

7-1-1973

A Time of Magic

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Recommended Citation

McGinnis, D. J. (1973). A Time of Magic. *Reading Horizons: A Journal of Literacy and Language Arts*, 13 (4). Retrieved from https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/reading_horizons/vol13/iss4/1

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Editorial Comment

A TIME OF MAGIC

When I was in the fourth grade, I had a teacher who made a deep and lasting impression upon me. Each day, just before school closed, she read aloud to us. How I looked forward to this special hour! It was my favorite period of the day—the time when a kind of magic took place, the time when I sampled vicariously great adventure and excitement. The books she read to us made a profound impression on me and increased my appetite for reading. I am grateful to Miss Slye—far more than I am able to express in words—because, more than any other teacher, she introduced me to the magic of books.

Reading aloud to children is important. It promotes the attitude that learning to read is worthwhile and that much joy and pleasure can be derived from reading. It also provides children with information. There are books and articles about animals and plants, about the world of work, and about life in other times and places. There are fascinating accounts of adventure, of outer space exploration, mountain climbing, deep-sea diving, and of other tests of strength and character. There are stories which help us to understand people whose lives are very different. Literature abounds with stories which help us to understand the human condition, with its common problems and the many ways people face their problems. Through literature, children can begin to understand that each of us must develop inner resources and grow toward responsibility. Through literature, children can begin to assimilate and appreciate their cultural heritage.

I spend many leisure hours reading. It is an enjoyable time of quiet, pleasant relaxation, a time of infinite happiness. Yes, it is with love and sincere gratitude that I remember Miss Slye for she introduced me to the joy and magic of reading.

Dorothy J. McGinnis
Editor