

Ready for Read Aloud

By Jenny Rose and Lisa M. Griffin

Book Summary

Second grader Rosa wants to read her favorite book during read aloud at school, but she feels too shy. Most people feel shy some of the time. Shyness is a feeling of anxiety in social situations. Students who are shy take longer to feel comfortable in new situations. New experiences can be positive opportunities for students who are shy, as long as they are introduced gradually or in small doses. Many classroom games and activities can help encourage and promote participation for students who feel shy.

Virtual learning is new for your students, and they may be very shy on this new platform. We want this to be a positive experience for you and your students. Learning is a social endeavor, and it is helpful to prioritize community building as we move to online classrooms.

Favorite Spot to Read

Consider using this activity after reading the story to reinforce community and connections with you and your students and between your students.

Goal: To find connections to Rosa in the story and to share a favorite place to read while the students are at home

SEL Skills Focus: Social awareness and empathy

Opening:

1. Gather students for an online whole-class meeting. Greet your students and explicitly tell them that you miss being with them. Let them know you have a plan to bring them together while everyone is apart.
2. Tell the students that they will have an opportunity to share with the class their favorite place to read while at home and briefly explain why. They may also include whom they like to read to the most and briefly explain why.
3. Brainstorm examples of favorite places with students and examples of whom or what they can read to.

Assignment: Have students draw or take a picture of their favorite reading spot in their home, and they can also include whom or what they prefer to read to. It would be a good idea to email parents regarding the assignment so that they can participate as well.

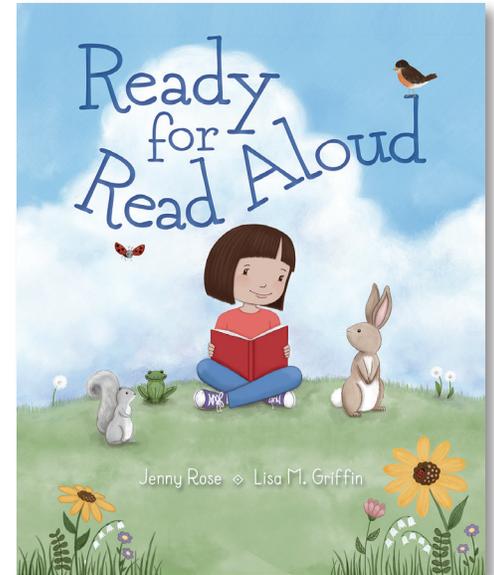
Bonus: The students may opt to record themselves reading a favorite book in their spot.

Body:

1. Explain to your students that they will go around the virtual classroom, each taking a turn to share the picture of their favorite place to read while at home and with whom or what.
2. Be the first sharer to model using a complete sentence and keeping the “why” succinct. For example, “My favorite place to read is my cozy chair with my old stuffed bear because the chair is soft and my bear makes me feel safe and happy.”
3. Have students take turns going around the circle, sharing pictures of their favorite places and briefly explaining why.

Closing:

1. Invite the students to share new ideas of places to read while they are home. They may also share new ideas of whom or what to read their books to.
2. Ask if anyone felt shy during this activity. Briefly discuss what the word shy means, and share examples of what it may look or feel like. Discuss what students might do to feel more confident. Challenge students to look and listen for characters in the story who might feel shy.
3. Share the video of you reading the story aloud from your favorite spot in your home.
4. Give students the opportunity to send in recordings of themselves reading their favorite stories. You can post them from time to time as guest readers or bedtime stories from classmates.



Specifications:

32 pages

9" x 11"

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Color

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This book addresses the following social and emotional learning skills:

- Shows patience with self when learning something new
- Greets and welcomes others
- Proactively includes others who are similar to and different from them
- Able to take initiative to work toward a positive outcome
- Accepts help to learn to be independent