Read Together

The Family Read-Aloud Journal - Sample Pages

Free sample - three real pages from the journal: How to Use This Journal - The Read Together Method (p.3), the Book Opener & Chapter Map (book-set p.1) and Tonight We Read - Session Log A (book-set p.2). Print at 100% on US Letter or A4.

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How to Use This Journal - The Read Together Method

Journal p.3. Five moves, the same every night, for as many years as the chapter books last. The grown-up who reads keeps this journal; the listeners own it.

1. Choose together.

Every book is picked by the whole table, through the Next-Book Ballot (p.38): nominations, campaign speeches, a secret ballot. The losing books are not rejected; they go on the Someday Shelf (p.8) and wait their turn. The reader holds a casting vote and uses it only on a tie.

2. A chapter a night.

Most nights, one chapter: a beginning, a middle, and a place to stop that won't cost anybody their sleep. The exception is written into law: the Cliffhanger Clause. A chapter that ends on a true cliffhanger earns exactly one more chapter. 'True' is judged by the listeners, loudly.

3. Predict before bed.

Before the book goes back on the shelf, everyone predicts what happens next - in ink, dated, in the Predictions page. Tomorrow's chapter grades every prediction: Nailed it. Nearly. Gloriously wrong. Predictions are scored with delight and never with mockery, because a reader who is afraid of being wrong stops predicting, and predictions are half the fun.

4. Do the voices.

Every character gets a voice, and the voice is kept. It does not have to be good. It has to be consistent - the captain in chapter nineteen sounds like the captain in chapter two - and the listeners will police this more strictly than any editor. The Voices Log (set p.5) exists so you don't have to rely on memory.

5. Finish, and commemorate.

When a book ends, it ends properly: the Last Page page (set p.7) is filled in while the ending is still warm, the book takes its one line on the Family Reading Shelf (pp.6-7), and the Family Reading Milestones (p.9) are checked for anything the book just earned. Then the ballot opens again.

A session page takes about ninety seconds after the chapter - one line per field is a complete entry, and the grown-up's handwriting getting sleepier down the page is part of the record. Missed nights are just missed nights: there are no streaks, no totals and nothing to catch up on. The journal waits on the shelf until the next chapter.

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Book Opener & Chapter Map

Book-set p.1 - one for every book you read together. The set pages reprint freely: print a fresh set for each new book (and, if you keep one journal per child, for each child).

Book:

Author:

Book # in our series read-through, or one-and-only:

Chosen by:

How it won: [ ] Ballot winner [ ] Reader's choice [ ] A gift [ ] A listener's campaign [ ] Found on the Someday She

Why we picked it (in the words of whoever chose it):

Chapters: _____ Pages: _____

Our copy: [ ] Hardback [ ] Paperback [ ] Library book [ ] E-reader, read aloud

The listeners for this one:

Our reading spot:

Started (date):

Before we start - what we think this book is about (cover and back cover only, no peeking):

THE CHAPTER MAP - tick each chapter off as you read it:

Ch.	Chapter title	Date read	Reader	Done
1				
2				
3				
4				

5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				

More than 24 chapters? Print the map again and keep going - the map serves the book, not the other way round. Reading a chapter book with unnumbered chapters? Number them yourselves, in pencil, together: that is allowed. It is your shelf.

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Tonight We Read - Session Log A (Sessions 1-6)

Book-set p.2. One block per night; Session Log B (set p.3) holds sessions 7-12. Ninety seconds, after the chapter, while the listeners are still arguing about it.

Session 1

Date: **Chapters read: _____ to _____** **Who was there:**

Best line read aloud tonight (copy it exactly - it will be somebody's favourite sentence for years):

The big moment: [ ] The laugh [ ] The gasp [ ] The groan [ ] The tear [ ] The argument - what happened:

Where we stopped (the exact place - page, chapter, the state of play):

Fell asleep first (recorded with love):

Session 2

Date: **Chapters read: _____ to _____** **Who was there:**

Best line read aloud tonight (copy it exactly - it will be somebody's favourite sentence for years):

The big moment: [ ] The laugh [ ] The gasp [ ] The groan [ ] The tear [ ] The argument - what happened:

Where we stopped (the exact place - page, chapter, the state of play):

Fell asleep first (recorded with love):

Session 3

Date: **Chapters read: _____ to _____** **Who was there:**

Best line read aloud tonight (copy it exactly - it will be somebody's favourite sentence for years):

The big moment: [ ] The laugh [ ] The gasp [ ] The groan [ ] The tear [ ] The argument - what happened:

Where we stopped (the exact place - page, chapter, the state of play):

Fell asleep first (recorded with love):

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Session 4

Date: **Chapters read: _____ to _____** **Who was there:**

Best line read aloud tonight (copy it exactly - it will be somebody's favourite sentence for years):

The big moment: [ ] The laugh [ ] The gasp [ ] The groan [ ] The tear [ ] The argument - what happened:

Where we stopped (the exact place - page, chapter, the state of play):

Fell asleep first (recorded with love):

Session 5

Date: **Chapters read: _____ to _____** **Who was there:**

Best line read aloud tonight (copy it exactly - it will be somebody's favourite sentence for years):

The big moment: [ ] The laugh [ ] The gasp [ ] The groan [ ] The tear [ ] The argument - what happened:

Where we stopped (the exact place - page, chapter, the state of play):

Fell asleep first (recorded with love):

Session 6

Date: **Chapters read: _____ to _____** **Who was there:**

Best line read aloud tonight (copy it exactly - it will be somebody's favourite sentence for years):

The big moment: [ ] The laugh [ ] The gasp [ ] The groan [ ] The tear [ ] The argument - what happened:

Where we stopped (the exact place - page, chapter, the state of play):

Fell asleep first (recorded with love):

A session with nothing in the 'big moment' line is not a failed session. Some chapters are roads, not destinations. Write the road.

This free sample holds three real pages of Read Together - The Family Read-Aloud Journal (44 pages: the

front matter and dashboard, the Family Reading Shelf, the Someday Shelf and Family Reading Milestones; four complete seven-page book sets - the Book Opener & Chapter Map, Tonight We Read session logs A and B, Predictions, The Voices Log, Questions They Asked & The Hard Parts, and The Last Page finale; and the closing pages - the Next-Book Ballot with its campaign speeches, Series We Read Together, A Year of Reading Together, the Read Together Awards, Notes, and The Letter - To Be Read When You're Grown - US Letter, A4 and tablet editions). One deliberate difference from every other Pagelyra journal: this one is shared - kept by the grown-up who reads, owned by everyone who listens. Full journal at pagelyra.vercel.app