Dear Title I School Families,

One of the most important things that families can do is read together. This means starting when they are babies before they can talk and continuing well beyond the years that they can read by themselves. Research shows that early reading with children helps them learn to speak, interact, bond with family members and read early. Reading with kids who already know how to read helps them feel close to caretakers, understand the world around them and be empathetic global citizens. Lifelong memories are made while spending time reading a good book as a family. Regie Routman, literacy expert, encourages us to read together by emphasizing that we should not worry about whether or not our kids understand every word. "Just find a great story. They will get it," says Routman. Kids have a lot of choices about how they spend their time and we want reading to be one of the things they choose. This holiday season, a Reading Rewards blog, provides us with the top reasons that books make the best presents. Keep these in mind:

1) Books are easier to wrap than footballs.
2) Books don’t hurt when you step on them in the middle of the night.
3) Books never come in the wrong color or size.
4) Books don’t irritate your allergies.
5) When you are finished with a book, it is not empty.
6) A book is a gift you can open again, and again, and again!

If you need a book to read, don’t be afraid to ask. We would love to share our favorite read alouds with your family this holiday season!

Happy Holidays,

Amanda Ensor
QACPS Title I Family Engagement Specialist
AMANDA.ENSOR@QACPS.ORG