



For Teachers

9 Creative Ways To Boost Your Students' Desire to Read More

kids
read now
Reading Successes Delivered



“The simplest way to make sure that we raise literate children is to teach them to read, and to show them that reading is a pleasurable activity. And that means, at its simplest, finding books that they enjoy, giving them access to those books, and letting them read them.”

Neil Gaiman

We couldn't agree more with award-winning author, Neil Gaiman.

In fact, these words have inspired these **nine creative ways to boost your K-5th grade students' desire to read more...** and we couldn't wait to share them with you.

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For K-1st Graders

1. Give Them Some Space

There's nothing better than having a place of your own to read where you feel comfortable and safe. In other words, create a fun little area or nook that your class can identify as their own.

- Get some colorful cushions and blankets for soft-seating layouts.
- Set up a reading fort to make an exciting place to be.
- Decorate with fairy lights or art by your students to add a more creative ambiance.

In their own space they can:

- Read and re-read their favorite books.
- Explore different genres of fiction.
- Keep a sketch book to draw scenes or characters inspired by their stories.

2. Make Reading A Routine

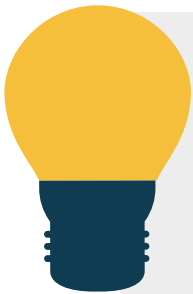
How can you make “reading time” a fun time for children to look forward to? Make it part of their daily routine.

Setting aside uninterrupted time during lessons is the ideal way to get students into the habit of regularly reading by scheduling reading times like these:

- Once a day during lessons or allocate specific days during the week.
- After lunchtime.
- Before the end of the school day.

In fact, why not rename “Reading Time” to “Stories and Imagination Time”? Suggest families set aside this time as well, especially for those students who are reluctant readers.

This will avoid associating reading with a regimented task or chore—it sounds more exciting than the literal label!



Activity Idea

Once children have read a story, they can use their imagination and understanding to answer one of our [Discovery Sheet](#) questions.

For example: *Tiny Goes to the Library* by Cari Meister

Tiny is not allowed inside the library. But he still helps! Go to the library with Tiny!

Discovery Sheet Reading Question:

Tiny is the boy’s best friend. They do everything together. Who is your best friend? What do you do together?

Get our 10 Classroom Participation Activities for K-5





For 2nd-3rd Graders

3. Bring Books To Life

Merge imagination with reality by organizing field trips based on topics or locations featured in their books. For example:

Are you reading about stars or space exploration?

Wow them at the planetarium! Have limited time, resources or budget for off-campus outings? Visit it virtually with an app, like the free [SkyView app](#) that shows you where the planets are around you at any moment in time!

4. Read It Aloud Twists

You already know that not only is reading aloud a great practice for improving oral articulation and public speaking skills, but it also boosts confidence and feelings of independence.

Families and children together. Get families to encourage their children to read a bedtime story to them. Even pre-readers can be asked to read one or two of the easiest words on the page. Are your students living in a book desert? Are you unable to send fun books home for them to read? If this is the case there is hope. [See how Kids Read Now works with schools to get fun, reading-level appropriate books into the homes of students.](#)

Are your students reading *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*? Take them to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, your local art gallery or on a [virtual tour to the Louvre!](#)

You can provide parents, guardians and caregivers with ideas/ events/ places to visit on the weekend during semester breaks—plus the above links!

Across grade levels in school. Involve other grades at school to listen or read along to your students as part of a 'Read Aloud Circle' which can be done in a lesson or during an after-school club. This will make them feel more responsible, share their passion for reading with younger students, and it's sociable.

Another fun reason to read aloud - make it a performance! Plays, movies and TV series bring the written word to life, right? The same can be said for reading along aloud! Children can make it a fun performance by getting into character, making up different voices, and adding sound effects to the action!

5. Go On Library Adventures

Send your students on an adventure - to search for stories hidden in the stacks! This will turn a standard library visit into a fun trivia/ scavenger hunt.

Simply ask individual students, groups, or the entire class a series of questions or directions, such as:

- What's the title of the fifth Harry Potter book? Now go FIND it.
- How many books were written about Alice in Wonderland? Find out.
- Bring back TWO books that feature at least ONE character from another planet.

This is a great way for students to become more autonomous when it comes to choosing the next book to read, and explore titles they may not have heard of.

Another great tip is to promote their freedom of choice. Let them choose what they want to read, and give them the opportunity to access a wide variety of different titles and genres.

Activity idea

Books are portals to other lands and fantastical worlds, so ask your students to find a book with a setting they would love to visit. Fiction or non-fiction— the options are endless! They can share with you, their tables, or the whole class.





For 4th-5th Graders

6. Combine Subjects

Let's get experimental with activities that blend subjects AND creativity.



Art

Get the brushes and finger paints out for your students to channel their inner creative character and put it onto canvas - or paper! Ask them to draw/ paint a scene or a portrait of their favorite character from the book they are currently reading.



Science

In *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, there are many incidents that challenge the laws of physics, including gravity, floating, sinking, expanding and shrinking. Involve your class in a week of 'Science in Literature' - each day dedicated to a fun physics experiment. Why not end the week with an 'Invent Your Own Flavors Friday', inspired by Violet Beauregarde's bubblegum?



English

What happens next? Set your class a creative writing task to continue the story they've recently read with an epilogue of their own.

7. Gamify It

Stories typically start with a character embarking on a journey, getting into a series of shenanigans and meeting new characters on their way to the end.

So, it's just like playing a game

Create a Top Card Wins game

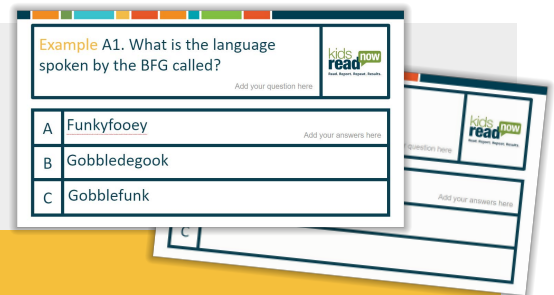
Print off a PDF template or use the Google Slides template, or ask students to draw their own Top Cards. Include an image/ avatar of each of the key characters, and think about 4-5 attributes that each character can possess - with differing scores for each character. For example, one character's attributes could be: Strength = 10, Intelligence = 8, Experience = 6, Teamwork = 2, Wins = 9.



[Access Top Card Templates \(PDF and Google Slides\)](#)

Make a trivia game with questions and answer cards

Not only is this a creative way to show the information your students have retained, this will also get them familiar with the practice of creating flash cards for pop quizzes, assessments and exam revision.



[Access Trivia Card Templates \(PDF and Google Slides\)](#)

Customize this game board for your lessons

This can be printed on paper or cardboard using the printable template (supplied). The fun factors to consider are: the aim of the game, the rules to follow, the rewards that can be collected along the way, the obstacles that send the player back to the start, and how this relates to the story, etc. Your students may need to beta test their board game on you before getting their classmates to take their turn!



[Access Game Board Templates \(PDF\)](#)



For ALL K-5th Graders

8. Screen It

There are SO many [TV](#) or [movie adaptations](#) from children’s literature to choose from, such as *Curious George*, *The Baby-Sitters Club*, and *The Epic Tales of Captain Underpants to Holes*, *Matilda*, and *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. This means you have an abundance of episode and/or entire movies to screen as part of a lesson - one each month or save this for an end-of-semester treat - like this:

Begin the month/ semester by setting the whole class the same book to read.

End the month/ semester with an afternoon screening of a TV episode/ movie. The first screening can be a surprise or you can let them know from the outset to build up the excitement!

Host a post-screening Q&A to gauge their understanding of the story, e.g.

1. What did you like about the adaptation?
2. How did it compare to the original book?
3. How were the characters the same/ different to how you imagined them to look like when you were reading?
4. Which version do you prefer and why?

Tip: If you are limited to playing clips in class with approval from your school administrator, play a clip of the TV episode or movie as a teaser instead, and assign your students to continue watching at home. Otherwise, play sections of the book adaptation over multiple days which will keep them on the edge of their seat for more to watch!

Get our 10 Classroom Participation Activities for K-5



9. Celebrate Key Dates

Is their favorite author's birthday coming up, or is there a fun awareness day you can jump on?

Use these memorable occasions to celebrate with reading parties, games and competitions:

MARCH
8

IDEA #1 International Women's Day

Why not celebrate the lead-up to the next International Women's Day by choosing books written by female authors to read or asking your class to choose one themselves? In preparation for the day, challenge your students to write-up a report/ create a poster board, and give an oral presentation to the rest of the class about who the author is.

SEPT
17

IDEA #2 National Dance Day

Are there characters in literature that LOVE to dance? If a story involves dancing and/or lyrics - great! If not, assign characters from your students' books with some dance moves! You can weave short dancing sessions throughout the school day, or enlist your students to get into groups and come up with dance moves they think represent their favorite characters. At the end of the day, host a 'Character Dance Off', and give out prizes to the group with the best moves!

SEPT
13

IDEA #3 Mashup Days

September 13 is both Roald Dahl's birthday AND 'Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day', so... why not mash these up on the same day? Students can make a Roald Dahl-themed recipe at school or at home, then get them to share pics and videos when they're cooking their concoctions! Don't forget to ask them to post using the awareness day hashtags #KidsTakeOverKitchenDay and #RoaldDahlDay... and let your families know about the recipes in advance!

Roald Dahl-Themed Recipe Ideas

- A simple, tasty, allergy-free [chocolate cake](#) inspired by Bruce Bogtrotter from Matilda
- A refreshing glass of [Froboscottle](#) which is The BFG's favorite drink
- An [edible version](#) of 'Squiggly Spaghetti' from The Twits... but replacing "worms" with different types of pasta, not just spaghetti.

Adult supervision required.

Add these key dates to your calendar:

ADVENTUROUS AWARENESS DAYS

January 23	National Reading Day
February 1-28	Black History Month
February 14	International Book Giving Day
March 3	World Book Day
March 8	International Women's Day
March 20	International Day of Happiness
April 2	International Children's Book Day
April 12	Education and Sharing Day
April 16	World Voice Day
April 23	World Book Night
April 29	National Arbor Day
May 2	Children's Book Week
May 11	Eat What You Want Day
June 1	International Children's Day
July 17	World Emoji Day
July 24	Parent's Day
August 19	World Photo Day
September 1-30	National Literacy Month
September 6	National Read a Book Day
September 8	International Literacy Day
September 13	Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day
September 17	National Dance Day
September 19	International Talk Like a Pirate Day
September 24	National Punctuation Day
September 26	National Pancake Day
September 27	World Tourism Day
October 1-31	International School Library Month
October 4-10	World Space Week
October 7	World Smile Day
October 9	International Astronomy Day AND World Post Day
October 16	World Food Day
November 1	National Authors Day
November 7-13	Children's Book Week
November 14-20	American Education Week
November 20	Universal Children's Day

AMAZING AUTHORS' BIRTHDAYS

January 13	Michael Bond <i>Paddington Bear</i>
January 18	A.A. Milne <i>Winne the Pooh</i>
January 27	Lewis Carroll <i>Alice in Wonderland</i>
February 7	Laura Ingalls Wilder <i>Little House on the Prairie</i>
February 10	E.L. Konigsburg <i>From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</i>
February 12	Judy Blume (<i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing</i>) AND Jacqueline Woodson (<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>)
February 28	Megan McDonald <i>Judy Moody</i>
March 2	Dr. Seuss <i>The Cat in the Hat</i>
April 25	Roda Ahmed <i>Mae Among the Stars</i>
May 16	Margret Rey <i>Curious George</i>
June 10	Maurice Sendak <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>
July 11	E.B. White <i>Stuart Little, Charlotte's Web</i>
July 28	Beatrix Potter <i>Peter Rabbit</i>
August 23	Cedella Marley <i>One Love & Get Up, Stand Up</i>
September 13	Roald Dahl <i>The BFG, Matilda, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>
October 10	Jamia Wilson <i>Young, Gifted and Black</i>
October 13	Sharee Miller <i>Don't Touch My Hair!</i>
November 29	C.S. Lewis <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i>

We can get your kids to read their books at home! [See how Kids Read Now does this...](#)

Beat Boredom In The Classroom! Get 10 Ways To Engage Your Students.

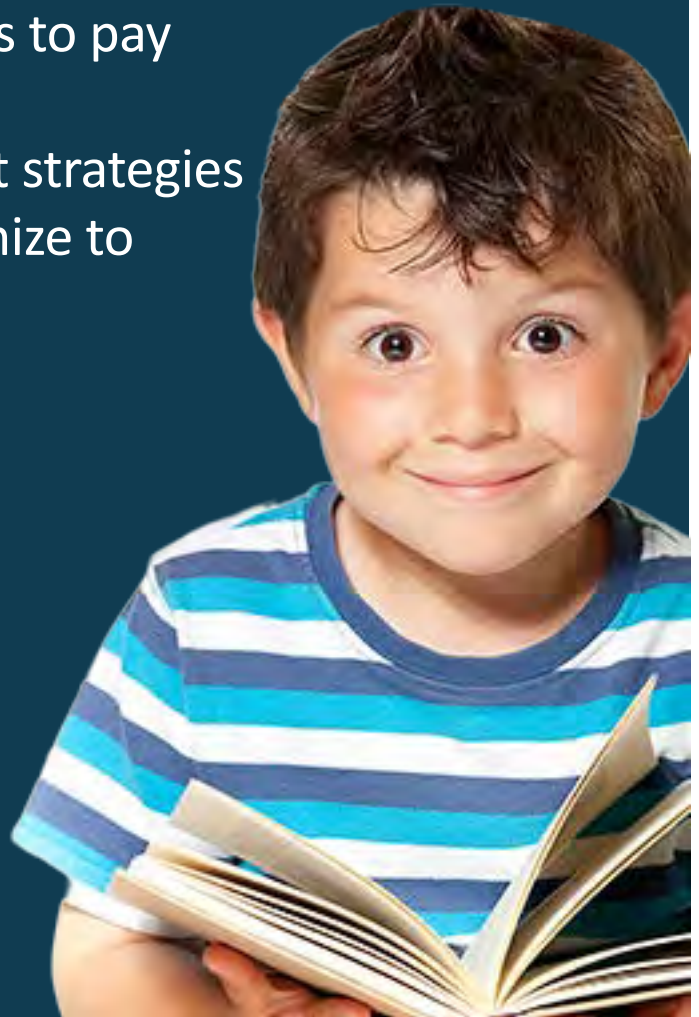
Struggling to get your students to pay attention? You're not alone.

Get these 10 free engagement strategies you can easily add and customize to your lesson plans.

Step-by-step instructions.

Video examples.

And more...



Get our 10 Classroom Participation Activities for K-5

We'd love to see all your fun activities in action.

Please post your pics and tag us!

[@KidsReadNow](#) [#ReadMoreNow](#)



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