You have 20 minutes to check-in, sign-out, and inspire reading...GO!

There is a schedule, a lesson plan, and classes to teach, but when possible, maybe you can share a great story in as little as 4-7 minutes. Use new and old, recent and classic titles to ignite young minds to read more after the story is over. Guide them to look deeper into the story to find relevance to current events, annual topics, and classroom themes. Help students hear the stories with a different voice, maybe a little audience participation, and other ideas to get and keep student’s attention. You don’t have to bring your creativity, but I hope you will leave with some new ideas.

Some librarians have a degree in library science, a bachelor’s degree, a teaching certificate, and some simply love to inspire reading in children and have proven that they are qualified to work in the school environment. Many enjoy finding that ‘special something” in any book that may perhaps encourage students to read more from that author or on that topic.

As "Master of the media center," "Leader of the library," or "Jack of all trades on multiple campuses,” reading to the students is possibly one of the best parts of the day, watching their eyes light up with excitement while nurturing the seeds of reading and wonder in their young minds.

We know why we read aloud, it is finding time, or better yet, finding stories that fit the time we have.

As the time with students continues to shrink and responsibilities continue to grow due to technology, and other outside circumstances, it can seem challenging to find the time to share a story with the students.

In this technology driven world, we can still project the enthusiasm and appreciation of books and reading. Maybe you only have 5 minutes, try to have fun with those five minutes by using creative story-telling techniques, different vocal tones and dialects, hand gestures, body language, and student interaction. Show them books that have inspired movies, or movies that inspired books. Video games and even apps have inspired books for children to enjoy.
Ways to Enhance a Story with your own toolbox:

Your voice

- Use different voices for different characters
- Instead of yelling, perhaps whisper, or add an accent, a dialect, make your voice deep and booming or high pitched and squeaky

Your body

- Make simple gestures. If there is a doorbell, pretend to press it, if the character appears to need large arm gestures, make them, if the character snaps or sneezes, do so, or ask the students to do it for you

Your ‘mirror’ (having them read with you)

- Repetitive phrases – ask students if they would help tell the story, tell them their cue, then, when reading, slightly pause after the cue to see who is listening and comprehending your story. They will be the ones that say the repeated phrase first.
- Silly sounds - you may have a book with great sound effects that the students can say with or for you

Presenter- Debbie Reece lives in north Texas, in the Region 10 area. She has an Associate’s Degree in liberal arts and has a one son...in middle school... She enjoys substitute teaching K-12, primarily K-8, and subbing in the library. She was a pre-school aide for several years and continues to sub in the pre-school. She was a computer and network technology specialist for the government and a school district from the mid 80’s to 2003. She has written a couple of stories inspired by her son. She loves to read to children and reads with animation, movement, different voices, and sound effects. She often asks the listeners to help her with repeated text in stories, sound effects, and facial expressions. She hopes to share that enthusiasm with you to take back to your schools and pass on to the students. www.DebbieReece.com
Favorite reads and why

Most of Kevin Henke’s collection involving Lilly, Owen, Chester, and the rest of his characters.

- Many options for different voices, have students make little noises at different prompts, ask them what they think the character is feeling, or how would they respond to a similar situation.
- 3-5 minute read: sharing, patience, friendships, problem solving, and emotions, just to name a few.

Mo Willems books involving a bunny or a pigeon

- Uses different voices, have students make little noises at different prompts, ask them what they think the character is feeling, or how would they respond to a similar situation.
- An easy 2-4 minute reads and can be very interactive or simply read to the students.
- Topics such as rules, patience, friendship, emotions
Family Huddle – Peyton, Archie, and Eli Manning
4 minute read
Sports related story about family and teamwork.
- Use different voices
- Point out ‘numbers game’
- Ask if they are familiar with these football players are- super bowl wins, teams, positions, etc

Max for President   Jarrett Krosoczka
2 minute read
A race for class president between a boy and a girl.
friendship, compassion, competition, teamwork
Use different voices for Max, Kelly, and other characters

The Little House – Virginia Lee Burton
A classic, Caldecott winner
5-6 minute read
The story reflects the changing times as the city spreads out to the country and how the house feels about it.
Allows for discussion on communities, cities, rural areas, etc
The Doorbell Rang  Pat Hutchins
2-3 minute read
“sneaky math”, sharing, patience
Have students try to help count how many cookies and people
Ask who might be at the door..

HICCUPotamus – Aaron Zenz
2 minute read
Problem solving, team work, friendship
Exaggerate the hiccups or have the class hiccup when the hippo or Rhino hiccups

Me First Helen Lester
3 minute read
Behavior- selfish, learning about manners and patience,
word play “Sandwich” and “Sand witch”
Use different voices for Pinkerton and the Sand witch
Mine-O-Saur  Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen
5 min read
Sharing, feelings, friendship
Use different voices for the dinosaurs
Have the students repeat the “mine mine mine!”

Storm is Coming – Heather Tekavec
4 minute read
A farmer that has his dog gather his animals into the barn because “Storm” is coming. They think Storm is a person. Not knowing any better, the barn animals think that each piece of the storm, wind, rain, thunder, and lightening, will protect them from “Storm.” It is a very cute play on words for most any elementary age to enjoy.

Teamwork, distraction to help get through something like a storm,
Use different voices for the animals
Point out the word play for “Storm is coming”
Have students make different storm sounds
Ask them who they think is at the door at the end of the book
Nubs, The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, and a Miracle    Major Brian Dennis, Kirby Larson, and Mary Nethery

6 minute read
Shows a little of what military life is like for both animals and soldiers, Bravery, loyalty, teamwork

Hide!!! Jeff Foxworthy

Also has Silly Street and Dirt on My Shirt, silly poems for children
3-4 minute read when simply pointing out the hiding child.
Creative thinking, outside games, friendship
Longer read if you have the students help find different items.

The Day My Dogs Became Guys  Merrill Markoe

6-7 minute read
Pets and their personalities, science – mentions the solar eclipse
Creative thinking about pets and personalities
Use different voices and hand gestures/body movements for the dogs, mom, and Carey
Notice the illustrations, how the dogs and the humans share similar traits.
When I Grow Up  Al Yankovic
6 minute read
Careers, creativity
Use different voices and exaggerate hand gestures and movements while describing jobs.
Explain large vocabulary words or, ask if the students can gather what some of the words mean by clues around the word and in the illustrations.

If I Built a Car and If I Built a House  Chris Van Dusen
2-4 minute reads
Technology, creativity, eco-environmental topics
Use different voices, use sweeping hand motions, and gestures when explaining features
Ask students what they would add if they built a car or house
The Missing Piece  Shel Silverstein
4-5 minute read  can summarize some pages
Togetherness, recognizing independence, self-discovery, looking for a friend, looking
for purpose,
Sing his little song.
Read happy but slow, initially. Read the part where he is rolling faster.
Have the children help sing the song

Chris Van Allsburg:
Read Jumaji then point out that the same author also wrote such great books as
The Polar Express and Zathura.
6 minutes
self-confidence, siblings, imagination, following through
• Bonus - point out that these books have characters mentioned in each of
them from other stories (Mrs Budwing and her son’s, Walter and Danny)
• Extra bonus- 3 of his books have inspired movies.
Use voices and hand gestures and ask students to make animal sounds
(These books can lend their story themes to some video games like Skylanders and
Disney Infinity where the children pick different characters to go into the game.)
Books that inspire creative thinking

Not a Box  Antoinette Portis
3-5 minute read
Ask students what they think the box is on each page before turning the page for the reveal.
Ask what they would do with a box the size of a washing machine, refrigerator, or even a shoe box.

The Turn About, Think About, Look About Book  Beau Gardner
3-5 minute read
Gets students thinking by giving suggestions on each page of what the image might be depending on the way the book is turned

Chalk  Bill Thomson
3-5 minutes
No words – images help tell the picture
Imagination, mystery, friendship, creativity
Ask students to help tell the story based on the illustrations, help them look for clues
Books to read excerpts from for 3-5th grades

Alvin Ho series  Lenore Look
Here’s Hank and Hank Zipzer series Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver  (1-5th grade readers)
Creature From My Closet series Obert Skye
Timmy Failure series Stephan Pastis
Stick Dog series Tom Watson
Oragami Yoda series  Tom Angleberger – also inspires creative origami activities

Roald Dahl  - Great books turned into movies such as BFG, Matilda, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, James and the Giant Peach. There are even interesting and entertaining autobiographies about his childhood and where his ideas came from in Boy, and More About Boy  BTW  Roald Dahl Day is Sept 13