

The

READ TO ME

Planet

Sharing the love and joy of reading aloud



A Read To Me International Publication

Winter 2005

TALK STORY

By Liane Akana

Our Talk Story column is one that is dear to my heart. I have had the pleasure of writing about some amazing reading stories since we launched this column three years ago. It has always been that each story magically appeared when it was time to start thinking about our next newsletter issue. So while it was no surprise that the story for this issue magically appeared, I was totally surprised to find it so close to home.

Only a few of my closest friends know that I secretly harbor a fantasy of one day becoming an author. So you can imagine my delight last spring when I received an invitation from my youngest son Aaron to attend an author's event at his kindergarten classroom at Ma`ema`e Elementary School. Aaron is my little live-wire who came into the world with his eyes wide open, ready to take on the world. Needless to say, he keeps me on my toes and is the reason I can relate so well to parents with youngsters who can't seem to sit through a book.



Even though I promised myself I would never be one of those parents who lived out their fantasies through their children, there I was bursting with pride as my baby took his turn in the front of the class, describing the book he wrote and illustrated under the careful tutelage of his teacher Suzanne Brauer and her then student teacher Erin Maeshiro.

Aaron proudly read aloud his story *The Petite Turtle*, about a clever turtle who outsmarted a mean shark by swimming into a small hole in the rocks. The story was certainly one of the shortest I've enjoyed, but it had the striking simplicity and directness that only a child can create. The hard-bound book was beautifully illustrated using several stunning collages—Move over Eric Carle! I must admit though, the best part of the experience was turning the last page of the book and finding my son's dedication to his mom and dad. It was as sweet an ending to a story as a mother could ever ask for!





President's Message



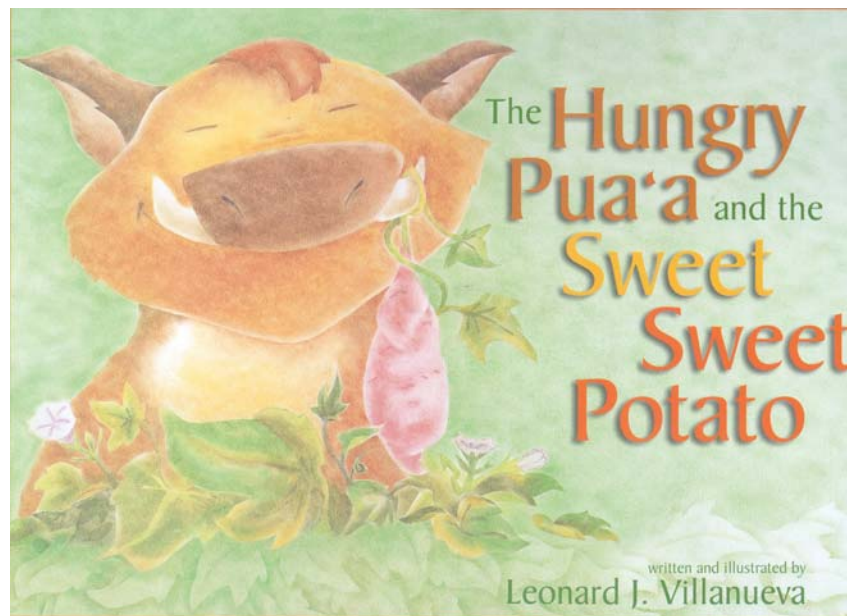
The year 2005 is now just a memory, complete with all its end-of-the-year holidays. On Christmas morning, in an effort to please my mom, I baked a couple of Okinawan sweet potatoes, only to forget that I had left them in the toaster oven, leaving them unfit for consumption.

As I put the sweet potatoes into the toaster oven, I couldn't help but think of a delightful, recently-published sweet-potato story written and illustrated by school teacher Leonard J. Villanueva. *The Hungry Pua`a and the Sweet Potato*, a "simply sweet tale," is a story about the importance of friendship and sharing. You can't help but be drawn into the story as the pua`a (pig) shows off his delicious sweet potato with no intention of sharing them with his friends. As in all good stories, he learns a lesson; in this case, that part of being a good friend is sharing.

There are many lessons for our children to learn. What better way to teach them than through books and reading, and what better way for us to bond with our children than through the gift of reading.

Happy reading in 2006!

Lynne Waihee



Author Leonard Villanueva is a fifth grade teacher at Honowai Elementary School. The winner of a \$25,000 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award for his innovative approach and ability to inspire, Villanueva and fellow teachers, led by the National Distinguished Principal Curtis Young, have seen test scores rise dramatically in their largely low-income student population. For additional information about the dramatic rise in test scores, log on to <http://starbulletin.com/2003/12/28/news/story2.html>.



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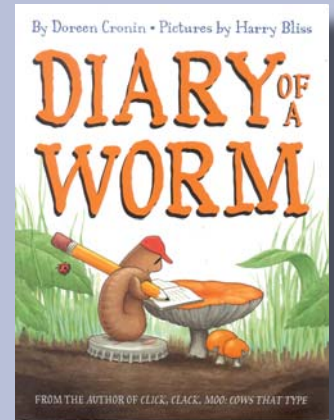
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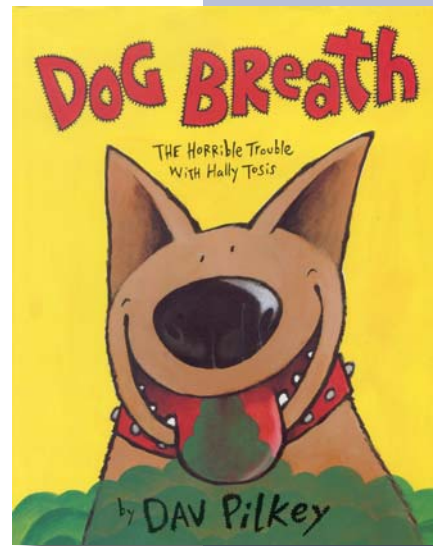
Kevin Kam is a fifth grader at Ma`ema`e Elementary School. Here are his recommendations for the younger set.

Cronin, Doreen. *Diary of a Worm*. USA: Joanna Cotler Books, 2003. In this humorous journal, readers are treated to the diary entries of a worm. On different days the worm engages in such activities as teaching spider how to dig, wearing shades as a bodyguard to the President, and eating his homework. Why does he enjoy the book? "The worm reminds me of my younger brother," explains Kevin.

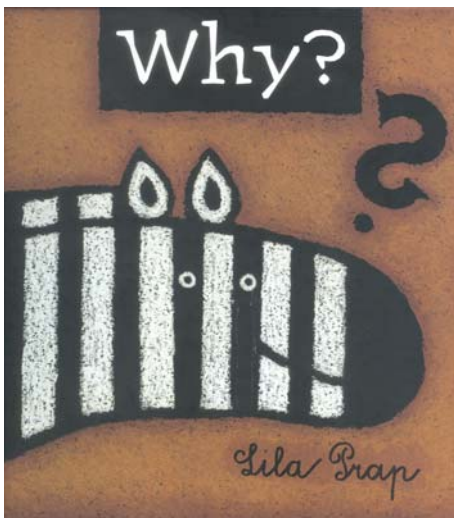


Hess, Karen. *The Cats in Karsinski Square*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2004. Set in Poland in World War II, a young girl, together with her sister Mira and their friends, risk their lives to get food for those trapped behind Warsaw's Ghetto walls. Children will enjoy the triumph of the human spirit as the cats create a frenzy, thwarting the Gestapo's plan to capture the smugglers. "This book shows you how cats were used to smuggle the food in to those on the other side of the Wall," says Kevin.

Pilkey, Dav. *Dog Breath*. New York: Blue Sky Press, 1994. This zany story brings funny to another level. Dog—Hally Tosis—has such a bad case of halitosis (bad breath) that eventually even his owners know they must do something about their smelly dog. Although their plans fail, Hally eventually ends up a hero. "It's funny how the burglars came in and Hally used his breath to knock them out cold!" laughs Kevin. Readers will chuckle at the clever word plays by Pilkey.



Plourde, Lynn. *Teacher Appreciation Day*. New York: Puffin Books, 2003. During Teacher Appreciation Day, all the students act in predictable ways to show their appreciation for Mrs. Shepherd—all except for Marbella Wishywashy, who can't decide anything. When Channel 5 comes to cover a story about the day, however, only Marbella can express what she appreciates about Mrs. Shepherd: "Everything." "Everyone has a hard time figuring out what to buy for their teacher," says Kevin. "This book helps you understand what appreciation really means."



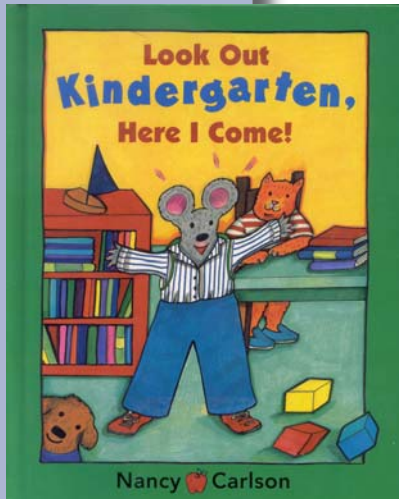
Prap, Lila. *Why?* La Jolla, CA: Kane/Miller, 2005. This book shares little-known facts about a variety of animals. "I enjoyed how the book asked out-of-the-world questions about animals and answered them." explains Kevin. Silly reasons are offered, and the real answers are interestingly written.

Waddell, Martin. *Farmer Duck*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press, 1991. In this story, Duck does all the work while the farmer lazes around the house, until Duck's friends—the cow, the sheep, and the hens—come to the rescue. "One person shouldn't be doing all the work," insists Kevin, who loves the illustrations by Helen Oxenbury.

Dollywood Foundation

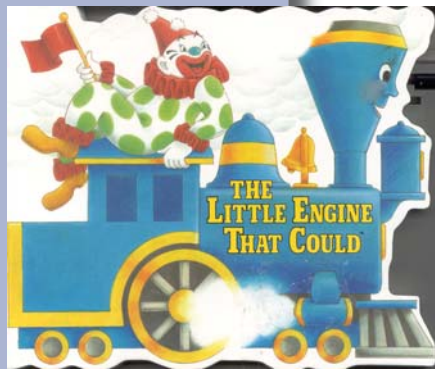


IMAGINATION LIBRARY



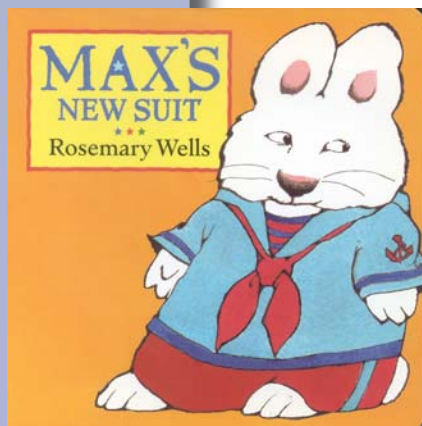
The University of Hawai'i Center on the Family and the Hawai'i State Department of Human Services recently launched the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Hawai'i. The Imagination Library provides free, high quality, age-appropriate books every month to registered children, ages birth through four, who live in Imagination Library-designated communities. This project is made possible through a collaborative partnership among the Dollywood Foundation, the Hawai'i Department of Human Services, the University of Hawai'i Center on the Family, and participating public elementary schools in the designated areas.

The Imagination Library is available to children living in any of the following communities: Kalihi on O'ahu; Ka'u, Kea'au, Pahoa, Keonepoko, Mountain View, and Na'alehu on the Big Island; and Maui County, including Moloka'i and Lanai. Parents or caregivers may register a child living in one of these designated areas by filling an application at the office of the public elementary school nearest to where the child lives. Books will begin arriving at the child's address via the U.S. Postal Service approximately eight to ten weeks after a registration form has been submitted.



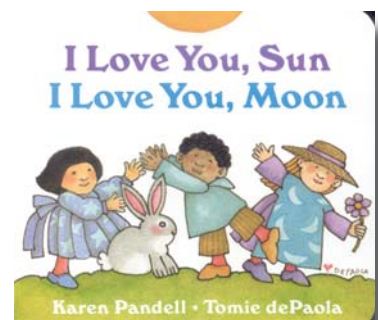
Why should families register their young children in the Imagination Library?

- Research shows that children are born learning, and optimal development is fostered when adults provide opportunities for learning during the early years from birth to age five.
- Reading aloud to children is one of the most effective ways parents or other adult family members can contribute to their children's future success in school and life.
- Being read to by the people they love the most promotes attachment and creates a positive bond between children and adults.
- Reading aloud with children increases their vocabulary, their language skills, and their knowledge about the world.
- Having books readily available in the home provides parents the opportunity to read more often to their children and promotes a love of reading.



For more information about the Imagination Library in Hawai'i, contact any public elementary school in the designated areas, check the University of Hawai'i Center on the Family's website

(<http://www.uhfamily.hawaii.edu>), or call (808) 956-4133 or (808) 956-6117.



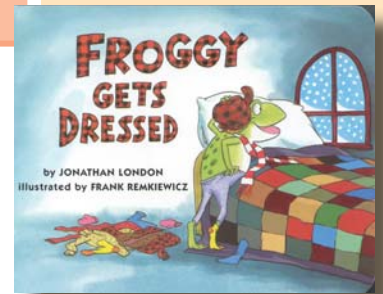


Imagination Library

REGISTRATION SITES

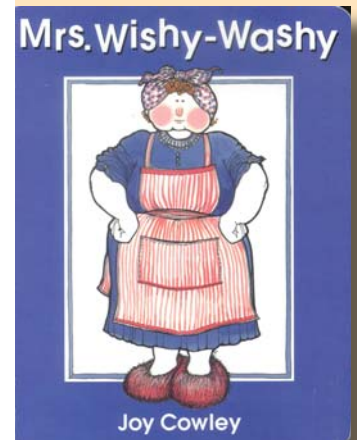
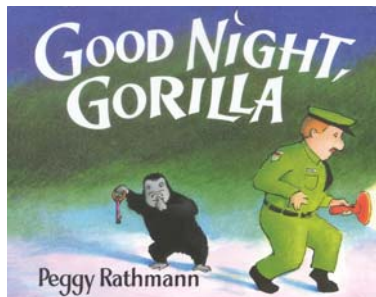
O'ahu

- Fern Elementary
- Ka'ewai Elementary
- Kalihi Elementary
- Kalihi Kai Elementary
- Kalihi Uka Elementary
- Kalihi Waena Elementary
- Kapalama Elementary
- Linapuni Elementary
- Pu'uuhale Elementary



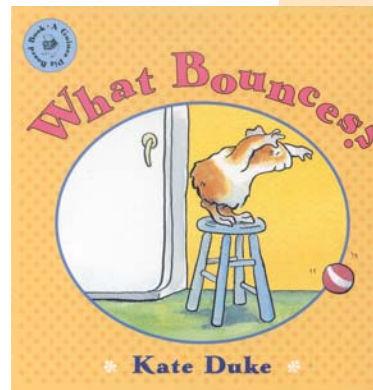
Big Island

- Ka'u High & Pahala Elementary
- Kea'au Elementary
- Keonepoko Elementary
- Mt. View Elementary
- Na'alehu Elementary & Intermediate
- Pahoa Elementary



Maui

- Ha'iku Elementary
- Hana Elementary
- Kahului Elementary
- Kamali'i Elementary
- Kamehameha III Elementary
- Kihei Elementary
- Kula Elementary
- Lihikai Elementary
- Makawao Elementary
- Pa'ia Elementary
- Princess Nahienaena Elementary
- Pukalani Elementary
- Waihe'e Elementary
- Wailuku Elementary

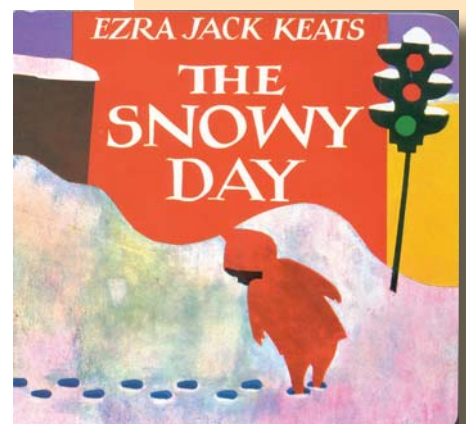
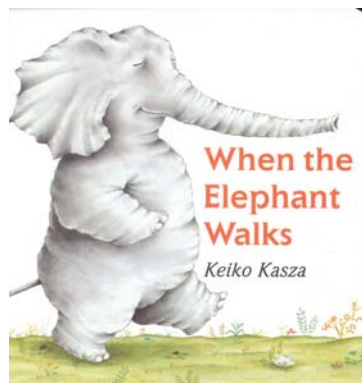


Lana'i

- Lana'i High & Elementary

Moloka'i

- Kaunakakai Elementary
- Kilohana Elementary
- Kualapu'u Elementary
- Maunaloa Elementary



Read To Me Hawaii Island



Mahalo to our funders and sponsors in 2005!

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System,
Sukamto Foundation

By Lynne Waihee

Imagine having the luxury of reading aloud to children from kindergarten to grade three at four schools. Recently, I had that enviable task, traveling with Big Island RTM coordinator Evelyn Togashi and retired principal Karen Mitsuyoshi.

Stops included Kapiolani Elementary School, where principal Lucia Stewart greeted us; Keonepoko Elementary School, where Crystal Hernandez welcomed us; Kalaniana'ole School, where principal Joyce Iwashita shared their books-of-the-month for their America's Choice program (That month featured Bernard Waber's book, *Courage*); and Laupahoehoe High & Elementary School, where curriculum coordinator Carol Dodson introduced us.

But the highlight was the reading of the book *Auntie*, written by Stephany Indie. While Karen Mitsuyoshi read the story as only a master storyteller can, KTA Super Stores vice-president Derek Kurisu acted out the part of Auntie as only he can—complete with his trademark zaniness and exuberance. He made me realize that one can turn a book into something extraordinary. It's all in the delivery!

Children were charmed as he took two pieces of rectangular fabric and fashioned it into a mu'umu'u, then redesigned it into a blouse. They giggled as he pretended to cut the fabric to make a hat band for his lauhala hat. Finally, they chuckled as he showed off his earrings made from the hat band. As he refashioned each item, he shouted, "Ayyh! It's faded!" much to the delight of his audience.

Our final stop was a visit to Five Mountains, a nonprofit organization in Waimea which seeks to build a healthy island community, and which includes our Books for Babies packet with their basket of Snugli baby carriers and other items for newborns at the North Kohala Community Hospital. Good Beginnings coordinator Angela Thomas and executive director Patrick Linton are providing innovative services to support their community's children and families, and Read To Me is proud to be part of their program.

Lessons learned? Think creatively. Learn from others. Work together.

Thanks and kudos go to the Big Island Read To Me Advisory Committee for insuring that reading aloud to children is a priority on the island of Hawaii.





Cooking Corner

MMM...MORE NURSERY RHYME SNACKS

By Pat Mizuno

We heard from so many of you that you enjoyed the nursery-rhyme recipes in a previous issue that we decided to dig a little deeper into our recipe files. We love the idea of following a good read-aloud with a craft or recipe. We think you will agree that having young children help in the kitchen can be a rewarding experience that teaches them skills they will use when they are older. Get reading and then get baking!

THE MUFFIN MAN'S AS-YOU-LIKE-IT MUFFINS

1 box muffin mix

Assorted fruits (blueberries, sliced bananas or strawberries, raisins)

Prepare batter for the muffins according to package directions. Divide batter in muffin pans according to size indicated on package. Let children add a few pieces of fruit to the muffins and bake according to directions on muffin package.

Pat-A-Cake Cookies

Refrigerated cookie dough

Canned cake frosting

Cake or cookie decorations

Give each child a piece of refrigerated cookie dough. Have them roll the dough in a ball and flatten it. Place on a cookie sheet and bake cookies according to package directions. Let children decorate the cookies with frosting and sprinkles as desired.

Little Tommy Tucker Bread and Butter Sticks

Hot dog buns

Melted butter

Cut each hot dog bun into 4 lengthwise strips. Brush all sides with melted butter. Place on baking sheet and bake at 200 degrees for 20 to 40 minutes until light brown and crisp. Cool and store in an airtight container. May be reheated before serving.

Hot Cross Buns

2 cups Bisquick

2 Tbs. sugar

¼ tsp. cinnamon

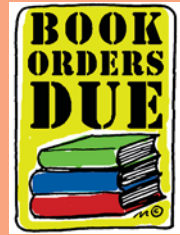
¼ cup raisins

½ cup milk

1 egg

Tube of white frosting

Mix together Bisquick, sugar, cinnamon and raisins. Add milk and egg; mix well. Spoon batter into greased muffin cups, filling until about ½ full. Bake at 400 degrees for about 15 minutes. Use white frosting to make an X on the top of the buns.



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AND
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To Me!

By visiting the Read To Me website, www.read-to-meintl.org and purchasing books through the amazon.com link, you can get great discounts on books and help Read To Me International raise funds for its projects.

For every book purchased through the Read To Me website, amazon.com will donate 5-10% of the purchase price to Read To Me International.

The site offers book lists and reviews for all types of children's literature and parenting resources.

Check it out!





A Special Mahalo

IT'S A WRAP AT BARNES & NOBLE

By Pat Mizuno



During the month of December, through the generosity of Barnes & Noble, Read To Me International wrapped gifts at the Barnes & Noble store in the Ala Moana Shopping Center in exchange for donations from store patrons. Special thanks go to Store Manager Haunani Viola and Community Relations Manager Alison Anteau, as well as to the volunteers who cheerfully manned the gift-wrapping table for three weekends in December.

Gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble turned out to be an enlightening experience for both the Read To Me volunteers and the patrons as they traded stories and book titles and left the store with book purchases they had recommended to one another. All gained a new awareness of books they may never have explored if not for the fascinating book-talk exchanges.

Much appreciation goes to the cheerful staff of the Ala Moana Barnes & Noble and its generous patrons for a profitable gift-wrapping experience. We look forward to wrapping more gifts and learning about exciting new titles in 2006.



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