

Voracious Reading: Expanding Vocabulary

Library Lion

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There's something about this story. Can you imagine checking out a book at the library and seeing a lion walk by? Yikes, he's headed towards the children's section! As the book continues, we find out that the lion just wants to go to story hour. He stays and listens to the story lady read book after book after book. In the days that follow, the lion becomes a regular. He dusts encyclopedias with his tail, he becomes a comfy backrest for the children as they read, and he lets "small children stand on his back to reach books on the highest shelves." But his favorite time of day is always...story hour. Library Lion loves books!

The author's words and the illustrator's drawings combine into sheer perfection. You can see, feel and hear the deep connection the lion has for books. He is, what we want all of our students to be, a voracious "reader." Of course, he doesn't actually do the reading, lions can't read; but he does do the listening. What's important to emphasize is that books are an essential part of the lion's everyday life. In fact, books are why the lion gets up in the morning, what he does all day and what he thinks about at night. We discover, in the story, that without books, the lion's life is empty.

Sharing this book, with students of any age, will help them understand what voracious reading means. Surround yourself with books! Read and listen to stories everyday! Learn new words. Make friends with book characters. Make friends with people who love books. Use books to visit new places. Read at school. Read at home. Read in the car. Read in the bathtub. Read standing up, sitting down, upside down. Read, read, read. Reading is important! In fact, to the lion; reading is everything. Maybe, with the help of this book, you can challenge your students to turn into LIBRARY LIONS!

