



Reading in the Wild: The Book Whisperer's Keys to Cultivating Lifelong Reading Habits

By Donalyn Miller

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In *Reading in the Wild*, reading expert Donalyn Miller continues the conversation that began in her bestselling book, *The Book Whisperer*. While *The Book Whisperer* revealed the secrets of getting students to love reading, *Reading in the Wild*, written with reading teacher Susan Kelley, describes how to truly instill lifelong "wild" reading habits in our students.

Based, in part, on survey responses from adult readers as well as students, *Reading in the Wild* offers solid advice and strategies on how to develop, encourage, and assess five key reading habits that cultivate a lifelong love of reading. Also included are strategies, lesson plans, management tools, and comprehensive lists of recommended books. Copublished with Editorial Projects in Education, publisher of *Education Week* and *Teacher* magazine, *Reading in the Wild* is packed with ideas for helping students build capacity for a lifetime of "wild" reading.

"When the thrill of choice reading starts to fade, it's time to grab *Reading in the Wild*. This treasure trove of resources and management techniques will enhance and improve existing classroom systems and structures."

—**Cris Tovani**, secondary teacher, Cherry Creek School District, Colorado, consultant, and author of *Do I Really Have to Teach Reading?*

"With *Reading in the Wild*, Donalyn Miller gives educators another important book. She reminds us that creating lifelong readers goes far beyond the first step of putting good books into kids' hands."

—**Franki Sibberson**, third-grade teacher, Dublin City Schools, Dublin, Ohio, and author of *Beyond Leveled Books*

"*Reading in the Wild*, along with the now legendary *The Book Whisperer*, constitutes the complete guide to creating a stimulating literature program that also gets students excited about pleasure reading, the kind of reading that best prepares students for understanding demanding academic texts. In other words, Donalyn Miller has solved one of the central problems in language education."

—**Stephen Krashen**, professor emeritus, University of Southern California

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Eight Ways for Parents and Teachers to Foster Wild & Lifelong Reading Habits

by Donalyn Miller

1. Model daily reading habits. As literacy expert Stephen Krashen reminds us, “Children read more when they see other people reading.” Talk with children about what you are reading and why you find reading personally interesting and meaningful.

2. Set aside time for daily reading. If we value reading, we must make time for it. Children who read at least 20 minutes a day score in the top range on reading tests and express more motivation and interest in reading. Even short blocks of time every day are better than bursts of reading on an occasional basis.

3. Carry a book with you everywhere. When packing for trips or running errands, throw books and magazines into the suitcase or back seat. Carrying something to read helps ward off “reading emergencies”—those times when you are stuck waiting without anything to do. The number one way adult readers rack up reading time is stealing short reading breaks in between other obligations. Carrying a book with you shows children how to steal this reading time.

4. Provide a wide variety of reading material. Fiction and nonfiction, print and online magazines, graphic novels and comics—children need access to lots of texts that match their interests and reading ability. You never know what book or topic might engage a child with reading.

5. Read aloud with children. Sharing books with children—even teenagers—reinforces that reading is important and something you find personally rewarding. Through reading aloud, you send pleasure messages about reading and can share books with children that they might not be able to read on their own. With older children, reading together can provide a launching point for discussions and help you connect on a regular basis. Burdened with homework and after school activities, many teens stop reading for pleasure. Reading together can keep them invested.

6. Visit the library often. Beyond free access to thousands of books, libraries offer qualified librarians and staff who can help match reading material to your child’s interest and locate online and print resources to support children’s needs. Most libraries host reading events and programs like summer reading clubs, too.

7. Celebrate all reading. Children read more when they are given choices in what they read. When reading for pleasure, children should control their own book selection with your personal limits on content and topics the only restrictions. Do not push children to read harder books, abandon picture books and comics, or limit their choices by reading levels when selecting pleasure reading books at the library or bookstore.

8. Limit screen time. The more time children spend using electronic devices and watching television, the

less they read. While children need digital literacy skills, reading websites and surfing online don't provide the same vocabulary development or reading stamina that reading books and magazines do. If children read e-books on electronic devices, shut off Internet access and limit other features during daily reading time.

Review

"...extended information here that applies to today's Common Core Standards-based classroom environment,...this work is jam-packed with highly useful information that is adaptable for various grade levels and teaching styles....essential for the practitioner or preparing practitioner looking for verified approaches to reading that will engage all students."—*Library Journal*, December 2013

From the Back Cover

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Lois Silvey:

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Jacob Keys:

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