



#ReadTogether Video Project

This is a trying time for our communities, our nation, and the world. We believe that the Reach Out and Read mission is as powerful and important as ever during these challenging times. To encourage family time and reading together we are asking members of our community to film themselves reading aloud and to share the video(s) with the national office for a nationwide video project, to be disseminated to the Reach Out and Read network.

Filming suggestions:

- Introduce yourself
 - If possible, include the project name in this part, “I am proud to take part in the #ReadTogether project for children and families hosted by Reach Out and Read
- Be animated – talk about what is happening in the book as you read
- Read to a child or children, if possible (if you are reading to a child/children, engage them as applicable and appropriate in talking, asking questions, sharing)
- Share something with the audience of why you love reading so much and how this can all bring us together during difficult times

Options on sharing the video with Reach Out and Read:

- Upload the video to your personal YouTube account and email jen.tegan@reachoutandread.org the link after uploading (add a link to a YouTube tutorial of how to upload a YouTube video here? – here is a good one from Wiki that includes YouTube video of how to: <https://www.wikihow.com/Upload-a-Video-to-YouTube>)
- Share via drop box (or similar file sharing cloud based system) with jen.tegan@reachoutandread.org
 - If you need a drop box link, reach out to Jen Tegan and she can send you a link to upload

Technical FAQ:

- Filming on a mobile phone is fine
 - Save all files in .mp4 version if possible
 - Horizontal filming is preferred
- Make sure you have enough battery and storage space before filming
- Turn your phone to airplane mode – this will stop any text, email or other notification sounds from interrupting your story
- Try to film in natural light – will enhance the quality of the video (think less grainy)
- Keep the phone steady with a tripod, if possible

- Try to keep your video between 1 minute (or less) to 2.5 minutes – every minute of filming produces about a 1 GB of space

Choosing a book, copyright questions:

- Worried or wondering about reading books aloud online and possibly violating copyright laws? In response, many children's publishers have temporarily altered policies.
 - **A BRIEF LISTING OF PUBLISHERS EASING RESTRICTIONS DURING THIS TIME:** Simon & Schuster, HarperCollins Children's Books, Macmillan, Little, Brown Young Readers, Penguin Random House, Scholastic, Chronicle Kids, Candlewick, Lee and Low, HMH, Abrams, Holiday House, Crabtree Publishing, Lerner, and Peachtree have put out guidelines for use during the coronavirus pandemic that has shut down schools across the country.
 - Best to pick a book first and then check this source for restrictions: <https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=publishers-adapt-policies-to-help-educators-coronavirus-covid19> for individual publisher recommendations.
- If possible, give a thank you shout out in your video to the author, illustrator and publisher.