



## March (Every☺) Month is Reading Month

Below is a collection of favorite ideas to promote **READING** 365 days a year:

- **GREAT SCHOOL, GREAT BOOKS** - Invite each staff member in your school to choose a favorite book. Display the books in a showcase and invite teachers to share each favorite book with their class. Students vote on their favorite and graph class results of the voting.
- **BOOK SWAP**- Invite students and staff to bring in used books. Students receive one ticket per donated book and use the tickets to purchase a book.
- **AUTHOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT** - Choose an author to feature. Have the students write letters to the author, explore their website, and compare and contrast books. At the end of the study have students vote for their favorite book. Graph voting results and display with the books and letters. Later in the year compare a selection of the featured authors.
- **GENRE QUILT** - Make a large paper quilt creating one square for each different genre (mystery, fairy tales, fables, science fiction, how to books, realistic fiction, poetry, A-B-C books). Have the class add the title in the appropriate square each time they read a book. Create a small quilt for each child as an individual reading record.
- **READING IS EVERYWHERE** - Ask children to brainstorm, "What are all the different things people read?" This helps children realize that reading and writing is not limited to books. Have students bring in samples from home for a "Reading is Everywhere" bulletin board. Magazines, newspapers, greeting cards, trading cards, comic books, cereal boxes, road signs, school newsletters, computer screens, dictionaries, encyclopedia, maps and atlas, stories you wrote, stories your friends wrote, mail are all good examples.
- **DOOR DECORATION** - Encourage all classrooms to decorate their class door with a favorite book cover
- **INSTEAD OF A BOOK REPORT ....**
  - **SHARE A BOOK**- Pick three to five objects that would describe your book. Put them in a box or bag decorated to go with your story. Share the book by showing the objects from your box.
  - **DRESS UP AS A CHARACTER** from your book and give an oral presentation telling about the story.
  - **WRITE A READERS' THEATRE** based on your book or a favorite part of your book.
  - **MAKE A POSTER OR WRITE A COMMERCIAL** advertising your book.
- **I LOVE TO READ WEEK**
  - **Monday** "I Love to Read Day." Bring in your favorite book and write the title on a paper heart, make it into a school wide chain to display in the school

- **Tuesday** "Hats Off to Reading." Wear a hat in celebration of the day
  - **Wednesday** "Reading is No Sweat." Wear sweats for recreational reading
  - **Thursday** "Sock it to Reading Day." Wear your funniest socks and read joke and humorous books
  - **Friday** "Be a Reading Jean-ous." Wear jeans and wind down *I Love to Read Week*
- **OTHER IDEAS FOR SPECIAL READING DAYS:**
    - **DROP EVERYTHING AND READ DAY**- Students have reading material with them at all times, can be done school wide where the principal rings a bell or gives a signal to have the whole school drop everything and reads several times throughout the day.
    - **OLD FAVORITES DAY**- Bring a cherished book to share. Make a display of favorite books on book-shaped cutouts decorated with the title and a picture.
    - **WEAR A READABLE TEE-SHIRT DAY**
    - **WEAR A READABLE BUTTON DAY**
    - **DRESS AS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER DAY**
    - **GUEST READER DAY**- Ask the custodian, lunch supervisor, principal, superintendent, school board member staff member, parent or a mystery reader from the community to come in and read to your class.
    - **POP YOUR TOP AND READ** - Bring a can drink to school and at a designated time everyone pops their tops and takes a break to read.

## April (Every☺) Month is Poetry Month:

- **PUT A POEM IN YOUR POCKET**– Turn a bulletin board into a poetry month calendar- each day have a pocket filled with multiple pocket size copies of the same poem – a different poem for each day. Introduce the month long poetry celebration with Beatrice Schenk de Regniers’ **Keep a Poem In Your Pocket**. Students fold and decorate a paper pocket for their desk. Each day students collect the daily poem and add it to their personal pocket collection.
- **Suggested Activities:**
  - Make a sign with “POETRY BREAK” on it – hold up at different times during school day when a break is needed and read a poetry selection. Allow students to take turns holding up the sign and sharing a poem.
  - Assign secret poetry buddies - occasionally students secretly leave a poem on their buddy’s desk.
  - Pick a favorite poem to practice and perform in front of the class as a solo, duet, trio or quartet. Allow time for students to practice.
  - At the end of the month create a book of the poems collected. Illustrate each poem using the personal pocket to decorate the cover.
  - Students select a favorite poem and create a poster with a copy of the poem and a picture of the student. Display around the school for all to read.
  - Selected students read a poem over the school’s speaker system.
- **PLACE POEMS!** -. Walk around the school and look for places to display poem posters. Find poems to fit the place (drinking fountain, nurse’s office, food poems in the cafeteria). Make a poster with an enlarged copy of the poem and include a small pocket with mini-sized poems for students to take.

Website resources:

- [http://www.abcteach.com/directory/seasonalmonths/3\\_march/reading\\_month/](http://www.abcteach.com/directory/seasonalmonths/3_march/reading_month/)
- [http://www.ilovethatteachingidea.com/ideas/subj\\_reading2.htm](http://www.ilovethatteachingidea.com/ideas/subj_reading2.htm)
- [http://www.richmond.misd.net/users/staff/lmacdonald/March/march\\_is\\_reading\\_month.htm](http://www.richmond.misd.net/users/staff/lmacdonald/March/march_is_reading_month.htm)
- website for stationary: [http://www.scholastic.com/librarians/printables/poem\\_pocket.htm](http://www.scholastic.com/librarians/printables/poem_pocket.htm)