

can help ensure your loved one is getting the most appropriate care. Make sure those lists are handy.

- Collect a few things a loved one might need if they must go to the hospital. A phone charger, eyeglasses, wallet, ID, and insurance card(s) are great things to include.
- Follow your local fire department and emergency management agency on social media. They'll have additional COVID-19 safety tips and keep you updated on changing procedures and policies.

And since you're at home, there's no time like the present to prepare for and practice for other types of emergencies:

- Every household needs to have a home escape

plan in the event of fire. There are great tools available on the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Be a Hero, Save a Hero app and at the National Fire Protection Association's Sparky website. If you have children at home, make them an active participant in putting the plan together. It's an activity with immediate and long-term benefits—and let's face it, who doesn't want to escape their house right now?

- Think like a firefighter: firefighters work hard each day to be prepared for anything and everything that comes along. Being prepared will help you tackle problems effectively. It also minimizes stress. If you feel prepared, you'll feel more in control.

There are no stay-at-home orders for your local fire

department. Your firefighters always respond when called. Please do your part to help them return safely to their families.

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Congress created the NFFF to lead a nationwide effort to remember America's fallen firefighters. Since 1992, the tax-exempt, nonprofit foundation has developed and expanded programs to honor our fallen fire heroes and assist their families and co-workers. NFFF also has expanded its mission to help prevent firefighter line-of-duty injuries and deaths.

*Ronald J. Siarnicki is the executive director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). He's the former fire chief of Maryland's Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and is currently a volunteer firefighter on Maryland's Eastern Shore.*

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## A perfect time to read aloud

By the staff at Covered Treasures

*"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child."—Dr. Seuss*  
*"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, or a duty. It should be offered as a gift."*  
 —Kate Dicomillo

These are interesting times. With all the time together as a family at home, reading aloud is one of the best ways to be fully present with our children, even long after they can read themselves. All ages benefit.

**The Read-Aloud Family: Making Meaningful and Lasting Connections with Your Kids**

By Sarah Mackenzie (Zondervan), \$16.99

In this handy resource, Sarah Mackenzie champions the lifelong benefits of reading aloud to children and offers book lists, strategies, and tools parents can use to form deep and lasting connections with their children. The stories we read, and the conversations we have about them, help shape family traditions, create lifelong memories, and become part of our legacy.



This is a perfect time to start a series. Some wonderful choices for all ages include:

**Harry Potter**

By J.K. Rowling (Scholastic)

This magical series has been entertaining all ages for more than 20 years. You can find the seven volumes individually or together in boxed sets. There are also illustrated editions available through volume four,

but the illustrated editions for all seven eventually will be available.

**Chronicles of Narnia**

By C.S. Lewis (Harper Collins)

For over 60 years, this series has transcended the fantasy genre to become part of the canon of classic literature. Epic battles between good and evil, fantastic creatures, betrayals, heroic deeds, and friendships won and lost all come together in this unforgettable world. The seven volumes in this series can be found individually and in boxed sets.

**Fudge Series**

By Judy Blume (Puffin Books)

Fans young and old will laugh out loud at the irrepressible wit of Peter Hatcher, the hilarious antics of mischievous Fudge, and the unbreakable confidence of know-it-all Sheila Tubman in Judy Blume's five Fudge books.

**Ralph Mouse Series and Ramona Series**

By Beverly Cleary (Harper Collins)

Newberry Medal-winning author Beverly Cleary's Ralph Mouse Series features a young mouse named Ralph who is thrown into a world of excitement and adventure when a boy, Keith, and his shiny toy motorcycle check into the Mountain View Inn. With a pal like Keith always looking out for him, there's nothing this little mouse can't handle. In the Ramona series, Beverly Cleary delivers a humorous portrayal of the ups and downs of sisterhood. Both the younger and older siblings of the family will enjoy these series.

More great choices include the classics, for example:

**Anne of Green Gables: Complete and Unabridged**

By L.M. Montgomery (Puffin Classics), \$6.99

This complete and unabridged edition contains a behind-the-scenes journey, including an author profile, a guide to who's who, activities, and more. Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert are in for a big surprise. They're waiting for an orphan boy to help with the work at Green Gables—but a skinny, red-haired girl turns up instead. Feisty and full of spirit, it's not long before

Anne Shirley finds herself in all kinds of trouble. But soon it's impossible to imagine life at Green Gables without her.

**Treasure Island**

By Robert Louis Stevenson (Sterling Publishing) \$9.95

Young and old have been thrilled by this timeless classic since it was first published in 1883. This gripping story of young Jim Hawkins' perilous encounters with the treacherous Long John Silver and his fellow pirates is filled with mystery and adventure for the whole family.

**Around the World in Eighty Days**

By Jules Verne (Sterling Publishing) \$9.95

"I will bet twenty thousand pounds against anyone who wishes that I will make the tour of the world in eighty days or less." So says Phileas Fogg in Jules Verne's unforgettable adventure tale. Journey with Fogg and his French servant Passepartout as they race across the globe in an attempt to win the legendary wager.

**The One and Only Ivan**

By Katherine Applegate (Harper Collins) \$8.99

This Newberry Award-winning novel is soon to be a major motion picture. Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, it celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendship, art, and hope.

**Matilda and Boy: Tales of Childhood and The BFG**

By Roald Dahl (Puffin Books)

Roald Dahl was a spy, ace fighter pilot, chocolate historian, and medical inventor. He was also the author of *Matilda*, *Boy Tales of Childhood*, *The BFG*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and many more brilliant stories. His books are always a good choice for reading aloud.

Until next month, happy reading.

*The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at books@ocn.me.*

May Library Events

## Large selection of virtual programs available during closure

By Harriet Halbig

All Pikes Peak Library District facilities remain closed until further notice. Please retain any library materials until we reopen.

All holds will remain available, and cards will not expire during the closure. There will be no late fees on materials returned in good condition.

In the meantime, consult our website, ppld.org, for a wide variety of virtual programming including yoga classes, story times, and a virtual book club. These can be found under the heading Virtual Programs on the home page.

You can also access our Cybershelf to stream videos, books, magazines, and music.

Using our research databases, you can access in-

formation on consumer issues, legal issues, history, newspapers and magazines, and even learn a language with Mango!

All you need to access these assets is a library card. You can apply online and use it immediately.

During this time, the library district has been contributing to the community in a number of ways.

We have donated masks and gloves to the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management and lent 3D printers and sewing machines to make personal protective equipment.

The Friends of the Library provided books to distribute to those picking up food at food banks.

We have lent laptops and hotspots to be used to apply for employment.

Books, DVDs, and laptops have also been lent to the isolation shelter at the Colorado Springs City Auditorium.

We hope that you are all staying well and look forward to seeing you again.

Please consult the website for the latest updates.

*Harriet Halbig can be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.*

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