

Motivational Ideas
National Library Week: April 10-16, 2005
Children's Book Week: November 14-20, 2005

Welcome to the Internet School Library Media Center. These ideas for motivating children's reading during National Children's Book Week and National Library Week are reprinted from the Virginia Educational Media Association's *Get a Head Start at the School Library Media Center*. Some additional materials have been added. For other special library observances, return to School Libraries - Special Observances page. <http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/index.html>

Storyland Museum or Literary Museum

The children brought in junk and unusable items and transformed them into a museum. An old apron became the one worn by Old Mother Hubbard. Dad's dried up paint brush became the one used by Tom Sawyer on Aunt Polly's fence. The children came up with many clever ideas for this. Articles were displayed in the library with the books they represented. All classes were invited to come and view the display and note any new books they might be interested in reading. Afterwards, all the valuable museum pieces were disposed of accordingly! This project has been successful in cooperation with the Public Library, also.

Authors Project

Children selected favorite living authors and read all the available books by them. Then the students wrote letters to them, expressing their feelings about the books and asking for some biographical information. The authors were requested to autograph and return the enclosed bookplates, which will be mounted in their books in the school library. During National Library Week, the letters and autographed books were put on display for the entire school to see. Some classes designed and produced special bookplates for this project.

Daily Special People Announcements

By using the PA system, the entire school can enjoy hearing announcements from "famous special people" who can talk about their favorite books. Public officials, sports heroes, politicians, etc. are good candidates.

Guess the Number of Books in the School Library

This is really fun and each student begins to appreciate all the books when they learn exactly how many there are! Don't panic you do not have to count them...every librarian knows how many there are.

Bumper Sticker Contest

Use the same rules as above, except design a bumper sticker for bicycles. The winning design is printed and distributed during National Library Week.

A Shelf for Myself

Put a special emphasis on the child's own "library" or collection of books at home. Using a shoe box, cut so as to form a bookshelf. Let child color or decorate box (with contact paper). Child can then take bookshelf home and put in a special place to display his own books. Great for National Children's Book Week

Lunch Menus

Involve the cafeteria staff by helping them to plan the lunch menus for the week using book titles to name the food. Examples: The Carrot See; The Cookie Tree; The Biggest Turnip; Freckle Juice. Another good National Children's Book Week idea.

Bulletin Boards

Central bulletin board "Teachers Favorite Books When They Were Young." Include pictures of teachers as children, mounted on book-shape with title and author of favorite book.

Favorite Book (or other media)

Vote on a favorite book in library, that book honored. [Can use other media formats as CD, Internet site, etc.]

Create New Book Covers

Students make new book covers for some of the drab books in the library. These can be put on actual books. (It could be done as a contest).

School Library Sleepover

Jean Allen Davis at W. W. Robinson Elementary sponsored a library sleepover. The evening was packed with storytelling activities, a snack and other good things. *School Library Media Activities Monthly* had an article, "Sixth Grade Read-over; Recipe for Success," April, 1995 v11, n8, p30-33

Publishing on the Web

Publish a newsletter on the Web or other student activity; Visit [Home Sweet Home Page](#) National Library Week Page; gives links to examples of materials published on the Web. Great for the Log-On@The Library Theme