

The AITC Literacy Project



Volunteer Tips

Tips for Reading Aloud to Children

Below are tips to help you have a fun and successful experience.

We hope they help, and THANK YOU for taking time to volunteer with Agriculture in the Classroom's Literacy Project.

Volunteers Make Things Happen!

Spring 2008 was the first time the AITC Literacy Project was held. Over 130 volunteers read to an astounding 7,300 students around the state.

Thank you for joining us this spring in nurturing Oregon students literacy and understanding of agriculture. It is because of volunteers like **you** that we can make this event possible.

AITC in a Nutshell

Simply put, AITC is a non-profit educational organization working to teach Oregon students about agriculture, the source of our food and fiber, and its impact on our economy, natural resources and daily lives.

Reuse the Bags!

If possible, please collect the small bags from the students after they make their bracelets. Return them to us with your paperwork and we'll reuse them!



Tip 1: Practice.

Prepare by reading the book both silently and aloud to yourself before you get to your reading session.

Tip 2: Location, location, location.

Make sure the children are in the best place to see and hear the book so they will be good listeners (most classes have a carpeted area where students can sit and listen.)

Tip 3: Introduce the book.

Read the title, tell who the author and the illustrator are. This is a book about Oregon by an Oregon author. Show excitement.

Tip 4: Tell students the reason this book was selected for the literacy project.

It is a great way to celebrate Oregon's 150th year of statehood, its about Oregon, the people who settled in the state and agriculture.

Tip 5: Invite students to listen while you read.

Tip 6: Move the book around as you read.

Either while reading or after reading each page, move the book so that each student can see the great illustrations.

Tip 7: Create a mood.

Modulate your voice to reflect emotions in the story and emphasize key points.

Tip 8: Pay very close attention to the children.

Pacing is critical. Move along fast enough to maintain their interest and attention until the end, but slow enough for all students to thoroughly enjoy the story. Ideally you will have time at the end to discuss the story, reflect on what was learned, talk about key points and still have time to tell them how very much you enjoyed reading this book to them.

Tip 9: Reflection on the story is key to making the story an instructional activity.

Sometime when the story is over, the student are finished too. So, if you do discuss, share or reflect on the book keep it short and to the point. End while the students are still engaged with you.

Tip 9: Have Fun!

Enjoy this wonderful experience of reading aloud to children.