

# World Read Aloud Day

## The Value of Read Alouds and Storytelling

LitWorld founded World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) in 2010 because we believe reading is powerful. Studies show that individuals who frequently read are better able to understand other people, empathize with them and see the world from their perspective.<sup>1</sup> Reading aloud not only helps develop literacy skills like word mastery and grammatical understanding,<sup>2</sup> but it also builds community and connects us to each other. On World Read Aloud Day, people all around the globe read aloud and share stories to advocate for literacy as a human right.

### Global Literacy Statistics

- ◆ According to the latest report (2016), 758 million adults – two thirds of them women – lack basic reading and writing skills.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Since 1985, the female adult literacy rate has risen 15%, which is about double the growth of the male literacy rate in the same time period.<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ Among the youth population, female literacy rates have been rising quickly. Nonetheless, three out of five youths lacking basic reading and writing skills are young women.<sup>5</sup>
- ◆ If all children in low-income countries left school literate, 171 million people could rise from poverty.<sup>6</sup>
- ◆ Poorly-literate individuals are less likely to participate in democratic processes and have fewer chances to fully exercise their civil rights.<sup>7</sup>
- ◆ A child born to a literate mother is 50% more likely to survive past the age of five than a child born to an illiterate mother.<sup>8</sup>
- ◆ A literate and educated woman will produce a smaller, healthier family, is three times less likely to acquire AIDS, and will earn at least 25% more income than an illiterate woman.<sup>9</sup>
- ◆ Illiterate people earn 30-42% less than their literate counterparts.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Paul, A. M. (2012, March 17). *The Neuroscience of Your Brain on Fiction*. Retrieved November 15, 2018, from [https://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/opinion/sunday/the-neuroscience-of-your-brain-on-fiction.html?adxnnl=1&pagewanted=all&adxnnlx=1354716276-vBCJNxtlulFGnU PmkBpA&\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/opinion/sunday/the-neuroscience-of-your-brain-on-fiction.html?adxnnl=1&pagewanted=all&adxnnlx=1354716276-vBCJNxtlulFGnU PmkBpA&_r=0)

<sup>2</sup> Frey, S. (2015, July 8). Study says reading aloud to children, more than talking, builds literacy. Retrieved November 15, 2018, from <https://edsources.org/2015/study-says-reading-aloud-to-children-more-than-talking-builds-literacy/82045>

<sup>3</sup> *Key Messages and Data on Girls' and Women's Education and Literacy* [PDF]. (2012, April). UNESCO [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization].

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> A Global Compact on Learning: Taking Action on Education in Developing Countries. (2011, June 8). Retrieved November 15, 2018, from <https://www.brookings.edu/research/a-global-compact-on-learning-taking-action-on-education-in-developing-countries/>

<sup>7</sup> *Key Messages* (2012)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Frey (2015)

# World Read Aloud Day

**#WorldReadAloudDay**

750 million adults around the world – two-thirds of them women – lack basic reading and writing skills.



Source: UNESCO, 2016



Reading aloud to children every day puts them almost a year ahead of children who do not receive daily read alouds.

**#WorldReadAloudDay**

Source: Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research