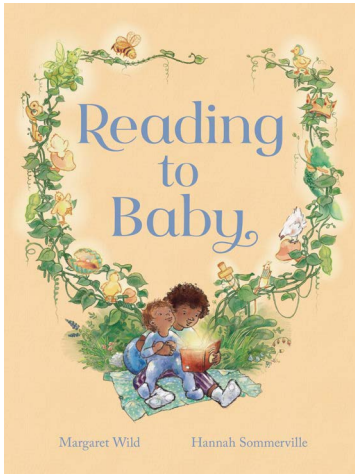




Teacher Notes

Reading to Baby

by Margaret Wild and Hannah Sommerville

Teacher notes prepared by Bec Kavanagh.

Publication details

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Themes

- Families
- New babies
- Storytelling
- Love
- Acts of kindness

About the Book

When Dora was born, her brothers were very excited.

'I'm going to cuddle her,' said Alex.

'I'm going to rock her to sleep,' said Liam.

'I'm going to make her laugh,' said Bruno.

'I'm going to read to her,' said Peter.

Dora has doting big brothers who play with her, look after her, and guide her as she grows. But Peter reads to her, which turns out to be the greatest gift of all.

From award-winners Margaret Wild and Hannah Sommerville comes a story to remind us of the wonder and magic of reading.

About the Author and Illustrator

Margaret Wild is a bestselling and award-winning author who was born in South Africa and came to Australia in 1972. She has been a journalist on newspapers and magazines, and she worked as a book editor in children's publishing for sixteen years, responsible for managing and commissioning a large range of titles. She lives in Sydney and now writes full time. Margaret has written more than 70 books for children. Her books are published around the world and have won numerous awards.

Hannah Sommerville is an award-winning picture book illustrator who creates watercolour, gouache and digital illustrations from her couch on the South Coast of NSW. Hannah earned a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts and Graphic Design) at the University of Wollongong in 2006. She began illustrating in 2010 after the arrival of her children from whom she draws inspiration. Hannah is a storyteller who enjoys creating picture books that capture the imagination, tenderness and playfulness that surround children and family life.

Before Reading:

- The title of the book is *Reading to Baby*. Do you remember having stories read to you as a baby? Who read them? What did it feel like to have someone read to you?
- Explore the cover of the book – does it tell you what the story is about?
- Read the blurb of the book aloud. What information does it give you about the following –
 - Who the book is about (character)
 - What happens in the book (plot)
 - Where the story takes place (setting)

Comprehension questions

- How many brothers does Dora have? What are some of the ways they each show their love for her?
- Who is reading to Dora?
- Look at the pictures in the story – do you recognise any of the stories she's being told? Which ones?
- What's special about the illustrations that show the stories? Why do you think the illustrator has chosen to show them like this?
- What are some of the activities that Dora does as she grows up?
- How do you think Dora's brothers feel about her? How do you know?
- What two lines are repeated in the story? How many times?
- Who is in Dora's first school photo?
- Why do you think Dora loves stories so much?
- What changes on the final page of the story?

Literacy

- **Vocabulary:** make a list of all of the words that describe somebody doing something in the book. We call these words verbs. Underline any new verbs you come across in the story. Make a list of five verbs that are not in the story.
- **Images** can show an accurate representation of real things (like Alex pushing Dora in her pram), or they can reveal imaginary or made up places and feelings (like when Dora is riding on the back of a dragon). Compare these two images – how are they similar? How are they different? What techniques has the illustrator used to show that some of the images are set in the real world and some take place in Dora's imagination?
- **Time** – stories can do funny things with time. Think about *Where the Wild Things Are*, for example – Max sails all the way to the island where the Wild Things live, but is home in time for tea. How much time do you think passes in the book? How do you know? What words does the writer use to tell you that time is moving forward? What stays the same in each section of the story that helps to mark the time?

Final reflections

- Who would you recommend this story to? Why?
- Do you have any brothers or sisters in your family? Compare your family to Dora's family and discuss the similarities and differences.
- Do you think Dora's relationship with her brothers will change? How? Why?
- What book would you read to a baby?

Creative Activities

- How much do you think Dora's life will change now that she's started school? Use the following as a prompt to write another year of Dora's life to add to the story.

Dora grew even bigger and even older.

Alex ...

Liam ...

Bruno ...

And Peter and Dora read stories together.

- What's your favourite story to read? How does it make you feel? Draw a picture that uses some of the techniques in the book to capture some of the magic and imagination of your favourite story.
- How would you show a new family member how much you care for them? Make a list of five things you would do to show them your love, and draw a realistic picture of one of them.