



# 15 ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS FOR APRIL

## Idea #1: Add New Dewey Shelf Labels

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)

Your nonfiction section is usually the hardest area for students to navigate and find what they want. These sample signs help them to be more independent when looking for books!

Just print and laminate, then stick them on 4" wide magazine file boxes, or 4" binders. The large, bold numbers and colorful graphics make them easy to spot.

([download them from MrsJ in the Library](#)).



## Idea #2: Read and Write Some Poetry

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



April is National Poetry Month, so of course it's a great time for some poetry activities in your school library.

Many classroom teachers do poetry units in April, so that makes it a collaboration opportunity too. Using Poetry Month activities in your school library is a win-win all around!

([read more on The Trapped Librarian](#)).

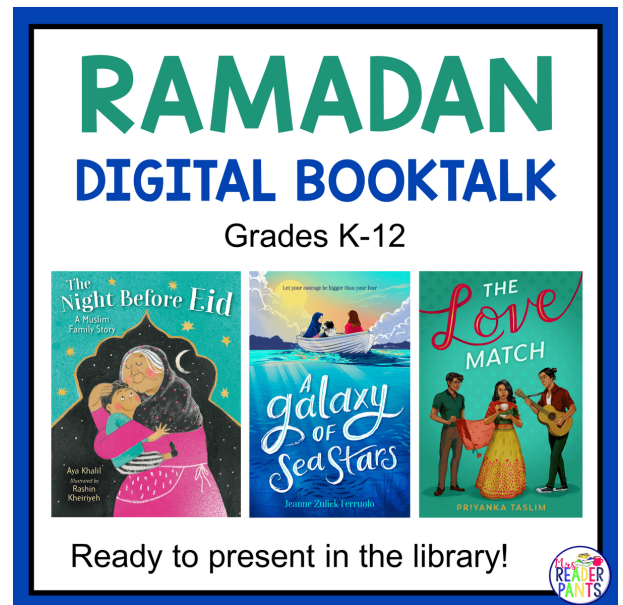
# Idea #3: Share Some Ramadan Stories

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

Celebrate Ramadan in the library with 34 Ramadan books for kids and teens! The dates of Ramadan change every year; in 2023, Ramadan is from March 22 to April 20.

This Digital Booktalk features 34 Ramadan books for kids and teens. It includes picture books, middle grade titles, and YA titles.

(download the free Digital Booktalk from MrsReaderPants)



PreK-5

## Favorite New Book Releases

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

Released  
in the last  
30 days

### PICTURE BOOKS

- *Ancient Night* by David Bowles
- *How Old Is a Whale?* by Lily Murray
- *The Night Before Eid: A Muslim Family Story* by Aya Khalil
- *Where I Live: Poems About My Home, My Street, and My Town* by Paul B. Janeczko
- *The Tree and the River* by Aaron Becker
- *Twenty Questions* by Mac Barnett

### CHAPTER BOOKS / NOVELS

- *You Are Here: Connecting Flights* by Ellen Oh
- *The Moth Keeper* by K. O'Neill
- *The Many Assassinations of Samir, the Seller of Dreams* by Daniel Nayeri
- *Squished* by Megan Wagner Lloyd
- *The Book That No One Wanted to Read* by Richard Ayoade
- *Aniana del Mar Jumps In* by Jasminne Mendez

## ORIGINS OF EARTH DAY

Celebrate Earth Day with your upper-elementary students [with this article from National Geographic Kids](#). It describes the origins of Earth Day and simple ways kids can help save the environment every day.



## Idea #4: Go on an Easter Egg Hunt

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Invite your neighbors on an Easter egg hunt without dying a single egg!

This freebie includes instructions for those who want to join in, egg graphics for everyone to display, and a jelly bean grid for tracking, too.

([download from That Library Girl](#))

## Idea #5: Draw Away the Testing Season Stress

by Cari White (Library Learners)

When the stress levels on campus rise during testing season, I like to provide some relaxing library centers, like Directed Drawing Bookmarks.

Both teachers and students need a break from all that pressure!

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



## LIVESTREAM BIRDFEEDERS ALL OVER THE WORLD



National Go Birding Day is April 29th, and celebrates our feathered friends in the U.S. [The Cornell Lab Bird Cams](#) show live-streamed bird feeders and nests from all over the world.

Try having one on the background during independent work time (like library centers), or as students enter for a calm start to your library class.

# Idea #6: Create an Interactive Bulletin Board

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Inspire your students with this interactive library bulletin board.

This Earth Day Bulletin Board requires minimal preparation to look fabulous!

Print on colorful cardstock and create a display to reinforce what your students are learning about Earth Day. Includes a sticky note template and activity pages for young learners!

(see it in The Trapped Librarian TPT store)



## OUR FAVORITE READ-ALOUDS FOR EARTH DAY

- *The Gentle Genius of Trees* (Philip Bunting)
- *Maybe You Might* (Imogen Foxell)
- *To Change a Planet* (Christina Soontornvat)
- *My Life at the Bottom The Story of a Lonesome Axolotl* (Linda Bondestam)
- *Outside In* (Underwood)
- *One Little Bag: An Amazing Journey* (Cole)
- *Earth! My First 4.54 Billion Years* (Stacy McAnulty)
- *Thank You, Earth* (April Pulley Sayre)
- *Earth Day Every Day* (Lisa Bullard)
- *Rally for Recycling* (Lisa Bullard)
- *Hidden City: Poems of Urban Wildlife* (Sarah Grace)
- *Black Beach* (Shaunna & John Stith)
- *The Last Plastic Straw* (Dee Romito)
- *Yoshi, Sea Turtle Genius* (Lynne Cox)
- *Apple and Magnolia* (Laura Gehl)
- *Hansel and Greta* (Jeanette Winterson)



## Idea #7: Teach Students to Write a Haiku

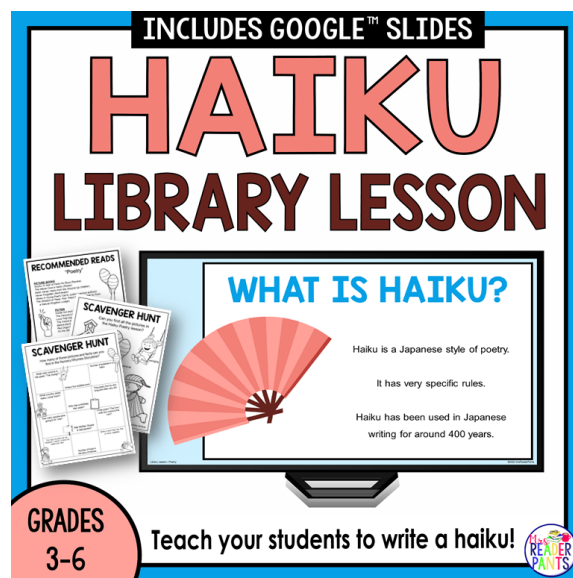
by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

This Haiku Library Lesson is so much fun for National Poetry Month!

It includes a two-part lesson that was designed for elementary librarians on the specials rotation.

Students learn the rules for writing haiku, practice counting syllables, and have an opportunity to write their own haiku.

(see it on [MrsReaderPants](#))



## Idea #8: Add Even More Dewey Shelf Signs

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)



If you need more signs than just the Dewey 100's, then you will LOVE this bundle.

There are 92 popular nonfiction topics, plus alphabet signs for the other sections of the library: everybody, fiction, biography, and graphic novels.

You have the choice between the larger 4" wide signs, or the slimmer 1/2" wide signs that take up less space on the library shelf.

(see it on [Mrs J in the Library](#))



Curated, engaging library curriculum  
for teacher-librarians

Click to learn more!



## Idea #9: Spring Flows Into Summer!

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

Need one last makeover to brighten up your circulation desk AND two quick writing activities for National Poetry Month?

This resource will launch your library into spring and provide a student work display that can stay up until the very last day of school!

([see it on That Library Girl](#))



## Idea #10: Read, Design, and Label Perfect Nests

by Cari White (Library Learners)



One of my favorite spring read-alouds is *The Perfect Nest* by Catherine Friend.

After you read this fun picture book with your students, they can design their own perfect nest and label its parts!

[See it in Library Learners TPT store.](#)



### NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK IS APRIL 23-29

Celebrate National Library Week! The [American Library Association website](#) has lots of information and free social media graphics for National Library Week. The theme for 2023 is "There's More to the Story!"

# Idea #11: Create a "Be Yourself" Bulletin Board

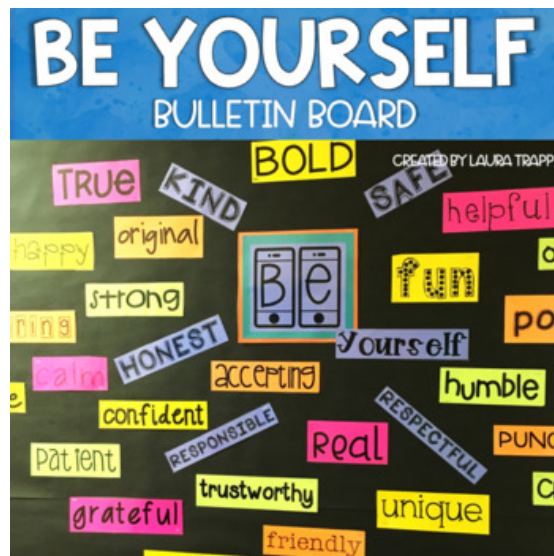
by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

This Be Yourself bulletin board is perfect for any time of year!

This low-prep bulletin board will save you time and inspire your students and teachers to be the best that they can be.

Grab this free, fun, inspirational BE YOU bulletin board today!

(Grab this freebie from [The Trapped Librarian on TPT](#).)



# Idea #12: Search for Library Resources on TPT

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Tips for searching and finding the TPT library resources that you need!

(Read the full article on [That Library Girl](#).)



## CELEBRATE WORLD ART DAY WITH PICTURE BOOKS

World Art Day is April 15th. That's a Saturday this year, so you can celebrate in the library the week before or after. Check out this [list of 30 picture books that celebrate art](#) from The Artful Parent to get started!

# Idea #13: Update Your Reconsideration Policies

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

It's 7:45am, and your library is hoppin-busy.

Suddenly, you look up, and there's another adult standing there, waving a library book that's full of sticky notes.

She tells you the book has "objectionable" content (hence, the sticky notes) and wants you to remove it from the library. The library starts to get quiet as students see this upset parent and try to listen in. What do you do?



(read article from MrsReaderPants)

# Idea #14: Add a Ladybug Library Center

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)



Spring is just around the corner! Time to bring some nature literacy and animal life cycle research to our school's library centers!

Students love the ladybug terrarium center in the library! The center teaches nature's wonders and research and information fluency skills through inquiry.

(read the full article on MrsJ in the Library)



## RECYCLING DISCARDED LIBRARY BOOKS FOR EARTH DAY

If you are discarding books, [this Instagram video](#) will show you how to recycle them into the cutest daffodils! What a fun activity for Earth Day!



# Idea #15: Try a Whisper Read to Self Center

by Cari White (Library Learners)

Celebrate National Poetry Month in a way that fits your schedule!

Here are some great ways to add poetry to your library in 10 minutes or less.

[\(Read this article on Library Learners\)](#)



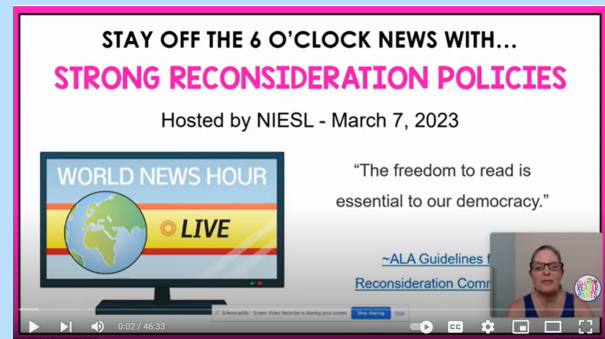
## CHECK OUT OUR VIDEOS!

This is a new feature to our monthly newsletter. You can click the link under each video to watch it on either Facebook or YouTube. Be sure to LIKE and SUBSCRIBE!



[The Trapped Librarian - Facebook](#)

Get some more ideas for your April library lessons!



[MrsReaderPants - YouTube](#)

How important is it to have strong library reconsideration policies? Extremely! Includes downloadable samples.



The Elementary Library Newsletter is a collaborative monthly publication of several veteran elementary school librarians.

To subscribe to the newsletter, please subscribe to any of the librarians' blogs linked in the blue box on page 1.