

6 (Non-Reward) Ideas to Celebrate Reading in the Classroom

Research tells us that enticing readers with rewards such as toys, candy, food, and movies have no effect on reading achievement. While these rewards are fun, they are short-lived and can lead to an unwanted focus on the prize itself. Authentic celebrations that place value on reading, on the other hand, can foster enjoyment that will carry students through their school years and beyond.

Below is a short list of ideas that will help build a love of reading in your students and create life-long learners!

More Reading

Believe it or not, an extra 15-20 minutes of free reading time is the perfect way to celebrate reading! Your students will get excited about a few extra minutes, especially if you can squeeze it in at an irregular time of the day like before lunch or during dismissal.

More Books

Who doesn't love free books! Use Scholastic points to build a collection of books for students to choose from or let the class vote on a new selection to add to the classroom library.

Read Aloud

Students (even the older ones, too!) love being read to. Not only can you give them access to high-quality literature that they may not be able to read on their own, but you can also model appropriate fluency and create excitement around new authors or genres. Surprise your class with extra read-aloud time and watch their eyes light up with joy!

- [Caldecott Medal & Honor Books, 1938-Present](#)
- [Newbery Medal and Honor Books, 1922-Present](#)
- [30 Children's Books about Diversity that Celebrate Our Differences](#)

Author Visit

What better way to celebrate reading than with a real live author visit! Invite a local author to your classroom or connect via Skype. Students will enjoy learning about the writing process from beginning to end, as well as asking all of their burning questions. Request a Skype author chat by visiting the [Microsoft Skype Education](#) page.

Reading Choices

Reading with a friend? Fun! Reading with flashlights and blankets? Cozy! Reading outside under a tree? Yes, please! Novelty goes a long way with kids when it comes to engagement in reading tasks. Why not give students a choice on who they read with, where, when or how they read?

Share the Love

One of my favorite moments as a teacher, was watching my 3rd graders read to their younger reading buddies. What a great opportunity to connect with other classrooms around the school, practice reading skills AND be a role model for the littles. Your students will enjoy being the older, wiser ones while reading some of their beloved favorites from years ago! Here are some tips for [Creating a Successful Buddy Program](#) at your school.

