



For Immediate Release

Read to a Child® announces new Remote Read Aloud Program video with Magic Tree House author Mary Pope Osborne as well as significant book donation to Hartford Public Schools

Mary Pope Osborne reads from her latest book in her Magic Tree House series “Late Lunch with Llamas” and answers questions from Hartford Public Schools students

Wellesley, MA, August 19, 2020 – National literacy and mentoring non-profit [Read to a Child®](#) today announced its newest Remote Read Aloud Program video featuring *New York Times* bestselling author Mary Pope Osborne. In the [Read to a Child-produced video](#), Ms. Osborne reads an exciting excerpt from her newest Magic Tree House book *Late Lunch with Llamas* (Magic Tree House #34) and answers questions from Hartford Public Schools students.

In addition, thanks to a generous donation from Ms. Osborne, all students in grades 1 through 4 at Read to a Child’s four Greater Hartford partner schools will each receive (based upon each child’s grade level) a Magic Tree House book and its corresponding nonfiction Fact Tracker. In total, this donation will provide over 2,400 books for Hartford students, which is the largest in-kind book donation ever facilitated by Read to a Child.

Late Lunch with Llamas takes protagonists Jack and Annie on an extraordinary adventure back in time as they race to the Andes Mountains to rescue a stolen llama while learning about South America and the Peruvian landmark Machu Picchu. *Late Lunch with Llamas* is accompanied by its nonfiction companion book *Magic Tree House Fact Tracker: Llamas and the Andes*.

Thanks to the Hartford Public Schools’ Literacy Team, Ms. Osborne answered questions from students about her inspiration for the series and her writing process, while giving advice to young creatives on how to build an outlet for their imagination. Thanks to publisher Random House Children’s Books, the entire video is available [on YouTube](#) for all classes, students and families to enjoy at home. The video can also be found at this link <https://tinyurl.com/MagicTreeHouseReadAloud>

Mary Pope Osborne is an ardent advocate and supporter of children’s literacy and has traveled extensively in the US and abroad, visiting schools and speaking on issues related to children’s literacy. When asked about the importance of reading aloud to children, Ms. Osborne responded: *“The best way to help children learn to read is to read aloud to them. Children never forget those nourishing moments. Best of all, they learn that reading connects us to others and brings joy.”*

To find out more about Read to a Child's **Remote Read Aloud Program**, visit the web page <https://readtoachild.org/program/remote-read-aloud-program> or [click here](#) for other videos, including R.J. Palacio reading her #1 *New York Times* bestselling novel *Wonder* and Tracy Drain, aerospace systems engineer working at NASA, reading children's book *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*. All titles in the Remote Read Aloud program are books about empowerment, equity or inclusion.

Visit <https://readtoachild.org/program/read-aloud-resources> or [click here](#) to find out more about Read to a Child's **Read Aloud Resources** web page which includes: five tips for getting the most out of reading aloud to your child/student; racial justice and equity resources; read aloud from home resources; celebrity, author and other read aloud videos; useful websites; and a huge list of free eBooks.

About Read to a Child:

Read to a Child (readtoachild.org) is a national literacy and mentoring non-profit that inspires caring adults to read aloud regularly to underserved children to create better opportunities for the child's future. Research shows that reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for eventual success in reading, a key factor for success in school, work, and life. When an adult reads to a child, both parties have a joyful, rewarding experience that instills a love of reading, improves literacy skills, and enhances a child's self-confidence. Read to a Child's **Read Aloud Mentoring Program** utilizes 2,000 volunteer mentors from the community and from 150 socially-minded organizations who read one-on-one to 1,500 at-risk elementary students in the greater metro areas of Boston, Detroit, Hartford, Los Angeles, and Miami. Read to a Child also reaches and inspires thousands more children across the country in its **Remote Read Aloud Program** and **Celebrity Reading Program** where notable authors, celebrities, athletes and politicians read aloud to groups of children either online or in-person.

About Mary Pope Osborne:

Mary Pope Osborne is an ardent advocate and supporter of children's literacy, and the award-winning author of more than 100 books for children and young adults, including novels, retellings of mythology and folklore, picture books, biographies, and mysteries. From 1993 to 1997, Ms. Osborne served as president of the Authors Guild, the country's leading organization for published authors. She has traveled extensively in the US and abroad, visiting schools and speaking on issues related to children's literacy. She recently spoke at the United Nations regarding the importance of worldwide literacy and was profiled on NBC's *Rock Center* with Brian Williams for her continued efforts. Mary's personal contributions have put hundreds of thousands of books in the hands of underserved children. She resides in Connecticut. Follow Mary on [Twitter](#).

About the Magic Tree House series:

Widely regarded among parents, teachers, and librarians for its power to instill a passion for reading, Mary Pope Osborne's award-winning Magic Tree House series is an international phenomenon that has sold more than 165 million books worldwide since its debut in 1992, and has been translated into 36 different languages in over 30 international markets. All Magic Tree House books are available in print, as e-books, and as Listening Library audio books, which are all narrated by Mary Pope Osborne. Magic Tree House Fact Trackers is a best-selling series of non-fiction books that expand on the Magic Tree House fiction books. Mary Pope Osborne's sister, Natalie Pope Boyce, is the author of over thirty Fact Trackers. Visit MagicTreeHouse.com and [Magic Tree House's Facebook page](#) for more information about the series, activities, and more.

About Mary Pope's Osborne's Classroom Adventures Program:

Mary Pope Osborne's Classroom Adventures Program is Mary's gift to teachers who have supported her over the years. The program includes free online resources for the Magic Tree House fiction and non-fiction Fact Trackers as well as an opportunity for Title 1 educators to be awarded a Gift of Books. Through this program Mary and Will Osborne have donated hundreds of thousands of books to under-served children across the country. Visit MTHClassroomAdventures.org for more information.

About Random House Children's Books:

Random House Children's Books (rchbooks.com) is the world's largest English-language children's trade book publisher. Creating books for toddlers through young adult readers, in all formats from board books to activity books to picture books, novels, and nonfiction, the imprints of Random House Children's Books bring together award-winning authors and illustrators, world-famous franchise characters, and multi-million copy series. Random House Children's Books is a division of Penguin Random LLC.

###

Media contact:

Lily (Samuels) Andrews
Director, Read to a Child Greater Hartford
Read to a Child
lily.samuels@readtoachild.org
(860) 838-3916