

BY DARLA L'ALLIER, MLIS, YOUTH LIBRARIAN, HELMERICH LIBRARY

how to make a family reading resolution for 2015

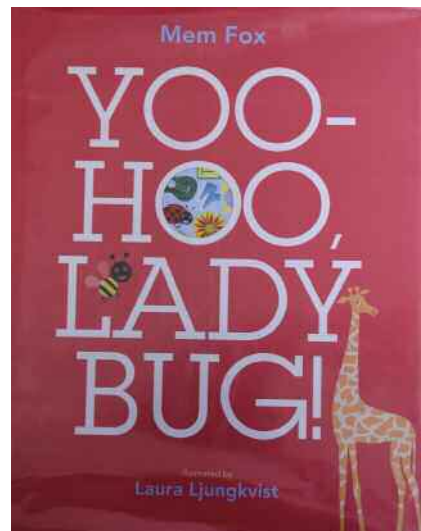
It is time to reflect on changes for a new year. Have you made your New Year's resolutions? How long is your list? Does it include expenses?

This year, why not challenge your family to make a resolution to read together? This resolution or goal for the year does not require any money, just time well spent with family. How many times a week do you read with your family now? Making the effort takes time, but you and your family will reap the rewards.

The library can help with your reading resolution, as each site offers a variety of books for you to share with family members, from picture books to popular teen series. A librarian can help you navigate the library collection, which holds a variety of board books for check out, starting with visual discrimination for toddlers.

Herve Tullet's book, *Help! We Need a Title!* and Mem Fox's *Yoo-Hoo Ladybug!* are great books for helping your preschooler begin to identify and discriminate between letters, numbers and shapes. They are fun to share and, all the while, you are developing language and literacy skills with your little ones.

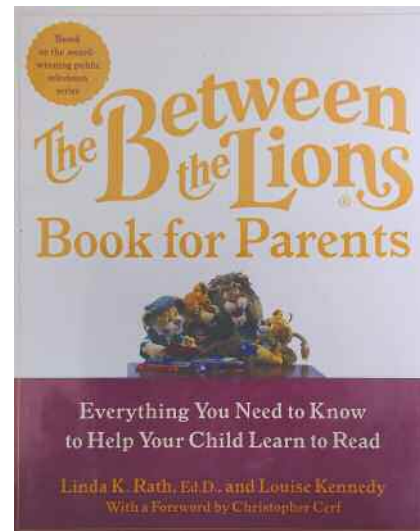
A classic book that examines the value of family reading is *The Between the Lions Book for Parents*. The information contained in this selection will get you up to



speed on the importance of family literacy, what that means and how to accomplish it. You'll find good tips on story visualization to use with your little ones, with guided questions about the story such as, "What do you think a very small farmhouse would look like?"

A newer book by J. R. Gentry, *Raising Confident Readers*, may be an option for you on how to teach your child to read and write. This self-help book gives tips on writing with your toddler and helping your school-age children select books for reading. If you are reading this, than you already know the importance of early reading and family story-time!

While you may think that your older children are having all of their literacy needs met at school, that is not the case. Even



children who are in school need additional reading time at home. Consider a mother-daughter or family book club as an option for your reading resolution. Many adults host their own book clubs, so why not create a book group comprised of both children and adults? Reading with your children in a family book club keeps them reading outside the academic setting in a fun, entertaining way. And, you are setting a good example for your children.

This winter the Helmerich Library will offer an intergenerational book club for families from January to March. Check the library's online event guide for Reading Resolution Winter Book Club at www.tulsalibrary.org for specific days and time.

Winter provides a good opportunity to stay inside and read with family. In the book *Connect-*

ing Fathers, Children and Reading, it is noted that "reading aloud as an activity is a good prescription for developing fathers' new roles." According to the authors Sara and Steven Herb, "for fathers specifically, storybook reading provides an opportunity to develop a less traditional way of relating to one's child."

In our library story times, as we read aloud together, you can observe that the children and their families are building intimate relationships. When we play flannel board games together or do the "hokey pokey," families laugh and play in a way that builds trust and positive attitudes toward reading.

Reading is the key to your family's literacy success. Make your reading resolution a special time each week, each day or on a schedule that will fit your family's timetable. A daily read-aloud is a worthy endeavor that will pay dividends for a lifetime. Make each session fun, a game if you choose. Have your readers pick out their favorite books to share with family members. By taking time every week to read together, you will see the success of independent reading take hold in your child's life.

As we reflect on the New Year to come, we can encourage life-long reading as both an interpersonal and family event! Challenge your family and friends to a reading resolution for 2015.

and kissed us. You knelt down beside us and prayed. And you made us sit up to the dinner table and eat dinner as a family. And you made us do our homework.' They didn't remember the bicycles, the baseball, the rollerblades," Bess said. "It was all about the simple things that lucky kids get."

Bess stayed at The School With No Name for 11 years.

"One of the most important things I learned is when you are faced with homelessness, with poverty, with severe loss, you grow to be very empathetic human beings," Bess said.

"These homeless families were full of gratitude. They were very empathetic. The children looked out for each other like you wouldn't believe. So when people say, 'Didn't you just feel hopeless?' No, I felt all kinds of hope."

Ultimately, Bess' experience working with homeless students

taught her that "when we invest in children, we uplift their families, and we change the community."

Sunny Side Up: A Fresh Start to Success, presented by CAP Tulsa

The event benefits Cap Tulsa's Family Advancement Programs

Friday, January 30, 2015 at Cain's Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: Stacey Bess

7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. – Check-in (live music and breakfast buffet)

8:15 a.m. – Welcome and opening remarks

8:30 a.m. – Program

9:45 a.m. – Closing remarks

Visit captulsa.org/sunnysideup to purchase tickets or for sponsorships.



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Emily was abandoned by her mother.

So were her three sisters.

They live in four different foster homes

and will likely never see each other again.

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