OUBLE

35+ ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

WHAT IS THE ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS NEWSLETTER?



Welcome to the new school year! To those of you just joining us, we are so happy you are here!

The Elementary Library Newsletter is a monthly publication of ideas, tips, freebies, video links, and book lists from six veteran school librarians.

Together, we have a combined 46 years in the classroom and 104 years in the library! WOW!!!!!

We release a new Elementary Ideas Newsletter at the beginning of each month.

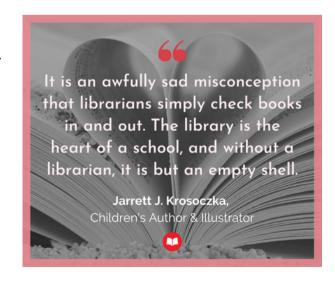
Look for colorful blocks within this newsletter to meet each of our talented contributors!

REACH OUT AND SEND US AN EMAIL!

With the new school year, we have established a new email address for the librarians in this group.

If there is a feature you'd like to see in the newsletter, or if you just want to say hi, please give us a shout!

If you'd like to reach out to all of us at once, send us an email at eslibrarynewsletter@gmail.com.



Ideas #1-6 give you several options for library orientation activities! Every image in the newsletter is linked to the resource on TPT or on individual websites. So many fun choices!

Idea #1: Start with Storytime

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)



If you love reading aloud as much as I do, then you'll really love these orientation lessons that teach about the library and book care through a storytime read-aloud.

The books to read aloud are commonly found in school or public libraries, though you can swap them for other library-focused books too. In this bundle, there are 4-5 weeks of lessons for kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade. The printable activities are shown, but digital ones for Google Slides and/or Google Classroom are available too.

See this K-2 Library Orientation Bundle at Mrs J in the Library

Idea #2: Orientation, Scavenger Hunts & Escape Rooms

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Every new school year should start with library orientation activities! They are vital, not only in establishing clear expectations, but in making it easier for students to navigate the library's layout.

Ultimately library orientations build independence and a sense of community. Orientations that are BOTH tailored specifically to the age and grade level of your students AND interactive will be the most successful!



<u>See this Library Orientation</u> <u>Bundle at The Library Patch</u>

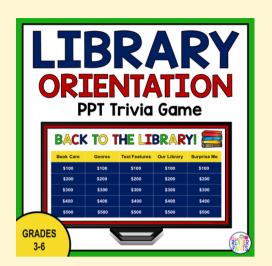
The TPT Back-to-School Site Wide Sale is August 1-2, 2023!

Save up to 25%

Use Code: BTS23

Idea #3: Play an Orientation Trivia Game

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



This low-prep Library Orientation Trivia Game is a fun way to review library skills, book care, text features, genres, and library behavior for back to school!

Created especially for students in Grades 3-6, this trivia game is everything you need for a fun first day of elementary library.

<u>See this Library Orientation</u> <u>Trivia Game at MrsReaderPants</u>



Favorite New Book Releases



by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

PICTURE BOOKS

- Glitter Everywhere! (Barton)
- Cape (Johnson)
- Papá's Magical Water-Jug Clock (Trejo)
- Salat in Secret (Thompkins-Bigelow)
- The Skull (Klassen early chapter book)
- Like Lava in My Veins (Barnes)
- Hidden Gem (Liu)
- My Head Has a Bellyache (Chris Harris poetry book)
- Greenlight (Carzoo)
- Bunny & Tree (Zsako wordless PB)
- What a Map Can Do (Balkan)

CHAPTER BOOKS / NOVELS

- Picture Day (Sax)
- Wishing Season (Rissi)
- The Probability of Everything (Everett)
- How to Stay Invisible (Rudd)
- Code Red (McCullough)
- Ginny Off the Map (Hickey)
- Garvey's Choice: The Graphic Novel (Grimes)
- Will on the Inside (Eliopulos)
- Half Moon Summer (Vickers)
- The Demon Sword of Asperides (Horwitz)
- Hope in the Valley (Perkins)
- Once in a Blue Moon (Flake)



START WITH A FUN SONG!

<u>"These Are My Glasses"</u> by Laurie Berkner is a fun song with movements to start your library time with your younger students.

Idea #4: Start Planning Ahead for a Smooth Year

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

This month-by-month guide for your elementary school library makes planning library lessons and activities easy and fun.

Take the guesswork out of what to teach and when, and get ideas for engaging interactive lessons. Grab your free guide today and make your library the center of your school!



Get this free planning guide from The Trapped Librarian



Hey there friends! I'm Laura Trapp, aka The Trapped Librarian.

I retired in 2020 after 32 years as a full-time educator, split between the elementary classroom and library. For the past 3 years I've been traveling to some small country schools here in Montana on a part-time basis teaching library classes in grades K-8.

When I'm not working, you can find me sitting next to the mighty Missouri River in my backyard or floating by in my kayak!

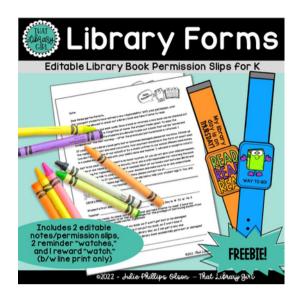
OUR FAVORITE GET-TO-KNOW-YOU READ-ALOUDS

- Who Is Melvin Bubble? by Nick Bruel
- How to Get Your Teacher Ready for the First Day of School by Jean Reagan
- We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins
- The Cool Bean by Jory John
- Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
- We're All Wonders by R.J. Palaccio
- Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You by Sonia Sotomayor
- Sweety by Andrea Zuill
- Butterflies on the First Day of School by Annie Silvestro
- Bunny's Book Club Goes to School by Annie Silvestro
- School's First Day of School by Adam Rex
- Amanda Panda Quits Kindergarten by Candice Ransom
- The Knight and the Dragon by Tomie DePaola
- Odd Velvet by Mary Whitcomb



Idea #5: Welcome Your Kinders to the Library

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

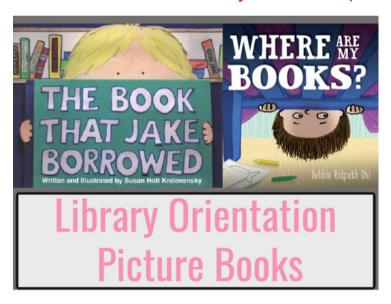


True... our littles are full of wiggles, but they are also filled with the wonder of learning new things! Still... need a little help with YOUR kindergarten crew? This freebie contains book check-out permission slips and fun library day reminder "watches!"

Download this freebie from That Library Girl

Idea #6: Share Library Orientation Picture Books

by Cari White (Library Learners)



My favorite part of Library Orientation is sharing great picture books to get the school year off to the very best start!

Check out these 8 great titles with FREE learning activities!

<u>Download this FREEBIE in the Library Learners shop on TPT</u>



Hi, friends! I'm Cari White, with Library Learners.

After my first career as a lawyer, I was an educator for 18 years, spending most of those years as an elementary school librarian. I live in the Texas Hill Country, and I love listening to audiobooks as I float in our neighborhood's lazy river. I've got 3 grown kids and 3 grandkids. My heart is full!

Thanks for reading our newsletter!

Idea #7: Share Library Day Reminders

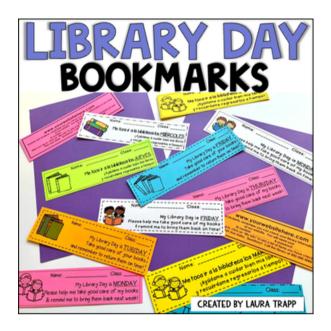
by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

It can be hard to remember Library Day...

Send home these Library Day Bookmarks at the beginning of the year to help families get used to the new routine.

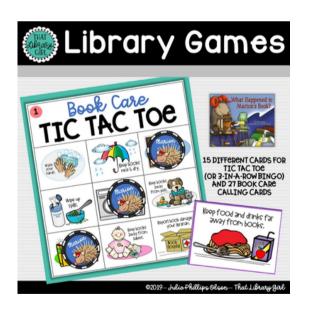
Remind students and parents of library checkout day and give families important library contact information!

<u>See these Library Day Bookmarks in</u>
<u>The Trapped Librarian TPT store</u>



Idea #8: Play Book Care Tic-Tac-Toe

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



LESSON IDEA: Find Marion's story on YouTube, use my slides to follow up with some book care tips, and then review with an easy tic tac toe game!

BONUS: Cute "Marion hedgehog tokens" are included (or you can just use dried beans to cover the spaces. :)

<u>See Book Care Tic-Tac-Toe in</u> <u>the That Library Girl's TPT store.</u>



Curated, engaging library curriculum for teacher-librarians

Click to learn more!

Idea #9: Set Up Your Library in Just 5 Days!

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)

Did you get hired at the last minute, and need to get your library ready? Or maybe you just want to enjoy more of your summer and spend less unpaid hours prepping your library space?

This article is just what you need!

I documented how I got ready for the school year in 5 work days...and if I really needed to, I could have taught classes in the space after the first day. Of course, every library is different, but I guarantee you'll find helpful tips for getting your library ready in less time!

(read this article from Mrs J in the Library)



Idea #10: Plan Your Lessons for the Whole Year

by Cari White (Library Learners)



The Bundle

Are you looking for library lessons featuring award-winning picture books that are fun to share with students?

Would you like printable activity pages, STEAM challenges AND lesson extensions for each of those books!

Look no further, my friend!

<u>View this Library Lesson Bundle</u> <u>in the Library Learners TPT shop</u>

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

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



Idea #11: New School Librarian? 10 Things to Do First...

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



You've landed a brand new school librarian job – congratulations! All summer, you've looked forward to standing in the middle of your very own library, taking a deep breath, and reveling in all that library-awesomeness.

Fast-forward to August. Today, you are standing in the middle of your library, feeling pretty lost. There are boxes everywhere, and you aren't even sure if all this stuff is yours...

Read the full article from MrsReaderPants

READ-ALOUDS TO INTRODUCE LIBRARY SKILLS

- Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen
- The Book Hog by Greg Pizzoli
- Do Not Bring Your Dragon to the Library by Julie Gassman
- The Midnight Library by Kazuno Kohara
- Manners in the Library by Shannon McClintock Miller
- But Excuse Me that is My Book by Lauren Child
- A Library Book for Bear by Bonny Becker
- Our Library by Eve Bunting (out of print but worth checking your public library for it)
- Miss Moore Thought Otherwise by Jan Pinborough
- Mr. Wiggle's Book by Paula M. Craig (also OP, but check the public library)
- What Happened to Marion's Book? by Brook Berg
- Bunny's Book Club by Annie Silvestro
- The Traveling Book by Charissa Bates
- Woody Bookworm Takes Care of Books by Julie Olson (on TPT)
- Lola Loves Stories by Anna McQuinn
- "No Pirates Allowed!" Said Library Lou by Rhonda Gowler Greene
- What Does it Mean to be Safe? by Rana DiOrio
- The Book That Jack Borrowed by Susan Kralovansky
- Where Are My Books? by Debbie Ridpath Ohi
- Reading Beauty by Deborah Underwood
- The Library Fish by Alyssa Satin Capucillo
- A Perfectly Messed Up Story by Patrick McDonald



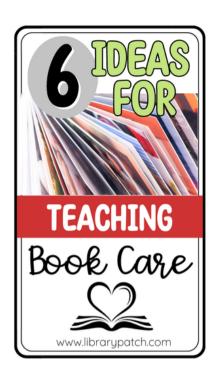
Idea #12: Try New Ways to Teach Book Care

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Do you find that you need to shake up your lessons on book care - for your own sanity?

This article may spark a few new and creative ideas!

See Six Ideas for Teaching Book
Care from The Library Patch





Hi Everyone! I'm Sonya Dykeman from The Library Patch. I am a certified elementary school teacher and librarian. I have been in education for over 25 years, having spent the last 16 years in our elementary library.

I honestly LOVE what I do. I am never shy about telling my colleagues that I have the best job in school.

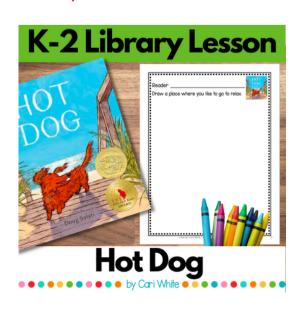
I have two twenty-something adult children who are BOTH getting married within the next year. My husband and I love to camp and kayak in the Adirondack Mountains of New York.

Idea #13: Read-Aloud a 2023 Caldecott Award Winner

by Cari White (Library Learners)

This free picture book library lesson will help you to share a great picture book about summer heat and finding a place to relax with a friend.

<u>Download this FREE picture book</u> <u>library lesson from Library Learners</u>



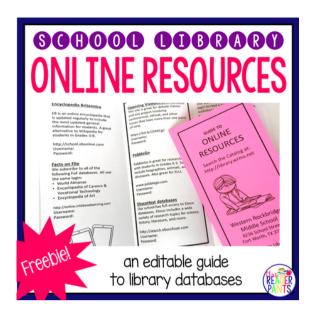
Idea #14: Create a Database URL and Login Guide

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

This FREE Online Library Resources Brochure helps teachers keep track of library databases, their URLs, and the logins for each.

The brochure is 100% editable and works great for all grade levels.

<u>Download the FREE Online Resources</u> <u>Brochure from MrsReaderPants</u>



Idea #15: Try a Research Task Card Sampler

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)



Be Back to School Ready with this FREE sampler.

It includes a single research task card for all twelve months. Each research task card presents a SINGLE fact and is followed up with three research questions pertinent to that fact.

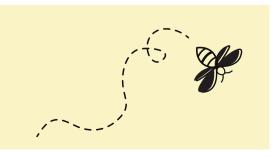
Each question is easily researched, and the answers could be found in multiple resources. These task cards are multi functional: EDITABLE, DIGITAL, and PRINTABLE!!

Download this Research Task Card FREEBIE in The Library Patch TPT store.



Q: How do bees get to school?!

A: On the school BUZZ!



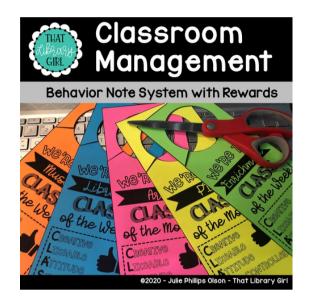
Idea #16: Better Behavior with a Team Approach!

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

Student behavior will improve when you collaborate and get your entire activity team on the same page!

Read how my team of six worked together (Library, PE, Enrichment, Counselor, Art, and Music) to streamline our expectations!

Read this article from That Library Girl





Hey there -- I'm Julie Olson from "That Library Girl." I'm a certified elementary school and middle school teacher and librarian from Arkansas (and I taught for three years in Wisconsin, too!)

I retired in 2021 after 36 of teaching PreK through 8th grade. I've been busy gardening, crafting, volunteering at church -- and I even fought off breast cancer for awhile there! So... I'm retired, but just not quite ready to slow down or let go of my lifelong love for school libraries. Hope you enjoy our newsletter!

Idea #17: Brighten Up Your Book Displays

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



These free monthly book display signs will brighten up your library and can be used for book displays or a calendar bulletin board.

BONUS: Get suggestions for library book resources for each month too!

Download these free monthly book display signs from The Trapped Librarian

Idea #18: Create a Student Library Use Agreement Form

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)

Customize this free editable form for your back to school lessons and parent communication!

After going over book care and library rules, have students and/or parents sign it to promise they will take care of their library books.

P.S. - When I used this form, ALL students could check out 2 books, even if they didn't have their parents sign this form. This form was for "extra" privileges like checking out maker kits and Playaway audiobooks, or getting up to 5 books from the library.



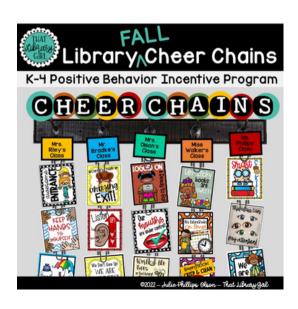
Grab this FREEBIE from Mrs J in the Library (at the bottom of the article)



Hello there! I'm Collette Jakubowicz, the owner and founder of Mrs. J in the Library. I'm a teacher-librarian with over 15 years of teaching experience in elementary school libraries.

I believe school libraries staffed by professional teacher-librarians should inspire and empower students to create, as well as read, research, and think critically.

Idea #19: Cheer On Your Students!



by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

When your students' library behavior is managed with more bragging and less fussing... everybody wins! My Cheer Chains system will help you teach expectations and reward good results! (3 Versions -- Fall, Winter, and Spring)

<u>Take a look at the FALL Cheer Chains</u> <u>resource from That Library Girl</u>

Idea #20: Get Creative with Library Bulletin Boards

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Start getting ready for the new school year with something fun – bulletin boards!

It's a low-pressure way to begin working in your library after a break.

Read on for some fun (and easy!) ideas on how to make the most of your library bulletin boards!

> Read the full article from The Trapped Librarian



FUN (& CREATIVE) VIDEO RECOMMENDATIONS

(Click the images to view the videos - more videos on p. 21)



Dess Bookmark Rewards YOUTUBE @thatlibrarygirl1

Here's a DIY bookmark idea for your older students... they will only need jumbo paperclips and snips of scrap ribbon! Use PowerPoint and collaborate with your teachers to make a reading promo video!

Need help? My TPT store has a resource with step-by-step directions!



A quick and easy trick for decorating your school library walls to look awesome without a lot of effort.

It may not look like a Pinterest library, but it will definitely be better than boring, concrete block walls!

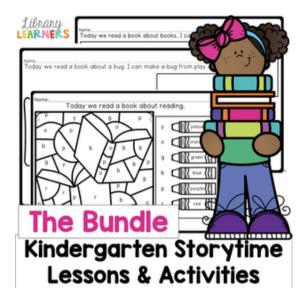
Idea #21: Engage Those Kindergarteners

by Cari White (Library Learners)

Do you want to engage your kindergarten students in fun, standards-based library storytime activities?

This bundle provides 9 months of school library lessons that your young students will love for Fall, Winter, and Spring!

<u>See this Kindergarten Storytime Bundle</u> <u>in the Library Learners TPT shop</u>



Idea #22: Share Reading Support Ideas with Parents

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)



We ALL know the importance of students reading at home! Practice makes perfect.

However, as a parent, reading at home can feel daunting. Parents truly aren't quite sure how to help their new readers.

This Reading Help for parents is packed full of tips and tricks that we as educators use naturally. Now, parents can try them at home too! Perfect for library book bags, sharing with teachers, and setting out at Open House.

<u>Download this FREEBIE from The Library Patch</u>



GOT A QUESTION OR COMMENT? SEND US AN EMAIL!

If you'd like to reach out to all of us at once, send us an email at eslibrarynewsletter@gmail.com.

Idea #23: Send Home A Back-to-School Newsletter

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)

Making a great first impression with parents is so important for the start of the school year!

For kindergarten parents, especially, you are introducing your school library program to them and setting expectations.

These parent newsletter templates are completely editable, so they fit your library's policies, and it will help you promote your library resources, databases, and website to parents.



<u>PRO TIP:</u> Don't send these home in a "parent packet" with other forms from your school. Instead, send it home with students on their first day of library class, so it doesn't get lost in the big pile of letters and forms that parents receive on the first day of school.

See these Back-to-School Library Newsletters from Mrs. J in the Library

Idea #24: Banish Those Library Fines!

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



Read this article from MrsReaderPants

Do you allow your students to read off library fines? I started doing this and haven't looked back!

My students were notorious for having tiny library fines that just sat around, unpaid, for months at at time.

These pesky little fines used to drive me and the teachers nuts! How many students were not checking out any books because they had a 55 cent overdue fine? That was totally ridiculous, but district policy to charge fines left me with my hands tied. Here's what I did to help...

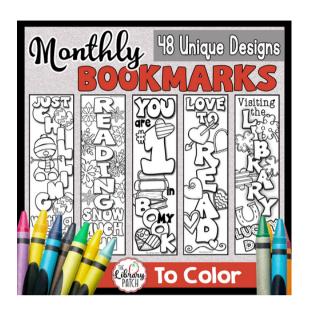
Idea #25: Print Some Colorable Bookmarks

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Kids LOVE their bookmarks! I couldn't even come close to keeping up with their demand for them in the library.

So, I created my own. Now, I simply print these bookmarks on white cardstock, cut them apart, and leave them at the circulation desk!

There are four unique bookmarks for each month of the year. So, I set out a new bookmark each week for the kids to choose! Last year, I had students trying to collect them all.



See these Monthly Bookmarks from The Library Patch

Idea #26: Get Moving & Have Fun with Orientation Games

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)



Read this article from Mrs J in the Library Setting expectations for older students in the library is an important part of back-to-school, and for many students it's a review of what they already know.

Make it fun and engaging with a game!

This article explains how to set-up an orientation game using simple, inexpensive materials to transform your library into a life-sized board game that students can play as they travel around to different parts of your library.

It works with any library space or layout, and you can even make it a scavenger hunt instead of a board game if you're time is limited.

Idea #27: Assign Some Library Jobs

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Having library workers is a great way to connect with students AND get a little help in your library!

Get set up and organized for workers in your library this school year with the Library Workers Kit.

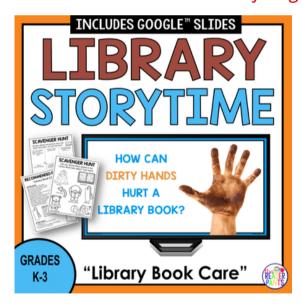
Your students will take pride in their meaningful work and they'll be excited to be connected to the library in an important way!

<u>See this Library Jobs resource in</u> <u>The Trapped Librarian TPT store</u>



Idea #28: Talk About Book Care (With Examples!)

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



Too many damaged library books? Back to School is a great time for this Book Care Library Lesson!

This low-prep, easy-to-use library lesson guides your K-3 Library Storytime lesson about taking care of library books, from start to finish!

Includes two-part presentation, Recommended Reads, scavenger hunt activity, and standards-aligned lesson plan.

See this Library Storytime Lesson in the MrsReaderPants TPT shop.



Hello, everyone! I'm Leigh Collazo, also known as MrsReaderPants.

I am a certified secondary English teacher and school librarian who has librarian-ed in Texas and in two cities in China.

I have 18 total years of teaching experience, 15 of which are in the library. I currently live in Mexico with my husband, two teen boys, and 3 former street dogs. I love traveling, reading, trying new foods, *Seinfeld*, and 80s glam rock!

Idea #29: Organize Your Library Cards

by Cari White (Library Learners)

One of my first back-to-school tasks is organizing our school library cards!

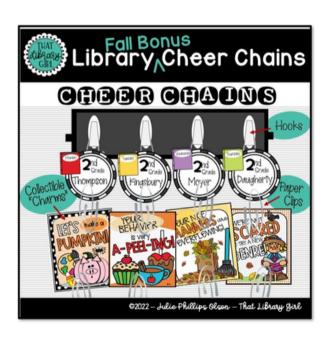
I'll show you my system and how it accomplishes so many goals for our students.

Read the full article from Library Learners



Idea #30: Try Some FREE Student Cheer Chains

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Start the year off strong by making a plan for teaching your expectations and managing student behavior!

My "Cheer Chains" system for FALL, WINTER, and SPRING promotes more bragging... and less fussing. Curious to find out how it works? Read this blog article and download the FREEBIE, too!

<u>Download these FREE Cheer Chains</u> <u>from That Library Girl</u>

Pigeons needed! Apply within.

Apparently, there are job opportunities everywhere!



Idea #31: Review Your School's Reconsideration Policies

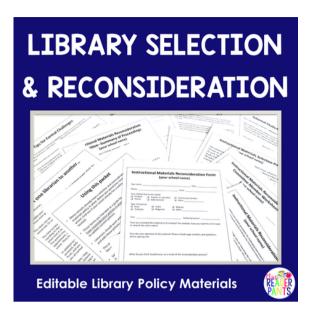
by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

Imagine you are working in your library and a parent comes in, upset about "objectionable" content in a library book.

Does your school have Book Challenge Policy Documents in place to address this parent's concerns?

No? These Selection and Reconsideration policies are for you!

<u>Download this FREE and editable</u> policies from MrsReaderPants



Idea #32: Get Some Tips on PreK Library Lessons

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Do you teach preK students in your school library?

Although those little learners overwhelmed me at first, here's how I learned to effectively teach these amazing, energetic young humans!

Read the full article from Library Learners

You might have used these Lunch Doodles videos from the Kennedy Center and Mo Willems during the pandemic.

Did you know they're still available in a handy playlist?

Keep this bookmarked for when you need a filler activity, or use one as part of an author/illustrator study!

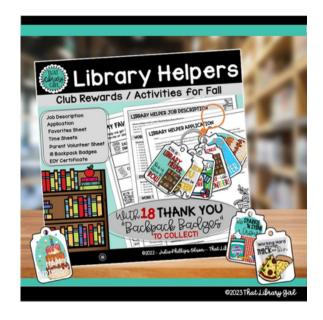


Idea #33: Start a Library Helper Club!

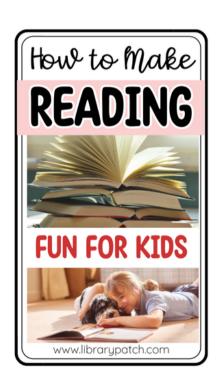
by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

Overwhelmed and needing a little help? Let me share an idea for starting your own "Library Helper Club!" My recruiting tools include a job description, an application (with a sign-off spot for parent/teacher permission) and even a team-building tool. Then, I'll tell you about my reward system of cool backpack badges with matching club activities!

Read full article from That Library Girl



Idea #34: Help Kids Experience the JOY in Reading



by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

As librarians, I bet that many of us are in charge of our school-wide reading programs.

We often take point as the leader for our PARP Programs and our Summer Reading Challenges.

As our teachers become more and more constrained by time and curriculum, I think that it's vital that as librarians, we try to keep reading fun!

Yes, fun! This article and accompanying download may be just what you need to keep the JOY in reading.

Read the full article from The Library Patch

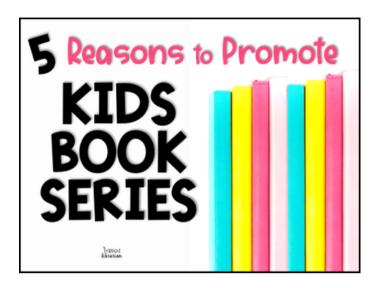


GOT A QUESTION OR COMMENT? SEND US AN EMAIL!

If you'd like to reach out to all of us at once, send us an email at eslibrarynewsletter@gmail.com.

Idea #35: Promote Some Series Books

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Do you promote kids book series in your elementary library?

Series books can build excitement around reading in unique ways!

Read the full article from
The Trapped Librarian

FUN (AND FREE!) VIDEO RECOMMENDATIONS

(Click the images to view the videos - more videos on p. 13)



Brigham Young University has put out four quick videos on book care.

The videos are hysterical!

Although they are geared for college kids, they are perfectly acceptable for older elementary students too.



Disorganized? Can't remember the 947 tasks you need to complete by the end of first period?

I have tried a LOT of different calendar and "to do list" systems in my years as a school librarian.

This one is by far my favorite!



Be the Light! A pep talk for all educators at the start of a new school year...

I was honored to share this message a few years ago, and it still rings true for me today!

TITLEWAVE TIP - YOU CAN PRINT AWARD POSTERS!

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

How cool is this? You can print ALA book award posters (Caldecott, Newbery, etc.) directly on Titlewave!

To print:

- 1. Login to Titlewave.
- 2. Click the down-arrow by Shop By Department (black box on left).
 - 3. Go to For the Library Download ALA Award Posters.





GRANT-WRITING TIPS FROM DEMCO

Library budgets just don't stretch as far as our imaginations!

DEMCO has come to the rescue with some helpful grant-writing tips!

Read this article from Demco

MAKE IT FOR YOUR LIBRARY WITH A CRICUT!

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

Have you been thinking about buying a Cricut cutting machine for your library? Or... do you already own one, but wish you knew how to utilize it more often?

Join me in my Pinterest "rabbit hole" where I've been curating fun Cricut ideas and helpful tips for school libraries!

