

We Both Read[®]

Accelerating Your Child's

Progress in Reading

by Reading Together



Why Read Together?

- 1. Transition to independent reading.**
Reading with your child provides an excellent transition to independent reading.
- 2. Enjoyable experience, fostering a love of reading.**
Reading with your child can provide an enjoyable, bonding experience, helping to foster a love of reading. Many children do not view reading as enjoyable; in fact, some find it unpleasant and frustrating. Others feel fearful or insecure about reading. You can change that and create a reading experience that is enjoyable and fun for your child.
- 3. Opportunity for practice and supportive feedback.**
Reading with your child provides an opportunity for your child to practice and for you to provide helpful, supportive feedback.
- 4. Gives child a break and keeps the reading flowing and fun.**
When it's your turn to read, it gives your child a break and keeps the reading flowing and fun. Your child will appreciate not having to do all the reading. When you read, your child can relax and enjoy the story—and since you are reading and helping your child, you will probably be able to read books that are more interesting to your child than the books she can read alone. Plus, hearing you read and talk about the text can be just as valuable as reading herself.
- 5. Accelerates development of vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency.**
As you read together, you will accelerate your child's development in three key areas of reading: vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency.
 - **Vocabulary:** You have the opportunity to talk about new vocabulary words that you or your child reads.
 - **Comprehension:** When you read, you have the opportunity to help your child better comprehend the story or nonfiction material. This increase in comprehension helps your child, as he reads, to connect better with the meaning of what is being read.
 - **Fluency:** As you model reading fluently and with expression, your child will become a more fluent and expressive reader.

The bottom line: Reading together will help your child to read sooner and better—and help develop a love of reading.

While You Are Reading Together

While You Are Reading

1. Read with expression—make the story come alive. Your reading should sound like you are talking or having a conversation about something quite interesting or exciting. Make sure your voice conveys the meaning and important points of emphasis in each sentence.
2. Try using different voices for different characters.
3. Point out rhyming words.
4. Stop and discuss new vocabulary words.
5. Talk about how you might understand a new word from looking at the surrounding context or from a picture on the page.
6. Talk about what is happening in the story and ask what might happen next.
7. Ask open-ended questions about the story and questions that do not have a right or wrong answer. For example, ask "Why do you think Jane wants to go to the zoo?" instead of "Where is Jane going?"
8. Decide how much to read and when to invite your child to begin reading.



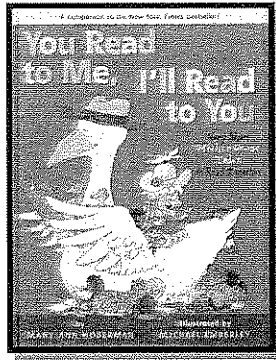
While Your Child Is Reading

1. Encourage your child to mimic the way you read to gain fluency.
2. Help your child use context and pictures to figure out unknown words.
3. If your child might be able to sound out a word or starts to sound one out, give some encouragement. Remember that not all words can be sounded out.
4. If your child struggles with a word for five seconds, provide the word.
5. Suggest rereading a difficult sentence.
6. See if it is helpful for your child to run her finger under the words as she reads.
7. Encourage your child to ask you about anything he doesn't understand.
8. If it sounds like your child does not understand what she is reading, stop and discuss it, and ask her to read it again. Reading is not just sounding out words. Readers must understand the meaning of what they are reading. Good readers can stop and self-correct.
9. Praise your child's efforts. Praise often.
10. Keep the reading fun. Some struggle is good. Too much frustration is not good.
11. Know when to take over reading or to end the session. If you see signs of stress, such as yawning or excessive fidgeting, invite your child to listen while you read. You may want to use easier books for a while.



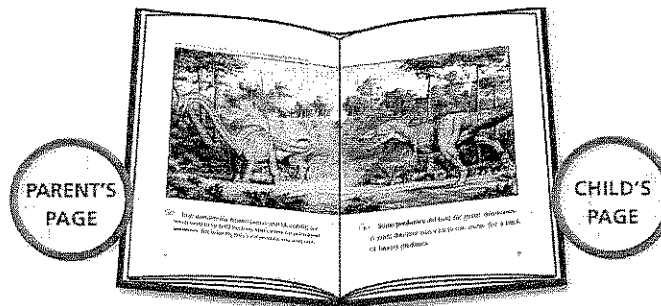
Series Designed for Shared Reading

You Read to Me, I'll Read to You By Mary Ann Hoberman



Text in these books is the same level for both readers.

We Both Read Published by Treasure Bay

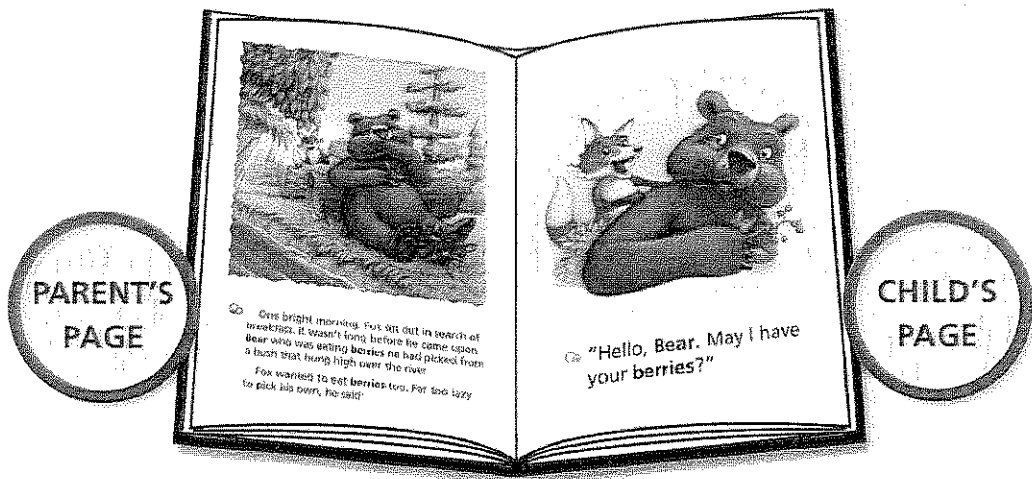


The reading level changes for your child's text.

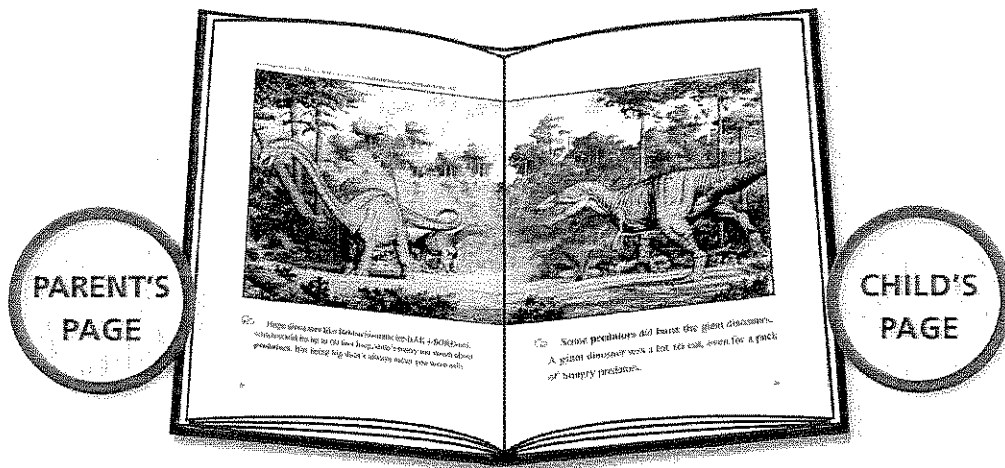
Let's take a closer look.

We Both Read Books

We Both Read is a series of books for shared reading, with parent and child taking turns reading pages. The parent reads the left-hand pages, and the child reads the right-hand pages. In this series, the text for the child's pages is all leveled at a specific reading level. There are six different reading levels in the series, going from prereaders to fairly advanced readers.



The page spread above is from a Level 1 book, *Fox's Best Trick Ever*. Notice that two challenging words, *berries* and *bear*, are introduced in bold on the parent's page and then appear on the child's page.

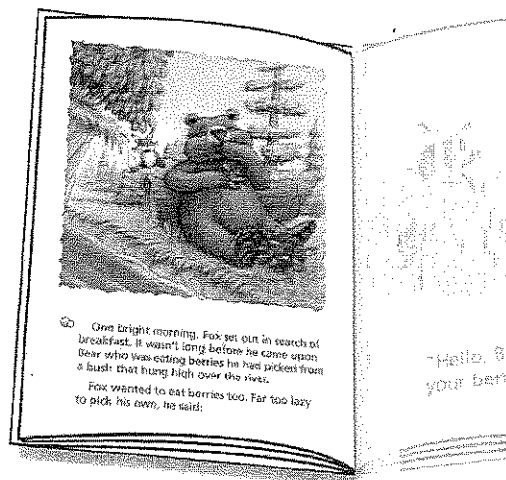


This spread is from a Level 1-2 nonfiction book, *About Dinosaurs*. Notice how the text on the child's page in this book is more complex or challenging than the text for the Level 1 book above. The words in this book are smaller and there are more words on the page.

How It Works

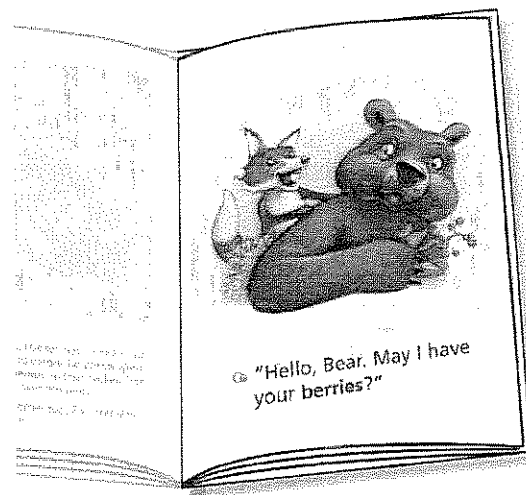
Parent's pages:

1. **Introduce new vocabulary.** Occasionally there is a word in **bold** that appears on both the parent's and the child's pages. This is usually a more difficult word that is being previewed on the parent's page. You might want to point out this word as you read it.
2. **Have more complex text and storyline.**
3. **Provide opportunities to discuss stories.** You can stop anywhere and ask your child open-ended questions about what you are reading.



Child's pages:

1. **Enlarged print.**
2. **Simplified storyline.**
3. **Leveled to correlate with varying skill levels.**
4. **Reinforce new words from parent's pages.** Here the words *bear* and *berries* are in bold. These words were introduced in bold on the prior page that the parent reads.
5. **Shorter sentences.** The child's pages have manageable chunks for new readers. This is important because many children are struggling with their reading. By breaking their reading into shorter chunks, they can sustain a reading session for a longer time and still find it fun and enjoyable.
6. **The child's pages continue the storyline.** Your child is not repeating what you read in simpler language. He is always adding new information or continuing the story. Since the story will not be able to continue without his contribution, your child can feel that what he is reading is really important.



Benefits of Two Reading Levels

All the books in this series feature two reading levels. The most important is the level of the child's pages. The level marked on the front of the book reflects the child's reading level.

- Books can be matched to your child's reading ability:
 - Allowing your child to practice at his level
 - Allowing your child to build confidence
- The higher level of the parent's text offers:
 - A more interesting book than the child could read on his own. This is particularly important for struggling readers, who may not want to read because they are often asked to read what they consider to be "baby books." With *We Both Read*, even though they may be reading on a lower level, they are participating in successfully reading what they might call a "hard book"—and one with a topic that they are more interested in.
 - The opportunity to introduce new vocabulary—particularly words that appear in **bold** type.
 - The opportunity to model the fluent and expressive reading of higher level text.

Although your child will be reading at his skill level, he will be excited and proud to share the reading of a more advanced book.

Many parents get just as frustrated during reading time as their child. Perhaps the biggest benefit of the *We Both Read* books is that both parents and children find that reading time is a lot more fun. And the more fun it is for both of you, the more time you will want to spend doing it—and the faster your child will progress in her reading.