

Teen Book Lover

===== READ ALL ABOUT IT =====

Virtual Read Alouds to children in prek-3rd grade (ages of about 3-8)

TBL is providing an opportunity for you to use your expertise and background as an early childhood educator, a parent, a librarian, an older sibling, or a writer to read aloud to children in our communities. I hope you will join me in doing what we can do to help children and families.

Why Virtual Read Alouds?

Several reasons:

- There are **190,000** children in this age range in the city of Dallas, **1.9 million** in the state of Texas, and **24.4 million** in the US.
- According to the *Becoming a Nation of Readers* report, “the single most important activity for building knowledge for their eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.”
- Right now, parents are juggling a lot - they may not have as much time as they’d like to read aloud to the kids. ***Let’s help them out!***

How?

Submit a video following guidelines below and we will post on the TBL YouTube channel. You can share your video with me as a mov or mp3 file. You can also share on dropbox or google drive. And please don’t worry about editing your video if you aren’t comfortable with it. I am happy to do that for you so for example if you have 3 pieces (intro, read aloud and conclusion and want me to put it together, no problem!).

When?

As soon as possible, please. Email me if you have questions.

Contact: tej@teenbooklover.com

Are you in? I hope so!
READ ON

[Visit Our Website](#)

Teen Book Lover

===== READ ALL ABOUT IT =====

Guide to Filming Your Virtual Read Aloud

The most important thing is for you to look *happy* and be *energetic*. Think about what background you want - you can film anywhere you like - your living room, kitchen, or your backyard.

STEP 1: *Select* a children's book you love. Maybe it's a book you always read out loud to your class if you're a teacher, or one of your kids' favorites if you're a parent or author.

STEP 2: Film a 1 minute or so *Introduction*

- Here - you can introduce the book you chose and say why you love it.

STEP 3: Film yourself reading the book. You have 2 options here:

- **OPTION A:** For picture books, place the book on a table, make sure the pages are flat and easy to view, and hold the camera over each page as you read so kids can see the words and pictures really clearly. Note: You need to hold the camera as still as possible.
- **OPTION B:** Ask someone else (or use a tripod) to video you as you read to the camera. You need to make sure that each page of the book and the images and words are clear.

STEP 4: Film a 1-2-minute *conclusion* in which you ask some *open-ended questions* about the book. Please think of the questions you'd typically ask the kids in your class to think about if you're a teacher or librarian.

Read on for video tips!

[Visit Our Website](#)

Teen Book Lover

===== READ ALL ABOUT IT =====

Video Tips (These come from a family friend who is a filmmaker)

Note: No expertise in making videos and no special equipment besides a smartphone is needed.

#1- ALWAYS shoot in landscape mode.

#2- Use the exposure lock. The iPhone automatically focuses on the subject in your shot and adjusts the exposure. If you're shooting a video with a singular subject not moving quickly, the constant automatic adjustments can make the footage choppy. Use your AutoExposure/Auto Focus lock feature by tapping on the screen and holding it until AE/AF box appears. Once it does, the focus is locked and you can adjust exposure by dragging your finger up or down. Tap it again to turn it off or choose a new locked point.

#3- Put your phone in Airplane mode. This is to avoid getting unnecessary interruptions and sounds from notifications while you're shooting.

#4- Clean your camera lens. Just wipe the lens with a cotton shirt or something before you shoot (good tip for pictures, too). Don't use your finger- fingerprints make it blurry.

#5- Count to 3. Shoot for 3 seconds longer than you think you need to. Often if you cut too soon, you end up not being able to use that footage because it's too choppy. Don't forget to brace yourself so your hands are steady.

#6- Sound. Make an effort to film in an environment with the least surrounding sound (cars honking, construction outside, etc). This way all of the attention is on you, the reader.

#7 - Plan your shots. You want the setting and the speakers to be engaging to the viewer.

Excited to Hear Your Read
Alouds!

[Visit Our Website](#)