forbidden Stone by Tony Abbott

In this first book of The Copernicus Legacy, Wade’s father gets a cryptic email from a former astronomy professor, who just happens to die shortly after sending the message! It’s up to Wade and his friends to figure out the clues and unlock an ancient secret which takes them on an exciting and dangerous adventure all over the world!

The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier

Two Irish orphans find work as servants to the Windsor family, who have moved to an old creepy house in the sourwoods. Trying to make the best of the situation, Molly cleans the house and Kip minds the stables and gardens. But the house and family are not quite what they seem. This book is a moral tale about human greed and the power of storytelling.

The Summer Experiment by Cathie Pelletier

When two girls spend the summer researching alien abductions in Allagash, Maine they end up having endless adventures. The girls have their ups and downs dealing with divorces, new marriages, getting grounded, running away and even death.

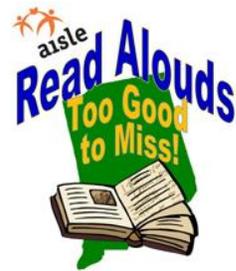
The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney

This powerful, beautifully written novel in verse is told from the point of view of a twelve-year old Sudanese girl. In spite of cultural expectations that discourage formal schooling for girls, Amira dreams of learning how to read and write. When the Janjaweed attack her peaceful farming village, Amira witnesses the death of her father and must flee to a refugee camp with her family. Tragedy and harsh conditions take their toll on her spirit, but in the end, hope rises once again.

The Shadow Throne: Book 3 of the Ascendance Trilogy by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Carhya is under attack and the odds are stacked against young King Jaron and his soldiers. When Jaron sees Imogen fall in battle, his spirit is crushed and he is captured by the Avenian forces. Defeat by King Vargan seems inevitable. But in a game of wits, with the surprising twists and turns readers have come to expect from this series, Jaron keeps hope alive. This page-turner will keep you guessing!

Annotations-Read Alouds 2016 High School List



All the bright places by Jennifer Niven

This is a powerful and moving story dealing with the topic of teen suicide. The book is told from two alternating voices, one from an outcast named Theodore Finch who constantly thinks about death, and the other from Violet Markey, a typical teenager who has recently lost her sister due to a fatal car crash. The story follows their unlikely friendship and emotional bond that develops, and as an added bonus, the reader is introduced to peculiar and unknown spots in Indiana.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Twins basketball stars, Josh and Jordan are friends for life on and off the court. When a girlfriend enters the scene, they move apart, but not forever. This novel in verse includes poetry, hip hop, jazz, and family unity-poetry in motion.

Exposure by Kathy Reichs

This is the fourth novel in the *Virals* series, a series that features high octane adventure with a sci/fi twist. Tory is the leader of the *Virals*, a group of friends that were exposed to a virus carrying wolf DNA. They are like a wolf pack, and each of them has their own unique and superhuman abilities. In this story, a psychopath has kidnapped Tory's best friend along with two other classmates, and they must find a way to rescue them without exposing their own secrets.

Gabi, A Girl in Pieces by Isabel Quintero

Sixteen year old Gabi Hernandez chronicles her senior year in high school. In diary form, she writes about her friend Cindy's pregnancy, her friend Sebastian's coming out, her new love for poetry and getting ready for college. Includes the Spanish language.

I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafza

Raised in Taliban controlled Pakistan, Malala Yousafza was taught to stand up for what she believes. She fought for her right to be educated and nearly lost her life for the cause. She is the youngest to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty by Christine Hepperman

Based on classic fairy tale characters, Christine Hepperman's free verse poems explore how girls are taught to think about themselves, their bodies and their friends.

Positive: Surviving my Bullies, Finding Hope, and Living to Change the World: A Memoir by Paige Rawls

Indiana native Paige Rawls tells her story of how she was bullied in Middle School for being born HIV positive. This compelling memoir will inspire you when you see how she turned tragedy into triumph by realizing she could bring hope to others who have been bullied.

To this Day: for the Bullied and the Beautiful by Shane Koyczan

This anti-bullying poem electrified the world when it was presented as an online animated video. Now it has been put in book form with vibrant collages. This would be great combined with the online video or TED talk.

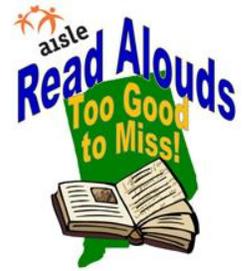
Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March by Lynda Blackmon Lowery

The story of the youngest person to complete the Selma to Montgomery march. She describes her imprisonments for participating in nonviolent demonstrations and how she felt about her involvement in the historic Civil Rights events.

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

Spending the summers with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenager Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her 15th summer. The terrible truth includes an accident, lies, secrets and a coverup.

Annotations-Read Alouds 2016 Ageless List



I'm My Own Dog by David Stein

This one-of-kind dog with a Brooklyn accent (!), is self-sufficient in meeting his own needs. Enjoy the humorous role-reversal as he teaches his new human “pet” all the skills needed to be his faithful companion! Great pet discussion opportunities.

Prairie Chicken Little by Jackie Hopkins

A finger-lickin’ country version of the beloved folktale, follow Mary McBlicken, the prairie chicken, to find out what is causing “a rumbling and a grumbling and a tumbling” and see if she and her friends escape Slim Brody, the wily coyote.

That Is NOT a Good Idea! by Mo Willems

One day a hungry fox meets a plump goose and invites her to his home in the woods hoping she will stay for dinner---and become the main course! Will supper preparations go as planned, or is a secret ingredient needed? Are we or the fox listening as her baby geese take center stage? Group participation will reinforce prediction skills.

What Do You Do With An Idea? by Kobi Yamada

Every idea has a beginning. This beautifully-wrought tale follows the birth and growth of an idea for one child. Through all the uncertainties, the growing-pains, the growing acceptance, and the embellishment of what one little idea can bring, this timeless tale embraces all the beauty and strength that it takes to make an idea your own into positive action.

Baby’s got the Blues by Carol Diggory Shields

Have you ever thought about what may be going on inside the mind of your baby? As the story progresses you will get humorous glimpses of life from a baby’s perspective. The beautifully rhyming text will encourage you to not only read it aloud, but sing it as well!

Hug Machine by Scott Campbell

A young boy has a unique talent--he is the hug machine! He is always ready to make someone’s day a little brighter, and he never gets tired of giving hugs to even the most unlovable of creatures. But what happens when his hugging energy fades, who or what is there to save him?

Mr. Ferris and His Wheel by Kathryn Gibbs Davis

George Ferris had ten months until the 1893 Chicago World's Fair to dazzle the world with his flimsy contraption. This contraption needs to top the star of the last World's Fair-The Eiffel Tower. Ferris has little time and has to use his own money to make a contraption we now know as the Ferris Wheel.

Library Book for Bear by Bonny Becker

Bear has never been to the library. When Mouse drops by and invites him to the library, he initially refuses because he already has books at home, even one about pickles. At the library, Mouse excitedly shows him different books and Bear refuses all of them as they are not about pickles. Bear wants to leave until he hears someone reading a book about a very brave bear. The librarian personally invites him to storytime and by the end of the book, Bear loves the library.

Blizzard by John Rocco

Based on the author's experience during the Blizzard of 1978, this beautifully illustrated story shows that children are not too small to save the day. Fifty-three inches of snow close the school and create a winter wonderland, but when food starts to run out, John straps on some tennis rackets and heads to the store, stopping to help his neighbors along the way. Readers will enjoy finding the days of the week embedded in the illustrations and tracing John's steps in the snow!

Cat Talk by Patricia McLachlan

This collection of 13 free verse poems will appeal to anyone who understands that cats have personalities and quirks all their own. Told from the perspective of the cats, some poems will touch your heart and others will make you laugh. The language is rich and the watercolor paintings support the text beautifully. This is a perfect choice for a discussion of character traits and point of view.