



## Spotlight on Pam Allyn

Pam Allyn is a leading literacy expert, author, and motivational speaker. She is the Executive Director and Founder of LitWorld, a groundbreaking global literacy movement serving children across the United States and in more than 60 countries, and LitLife, a cutting-edge education consulting group specializing in professional development for PreK–12 literacy instruction.

Pam received the 2013 Scholastic Literacy Champion Award, and is Scholastic's *Open a World of Possible* Ambassador. She is a spokesperson for BIC Kids, championing BIC's "Fight For Your Write" campaign. In April 2014, she was chosen as a W. K. Kellogg Foundation Fellow in Racial Equity and Healing, a three-year initiative to support recognized equity leaders in their work on the ground. She was selected as a mentor for the 2013 Bush Institute's Women's Initiative Fellowship to help young Egyptian women develop leadership skills.

Pam is the author of 26 books for educators, leaders and families on reading, writing, and quality learning. Her most recent book is *Every Child a Super Reader* (Scholastic, 2015), co-authored with Dr. Ernest Morrell. Other books include *Your Child's Writing Life* (Avery, 2011), *What To Read When* (Avery, 2009), and *Pam Allyn's Best Books for Boys* (Scholastic, 2011). She has written and contributed to a number of curriculum and instruction books, including the *Core Ready* series (Pearson, 2013), the *Complete Year* series (Scholastic, 2008) and *Homework Pages for Independent Reading* (Scholastic, 2013).

Pam is featured widely in traditional press and on social media as a literacy expert for both home and school. She has been featured on *Good Morning America*, *The Today Show*, *NBC News*, *Oprah Radio*, *The Huffington Post*, *CNN International*, and in *The New York Times*, speaking to the power of education and literacy to transform lives and to create gender and racial equity.

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### Key Professional Insight

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*Let us create the kind of community where children's voices are heard and their choices are valued, from the topics they choose to write about to the books they choose to read. Let us invite open-ended questions to get to know every child as a learner: What would your perfect day look like? What inspires you? What do you wish you could learn about at school? We can then help match our children to books that make their hearts sing. We can hold writing celebrations where they get to select their own writing topics, math inquiry where they solve for problems they really want to know about, and science fairs where they study a question that has been on their minds since they were little. Choice and voice are crucial components of a powerful learning environment. Champion the read-aloud and ensure children have access to fruitful, literate lives!*

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### Topics that Pam covers in her PD and at conferences

*Every Child a Super Reader: Creating Environments and Outcomes that Make Every Student a Super Reader (grades Pre K–8)*

Pam Allyn maintains that when we build on children's key strengths and immerse them in an intellectually invigorating, emotionally nurturing, literature-rich community, we grow "super readers"—avid readers who consume texts with passion, understanding, and a critical eye. In this session, Pam will share best practices and inspirations for a profound and innovative way to ensure that every child reads passionately, powerfully, and proficiently for the new era of literacy.

*Taming the Wild Text: Dynamic Strategies to Ensure Success for All Readers and Writers*

In this session, literacy expert Pam Allyn will share innovative strategies for helping all children become lifelong readers and writers who are deeply motivated and empowered by literacy as a tool for communication, collaboration and community-building. Pam will take an in-depth look at the role of student choice and story as a tool for resilience and social-emotional development. She will address the three major types of writing (narrative, informational, and argument/opinion) and how students can write in long and short forms in every subject area. Pam will address the challenges and opportunities in teaching craft, conventions, and content.

*Reading Is Like Breathing In and Writing Is Like Breathing Out*

In this session, Pam Allyn will share new ideas about the synergy of reading and writing instruction. Pam will discuss how we can measure the impact of writing on our children as learners, and how to use literature, performance-based assessment, and our own growing knowledge of the teaching of writing to move our children forward. She will highlight lessons that power great outcomes for student learners in all subject areas. Participants will leave with ready-to-implement practices to make reading and writing transformational for students.

## Who is Pam and what matters to her?

*Pam is a national and international literacy advocate. She is an author, public speaker, and champion of the life of the child as a reader and writer. She is a mom, a wife, a friend, and a daughter. Pam is the author of many books for teachers and families on reading, writing, and learning. She is the Kellogg Foundation Fellow in Racial Equity and Healing. Pam believes passionately about reading as a human right that belongs to every child, and she absolutely loves kids, books, and the power of the supportive community to inspire us all!*

### Scholastic resources by Pam Allyn

*Every Child a Super Reader: 7 Strengths to Open a World of Possible, co-authored with Dr. Ernest Morrell*

*LitCamp*

*Pam Allyn's Best Books for Boys*

*The Complete Year series, Grades K-5*

*Homework Pages for Independent Reading*

### *Families as Reading and Writing Partners*

Building and shaping a strong reading and writing life at home plays a key role in giving every child a chance to succeed. In this session, Pam Allyn will share dynamic and practical ways to enroll families as active partners in their children's reading and writing lives. Pam will discuss ways we can help all children become motivated readers and writers through powerful rituals, engaging environments, and other compelling strategies.

### *The Profound Importance of Social-Emotional Learning for Literacy Development: The 7 Strengths*

Pam Allyn's 7 Strengths Model is built on a social-emotional framework that honors children's languages, cultures, communities, and stories. This session, organized around the 7 Strengths inherent in super readers and writers (Belonging, Curiosity, Friendship, Kindness, Confidence, Courage, and Hope), will show teachers, parents, caregivers, and out-of-school providers why reading and writing are the ultimate super powers, leading to richer, deeper experiences with information, ideas, and connections to others in classrooms, families, and the world at large.

### *7 Strengths to Open a World of Possible: Reading, Writing, and Learning in the New Era*

Every child deserves the opportunity to become a 24/7, 365-days-a-year super reader! Pam Allyn's 7 Strengths Model, built on a social-emotional framework that honors children's languages, cultures, communities, and stories, builds a safe and loving environment in which to cultivate super readers and writers who believe in themselves and are ready for college, career, and civic engagement. Organized around the 7 Strengths inherent in super readers and writers (Belonging, Curiosity, Friendship, Kindness, Confidence, Courage, and Hope), this session will show teachers, parents, caregivers, and out-of-school providers why reading and writing are the ultimate super powers, leading to richer, deeper experiences with information, ideas, and connections to others in classrooms, families, and the world at large.

### *21st Century Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening*

In this session, Pam Allyn will discuss the dynamic moment we are in as educators and learners, and how this moment is making new dimensions of teaching and learning possible. Pam will share 10 best practices for teaching reading and writing for today's learner, and look closely at the role of text, the student, and the teacher as co-creators of new literacy journeys.

### *The Power and Magic of Independent Reading and How to Make It Matter*

In this session, Pam Allyn will present effective structures and routines for Independent Reading that will help us motivate all students to become lifelong readers. She will discuss the synergy between reading and the digital tools of today that make it possible to share one's reading life with many others. Pam will discuss the role of children's books as mentors for the kinds of writing our children can do in the 21st century, both inside and outside of school. She will lead us to think about how foundational authentic text can be the lever that brings all readers into a reading community.

### *Top Ten Strategies to Build a Super Reader Community Zone*

Pam Allyn maintains that when we build on students' key strengths and immerse them in an intellectually invigorating, emotionally nurturing, literature-rich community, we grow "Super Readers" and "Super Writers"—avid readers and writers who consume and create texts with passion, understanding, and a critical eye. The new era requires a set of best practices that can make this possible. In this session, Pam will share best practices and new ideas on the value of independence, integration of reading and writing instruction, and the role literacy plays to improve outcomes for our students across the entire day. As administrators, coaches, and teachers, we can create a strategy that makes it possible for our entire community to cultivate and support the super-potential of all our students.