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Newsletter 2016

Horse'n Around

EXCERPTS FROM AN ARTICLE BY MELISSA BALMAIN

4 Reasons to Read Books Aloud

It's no coincidence that any number of romantic scenes in movies feature adults reading or reciting to each other. Plenty of real-life couples make it a ritual. Many adults admit that it feels good to be read to. It's like giving a gift to the other person at the end of the day. It gives us an opportunity to bring something to life with our voices and emotions. And it deepens our relationship, giving each of us one more thing to love about the other.

1 Vividness Reading aloud involves more parts of the brain than reading silently. Certain areas of the brain are activated in both, but reading aloud or listening to reading also engages parts of the brain responsible for listening and speaking. Reading aloud forces you to pay attention to the sound of words, how the sound



of one word fits with another. You're not just focusing on the meaning, which you would primarily do when reading silently. Many times it feels like the images that writers are trying to convey end up being more vivid after hearing it read aloud or reading it aloud yourself. Small wonder that for so many of us fantasy books are popular read-aloud choices, as are works from the days when almost all stories and poems, written were shared orally. When you read Shakespeare aloud you and your audience hear his words as he intended. "That's an important part of the experience."



2 Comfort In my mother's last months, she couldn't read much to herself without losing focus. But she enjoyed having family members read to her by the hour—and often seemed to forget her pain in the process. This let us simply relish each other's company for a change. Plus, it helped give her the illusion of leaving her bed for the wider world. One day when I was reading, doing my best to render the accents of the various characters, Mom chuckled and turned to my husband. "I love hearing her read," she told him. "She goes all over the world with her mouth."

3 Learning Silent reading is great, too, of course. It's enriched my

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I Saw a Child

BY JOHN ANTHONY DAVIES

I saw a child who couldn't walk, sit on a horse, laugh and talk, then ride it through a field of daisies and yet he could not walk unaided.

I saw a child no legs below, Sit on a horse, and make it go. Through wood of green and places he had never been. To sit and stare, except from a chair.

I saw a child who could only crawl, mount a horse and sit up tall; then put it through degrees of paces, and laugh at the wonder in our faces.

I saw a child born into strife, Take up and hold the reins of life and that same child was heard to say Thank God for showing me the way.



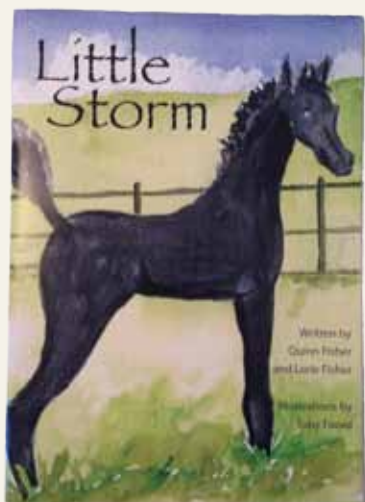
Looking for Threesies

Cross off every letter that appears in the grid THREE times. Then put the leftover letter in the blank spaces below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find something you would put on a pony to keep it warm. ■

D	W	S	D	I	B	Q
O	L	Z	Z	Q	Q	R
S	D	Z	A	I	G	R
N	O	I	W	R	G	G
V	O	C	S	K	W	F
H	C	H	V	M	V	E
C	H	T	M	M	F	F

ANSWER: Blanket

Answer:



Little Storm

The Arabian Horse Reading Literacy and Imagination Project is committed to helping children enhance their literary skills!

We have published our own Grade 2 level reader where a young boy deals with his Mom and Dad's divorce by spending time at Mr. Martin's farm. His life changes forever when he makes friends with a horse named Misty.

Download your epub copy today at <http://www.arabianhorsereading.com/books.html>. ■



Designed to bring families together and support each other in working with challenged reader(s) ... children or adults. This program is a series of four separate sessions, reading to the horses and participating in various activities. The participants can be 1 child and 1 adult or 2 adults (parents or guardians) and as many children as are within the family (maximum of 4 "kids"). Ideal for the challenged reader, autistic child or child with learning disabilities. Contact Gary Millar for more information (780) 499 9219 or email at gary.millar@arabianhorsereading.com



Wild Cards

Want to wow your friends? Tell them these fun horse facts.

Horses need only two to three hours' sleep a day — and they get most of that standing up. A horse locks a joint in their back leg, and that joint signals the muscles to relax but not collapse. Now the horse can snooze. Too bad humans can't do that while waiting in long lines!

Open your mouth and take a breath. Horses can't do that. They can breathe only through their noses. Flaps at the back of a horse's throat work like trap-doors, allowing only food and water into the stomach and air into the lungs. Having a stuffy nose must be a lot more stressful when you're a horse.

Horses like to stand head to tail and side by side. Why? A horse might answer, "You swish the flies from my face and I'll swish the flies from yours!" ■

WWW.ABCLIFELITERACY.CA

"15 mins of Fun" to Learn with your Family

ABC Life Literacy Canada encourages families to have "15 Minutes of Fun" learning together every day. Engaging in literacy activities as a family improves a child's skills and also helps adults keep their skills sharp. A few ideas to get your family started!

- 1. Lights out, talk on:** After your bedtime story, turn the lights off and talk about new endings to the story you just read together.
- 2. Surfing Snacks:** Go online together to find out how your favourite foods are made. Are they something you can make together at home?
- 3. Find A-B-C:** Have an alphabet scavenger hunt to look for things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. If you can't find some letters, go outside or try looking in books and magazines.
- 4. Travel the World:** Use your library card as your passport to check out books on different countries. Learn about their traditions and celebrations.

- 5. Float in a Boat:** Work together to fold a family fleet of origami boats.
- 6. Let's go Shopping:** Have kids write the family grocery list out themselves, then bring it to the store. Let them check each item off the list.
- 7. Number Walk:** As you put on your shoes, choose something you want to count during your walk. It could be dogs, trees, stop signs, cars—anything you want!
- 8. Word Wall:** Learn one new word every day. Display them by creating a family word wall with bristol board and markers. Can you make a sentence with the words on your wall?
- 9. How was your day today?** Exchange notes (or write a journal) with your child telling each other about the best part of your day.
- 10. A Course of Course:** Build an obstacle course through your family room, and draw a map

of how to go through it from beginning to end.

- 11. Sing chat:** Sing a conversation with your kids to the tune of your favourite song.
- 12. Snow You Tell Me:** Use emptied dish soap bottles filled with water and food colouring to write messages and draw in the snow.
- 13. Know it All:** Together, look online for the meaning of funny words like "collywobbles" and "onomatopoeia." Test your parents' word power!
- 14. Have a Book-nic:** Organize an indoor picnic with books and tasty treats. Choose a theme – try honey-flavoured cereal and read Winnie the Pooh.
- 15. Game On:** Start family board game night and play a different game each week. Family members can take turns reading instructions and game cards as well as keeping score. ■

To find the solution of these puzzles or to check out more exciting games and activities, check out the Arabian Horse Reading Project website at www.arabianhorsereading.com ■



Useful Links

ARABIAN HORSE ANGEL WINGS PROJECT To provide a safe & comfortable special place for 'kids' and their families to visit and



experience extraordinary, quality of life moments with live horses and animals in conjunction with their medical treatment, while facing chronic and life threatening issues.

www.arabianhorsereading.com ■

Discover
ARABIAN
horses.com



Read to Sox, an outstanding teacher!

arabianhorsereading.com

Photo by Robin Szala



DISCOVER ARABIAN HORSES.COM It is a private initiative to provide high impact and effective "outreach", attracting new people to become involved in the Arabian horse community, to take riding lessons and join clubs.

www.discoverarabianhorses.com ■



ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION (AHA) provides an association of like-minded Arabian horse enthusiasts and a focal point for your favorite recreational or competitive activities. AHA is the official breed association and registry in the USA with more than 40,000 members who own Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses. www.arabianhorses.org ■

[4 REASONS TO READ
CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE]

family's lives in countless ways. Even so, reading aloud can have an educational edge. If my kids had read the Harry Potter books on their own, who knows how long it would have taken them to realize that words like "jumper" and "trainers" mean something different in England—or to correctly pronounce words like "malady" and "exchequer"? More important, they might not have had thoughtful conversations with their parents on topics such as, "Why didn't Harry and his friends tell a grown-up, instead of fighting the Death Eaters by themselves again?"

4 Cuteness My kids will blush, but I can't resist mentioning that nothing's more adorable than your offspring reading to you while channeling the likes of Hagrid the half-giant. How could TV possibly compete? And speaking of TV... watching TV makes us tune each other out—but reading aloud does the opposite. And if it occasionally sparks fights about whether, say, Hermione in Harry Potter is as smart as Alex on Modern Family, well, some arguments are worth having.

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"I feel like sometimes the images that writers are trying to convey end up being more vivid after hearing it read aloud or reading it aloud yourself."

Melissa Balmain is a journalist, humorist, and editor whose work has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times, McSweeney's, and elsewhere. The author of Walking in on People, an award winning poetry collection, she teaches writing at the University of Rochester. For more of her work, please visit MelissaBalmain.com. ■

Party

Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Birthday Parties

Come enjoy your birthday party with your four-legged friends.

Treat your guests to a party that is unique.

For more information contact Gary Millar at gary.millar@arabianhorsereading.com or (780) 499-9219

Reading is incredible!

Reading is incredible. It sparks our imaginations, enhances our critical thinking skills, improves our vocabulary, exercises our brain, and much more. While our love for reading in general will never die, it does seem that, these days, its popularity has waned significantly.

Many kids today, and plenty of adults too, can't seem to wrap their heads around sitting and doing 'nothing' for any extended amount of time when they could instead experience new and intense sensory information every few seconds instead.

You'd be hard-pressed to find a child (or teen) that won't throw a fit the moment you take their cell phone or iPad away from them, and it's not illogical to wonder if children today are even using their brains; surely the constant TV watching and time spent on social media doesn't challenge their minds in the way that a book can.

Whether you're an adult or a child, reading is definitely a good idea; the key is to find something that interests you. The rest is easy. ■

For further information

The Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project is an innovative, experiential learning program—Equine Assisted Learning. This program is committed to motivating children to want to read, enhancing their literacy skills and developing their confidence in reading.

It is an amazing adventure for the children to enjoy the opportunity to read to the horses and experience the exhilaration and joy of spending time with these amazing non-judgmental teachers. *"It is important to teach children to read, but we haven't achieved anything if children know how to read ... but don't!"*

To register for a session or for more information about "The Kids are Reading to the Horses"

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www.arabianhorsereading.com

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WHO'S READING TO THE HORSES?

- pre-school 'kids'
- pre-school 'kids' - en français
- grade 1 and 2 'kids'
- grade 4 'kids'
- junior high 'kids'
- family therapy sessions for challenged reader(s)
- boys and girls clubs, i.e. cubs, beavers, brownies
- birthday party groups.