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The Reading of Books

(for Dr. Kathleen Schlichting)

Pam Pittman

I love the sound of your voice when you read to us.

Your voice, lulling us into the magic
world of a book.

We drift over pictures
of places
and people
who sit on fences and drink lemonade
while ancient grandmothers sew
quilts for their not-yet-born posterity.

Your voice, easing around words and wrapping our ears
with sounds of kittens meowing and moon rising
to its place in a blue black sky,
carries us like babies in warm blankets
through thick, green jungles,
purple meadows,
and stairs in a pale corridor of Germany.

Your voice, assuring us that we, too, can
lure our little ones into those book places,
hums and
sings and
tiptoes into my memory—

I love the sound of your voice when you read to us.



Dr. Pam Pittman is Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator of the M.Ed. Reading Specialist program at Fairmont State University in Fairmont, West Virginia. She received her PhD from North Carolina State University and her Master's in Language and Literacy from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Her research interests include adolescent literacy, teacher professional development, and action research. She can be contacted at ppittman@fairmontstate.edu.