



18 ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS FOR SEPTEMBER

Idea #1: Start with Library Book Previews

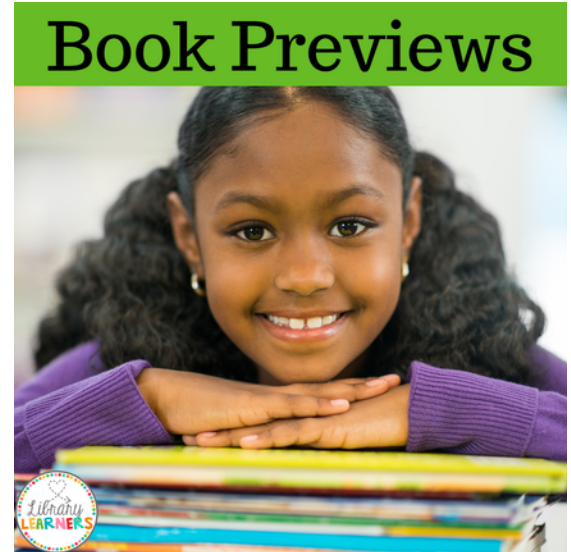
by Cari White (Library Learners)

The beginning of a new school year is always full of excitement!

It's important to start with engaging activities and lessons that will set the stage for a year full of active learning for all students.

Get ideas for September library lessons that are fun, foundational, and differentiated!

[\(read article on Library Learners\)](#)



Idea #2: Plan a Book Character Parade

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Are you thinking about hosting a book character parade this fall? My freebie will help you get your celebration organized!

It includes my personal tips, planning sheets, playlist ideas, and more!

[\(Download this Freebie from That Library Girl shop\)](#)

CONTRIBUTING
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[The Trapped Librarian](#)
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[Mrs J in the Library](#)

[MrsReaderPants](#)
[Library Learners](#)

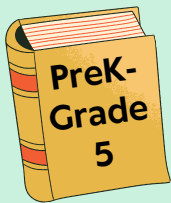
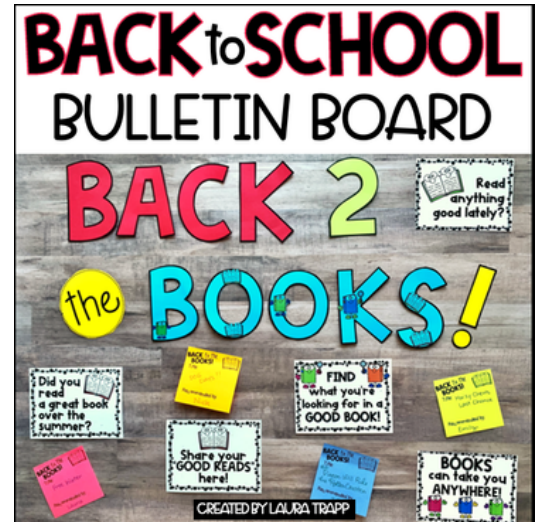
Idea #3: Create a Low-Prep B2S Bulletin Board

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Get your students excited about reading at the beginning of the year with this Back to the Books Bulletin Board.

This low-prep library bulletin board will inspire your students and staff to share recommended books and get excited about reading right away!

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



Favorite New Book Releases

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

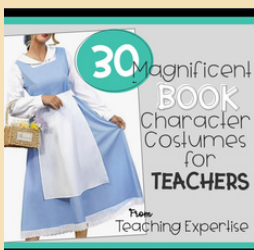


PICTURE BOOKS

- *The Baddies* by Julia Donaldson
- *Ways to Play* by Lyn Miller-Lachmann
- *Stranded: A Mostly True Story from Iceland* by Ævar Þór Benediktsson
- *Water Day* by Margarita Engle
- *The Imaginary Alphabet* by Sylvie Daigneault
- *It's Fall* by Renee Kurilla
- *Stickler Loves the World* by Lane Smith
- *Sylvester's Letter* by Matthew Burgess
- *Remembering* by Xelena González

CHAPTER BOOKS / NOVELS

- *We Still Belong* by Christine Day
- *Mexikid* by Pedro Martin
- *The Year My Life Went Down the Toilet* by Jake Maia Arlow
- *Forget-Me-Not Blue* by Sharelle Byars Moranville
- *Bog Gone!* by P. Knuckle Jones
- *Two Tribes* by Emily Bowen Cohen
- *Ghost Book* by Remy Lai
- *The Story of Gumluck the Wizard* by Adam Rex
- *Rewind* by Lisa Graff
- *Dust* by Dusti Bowling



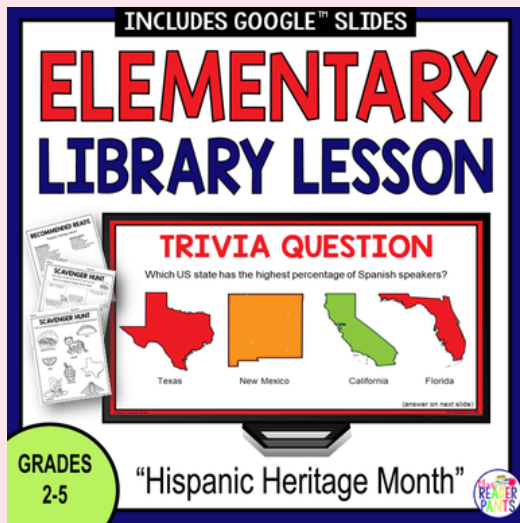
Be ready for Book Character Costume Parade Day!

Don't let Book Character Dress-Up Day sneak up on you this year! Click the image at left to see some fun costume ideas from Teaching Expertise.

Some are simple and some are a bit more complicated, but all of them are sure to make you smile!

Idea #4: Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



This Hispanic Heritage Month Library Lesson introduces elementary students to influential Latin Americans, important places, foods, and culture of Latin American countries.

Includes 2-part presentation, two differentiated scavenger hunts, reading list, and lesson plan template.

(see it in the MrsReaderPants TPT store)

Idea #5: Model How to Find the Perfect Book

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Each and every year, I present a lesson on “Just Right Books.”

Each and every year, I feel that it falls just a little bit flat.

I continue to see kids choose those GIANT books that I just KNOW are not a good fit. I really don’t want to become the book patrol and force each kid to read out of their books, just so that I can ensure that they have a good fit.

Books are like shoes, you know! They need to fit just right...

(Read entire article from The Library Patch)



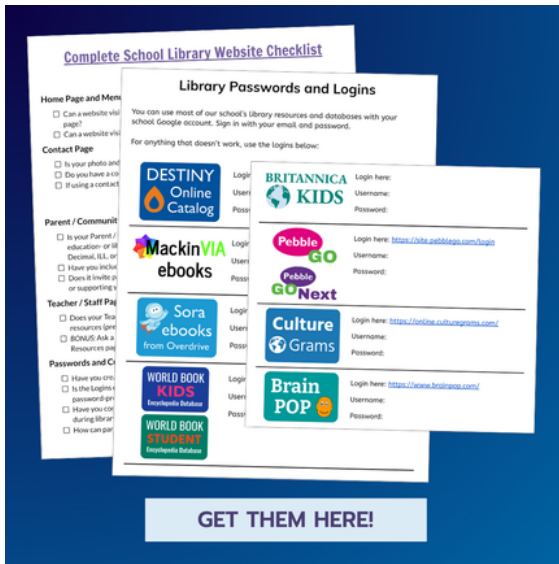
Fun Way to Remind Older Students of Library Rules - Video from That Library Girl

Ugh... your 3rd-4th graders have heard it all before -- but you KNOW they still need some library rule reminders, too!

So what do you do? Play SCOOT! This video clip will explain!

Idea #6: Update Your Library Website

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)



It's easy to put off making or updating your library's website, but it is so important to have a "one stop shop" to access your library's resources. It can also be an incredible advocacy tool for your whole library program!

Get a FREE Website Checklist for what to include on your library website, plus a Logins & Passwords template to customize so your students can access your library resources at home.

[Get the Checklist & Logins Template here](#)

OUR FAVORITE FUNNY READ-ALOUDS



- *Too Much Glue* by Jason Lefebvre
- *See the Cat* by David LaRochelle
- *The Sweetest Fig* by Chris Van Allsburg
- *My Lucky Day* by Keiko Kasza
- *The Leaf Thief* by Alice Hemming
- *This is a Taco!* by Andrew Cangelose
- *Read the Book, Lemmings!* by Ame Dyckmann
- *Potato Pants!* by Laurie Keller
- *Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea!* by Ben Clanton
- *Binky the Space Cat* by Ashley Spires (2nd grade and up)
- *The Very Impatient Caterpillar* series by Ross Burach
- *Bob, Not Bob* by Audrey Vernick
- *That is NOT a Good Idea* by Mo Willems
- *How to Teach Your Slug to Read* by Susan Pearson
- *Harry and the Hot Lava* by Chris Robertson
- *Rot, the Cutest in the World* by Ben Clanton
- *The Serious Goose* by Jimmy Kimmel
- *Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude* by Kevin O'Malley
- *Mortimer* by Robert Munsch



Idea #7: Booktalk September 11, 2001 Titles

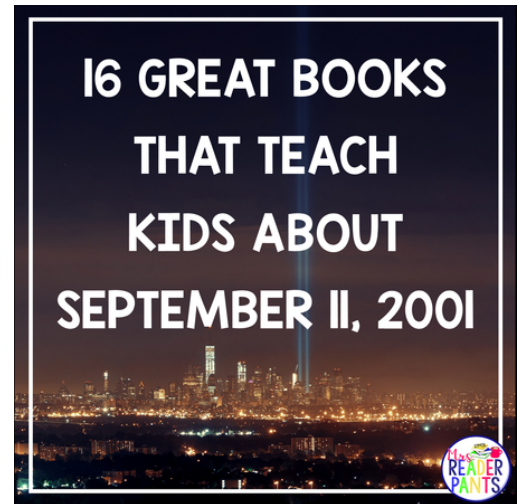
by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

As they do with other historical events, books can help insert students into that time period.

I've created a presentation of recommended September 11 books for classrooms and libraries.

It includes picture books, middle grades, and YA fiction and nonfiction titles about September 11.

Use it as a booktalk or scroll in the library during checkout and downtimes.



(download this Digital booktalk from MrsReaderPants)

Idea #8: Bring Back the "Make" in Makerspace

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)



Over 70 Makerspace Challenges guaranteed to bring the MAKE back into your SPACES.

Maker Maps are a creative way to bring purpose and meaning to your Makerspaces!! Maker Maps are a set of *EDITABLE* challenges that utilize the variety of materials and centers that your library or classroom has to offer.

Formatted to resemble a treasure map, students work through seven building challenges and a free choice activity per map.

Once a student has completed their map, they earn a treasure of your choice!
Then, they are on to a new map full of new challenges.

(See these Makerspace Challenges from The Library Patch)

Idea #9: Share Fall-Themed Kindergarten Lessons

by Cari White (Library Learners)

Fall is such a fun time to share books about apples, books, pumpkins, and squirrels.

These kindergarten lesson activities include book lists, coloring pages, drawing pages, and play dough mats.

(see these Kindergarten Lessons from Library Learners on TPT)



Idea #10: A Step-by-Step Guide for Back to School

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)



Back to School Essentials
for School Librarians

August and September are two of the most stressful and hectic months for teacher-librarians!

Save yourself time, energy, and money with these resources for setting up your library space, planning your first few weeks of lessons, and communicating with parents

[See this guide from Mrs. J in the Library.](#)



Curated, engaging library curriculum
for teacher-librarians

Click to learn more!



Idea #11: Shine a Light!

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Want a quick, fun advocacy tool?

Grab these cute "Be the Light" bookmarks to give out to your staff to start the school year!

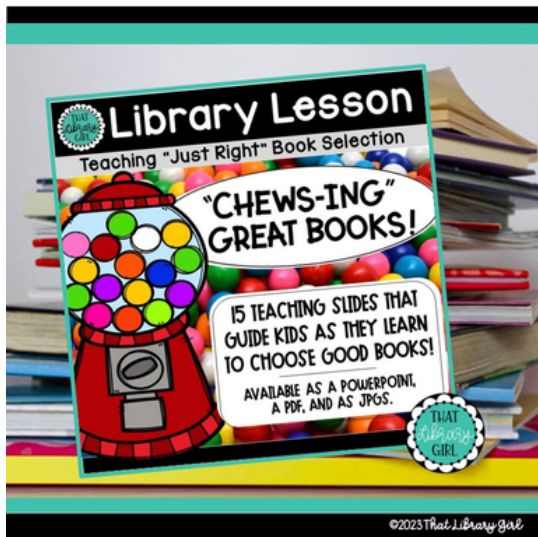
(Scroll to the bottom of the article to find them!)

[See these Freebies from The Trapped Librarian](#)



Idea #12: Help Students "CHEWS" the Right Books

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



"CHEW"sing great books just got easier!

From author's purpose and genres to blurbs and hooks... this quick lesson will help students know what to look for, so they'll be able to choose books that are "just right" for them!

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



Who to Follow: Fake Library Statistics

Fake Library Statistics is a Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter) account of light-hearted library satire that is sure to put a smile on your face, or even make you laugh out loud.

The statistics are completely made up...but you might find some truth in them anyway. 🤪

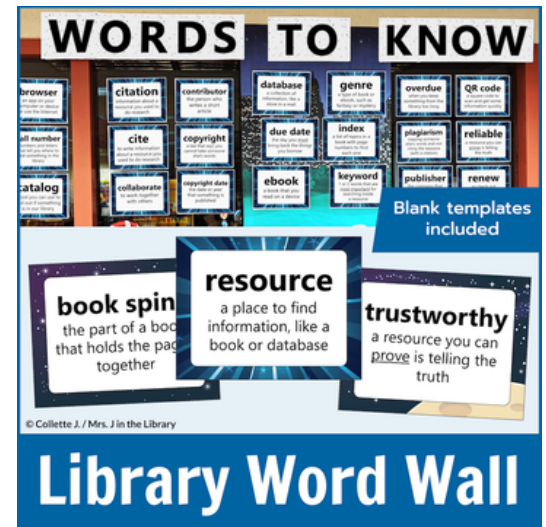
Idea #13: Decorate Your Library Walls with a Theme

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)

It's always fun to have a decorating theme to keep your library looking fresh and updated year after year. Some of my favorites themes are outer space, camping, and superheroes.

Adding a themed word wall is one easy way to decorate while adding instructional value to your library space. You can refer to important words like "citation," "keyword," and "resource" when teaching the research process to older students.

For young students, you can use the smaller vocab cards with a pocket chart or staple the cover of a "big book" on a bulletin board to label the parts of a book. Other signs like "book return" and "scanner" are perfect for labeling items in the library to show environmental print.



[See all themed Word Walls from Mrs. J in the Library.](#)

Idea #14: MAKE YOUR SEPTEMBER LESSONS FUN!

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



The beginning of a new school year is always full of excitement!

It's important to start with engaging activities and lessons that will set the stage for a year full of active learning for all students.

Get ideas for September library lessons that are fun, foundational, and differentiated!

[\(see these September Teaching Ideas from The Trapped Librarian\)](#)

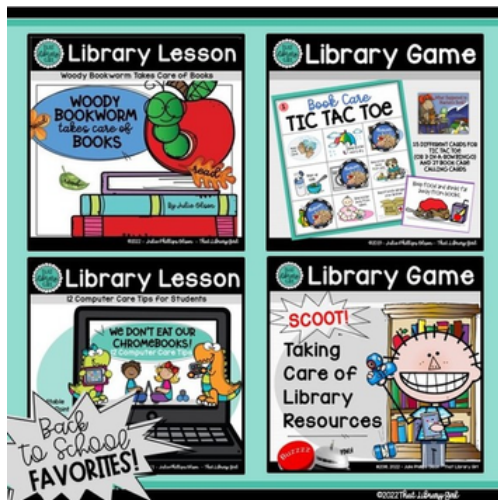


Downloadable activities from Picture Book Author Mo Willems

If you love to use Mo Willems' books at the beginning of the year, check out these fun downloadable activities from his website!

Idea #15: Try Four Favorite Library Lessons

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Sharing good stories, teaching fun lessons, AND playing games...what could make librarians and students happier?!

Take a look at four of my library time favorites for the beginning of the school year!

(see these favorite library lessons and activities from That Library Girl)

LIBRARIAN VIDEOS WE ❤️❤️❤️

These videos are just for school librarians! Links are in the titles and on the images.



Mini-PD from The Trapped Librarian (free video on TPT)

Are you striving to make your library the center of your school? Consider these 5 areas as you help meet the needs of your students, teachers, and families. This free mini-PD will be packed with helpful tips for reimagining and energizing your library!



Tips for Starting Library Centers by Cari White (free video and printable guide on TPT)

Are you thinking about giving library centers a try this school year?

Watch this FREE video to see all the reasons why we recommend library centers as an effective, engaging teaching strategy.

Idea #16: Inspire Kids to Read in 100 Ways

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)



In a world dominated by technology and devices, kids are being pulled in a million different directions. Books are just so quiet! They don't provide instant gratification, endless content, or gamification. They don't beep, flash, or ding. Books are often in constant competition with technology and applications that do ALL of those things.

Making reading fun is essential to not only foster a love for reading but to encourage engagement with books and literature. When reading is perceived as being enjoyable and entertaining, it becomes a pleasurable activity for kids rather than a chore. Download this list of 100 ways to make reading fun for your kids!

[\(see this freebie from The Library Patch\)](#)

Idea #17: Post AASL Standards in Centers and Makerspaces

by Cari White (Library Learners)



If you teach with library centers and makerspaces, post these AASL standards to show that what looks like fun is actually standards-based learning.

[\(Download this library standards freebie from Library Learners on TPT\)](#)



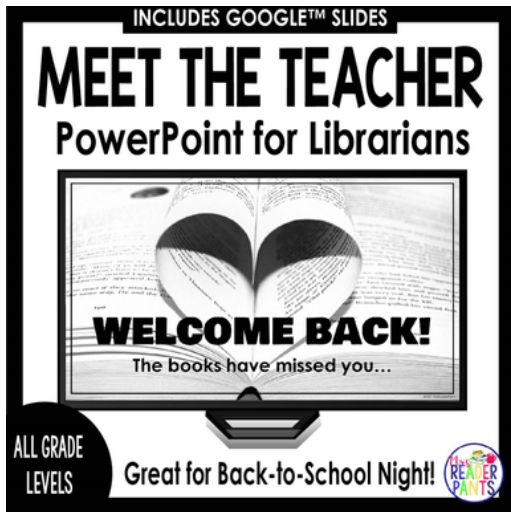
Who to Follow: Jennifer LaGarde on Instagram

Jennifer LaGarde is one of my favorite professional speakers. I feel lucky to have been able to see her in person!! I follow her on Instagram, and I recently noticed that she had posted her presentation on "School Libraries & the AI Revolution" for followers to download for free.

And, she requested that anyone who downloads it to consider a donation to the Maui Fire Relief Aid Organizations. Don't you love that? (submitted by The Library Patch)

Idea #18: Get Ready for Back to School Night

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



Are you a librarian needing a Back to School Night presentation template? This Back to School Night presentation is designed just for you!

The black and white design and generic artwork appeal to any grade level. All text is editable, so you can make it specific to your school library.

[\(download this freebie from the MrsReaderPants TPT store\)](#)

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

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So, how to subscribe? Just click on one of the logos below! Each logo below will take you to each of our email subscription lists. All six of us send out the Newsletter link to our email lists, plus we all have other bonuses for our email subscribers.

You do not have to subscribe to all six lists to get the newsletter (unless you want to - we do send out other content individually!) since we all send it out every month.

Questions or comments? You can also send us an email at eslibrarynewsletter@gmail.com any time!

