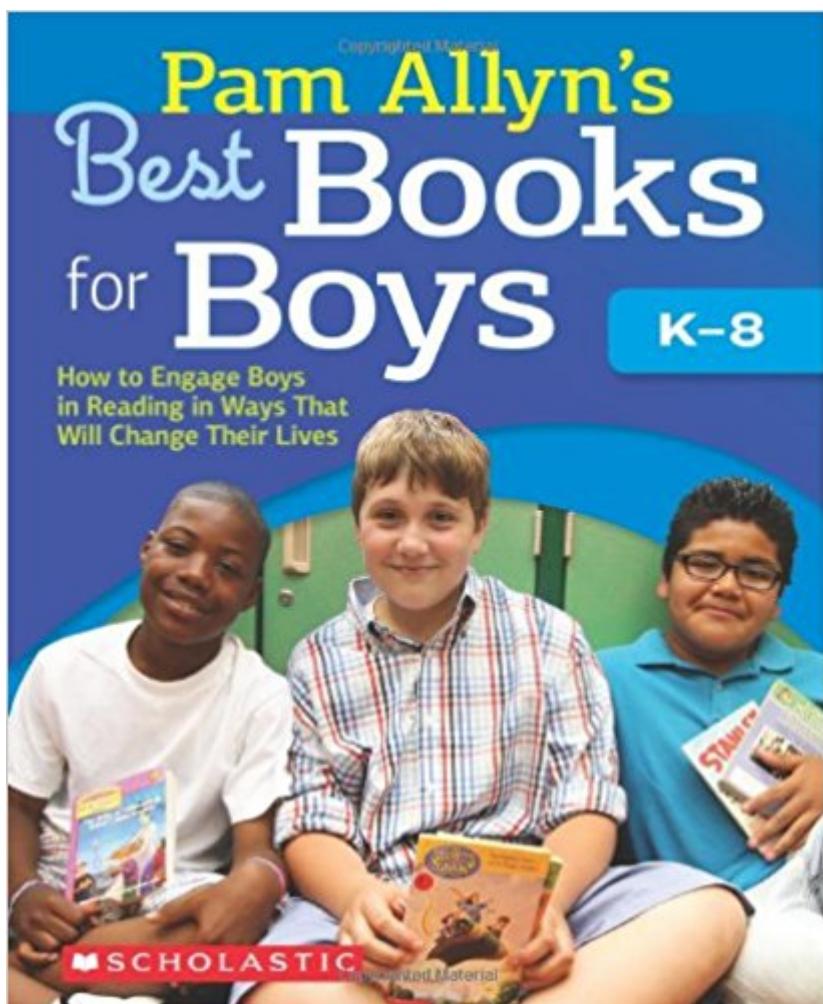


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# Pam Allyn's Best Books For Boys: How To Engage Boys In Reading In Ways That Will Change Their Lives



## **Synopsis**

Get all boys reading with this extraordinary guide; chock-full of a wide range of must-read titles organized by interest, age, and development. With this resource in hand, you'll never again struggle to find the right book for even your most reluctant readers. The carefully chosen book selections are accompanied by brief explanations of each book, and a recurring feature, Talk About It, will help you extend the book through conversation, supporting and enhancing the reading experience. In addition, ready-to-use lessons align with themes and topics of special interest to boys that will motivate and inspire them to read more. Finally, Pam answers your most pressing questions about the challenges for boys as readers and shows you how you can maximize environments, routines, and structures to ensure that boys are reading widely and passionately. For use with Grades K-8.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Teaching Resources (Theory an (May 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545204550

ISBN-13: 978-0545204552

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 7.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #602,673 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Bibliographies & Indexes > Literature #263 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Children's Literature #796 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Books & Reading > General

Age Range: 5 - 13 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 8

## **Customer Reviews**

Pam Allyn is the Executive Director of LitLife and LitWorld, nationally and internationally known literacy development organizations that provide innovative, results-driven literacy strategy support for grades pre-K-12. She is the Founding Director of Books for Boys, an award winning reading initiative. Pam is the author of two books, The Complete 4 for Literacy and the 2010 National

Parenting Magazine Award Winner What to Read When. She is also the co-author of The Complete Year in Reading and Writing series, K&#150;5.

I read this book along with the Read Aloud Handbook last year, to help with ideas for my son. We have been reading aloud to him since he was born, daily. He is 8 now, and has been a reluctant reader and reading at the lowest level for grade since starting kindergarten. He would sit and listen to us read for hours, but reading himself - no fun for him. For awhile, I was content to have him focus on what he enjoyed, which was math, but last year I really tried to peak his interest in his own reading. This guide has been wonderful, and I have been overjoyed to find him numerous times over the last year, asleep with the light on and a book on his chest. The keys to our son were graphic novels like Amulet and Bird and Squirrel, and other books listed here in this guide. He is absolutely in love with the Warriors series, Wayside school, and several other books here. I'm so glad I bought this book.

Great author! Gave this book to my sons' teachers at the end of the school year as a gift :)

I know few people more passionate about literacy than Pam Allyn. I reviewed her last book What To Read When last year and still refer to it before every visit to our local library. In her latest book, Pam focuses on books for boys. And for good reason. She begins her book taking a look at why we should be focusing on boys literacy. According to recent studies, whether boys become readers or not has huge societal implications. Some of the statistics mentioned are staggering. For example, boys who are nonreaders are twice as likely to become incarcerated than boys who are readers. But why are illiteracy rates for boys so out of control? Allyn goes on to discuss a myriad of reasons including preconceptions and stereotypes about boys, stringent classroom rules and standards, educational testing policies, and simply not asking what boys want to read. The question and answer section which followed was my favorite part of the book. Although I don't have a son, this section really made me look at these questions from a different perspective and I felt myself thinking these same ideas work with girls as well. As an avid read aloud advocate myself, I was thrilled to see Pam's answer to the question of when should you stop reading aloud ("Never!"). While I think this book was written mostly for educators, I really believe parents will find this an invaluable resource for themselves as well. It's well-written and easy to read. Like What To Read When, Best Books for Boys is also very well organized with the book recommendations being broken down by genre and reading level. I hope dads will take an interest in this book. Dads play such a huge role in

getting their children interested in reading and it's hard to find a better reading role model for boys than their dad (I have to say I think that works for girls as well!) All in all, this is a fantastic resource and worthy of your time.

This book shares some wonderful information about how boys feel about reading and how the things that parents and teachers do can help cultivate the way they feel about reading throughout their life. Why the focus on books for boys? The author provides wonderful statistical information that answers this question. She shares one study done by the National Endowment for the Arts that showed that by 12th grade, boy's average 13 points lower than girls on proficiency tests. One of the main things that I took away from this book is that teachers may not be giving boys books that they WANT to read. Boys should be allowed and even encouraged to read a variety of topics as well as genres. This can include video/computer games, sports page/magazines, comic books/graphic novels, text messages, web sites, and blogs. Another wonderful resource available in this book is an annotated list of book titles and series available that might interest boys. This list is broken up into emerging, developing, and maturing levels and into several topics, such as Action and Adventure and Comic Books and Graphic Novels. I plan to spend time this summer reorganizing my classroom library and adding in some of the books listed in Best Books for Boys that I know will interest my male students! I highly recommend this book for all teachers. The extensive list of books sorted by level and topic will be something that I pull off the shelf to refer to for years to come. It is a wonderful resource for teachers for all grade school and middle school teachers!

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