

Fun Ways to Encourage Older Kids to Read!

Here is a list of tools we have collected over the years to make reading exciting for older students. Try these approaches to get the best out of your students during the MS Read-A-Thon!

Be a Critic: Have students write reviews of books they like or didn't like. You can share them with the class, send them to a children's magazine, send them to us for our website at rat@mssociety.ca or enter them in a book review contest. Chapters and Indigo often have one – check out their website. Or, create your own contest with a panel of judges.

Favourite Author Fan Letter: Have students write a letter to their favourite author telling them why they liked their book and about his or her success with the MS Read-A-Thon.

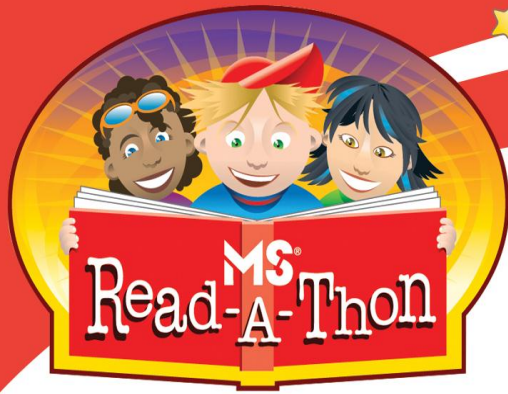
Movie or Book? Encourage students to read a book before they see a movie adaptation of it, or watch one in class and then vote on which version the students prefer.

Newsletter: Write an update (or ask the students to write an article) for the school newsletter stating the school's fundraising and reading goals. Include results from previous years to help motivate students to beat past totals. After the program, write a follow-up piece.

Quiz Time: Have your entire class read the same novel, and ask students to write one or two quiz questions. Organize a quiz tournament to see who can answer the most questions correctly for a prize. Get their competitive juices flowing!

Short Stories: Read a book as a class and pull vocabulary words from the book. Then give the students 20 minutes to write a one-page short story using each vocabulary word at least once. Have a prize for the most creative story writer.

Literary Travel: Read a book as a class that is set in a different country. Have each student research one place or town in that country they would like to visit, and present it to the class as a potential tourist attraction. See who can come up with the strangest place to visit!



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Common Theme: Choose a theme for the class and allow each student to choose a book that fits within that theme or provide them with a list of books that they can choose from. To get your students involved even more, and make it a competition for the class to choose the theme, and they can vote for their favourite.

Sell It: Each student pretends to be a publicist for the book that's just been read. The student writes and then delivers a 60-second speech that will persuade other students that they should read the book. Writing and speaking persuasively will be especially difficult if the student didn't like the book. If that's the case, the student can share that fact *after* completing the speech.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down: Each student writes a review of the book he or she just finished reading -- in the style of a movie review. The student concludes by awarding a thumbs-up or thumbs-down on the book. This activity could be even more fun if two students read the same book. They could plan a lively interaction, a la and Ebert and Roeper, which could be videotaped for all to see!

Prove It in Five Minutes. Each student gives a 150-second oral presentation in which he or she shares information about a book's plot and characters. The student closes the presentation by offering an opinion and recommendation about the book. Then students in the audience have 150 seconds to question the presenter about the book. If the presenter is able to prove in five minutes that he or she read the book, the student is excused from filing a written report about it.

Reading Aloud: Choose a book to read aloud to your class. Have a consistent time each day when you read aloud for 15 minutes (after lunch, before the end of the day, etc.). Your students will appreciate the downtime and the storytelling, no matter how old they are.