

15 ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS FOR MAY

Idea #1: Teach the Benefits of Summer Reading

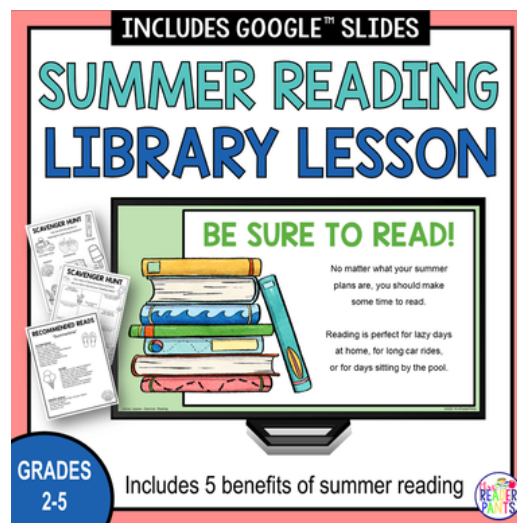
by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

This library lesson is all about summer fun and the benefits of summer reading!

Part I is a whole-class library or classroom discussion encouraging students to read over the summer.

Part II includes summertime trivia questions, vocabulary, would-you-rathers, and more!

(see it on [MrsReaderPants](#))



Idea #2: Get Those Library Books Back!

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Summer's coming! Are your students still "DRAG-on" their books around past the due date? This book return kit has a bulletin board, class progress tracker, templates, and more to help you out!

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

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS:

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[The Trapped Librarian](#)

[Mrs J in the Library](#)

[Library Learners](#)

Idea #3: Encourage Summer Reading

by Cari White (Library Learners)

This blog post includes lots of tried and true ways to encourage your students to read over the summer.

We know how important it is for our students not to slide backwards over the summer.

[\(read this post on Library Learners\)](#)



PreK-5



Favorite New Book Releases

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



Books
Released
in April

PICTURE BOOKS

- *Ancestry* (Hannah Salyer)
- *How to Write a Poem* (Kwame Alexander)
- *Search for a Giant Squid* (Amy Seto Forrester)
- *How the Sea Came to Be* (Jennifer Berne)
- *The Train Home* (Dan-Ah Kim)
- *A Garden in My Hands* (Meera Sriram)
- *Behold the Octopus!* (Suzanne Slade)

CHAPTER BOOKS / NOVELS

- *Home Away From Home* (Cynthia Lord)
- *Elf Dog and Owl Head* (M.T. Anderson)
- *Fox Point's Own Gemma Hopper* (Brie Spangler)
- *School Trip* (Jerry Craft)
- *The Red Ear Blows Its Nose* (Schechter)
- *Good Different* (Meg Eden Kuyatt)
- *Global* (Eoin Colfer)
- *A Sky Full of Song* (Susan Lynn Meyer)



HOW TO MAKE 3-INGREDIENT SIDEWALK CHALK

[This short video tutorial](#) will walk you through making homemade sidewalk chalk. It only uses three ingredients, and the one that may be harder to find includes a substitution with items you are sure to have at home.



Idea #4: Put Together a Collaborative Puzzle

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)



Inspire your students to collaborate across grades and classes and create a StickTogether puzzle poster with this low-prep makerspace center for your school library.

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

Idea #5: Practice Subject Searches

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Review and practice library catalog subject searches with this summer-themed freebie!

This mini-unit will help you reinforce catalog search and location skills with your 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students. It includes 2 student practice pages, lesson ideas, and guidelines for assessment. Download your freebie today!

([Download this freebie in The Trapped Librarian TPT store](#).)



FREE RICE VOCABULARY GAME - NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED



[This educational online game](#) has many engaging categories to make learning fun AND by playing it, your students can help people around the world!

For every question answered correctly, the cash equivalent of 10 grains of rice is donated by a group of sponsors.

Idea #6: Explore May Teaching Ideas

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



It's May and many of us are in our last full month of school. This can be a challenging time of year to plan library lessons that are engaging and meaningful. (AND there are so many loose ends to tie up for the end of the year in the library!) It's a good time for review and looking ahead to summer fun. Grab some ideas for library lessons that are flexible, low-prep, and multipurpose!

(read full article on The Trapped Librarian).



OUR FAVORITE READ-ALOUDS FOR TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

- *Building an Orchestra of Hope: How Favio Chavez Taught Children to Make Music from Trash* (Oliver)
- *Because* (Willems & Ren)
- *Miss Moore Thought Otherwise* (Pinborough)
- *The Teachers March!: How Selma's Teachers Changed History* (Wallace and Wallace)
- *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* (Henkes)
- *Love That Dog* (Creech)
- *What Teachers Can't Do* (Wood)
- *The Dot* (Reynolds)
- *Rescuing Mrs. Birdley* (Reynolds)
- *My Teacher's Secret Life* (Krensky)
- *The Day You Begin* (Woodson)
- *What Do Teachers Do (After YOU Leave School!)* (Bowen)
- *How to Get Your Teacher Ready* (Reagan)
- *Charlie Bumpers VS The Teacher of the Year* (Harley)
- *How to Teach a Slug to Read* (Pearson)
- *Because of Mr. Terupt* series (Buyea)
- *Ms. Bixby's Last Day* (Anderson)

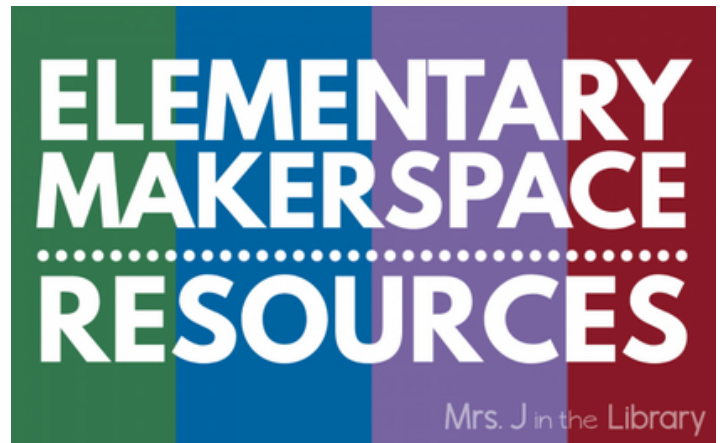


Idea #7: Try Some New Makerspace Ideas

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)

This page has TONS of free resources and links for adding maker activities or a full makerspace program to your library.

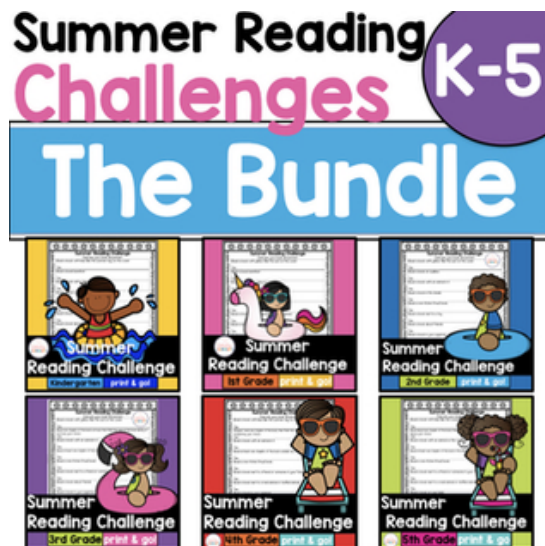
There are also many maker librarians and maker educators to expand your professional network too.



(see these free resources on Mrs J in the Library)

Idea #8: Give Students a Summer Reading Challenge

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Want to give your students a summer reading challenge that includes BOTH free choice AND book suggestions?

Here you go! And they're editable, too!

(See these Summer Reading Challenges in the Library Learners TPT store)



Curated, engaging library curriculum
for teacher-librarians

Click to learn more!



Idea #9: Check Your State and Local Laws

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

The question of the day: Some schools are withholding report cards due to nonpayment of fines.

Is this legal? I have heard differing opinions on whether or not it is legal for schools to withhold report cards for nonpayment of fines, so I decided to do a little fancy Googling and find out for myself if this practice is, in fact, legal.

[\(read full article on MrsReaderPants\)](#)

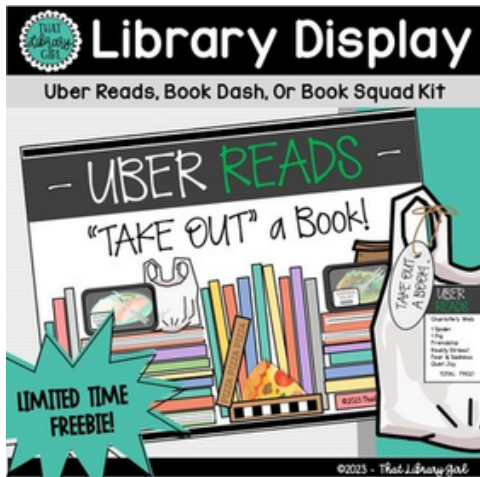
My school holds student report cards for non-payment of library fees.

IS THIS LEGAL?



Idea #10: Create a "Take Out" Book Display

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Create some "TAKE OUT" for your students with this book promo display! Choose "Uber Reads," "Book Dash," or "Book Squad" for your theme!

Set up an easy "Take Out" book club as well! (Note: This is a limited-time FREEBIE, so don't delay your download!)

[\(See this limited time freebie in the That Library Girl shop\)](#)



MAY 31st IS NATIONAL FLIP FLOP DAY

It's been around for 10 years or so, and in 2023, it falls on May 31st. Find out all about our simplest footwear from the [National Day website](#)! It has a brief article and a timeline to share with your students.

Idea #11: Set (and Test!) Some Boundaries

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)

When the end of the school year is in sight, you might be feeling like you can't make it until June. It might seem counterintuitive, but now is the perfect time to set boundaries around your work, so that you have more time for rest, personal time, friends, or family.

That's because if it works over the next few weeks, it will be easier to keep in place when back-to-school rolls around...



[\(Read full article on Mrs J in the Library\).](#)

Idea #12: Color Some Summer Bookmarks

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Make these printable bookmarks part of your summer reading lesson. They're FREE!

[\(Download these freebie bookmarks from the Library Learners TPT store\).](#)



Question: What never moves, wears shoes, sandals, and boots, but has no feet?

Answer: A sidewalk!

Idea #13: Help Students Plan Their Summer Reading

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Are you looking for a fun way to promote Summer Reading?

This library bulletin board and activity kit makes it quick and easy to create an eye-catching display and includes several fun ways for your students to start planning their summer reading...

(see it in The Trapped Librarian TPT store)



Idea #14: PLAY GOOGLE'S INTERLAND GAME

submitted by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)



This game is great for reviewing digital citizenship skills, just in time for summer...when our students might be spending more unsupervised time online.

You can use this game as part of a unit about media literacy, or just let students go through the game independently.

Important note: There is no way for students to save their game or their high score. If they exit the window before completing a level, they will lose their progress.

(play the Google Interland game)

THE SCIENCE OF TINY THINGS (AND WHY WE LOVE THEM!)

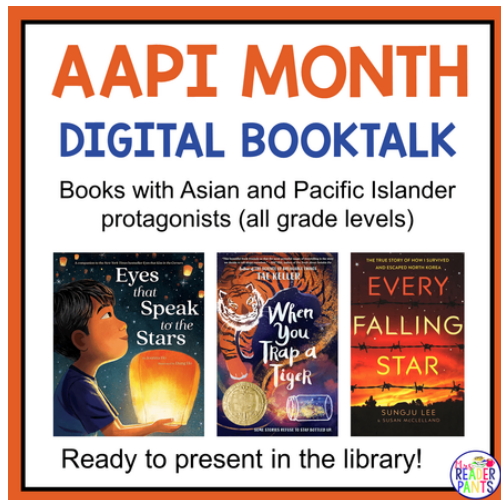
Something fun to ponder...as elementary librarians for little people... have you ever wondered if we're just naturally drawn to tiny, cute things? (Could loving littles actually be part of our human nature?!) This article says that cute, tiny things might actually give us a jolt of dopamine! (Hmmm... I do like teeny tiny books!)



Read this interesting article and tell us what YOU think!

Idea #15: Booktalk Titles with Asian Protagonists

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Celebrate with this FREE Digital Booktalk featuring Asian protagonists.

Some titles are set in Asia, and some are set in the US. Each title was hand-selected for the recommended grade levels.

(Download this freebie on MrsReaderPants)

LIBRARIAN VIDEOS WE ❤️❤️❤️

These videos are just for school librarians! You can click the link under each video to watch it on YouTube.



Rita Pierson: Every Kid Needs a Champion

This inspirational TED Talk from veteran educator Rita Pierson is an oldie but goodie!



Introduction to Web Comics for Elementary School Students - 3rd grade and up

This video can be shown to students or used in a lesson to introduce them to 3 different kid-friendly web comics.

SUBSCRIBE

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

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