



LOW HANGING FRUIT

Spring Fever is Real!

By Jeannie Standal

We're all there. Longing for warmer weather, done with the cold, wet, slushiness that is late winter in Idaho. The sun, when it shows itself, is a cold, mean trick. Sure, there are distractions: March Madness, spring break, spring skiing, but what can we do to make this dreary annual funk pass quickly? Partner with the librarian to break up the routine, of course! Here are a few ideas:

Make it an Election

Students have been reading and voting on books with the Young Readers Choice Awards since 1940! Each year there is a junior, intermediate, and senior division set of nominees and winners. Take advantage of all the election hoopla and hold primaries and caucuses of your own...library-style. Get more information about participating in YRCA at <https://pnla.org/young-readers-choice-award/>.



Make it Like Sports, but with Books

Have students been participating in Idaho Battle of the Books? The regional tournaments for both the Junior High/Middle School and Elementary programs are coming up in March and April, when next year's lists will be announced. Form teams and use Kahoot to score and steal points on correct answers about books. March Madness-style brackets work well.



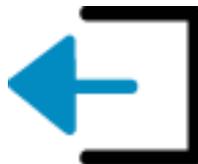
Make it a Project

Ask the school librarian if they attended Summer Summit 2019. Yes? Ask about making book trailers or other video projects centered on reading. Partner with the librarian, the tech teacher, and students on a super-engaging project to create some awesome content! It is as valuable to create content as it is to consume it.



Make it a Game

When it is time for test review, partner with the librarian to set up a [BreakOutEDU](#) game, either digital or analog. One IRL kit runs \$150, and includes a long list of items along with an access code for 1,500 games on the platform. Breakout EDU provides opportunities for kids who might not be superstars at the regular classroom routine to really shine. It makes a great staff training activity, too!



Make it a Partnership

Want to try a project or new idea, but don't have enough space, time, or hands for the planning and implementation? Check with the school librarian. You might find the help you need to make it excellent.

LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



Genre Bingo

Everything's more fun when you make a game of it, right? In that spirit, give genre bingo a shot. Be the first to read them all! <https://nightcapbooks.com/reading-challenge-genre-bingo-2020/>.

Genre Bingo - 2019 Reading Challenge				
Historical Fiction	Mystery or Thriller	Short Stories or Novella	Paranormal	Classics
A Trilogy	Crime	Satire	Science Fiction	YA Fantasy
Suspense	General Nonfiction	Free Space	Science Fiction	Self-Help
Coming of Age	Magical Realism	Historical Nonfiction	Fantasy	Humor and Comedy
Young Adult	Biography	Memoir	Tragedy	Travel

YRCA 2020 Nominees

And the nominations are in! Find this year's Young Readers Choice Award nominations (and maybe your next great read), grouped by Grades 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12, here: <https://pnla.org/2019/03/21/announcement-yrca-2020-nominees/>.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Reading Accountability Partners

Reading logs meeting with limited success? Consider trying reading accountability partners as a fun, more participatory alternative. Making reading less about the perfunctory logging of minutes, and more of a social activity, might be just the shot in the arm your kids need to stay motivated, and accountable. Learn more about the benefits, and how to go about it here:

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/ditching-reading-logs>

DIGITAL TOOLS



Literary Reference Center

Find information on thousands of authors and their works across literary disciplines and timeframes. Includes a periodically updated featured author and featured work, as well as an encyclopedia of literature, literary glossary, a research guide, and citation help. Find it, and other great resources, at <https://lili.org/>.



