

Interactive Reading Activities

Instant Ideas Children Love

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Table of Contents

Bright Ideas for Books	1
Silent Reading	2
Noisy Reading	3
Your Classroom Library	4–5
Sharing About Books	6–7
Let’s Read, Talk, and Write	8
“Choose to Read” Time	9–11
Poetry All Through the Week	12–15
Reading Books That Share Themes	16–17
Classroom Book Clubs and Reading Pals	18
Authors and Illustrators	19
Reading Nonfiction	20
Reading Rally	21–23
How Good Readers Read	24

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Bright Ideas for Books



Class Collections of Poems and Stories

Publish children's stories and poems the easy way. Place a poem from each child in a magnetic photo album. Share the book with the class before adding it to the classroom library. Children love knowing their poems have been published. This book will be read again and again by children. Be sure to display poetry and story collections for parents to see at Open House. Later, you can remove poems and children can take them home. Three-ring binders with plastic page protectors can be used to hold class collections of stories and poems.



Pretty Pictures

Calendars are filled with beautiful full-color photographs. Recycle calendars at the end of the year and turn them into classroom books. Cut pictures from calendars and paste each picture on a piece of construction paper or lined story paper. Elicit sentences to write on the pages. Staple the pages into a book to read to your class. Then place the book in the classroom library.

If you can get your hands on enough calendars, children can make individual books using pictures from calendars. Calendars are usually about themes such as dogs, cats, beaches, farms, or famous places. These are good topics for children to write about.



**SuperStar
Teacher
Tip**

Remind parents, friends, relatives, and neighbors to give you their used calendars at the end of the year. What a great way to recycle all those pretty pictures!



Sunday Funnies Book

Cut and save colorful comic strips that appeal to children, such as *Peanuts*. Paste comics on construction-paper pages and staple the pages to make Sunday Funnies Books for the classroom library. It's a terrific way to acquire free books that have kid-appeal.

Silent Reading

Actual reading and group discussion are the most important reading activities. A well-stocked classroom library is so important. Children quickly become enthusiastic readers when they have many choices of reading materials.



Tips to Foster Silent Reading Success

- Introduce Silent Reading as a short time period. Start with just five minutes and increase the time gradually. Most K–1 teachers start with just a few minutes, gradually increasing the time to 10 to 15 minutes. Readers in grades two and three can read for 20 minutes.
- Have children get out their books for silent reading ahead of time. Then all the minutes of silent reading time are spent engaged in reading.
- At the end of silent reading time, ask a few children to show the books they read and tell why they enjoyed them.
- Choose a few books from the classroom library. Show the class an illustration or read a page aloud from each book. Tell the children that these books would be good choices for silent reading. Place these books on the chalkledge so children can easily find them. Watch how quickly children choose these books to read!
- Encourage children to bring stuffed animals to school. Keep all the animals in a laundry basket. At silent reading time, children can enjoy holding their animals as they read.
- With permission from parents, children can donate books to the classroom library. Jot a note inside the front covers of donated books thanking the children who contributed the books.
- Keep an eye out at garage sales and public library book sales for books to add to your library.