

ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS FOR NOVEMBER



Idea #1: Enjoy a Bundle of November Lessons

by [Julie Olson \(That Library Girl\)](#)

Spend this November reading and:

- Exploring the science behind laughter.
- Problem-solving with Big6.
- Researching what community helpers might be thankful for... AND...
- Discovering diverse Thanksgiving traditions!

Sound like fun? Check out these resources!

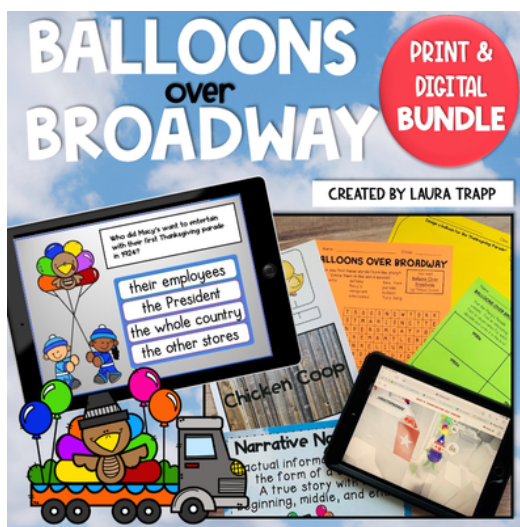
(See the details in [That Library Girl's TPT Store](#).)

(Or read more about it on the [blog](#))



Idea #2: Read About a Real-World Thanksgiving Tradition

by [Laura Trapp \(The Trapped Librarian\)](#)



Balloons Over Broadway by Melissa Sweet is the perfect read aloud for your November library lessons!

Bring this inspiring true story of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade to life with these fun digital and printable activities. *Balloons Over Broadway's* real-world connections make this an engaging lesson for your library classes!

(See it in [The Trapped Librarian TPT shop](#).)

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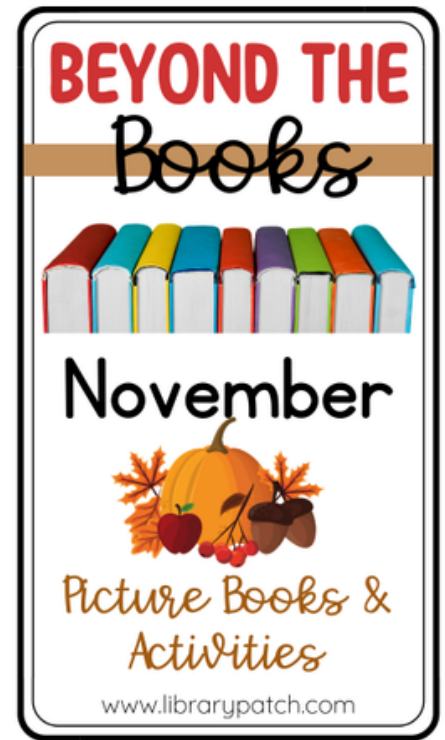
Idea #3: Extend Reading with November Picture Books

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Elementary librarians are always on the hunt for new books to read-aloud AND for activities that will extend those new books!

Well, look no further. Here are some of my favorite November books with a few ideas of activities to pair with them.

(Continue reading at [The Library Patch](#))



Favorite New Book Releases

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

New Books released in October

PICTURE BOOKS

- *On the Tip of a Wave: How Ai Weiwei's Art Is Changing the Tide* by Joanna Ho
- *Game of Freedom* by Duncan Tonatiuh
- *Fungi Grow* by Maria Gianferrari
- *My Grandfather's Song* by Phùng Nguyễn Quang and Huynh Kim Liên
- *The Snow Man* by Jonah Winter
- *Just One Flake* by Travis Jonker
- *The Twelve Hours of Christmas* by Jenn Bailey
- *Santa's Gotta Go!* by Derrick Barnes
- *The Voice in the Hollow* by Will Hillenbrand
- *Come and Join Us!: 18 Holidays Celebrated All Year Long* by Liz Kleinrock

CHAPTER BOOKS / NOVELS

- *Final Word* by Janet Sumner Johnson
- *Jawbreaker* by Christina Wyman
- *Mabuhay* by Zachary Sterling
- *Treasure Island: Runaway Gold* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- *The Last Unexplored Place on Earth* by Aly Brown
- *The Death and Life of Benny Brooks* by Ethan Long
- *Curlfriends: New in Town* by Sharee Miller
- *The Puppets of Spelhorst* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans* by Isi Hendrix

Coming in December: Computer Science Week

Computer Science Week is the first full week of December!

Want to plan an Hour of Code week for your school... but not sure where to start? [This website](#) will help answer your questions!



Idea #4: Try an Hour of Code Week FREEBIE

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)



At this center, students have the choice to try out and experiment with coding and programming.

They can code using Scratch, the Scratch Jr. app, or any programming language.

Code.org is an excellent place to start if you've never done Hour of Code before and want to try it this year.

(See this freebie from Mrs J in the Library.)

Idea #5: Set Up a Veterans Day Digital Booktalk

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

This Veterans Day slideshow is a FREE, ready-to-go, passive booktalk for your library!

You can play the slides on a timed loop in the library or hallway. I included some fantastic titles for all grade levels, many of which have starred professional reviews. Some have also won book awards, so it can also make a great collection development tool.

(See this Digital Booktalk Freebie on MrsReaderPants.)



[Who to Follow: Kathryn Garcia of Made for Library Learning](#)

[This fall funny was spotted on Kathryn Garcia's "Made for Library Learning" Facebook page!](#) (If you've been in a school for awhile, you can relate to that ONE owl at the bottom!)

[Kathryn is a long-time TPT creator for school librarians. Check out her TPT store, Made for Library Learning!](#)

Idea #6: Explore Some Winter Picture Books

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Are you ready to read winter picture books about Cookies, Friends, Penguins, and Snow with your kindergarten students?

These lesson plans and activities are perfect to share with your little library learners!

(See these [picture book library lessons in the Library Learners TPT store](#).)

PICTURE BOOKS TO CELEBRATE GRATITUDE

- *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* by Traci Sorell
- *The Grumbles: A Story about Gratitude* by Tricia Goyer and Amy Parker
- *Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message* by Jake Swamp
- *Bear Says Thanks* by Karma Wilson
- *Sallie Bee Writes a Thank-You Note* by Courtney Sheinmel
- *Apple Cake: A Gratitude* by Dawn Casey
- *Duck and Hippo Give Thanks* by Jonathan London
- *The Thank You Book* by Mo Willems (Elephant and Piggie)
- *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts
- *Thanks a Million* by Nikki Grimes (poetry)
- *Let's BEE Thankful* by Ross Burach
- *Thankful* by Eileen Spinelli
- *The Gratitude Jar* by Katrina Liu
- *Gratitude is My Superpower* by Alicia Ortego
- *Thank You, Omu* by Oge Mora
- *The Thank You Letter* by Jane Cabrera
- *The Thankful Book* by Todd Parr
- *We Give Thanks* by Cynthia Rylant
- *The Blue Table* by Christopher Raschka



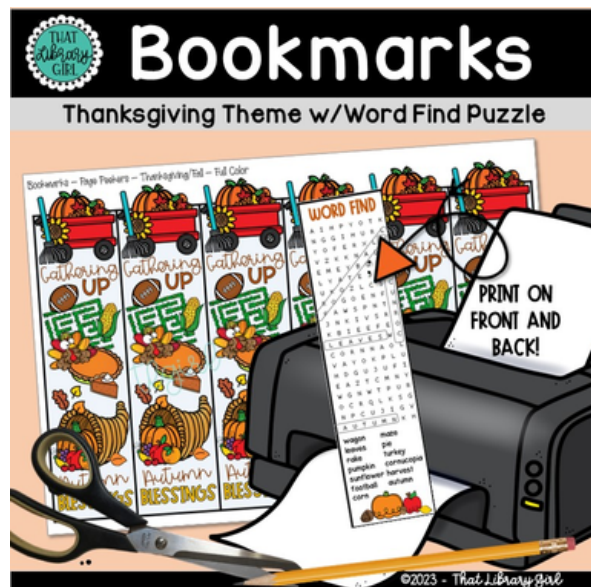
Idea #7: Share a Limited-Time Thanksgiving Freebie

By [Julie Olson \(That Library Girl\)](#)

This November bookmark has fun fall traditions pictured on the front and a coordinating word find on the back!

It's a limited time FREEBIE for newsletter subscribers through Thanksgiving!

(Download this limited-time freebie in the That Library Girl TPT store)



Idea #8: Try Some Flexible, Low-Prep Library Ideas

by [Laura Trapp \(The Trapped Librarian\)](#)



This is the month when things start to get pretty crazy in elementary schools, am I right?!

It's important to be flexible in November while still providing engaging rigorous learning experiences in the library.

I've got you covered with 6 low-prep library ideas that will make this month easy for you!

(See all six November library ideas from The Trapped Librarian))



Thank you for stopping by at AASL!

A huge thank you for all your love and support at AASL! We were so excited to meet everyone! Several people asked about our t-shirts. They were created by [Elementary Library Mama](#) (a fellow TPT seller!) and can be found at [Librarian Tees](#). We'll see you at AASL in St. Louis in 2025!

Idea #9: Try a Reading Interest Survey

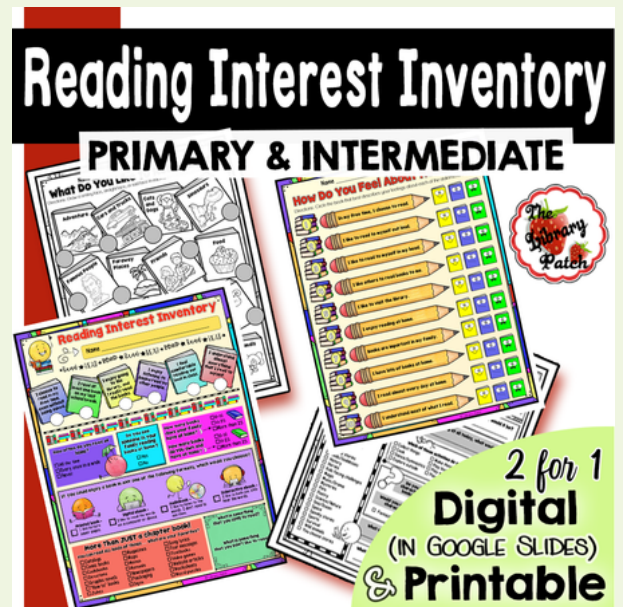
by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Your elementary students will love this reading survey, now available in both print and digital versions.

Matching the right book with the right kid is vital for positive reading experiences!

Print out the surveys or have kids fill them in on their devices. The final copy is a great tool for any librarian!

(See this [Reading Interest Survey](#) in The Library Patch TPT store)



Idea #10: Try Out Some New Makerspace Activities

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)



If your students love creating (and most do), try offering maker activities as part of library centers, or as a passive program.

This article gives you a walk-through of how to do makerspace centers during a 40-minute library class that includes book exchange, making time, and cleaning up.

(Continue reading at [Mrs. J in the Library](#))



Curated, engaging library curriculum
for teacher-librarians

Click to learn more!



Idea #11: Explore “Other” November Celebrations

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

This November Digital Bulletin Board gets students excited about late-autumn library events and activities!

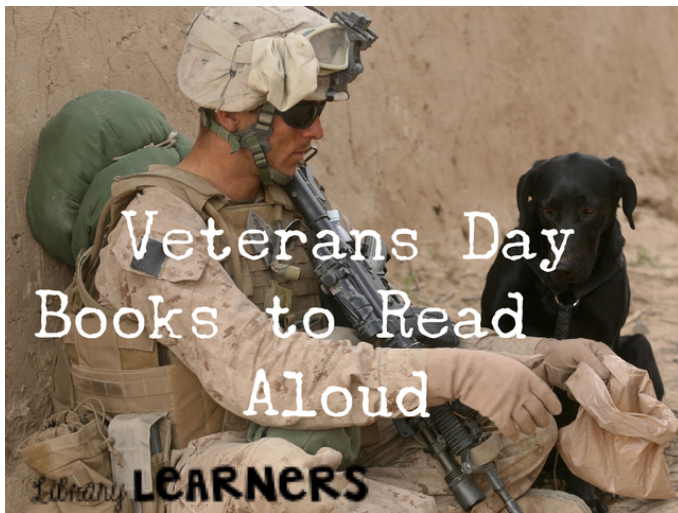
It includes lesser-known November celebrations like Native American Heritage Month, Diwali, and Dia de los Muertos, as well as quirky celebrations like National Pickle Day and Red Planet Day!

[See this November Digital Bulletin Board on MrsReaderPants](#)



Idea #12: Read Some Veterans Day Picture Books

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Looking for a Veterans Day picture book to read aloud?

This blog post lists several great ones to choose from, along with free library lesson ideas to help your school community honor our military veterans.

(See the picture books in [this article from Library Learners](#).)

[Pair a Gratitude Picture Book with Movement](#)

Here's a fantastic mini lesson on GRATITUDE with opportunities for both movement and discussion, too! It's by Pediatric Movement Essentials, and it is only 5:46 minutes long.

Pair this video with a picture book from our list on page 4.



YOUTUBE

@PEDIATRIC THERAPY ESSENTIALS

Idea #13: Bite into a Restaurant Reading Incentive

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

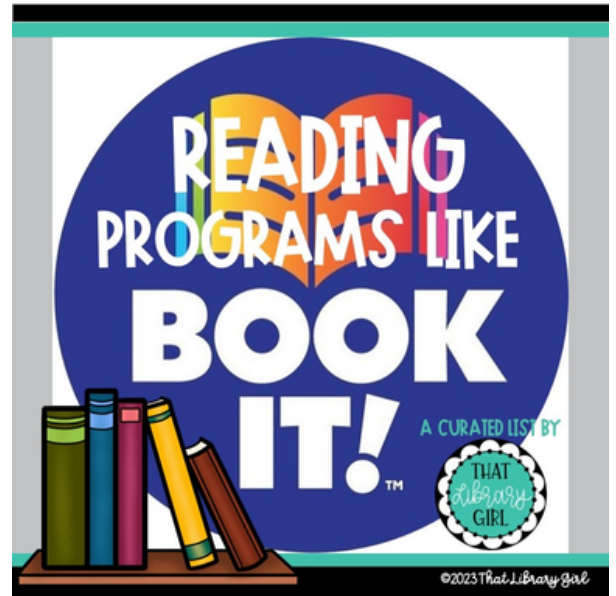
Several new chain restaurants in my hometown are offering yummy reading incentive programs!

(Will any of these be as successful as Pizza Hut's beloved "BOOK IT" program?)

Check out my blog post to see the list -- and let me know if you have one to add!

[See the blog post at That Library Girl.](#)

[Restaurant Reading Incentive Programs
Pinterest Board](#)



Idea #14: Bring some MATH into your Book Fair!

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Are you having a Book Fair this month? Make your Book Fair preview more engaging for your with Book Fair Math!

Using the Book Fair flyer or the online Book Fair website, your students will practice rounding, adding, subtracting and comparing decimals.

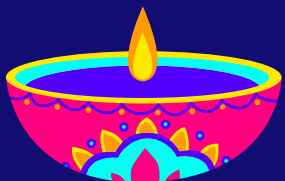
Perfect for a library skills lesson supporting mathematics standards or a fun classroom activity before or during Book Fair week!

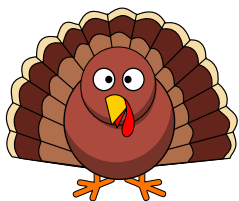
[\(Download this freebie from The Trapped Librarian\)](#)

[Diwali begins November 12th! - Teach it with this cute song from Disney!](#)

Diwali is a Hindu festival that lasts for five days. It represents the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. People celebrate by lighting lamps, decorating with colors, exchanging gifts, and having fun with family and friends.

[This \(less than\) 2-minute video from Disney Junior explains Diwali in a catchy song.](#)





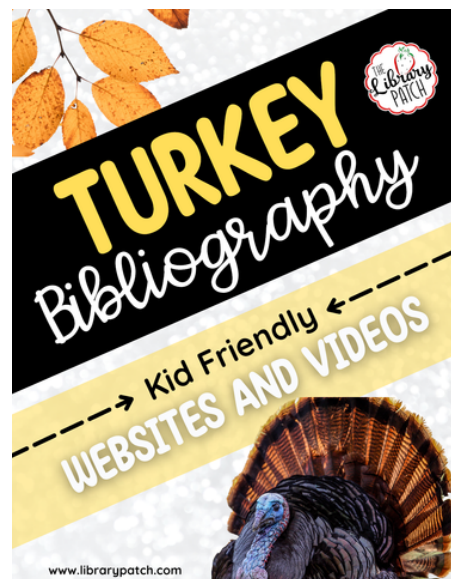
Idea #15: Tackle Some Turkey Research

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Let's talk turkey! November is the perfect time to tackle some animal research.

Use this interactive PDF with links to websites and videos that are perfect for kids to learn facts about turkeys.

[Download this free PDF from The Library Patch](#)



LIBRARIAN VIDEOS WE ❤️❤️❤️

Here are some great finds for November! Links are in the titles and on the images.



[Learn About How Corn Mazes Are Made](#)

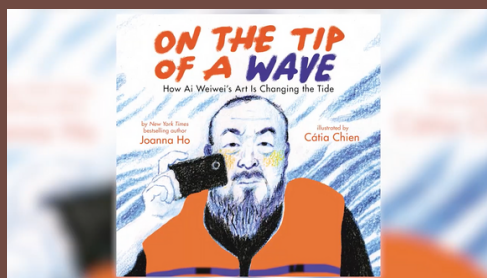
Does your family go to a corn maze in the fall? Did you ever wonder how a farmer makes a corn maze?

[Library Centers as a Strategic Solution for Overworked Librarians](#)

Did you miss the Librarians Teach Centers Presentation at AASL? Watch Cari and Collette explain the basics of library centers and why you should try them.



[On the Tip of a Wave - Picture Book Biography](#)



This is the Scholastic promotional video for *On the Tip of a Wave* by Joanna Ho. This picture book, released October 31, 2023, has received four starred reviews. The video shows a photo of the art installation referenced in the story.

Idea #16: Give Students a “Building Break”

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)



At this center or passive program, students build a maze to race marbles through using affordable marble maze building sets (Q-BA-MAZE™ blocks are my favorite).

It's an easy, low-prep way to incorporate maker, STEM, and/or STEAM activities into your curriculum or library centers.

(See it at [Mrs. J in the Library](#) or at [Librarians Teach](#))

Idea #17: Write Some Thanksgiving Haiku

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

Celebrate Thanksgiving by writing haiku in the library! This is a free sample of my Thanksgiving Haiku Templates.

The sampler includes three shapes: a pie, an acorn, and a turkey.

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



Fun Facts About Veterans Day for Kids

This is a cute 3-minute video for kids about who veterans are, the history of Veterans Day, Veterans Day versus Armistice Day versus Memorial Day, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and where to put the apostrophe.

Recommended for Grades 3-5.

Idea #18: Promote Standards-Based Centers and Makerspaces

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Looking for a quick printable to explain how your makerspaces and library centers are standards-based learning? Here it is!

Print this free download and display it in your school library media center!

(Download this freebie from Library Learners).

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