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**Encouraging a love of Language and Literacy: "Read Aloud Fridays"
with struggling adolescent readers**

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According to Allington & Gabriel (2012), students should experience being read to by a fluent adult. Despite the benefits of reading aloud, including enhanced background knowledge, vocabulary development, comprehension, few teachers read aloud regularly beyond first grade. This project documents what happened when students in grades 7 and 8 who are struggling readers participate in "Read Aloud Fridays" during a span of five months. Students listened to and viewed a wide range of genres, authors and illustrators in picture book format with the goal of engaging in a pleasurable and enriching experience. Data sources included pre and post reading inventories assessing student motivation, reading tastes and interests, teacher notes, focus group interviews, student reading logs, and blog conversations. A thick description of the project will be provided so that this project might be replicated in other classrooms, as applicable. The discussion of the findings will include the strengths and challenges and will highlight the journey of two selected students in our quest to encourage a love of literacy and language.

Allington, R.L. & Gabriel, R.E. (2012). Every child every day.
EdLdshp.