

Reading books aloud – Publishers’ permission

For the 2021 Reading Recovery Read Aloud, we are sharing stories and encouraging teachers and Teacher Leaders to read aloud. In a normal year this would be straightforward but this year the activity during March has to take place online. That is fine but it means some additional permissions are needed to avoid breaching copyright.

Children and teachers can read any books as normal if they are in the same room. If clips of the reading are used by you or sent to us for promotional activity, then copyright applies to the books. This also applies to anyone we or you have invited to do a read aloud which is recorded and shared on the internet, even with a closed group.

The following information may be helpful in making book choices for the Read Aloud.

Children reading

Publishers have been approached and have agreed to give permission for a range of popular titles amongst the PM books and Cambridge Reading Adventures (including the digital titles). The lists of books which have permission for the RR Read Aloud are available on the RRE website here:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/reading-recovery-europe/events/rr-read-aloud>

[List of books with permission for reading aloud online](#)

Adults reading to children

Many publishers have recognised the need for education professionals to make no-for-profit recordings of books to share with children during the pandemic where remote learning has been a necessity.

There is a lot of variation in what they have offered. For instance some suspended copyright until the end of December 2020; some extended that until the end of March 2021 and a few have extended it until the end of June while others do not give permission at all.

Those that do give permission, usually have some conditions. This might include some or all of the following:

- the book is read in its entirety without commenting, asking questions etc
- the author, illustrator and publisher are acknowledged as part of the recording
- the recording is stored in a private location e.g. a private youtube site (RRE may be able to help you with that) and only a link to the reading is shared publicly
- the recording is deleted after the period planned for its use – for RRE Read Aloud that would mean deleting the recordings at the end of March 2021

Some of the following links may be helpful in establishing permission for recording for RRE Read Aloud:

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/resource/publishers-licensing-restrictions>

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/company/permissions/#supportpermissions>

<https://www.sla.org.uk/school-closure-resources-books-and-reading>

A quick way to establish permission may be to directly email the publisher of a book that you or a celebrity supporter would like to read. Explain your role in RR, that RR is a not for profit organisation, the annual Read Aloud to promote RR, a recording will be made by X and stored on a private youtube site, the author, illustrator and publisher will be acknowledged, the recording will be used only in March then deleted.