



12 ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS FOR JANUARY

Idea #1: Make Some Reading Resolutions

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Set the stage for an exciting new year of reading with these New Year Reading Resolutions Bookmarks!

Set up a simple book tasting with new books or overlooked titles and let your students browse to find titles for their "To-Read" list. With little prep you can get your students thinking about their next "Must-Reads."

(See it in The Trapped Librarian TPT store)

Idea #2: Unwrap a Mystery Book

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

Today's idea will take a bit of set-up, but it's perfect for mid-late January! It won't be anything new for most of you.

Blind Date with a Book has been around for quite a few years, and you can find loads of ideas for it all over Pinterest, Facebook, and Instagram. I didn't invent this idea, and I'm not the first to do it in the library.



(continue reading)

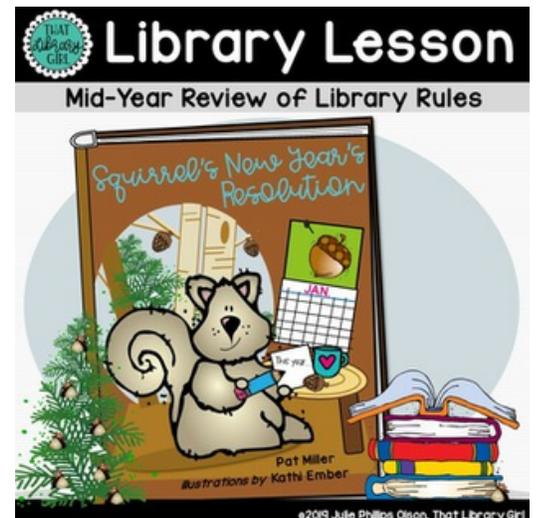
Idea #3: Refresh Library Rules and Book Care

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

Want a fun, K-2 library lesson to get kids thinking about New Year's resolutions regarding book care and library rules? First, read Squirrel's New Year's Resolution by Pat Miller. (The book is not included - but is easily found on YouTube -- AND it's a great addition to your collection!)

Then, lead a purposeful class discussion, guided by the slides of this cute PowerPoint. The slides show a pair of slightly confused squirrels who have just proudly made up 16 library resolutions that cover issues like:

- Returning books on time
- Using bookmarks
- Keeping books clean and dry
- Choosing "just right" books, and so on.



[\(see it in the That Library Girl TPT store\)](#)

Idea #4: Have Fun with Cookies, Friends, Penguins, and Snow

by Cari White (Library Learners)



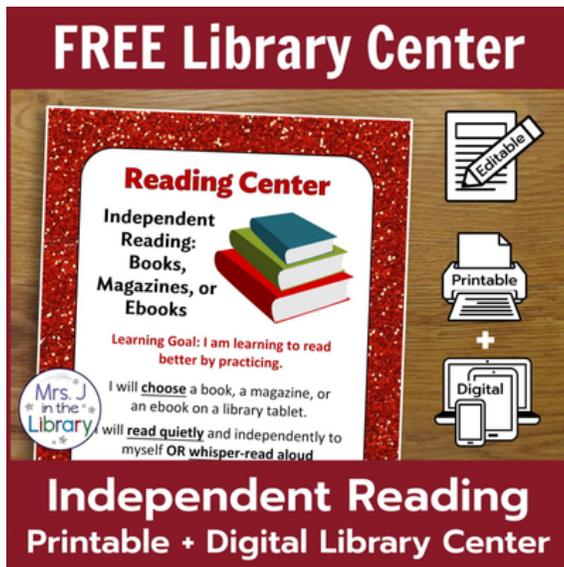
Engage your kindergarten students in fun, standards-based storytime activities!

This product will easily provide 3 months of school library lessons that your young students will love! This Winter edition includes the lesson plan template, activity printables, and book lists to read about Cookies, Friends, Penguins, and Snow.

[\(see it in the Library Learners TPT store\)](#)

Idea #5: Encourage Independent Reading

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)



This FREE library center for kindergarten through 5th grades is perfect for starting centers in your elementary school library or classroom.

Students read their library books, personal books, magazines, or ebooks in a cozy space.

You can also invite students to whisper-read aloud to a stuffed animal “book buddy” to further enhance their reading fluency practice and comprehension.

[See it in the Mrs J in the Library shop](#)



Idea #6: Set Up Some January Library Centers

by Cari White (Library Learners)

Looking for January Library Centers?

Here are some free ideas to keep your students engaged in active learning in your school library!

[\(continue reading\)](#)



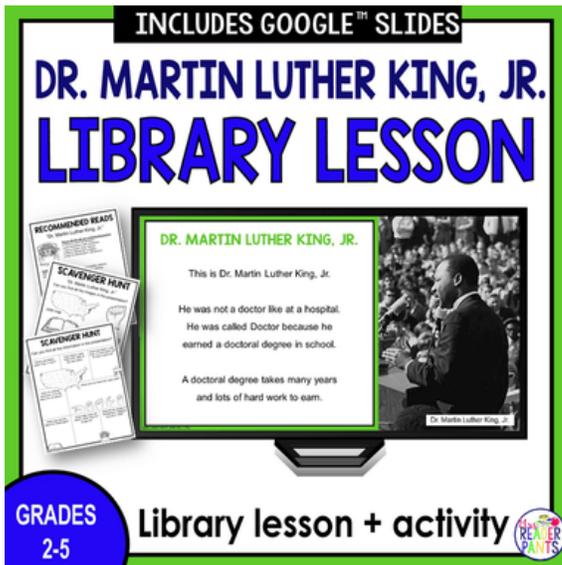
Get creative with a snowman book sculpture!

You will need to gather white book covers, black book covers, black and orange construction paper, and a scarf.

[Click here to see how to do it](#)

Idea #7: Celebrate Dr. King

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



This Dr. Martin Luther King library lesson includes a guided discussion of equality and fairness, biographical information about Dr. King, trivia questions, interesting facts, and more!

Also includes lesson plan tied to CCSS, TEKS, and AASL standards. Perfect for Martin Luther King's Birthday or for Black History Month!

[\(see it in the MrsReaderPants shop\).](#)

KID-FRIENDLY SNOWMAN JOKE

Question: What do snowmen eat for lunch?

Answer: Icebergers!



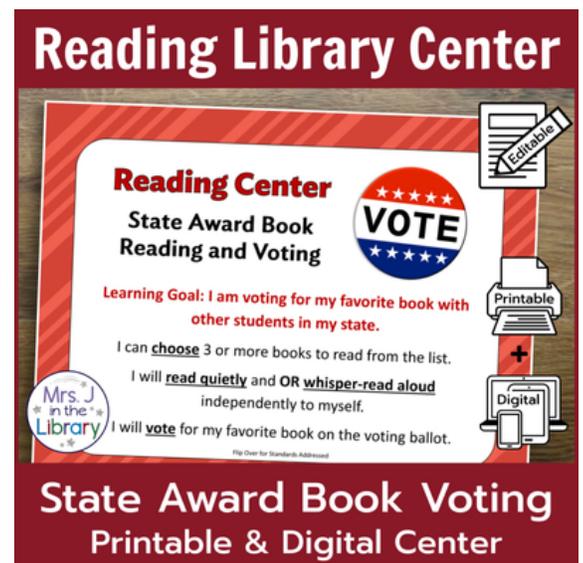
Idea #8: Promote State Award Books

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)

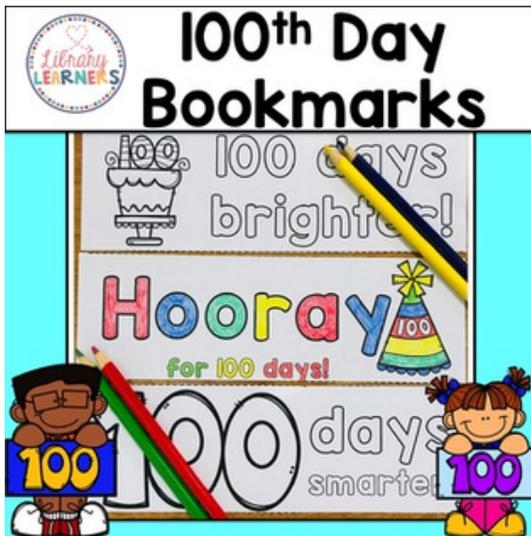
Around October of each school year (after library orientation), I introduce the Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice voting contest to my students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. I read a selection of books from an annually-updated book list, and then students get to vote for their favorite one. As in many other U.S. states...

[\(continue reading article\)](#)

[\(see State Award Book Voting in the Mrs J in the Library shop\).](#)



Idea #9: Color Some FREE Bookmarks



100th Day Bookmarks by
Cari White of Library Learners



Winter Bookmarks by
Julie Olson of That Library Girl

Idea #10: January Library Lessons

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

The new year at school brings a fresh start and can help energize your January library lessons. It's time to help your elementary students get excited about reading again, for one thing. Since the holiday craziness is behind us, it's a great time to dive deeper into learning without fear of interruption! Here are some topics that I like to cover in my elementary school library right now...

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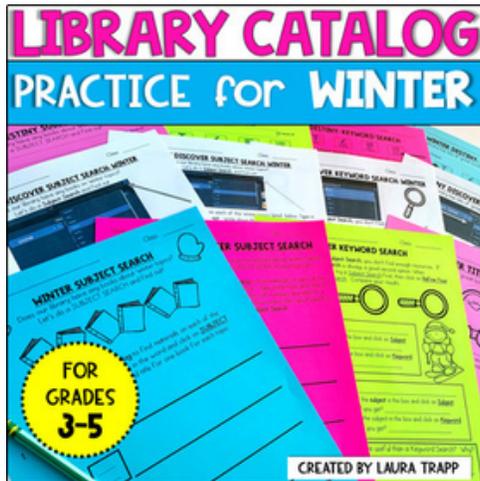
WHAT COUNTRY DRINKS THE MOST COFFEE?

Answer: Finland!

Based on data compiled by WorldAtlas.com, Finland, Norway, Iceland, and Denmark are the world's top coffee drinkers!

Idea #11: Practice Catalog Skills

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Make your winter library lessons engaging with this fun library catalog unit! Your 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will love practicing library catalog skills by searching for winter topics. Important library search types include subject, title, and keyword searches.

Your students will love the fun library game that can double as an assessment!

(see it in [The Trapped Librarian TPT store](#).)

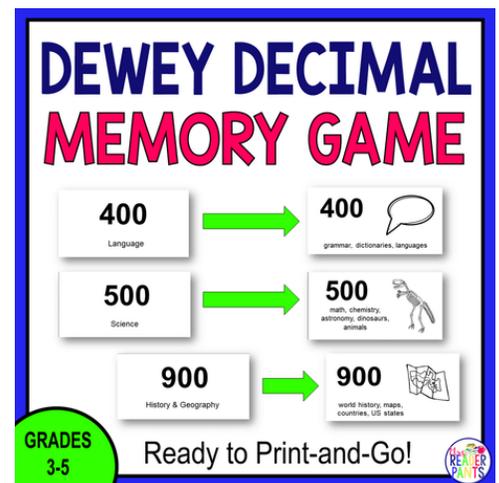
Idea #12: Play a Dewey Memory Game

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

This FREE Dewey Decimal Memory Game is easy to set up and play! It includes 20 total cards in two differentiated sets.

This Memory Game is free in my Free Resource Library. Current password is [jackrabbit](#), but it will soon change to [polarbear](#).

(see it in the [MrsReaderPants Free Resource Library](#).)



GOT THE JANUARY BLAHS?

Help transition back to the library with these tips:

- Play smooth jazz.
- Bring in some new plants.
- Let the sunshine in!
- Warm up with a delicious hot beverage.
- Practice yoga with your students.

