

# HOW TO GET YOUR STUDENTS HOOKED ON BOOKS

Regardless of what types of reading material we promote to our students, school library staff play an essential role in hooking readers up to the right books. Reading aloud to students to get them hooked on an author or a series of books is a powerful way to inspire students to read themselves. teacher librarians who read aloud with expression and breathe life into a book are going to have children lining up at their desks to borrow that book in the next few weeks.

Displays play an essential role in promoting literature in school libraries. It never ceases to amaze me that I can put books by any author or genre or series on display, but as soon as I make it accessible and easy to pick up, students start to borrow those books within minutes.

With Children's Book Week just around the corner, it is time to start jazzing up your library to reflect the theme 'Read Across the Universe.' Get out your solar system posters and make a life-sized astronaut out of cardboard boxes because it is vital that school libraries promote reading initiatives. Promoting the MS Read-a-thon, participating in National Simultaneous Storytime, and registering your students for your local Premier's Reading Challenge is a fantastic way to get readers on board. If you would rather run your own reading challenge or competition, this is also a great way to get students interested in reading books.

Linking books with a fantastic art activity, exposing your students to quality book reviews, and organising author and illustrator visits is also a fantastic way to promote Book Week and therefore raise students' interest in reading.

Teacher Librarians are in a privileged role to be able to match students to books. Taking the time to say to a student that you would like them to be the first to read this new book or you think this book would be something they would like to read empowers and engages the reader.

Technology is a very powerful tool when promoting books. Showing students a book trailer is an excellent way to generate interest and it is possible to link book trailers to books using QR codes. There are also some fantastic, interactive apps that promote great books; for example, many of Nick Bland's books have a corresponding app that are lots of fun to explore.

Improving reader engagement can be as simple as role modelling. If students see adults regularly reading for pleasure, talking about books, and borrowing books from a library, they are more likely to read for pleasure themselves.

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