

**Grant Title:** Novel Effect “read aloud” subscription

**Cost of request (pick one):**

- \$399 for all teachers at one school
- \$799 for all teachers + students at one school
- \$99 for 1 teacher + students in one classroom
- More details: [school plans - Novel Effect](#)

**Grade Levels:** Pre-K through 5th

**How will funds be used:**

This grant will be used to purchase subscriptions to Novel Effect ([www.noveffect.com](http://www.noveffect.com)) which is an iOS and Android app that adds interactive music, sound effects, and character voices to the books we already read aloud in our classrooms.

**Project Description:**

Novel Effect ([www.noveffect.com](http://www.noveffect.com)) delivers interactive music, sound effects, and character voices that are perfectly tuned to respond as we read aloud from our library books during regular read aloud time. As we read, Novel Effect gives students a more immersive experience so they’ll be on the edge of their seats with their focus on the teacher or librarian. And it offers story effects for the books we already use in our curriculum and have in our libraries. **NOTE:** *Novel Effect does not replace the books we use in our classroom. The app follows along using voice recognition and adds story effects as the teacher reads aloud from existing library books.*

**Situation and student outcomes:**

Children are falling behind in reading but read alouds can help.

1. “two thirds of American students can’t read at their grade level.” (Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (2019).
2. “Reading aloud to a child is the single most important activity...for eventual success in reading. And if children develop a love of reading early on, they are much more likely to become lifelong readers.” (Source: Becoming a Nation of Readers. 1985)
3. “Only 50% of children have read alouds more than 5 days a week” ([The Rise of Read-Aloud \(scholastic.com\)](#)) which has been exacerbated by the pandemic and the inequality of our children who have been overly burdened in families with lower income.

In order for our teachers to overcome these challenges through reading aloud, they must...

- Keep students engaged during read alouds
- Inspire children to love to read
- Reduce screen time

Novel Effect has been shown to increase a child's love of reading. In fact, according to Novel Effect's subscriber survey, teachers say...

- Books are more engaging (89%)
- Kids are more confident reading (83%)
- Kids ask to read more often (81%)

When a teacher reads aloud to a student or classroom with Novel Effect, there are many benefits identified including...

- Promotes literacy and engagement
- Supports imagery and visualization
- Provides multi-sensory experience
- Motivates reluctant and shy readers and encourages public speaking
- Supports fluency and accuracy with beginning readers and English Language Learners
- Promotes a multi-modal approach to storytime for children enrolled in special education programs

### **How does this address equity and inclusion?**

According to [The Rise of Read-Aloud \(scholastic.com\)](https://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/reading-aloud), “reading aloud peaks at age five. While a majority of families read aloud 5–7 days a week before a child enters kindergarten (55%), this percentage begins to decline dramatically with each additional year of age. Lower-income families with children ages eight and under read aloud less frequently; 39% among families with household incomes less than \$35,000 and 62% among families with incomes of \$100,000 or more. Lower-income families with kids ages five and under are also less likely, at 46% compared to about seven in 10, to have received information on the importance of reading aloud from birth when their children were babies.”

### **What are others saying about this “project”?**

- “Today we used Novel Effect...I’ve never seen my students more engaged! If you have not checked out Novel Effect yet, you definitely need to!” - [Teacher](#) on Instagram
- “This is the perfect app to bring each story to life and to keep learners engaged. My students are absolutely amazed every time I utilize [@novel\\_effect](#).” – [Teacher](#)

- "Whether you are reading aloud to your class, a parent reading to his/her child, or a student reading aloud to his or herself or a small group, Novel Effect is a clever tool that follows your lead and makes reading (and listening) that much more fun." – Dr. Bruce Ellis, [Take Reading to the Next Level with Novel Effect from TCEA technotes](#)

**Does the solution collect student-specific, personally identifiable information?**

No. Devices authorized by the teacher, or classroom account lead, as a classroom or student device are logged in **anonymously** – no personally identifiable information is collected. For maintenance and operational purposes some anonymized usage statistics are kept by Novel Effect. No usage-statistic data is shared with 3rd party providers.

Learn more about Novel Effect's [Classroom Privacy Policy](#) for Novel Effect Classroom subscribers.

**Project timeline:**

Novel Effect is an app that can be downloaded to an iOS (iPhone or iPad) or Android device. Once registered, there is limited to no time needed to learn how to use the app. We grab an existing book from our library, search for the same book in the Novel Effect app, press the Get Started button and the app will start listening for the teacher to read the book aloud. The teacher will immediately see the children's enjoyment of the book and engagement increase exponentially..

**How will success be measured?**

Reading assessments should improve over time.

**How much does the project cost? Are there different options?**

- \$399 to give all teachers unlimited access (at one school)
- \$799 to give all teachers + students unlimited access (at one school)
- \$99 to give 1 teacher + students unlimited access (in one classroom)
- More details: [school plans - Novel Effect](#)

**How do we procure your project?**

Novel Effect takes all forms of payment including purchase orders, checks or credit card, if preferred. [School Plans](#) are available and [quote requests](#) can be submitted at [www.noveleffect.com](http://www.noveleffect.com).