

3 Inspiring Read Aloud Short Stories

Here are 3 inspirational read-aloud short stories to share!

Story #1 : The Two Doilies

There once was a man and a woman who had been married for more than 60 years. They talked about everything. They kept no secrets from each other... except the old woman had a shoebox in the top of her closet that she cautioned her husband never to open or ask about.

For all these years he had never thought about the box, but one day the old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover.

In trying to sort out their affairs, the old man took down the shoebox and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed it was time that he should know what was in the box.

When he opened it, he found 2 beautifully crocheted doilies and a stack of money totaling over \$25,000. He asked her about the unusual contents.

"When we were married," she said, " my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doily."

The little old man was so moved, he had to fight back tears. Only two precious doilies were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all the years of living and loving. He almost burst with joy and happiness.

"Sweetheart," he said... "that explains the doilies, but what about all this money? Where did it all come from?"

Oh," she said, " that's the money I made from selling the doilies."

Story #2 : Thinking Out of the Box

In a small Italian town, hundreds of years ago, there was a loan-shark that just so happened to fancy the daughter of a businessman who owed him money.

He decided to make a deal with the businessman; the debt would be wiped if he could marry his daughter. His proposal was met with disgust by both father and daughter.

The loan-shark said he would place two pebbles into a bag, one white and one black. The girl would reach inside the bag and take one; if it was black, the debt would be wiped, and she would marry him. If it was white, the debt would also be wiped, but the girl would have no obligation to marry him.

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Standing on a pebble-strewn path in the businessman's garden, the loan-shark bent over and picked up two pebbles. Whilst collecting the pebbles, the girl noticed that he picked up **two black pebbles** and placed them both in the bag.

He then asked the girl to reach into the bag and take one.

She naturally had three choices as to what she could have done:

- **Refuse to pick a pebble from the bag.**
- **Take both pebbles out of the bag and expose the loan-shark for cheating.**
- **Pick a pebble from the bag knowing full well it was black and sacrifice herself for her father's freedom.**

She drew out a pebble from the bag, and before looking at it 'accidentally' dropped it among the other pebbles. She said to the loan-shark;

"Oh, how clumsy of me. Never mind, if you look into the bag for the one that is left, you will be able to tell which pebble I picked."

The pebble left in the bag was obviously black, and as he didn't want to be exposed, he played along as though the pebble the daughter dropped was white, and cleared her father's debt.

Story #3 : The Weight of Glass

As the Professor raised a glass of water, everyone expected they'd be asked the typical "is the glass half empty or half full" question.

Instead, with a smile on her face, the Professor asked, 'How heavy is this glass of water I'm holding?'

We all shouted out answers ranging from eight ounces to a couple of pounds.

The Professor replied: "From my perspective, the absolute weight of this glass doesn't matter. It all depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute or two, it's fairly light. If I hold it for an hour, my arm will ache. If I hold it for a day, my arm will cramp up and feel completely numb and paralyzed, forcing me to drop the glass on the floor. In each case, the weight of the glass doesn't change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it feels to me."

As we nodded our heads in agreement, she continued, "Your stresses and worries in life are very much like this glass of water. Think about them for awhile and nothing happens. Think about them a little longer and you begin to ache a little. Think about them all day long, and you will feel numb and paralyzed - or sick - incapable of doing anything. Be wise and put your glass down as soon as possible."