

Back -To- School

A yellow school bus is driving away on a two-lane asphalt road that stretches towards a large, flat-topped mesa in the distance. The sky is a clear, light blue. The road has yellow dashed lines in the center and white solid lines on the sides. There are some blueish stains on the road surface. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

**OVER 50 MUST KNOW
TIPS & IDEAS FOR TEACHERS**

Teacher Hacks

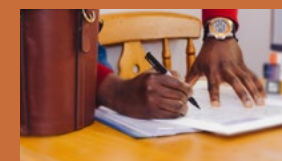
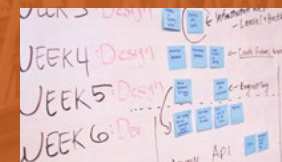
TEN BACK-TO-SCHOOL HACKS

WELCOMING STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL

7 IDEAS TO MAKE TEST PREP FUN

MAKE LEARNING A FAMILY AFFAIR

7 CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT APPS YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT



TEN BACK-TO-SCHOOL HACKS

GETTING BACK INTO A MORNING ROUTINE CAN BE CHALLENGING AFTER SUMMER BREAK. WITH A LITTLE PLANNING AHEAD, YOU CAN AVOID HECTIC AND STRESSFUL MORNINGS. THESE TIPS AND TRICKS WILL HELP ENSURE YOU START EACH SCHOOL DAY AT YOUR BEST.

1 GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST

We coach our students to get a good night's rest before a big test, but do we always follow our own advice? Working on lesson plans and grading papers until the wee hours of the morning may make us feel productive in the moment but leaving a few things undone and going to bed so you can get seven to eight hours of sleep is actually a smarter strategy.



2 PLAN A WHOLESOME BREAKFAST

We're all guilty of racing out the door without eating breakfast, and coffee makes a poor substitute for a nutritious meal. **GET CREATIVE** with your breakfast menu and plan something you'll be excited to eat. Make a quick smoothie with fruit, almond butter and yogurt. Or go the savory route with quinoa, smoked salmon, and a fried egg.

3 DRINK WATER

We all know how important it is to eat a good breakfast, but drinking plenty of water

is just as important. Before you reach for that cup of coffee, drink a glass of water. Staying hydrated will improve your concentration and will jump-start your metabolism.

4 EXERCISE

Increase your energy levels by exercising in the morning. Not only will you feel better physically, but an early morning workout can be an excellent time to clear your head and get mentally prepared for the day ahead.

5 PLAN YOUR DAY

Mornings can be an excellent quiet time where you can map out the day's planned activities. Take a few moments to reflect on what you hope to achieve during each activity.

6 SCHEDULE HARDER TASKS FOR THE AM

Procrastinating difficult or dreaded tasks increases our stress levels. When possible, schedule these

tasks for the morning when you are more alert and have higher energy. By getting the difficult tasks out of the way early, your day will get easier.

7 LEAVE IN PLENTY OF TIME

Morning rush hour traffic is stressful enough. Avoid additional anxiety by making sure you leave in plenty of time.

8 CHECK THE NEWS

Staying on top of current events can be an empowering part of your morning routine. Take some time to read the newspaper, watch a news program on TV, or check in on your favorite Facebook or Twitter newsfeeds. **Bonus tip:** a popular current event can be a good icebreaker with your students.

9 CATCH UP ON EMAIL

Make sure you allot enough time to check your email before your students arrive. This will help ensure you are up-to-speed on any last minute projects or meetings.

10 DO SOMETHING NICE FOR YOURSELF

Before the first bell rings and your students take their seats, take five minutes to do something you enjoy. This can be as simple as reading a favorite magazine, looking at pictures or videos of your family, or catching up on social media. This small **INDULGENCE** will help you start the day fresh and relaxed.

WELCOMING STUDENTS BACK-TO-SCHOOL

4 WAYS TO BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR STUDENTS FROM DAY ONE

Teachers and other educators play such an important role in students' academic and social and emotional development.

Much research shows that a strong and caring teacher/student relationship can greatly impact students' success.

Here are some ideas on how to lay the groundwork for strong relationships with your students at the start of the new school year.

one

GET TO KNOW YOUR STUDENTS AS INDIVIDUALS, NOT JUST STUDENTS

One of the best ways to build a strong relationship with your students is to show them that you care about them as individuals. Ask them questions about their interests, school activities, what they did over the summer, etc. This can be done in both group activities or on a one-on-one basis.



two

EMPOWER YOUR STUDENTS

Providing students with the opportunity to have a say can be an empowering experience for them. During the first week of school, plan an activity where you set the classroom rules as a group. Help them define what behaviors are expected and those that are not allowed. Give them a say in what happens if a student breaks one of the class rules. Through this process, your students will be much more invested in following the rules.

three

SHARE A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Students often do not realize that their teachers, like themselves, have also struggled and faced obstacles. A great way to connect with your students is by sharing a personal experience about a challenge you faced in your own life and how you overcame the obstacle. This will make you more relatable and "human" to your students. It will also help them see that others have had to work hard to achieve their goals and if they apply themselves they can achieve too.

four

TREAT YOUR STUDENTS WITH RESPECT

Students, like all people, want to be treated with respect. Show that you care and respect them by listening to them. *Really listen.* Give them your full attention and make eye contact. Another way to show respect is in the way you talk to your students—speak to them the same way you would speak to your peers, and keep your tone low and even.

Taking the time to develop caring relationships with your students from day one will go a long way in creating a successful and supportive learning environment. Your students will have better motivation to learn, negative behaviors will decrease, and you will be better equipped to promote pro-social behaviors and academic achievement.



GET SET FOR THE BEST YEAR YET



DATALINK 3000

Scan up to 65 tests per minute with as many as 150 questions.

[LEARN MORE](#)

7 IDEAS TO MAKE TEST PREP FUN

SCHOOL TESTING SEASON IS UPON US. BEAT THE TEST PREP BLUES WITH THESE CREATIVE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES THAT WILL HELP MAKE PREPARING FOR TESTS AN ENGAGING AND PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY. AS AN ADDED BONUS, MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE DOWNLOADABLE HANDOUTS TO HELP MINIMIZE PREP TIME. CLICK THE TITLES BELOW TO DISCOVER MORE.

1 REVIEW JEOPARDY

This twist on the classic game show allows for a lot of flexibility on what topics you want to cover: English, math, science, etc. This test prep idea includes an energy-burning bean bag toss.

2 VOCABULARY BINGO

Another modification on a traditional game, Vocabulary Bingo is a fun way to reinforce definitions. Let students select from a range of vocabulary words to include on their Bingo sheets, and “call” each word by reading the definition or citing an example of the term.

3 GET THEM MOVING! TEST PREP GALLERY WALK

This is a great group review activity that gets students up and moving and gives them a chance to critique each other’s work. Students are broken into groups and asked to answer a series of questions that are written out on sheets of paper posted around the classroom. Each group must justify their answers with written explanations, pictures, or equations. The groups take turns presenting their answers to the rest of the class, and students are given the chance to compare their work to the correct answer.

4 TEST PREP

GRAFFITI STYLE

This activity is fantastic not only for review, but also because it reinforces good test-taking habits. Students work in groups and are asked to solve problems. They must complete the following questions as part of the exercise: **“The question is asking me...”**; **“The topic/skill of the question is...”**; **“I already know ...”**; and **“The answer is ... because ...”** The class then reviews as a group to discuss the correct answers.

5 BASEBALL THEME

One way to make test prep more engaging is to incorporate a theme into your activities. This example uses a baseball theme which begins by having students write down their “spring training goals,” a.k.a. what

they need to work on during training (*test prep time*) in order to be successful on game day (*also known as test day*).

6 JENGA®

Use Jenga to add a little dexterity challenge to test review. Students take turns selecting a question to answer. Each person in the group must answer the question and record the answer. The person whose turn it is must prove their answer is correct to the other members of the group. If the answer is proven correct, the person whose turn it is may move a Jenga piece.

7 TRASHKETBALL

In this game, students complete a worksheet of problems. Once complete, they hand the paper to their teacher to check their work. Once all the questions are answered correctly, the student earns points by “shooting” their worksheet into a trash can. This activity works well with individuals, partners, or small groups.

keep in mind

As you ramp up for testing season, remember that this is most likely a stressful time for your students as well as yourself. When the testing does begin, encourage your students to get a good night’s sleep the night before and to eat a healthy breakfast on testing day. Also, help your students relax right before the test with calming exercises and **lots of encouragement.**



MAKE LEARNING A FAMILY AFFAIR

*A new school year doesn't just mean new students. Parents and caregivers are part of the classroom community too. Family engagement is a critical component of students' success in school. Building strong relationships with your students' parents will help maximize students' success. These four strategies will help you develop strong **home-to-school connections**, which in turn will promote greater student achievement.*

Home-to-school connections.

1. REGULAR AND ACTIVE COMMUNICATION

Good communication—even before the school year starts—is key to encouraging families to become actively involved. Send a welcome letter at the beginning of the year to introduce yourself as well as to make parents aware of class rules, goals, and routines. Throughout the year, send regular updates on how students are doing, and give them notice of upcoming tests, projects and activities. To make sure communications are

reaching busy parents, use a variety of communication tools from email and text messages to a class web site or blog. Old fashion paper notes sent home with students still work too!

Be sure to **personalize your communications**. This will help you make authentic connections with parents. Remember to be sensitive to students' different situations. You may want to use the phrase “caring adult” in cases where a student is living with a relative other than his/her parent. Also be aware that English may not be some parents' first language or they may not know much English at all. Use free, online translation tools to help bridge the gap. The translations may not be perfect but families will appreciate the effort to keep them informed.

Parents and caregivers need encouragement too, so congratulate them on the progress their children are making and thank them whenever they volunteer or are otherwise involved in the classroom. Make a big deal when a student reaches a goal by sending home an achievement certificate.

2. ELICIT INPUT

Families are much more likely to be engaged if they know that their opinion matters and that they play a role in defining goals for their children. Give parents a chance to set goals and voice any concerns about their children. Ask for their feedback and show that you value their participation with regular followups.

3. BRING PARENTS INTO YOUR CLASSROOM

Invite parents and caregivers to come to your class for a special project or these activities. You can tie the activity to skills you'd like parents to be encouraging at home. Parents and caregivers can also help students in the classroom prepare for tests with [these great activities](#).

4. MAKE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT A SCHOOL-WIDE PRIORITY

One of the best ways schools can promote parental involvement is by engaging parents in the education process in meaningful ways. Stress the importance of active parents in your school's mission statement. Besides the usual parent nights/open houses, **try hosting a workshop** that communicates the importance of an active parent and defines their role in promoting their children's academic success and social emotional development. Additionally, you may want to create a parent center (*either a physical space on campus, or a virtual space such as a chat room*) where parents can meet to share ideas and get advice.

*Give these tips a try in the coming school year. Strong parental involvement will make your job easier and is a surefire way to promote **students' success**.*

7 CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT APPS YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

THERE ARE SO MANY FREE AND INEXPENSIVE TECHNOLOGY TOOLS OUT THERE TO HELP YOU MANAGE YOUR CLASSROOM BUT WHO HAS THE TIME TO GO SEARCHING FOR THEM? We've saved you a few precious minutes by compiling this list of seven classroom management apps that will help you engage students, set clear rules and expectations, assist with time management and lesson planning, and communicate with students and parents in more effective ways.

CLICK THE TITLES BELOW TO DISCOVER MORE.

1 TRAFFIC LIGHT

This app can be used for behavior management by assigning each color on the light a different task. For example, **RED**=put your supplies away and get ready for the next period; **YELLOW**=work quietly at your desk; **GREEN**= time for group work; and **BLUE**=no talking.

2 CLASSDOJO

"Classroom management is a thing of the past for me: ClassDojo makes it easy to encourage my students for making good choices" That's just one of the many rave reviews teachers give this behavior management app. The app is also great for sharing important information with parents, including announcements instant messages, and photos. As an added bonus, ClassDojo translates 35 languages and includes easy-to-read behavior reports.

3 PLICKERS

Poll your class without student devices. You can quickly perform instant checks-for-understanding, exit tickets, and impromptu polls with this handy app. Your data is automatically saved and accessible on the plickers.com website.

4 SMART SEAT

Quickly create seating charts, record/export attendance, randomly select students, record notes on students, and store student photos.

5 CLASS ACT

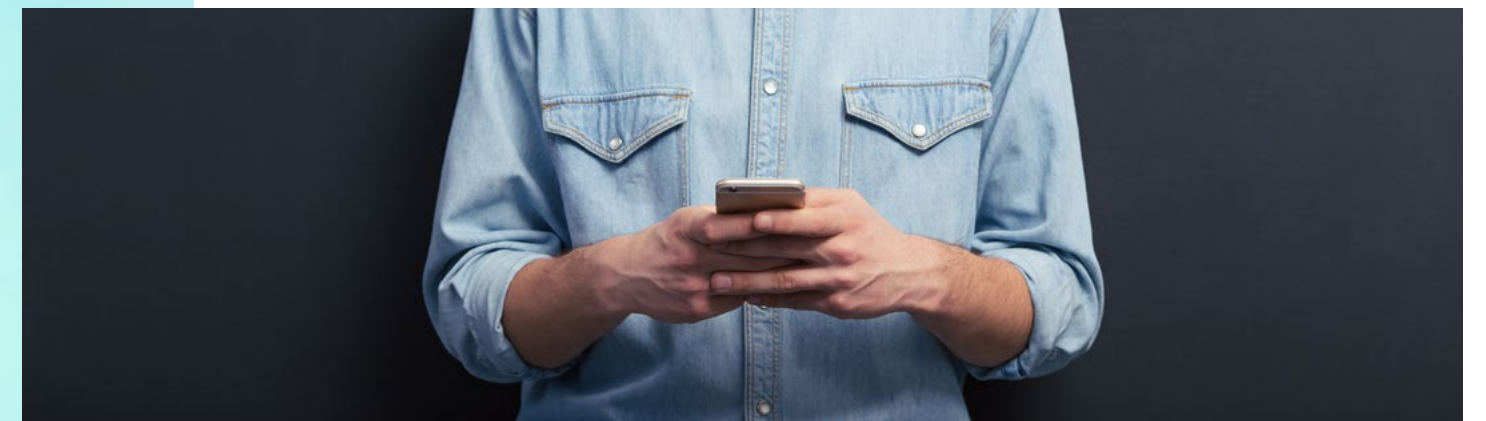
This intuitive app helps teachers assess students' progress throughout a lesson. Monitoring is conducted by tapping the screen as students' progress, and colors are used to help easily identify students in need of extra support.

6 BEST SAND TIMER

Time any event (*up to 60 minutes*) with this time-keeper app. A beautiful display helps students know how much time is remaining for the task.

7 TEACHER'S KIT

Secondary teachers will love this app because it allows you to organize multiple classrooms and students. Features include managing attendance records, importing student rosters, creating seating charts, tracking behavior notes and grades, and more!





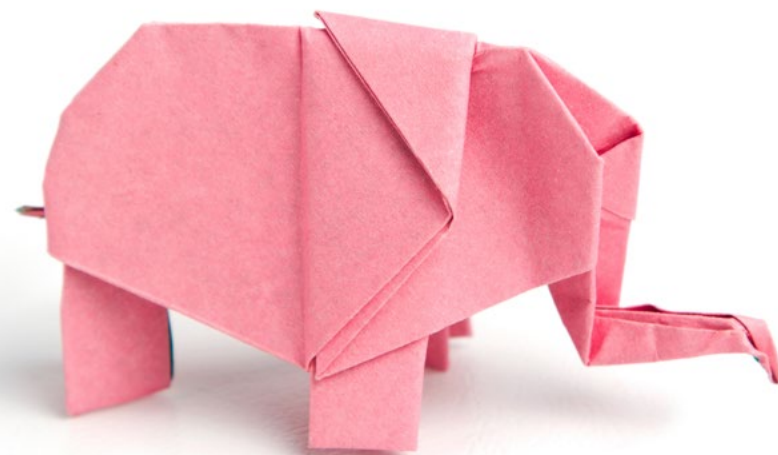
Creative

**3 GAMES YOUR STUDENTS WILL LOVE THAT
TEACH SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SKILLS**

FIRST WEEK FUN

3 GAMES YOUR STUDENTS WILL LOVE THAT TEACH SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SKILLS

A FEW IDEAS TO TEACH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS TO YOUR STUDENTS.



Social and emotional learning is just as critical to students' academic achievement and success in college and careers as mastering math, science and reading. Unlike teaching multiplication, teaching social and emotional skills takes a more subtle approach and should be woven into subject area lessons and daily classroom activities. These three games are a great way to start the day, give students a break between lessons, or to make a rainy day recess period a learning period too.

ANGER CATCHER

Help your students realize that they are in control of their choices. They are the ones who decide how their feelings impact their words, thoughts, and behavior. Brush up on your origami skills with this activity to help students learn how to manage feelings of anger.

KINDNESS BINGO

Foster a caring environment in your classroom with Kindness Bingo. This spin on the classic game will encourage your students to be kind to others and can be used with students of all ages.

EMOTIONS SCAVENGER HUNT

Observing others is a great way for students to explore and understand emotions. This game works well in small groups and helps students build emotional awareness, perspective taking, whole body listening, and social skills.

FIRST WEEK FUN

THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL IS CRITICAL. What happens in those first few days sets the tone for the rest of the school year. Get off on the right foot with fun, engaging activities that promote social emotional learning skills that will support academic achievement and foster a classroom environment everyone looks forward to coming to all year long!



IMPROVING ATTITUDES

Students with positive attitudes about learning have greater motivation to learn and are more committed to productive school and classroom behavior. Here are a few ideas on how to promote learning in a positive way that will get your students ready and excited to learn.

Inspire your students about the importance of learning with [these TED Talk videos](#) about people overcoming adversity.

[Learn how](#) to help students transform from a fixed mindset to a growth mindset.

[This “Reach for the Stars”](#) activity creates a fun visual that illustrates your students’ goals for the year.

DECREASE NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS

Students will be less likely to engage in disruptive behaviors if they play a role in defining the classroom rules and the consequences for breaking a rule. Set the right tone the first week of school with a group activity to define the rules. Be sure to outline goals to help your students stay on-track throughout the year.

[This “Emotional Bank Account”](#) activity helps students define and work toward positive behavior.

Set your classroom rules as a group and promote strong goal-setting all year long [with this group activity](#) for the first week of school.

PROMOTE PROSOCIAL BEHAVIORS

Research shows that students who have strong and supportive relationships with teachers and other educators are more likely to achieve academically. Show your students that you care about them, and they will be much more likely to engage in learning. These activities provide ideas for building strong relationships with your students from day one.

Connect with your students and build trusting relationships with [these five activities](#).

Discover how you can take a few minutes each morning to meet as a class so you can catch up with one another in a meaningful way.

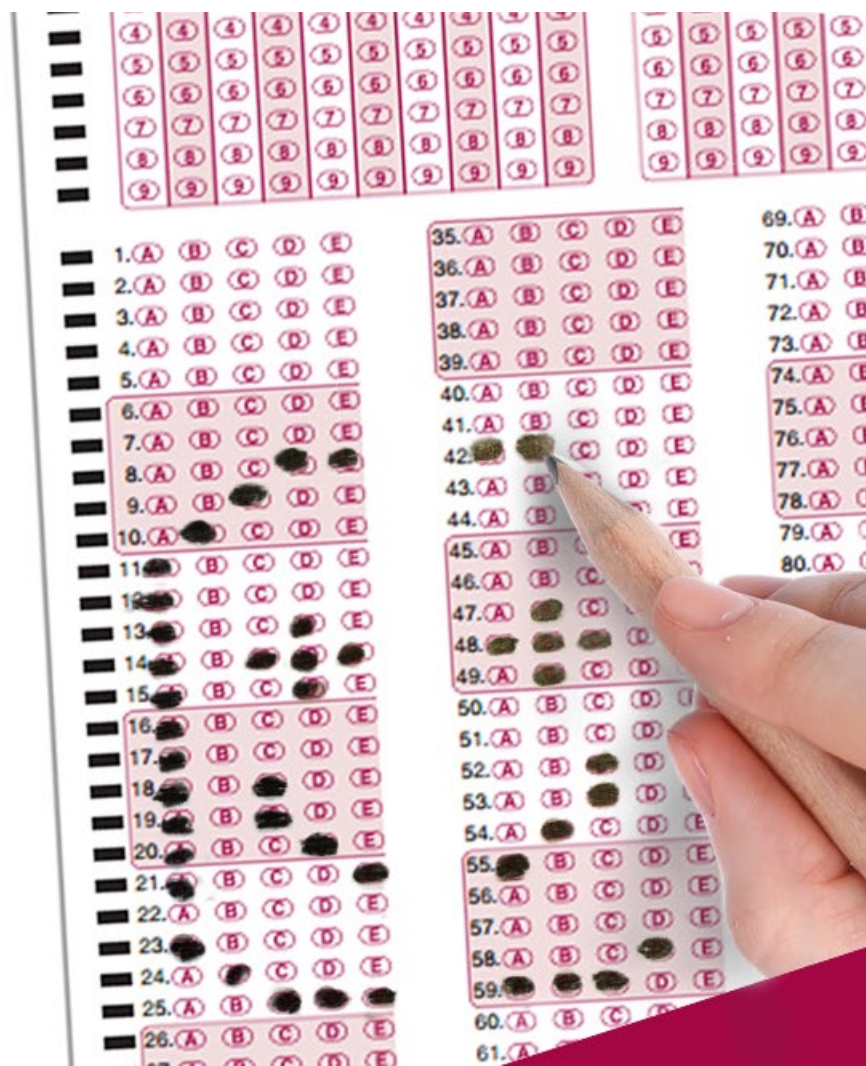


Connect with your students

NO STRESS ASSESSMENT

Apperson Social and Emotional Learning can help **you** help your students.

LEARN MORE ▶



Nutrition Tips

NUTRITION TIPS FOR TEACHERS

—
**Food
 Fiction**
 V.
**Food
 Fact**
 —

NUTRITION TIPS FOR TEACHERS

TEACHING IS AN EXTREMELY TAXING OCCUPATION ON BOTH MIND AND BODY. IN THE COURSE OF A SINGLE DAY, EDUCATORS MAKE HUNDREDS OF DECISIONS WHILE REACTING TO THE EVER-CHANGING NEEDS OF EACH STUDENT. IT TAKES A SPECIAL TYPE OF STRENGTH TO GUIDE AND CONTROL AN ENTIRE CLASSROOM FOR FIVE DAYS OUT OF THE WEEK. FOR THESE REASONS, IT'S IMPORTANT TO FUEL YOUR MIND AND BODY APPROPRIATELY. THAT'S WHERE WE COME IN.

FOOD FICTION V. FOOD FACT

Let's differentiate between **Food Fiction** and **Food Fact**, *shall we?*

FOOD FICTION

Good nutrition means just eating healthy foods.

FOOD FACT

True, but only partially. Don't forget to feed your brain! The brain consumes about 600 calories per day. Food choices that support cardiovascular health i.e. non-starchy vegetables and fruits, as well as healthy oils and fats, a variety of protein sources, and certain whole grains are all good for cognitive function.

*Eat smart.
 Be smart.*

FOOD FICTION

Binge-eating carbs provides a reliable source of sustained energy.

FOOD FACT

Carbohydrates from added sugar and refined starches generally produce an energy surge, but it's short-lived and quickly transitions to fatigue. Reduce your consumption of foods with added sugar and you'll notice a difference immediately.

FOOD FICTION

Fats are bad, *no matter what.*

FOOD FACT

Saturated fats, like the ones found in red meats and dairy products, are bad for you. However, natural fats found in healthier food options like seeds, nuts, olive oil, avocado, and white fish are great for you. In fact, natural fats increase the feeling of satiety and help to keep hunger pangs at bay.

FOOD FICTION

Meat is the best source of protein.

FOOD FACT

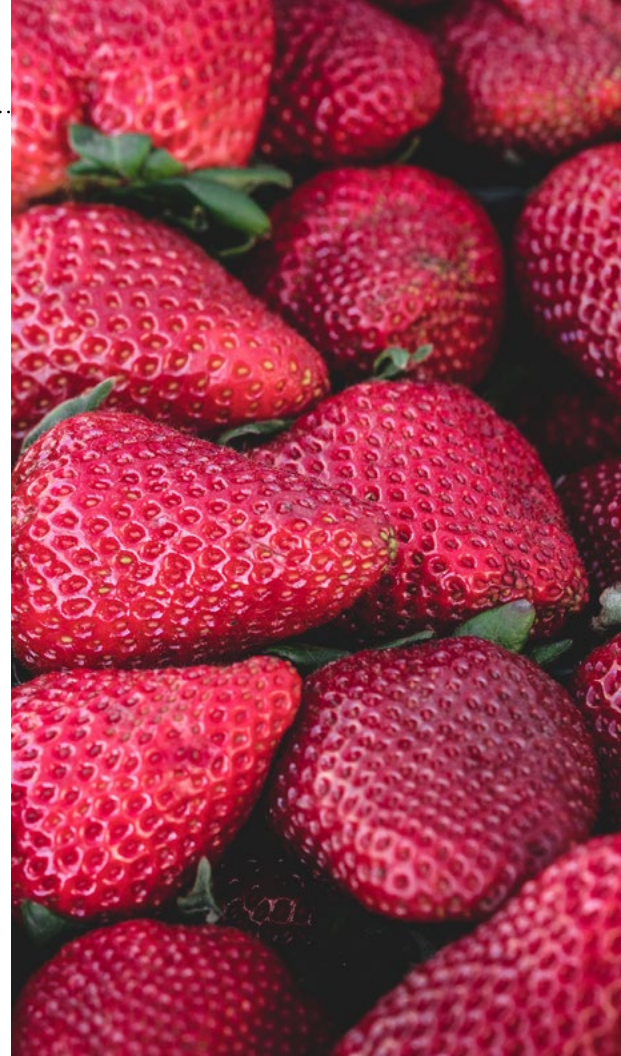
Nutritional researchers are in wide agreement that most Americans rely too heavily on red and processed meats for protein. In addition, a recent World Health Organization report links regular consumption of red and processed meats to an increased risk of cancer. Protect yourself and opt for healthier sources of protein that include seafood, poultry, eggs, beans, peas, nuts, seeds, and soy products.

The Golden Rule

Eat breakfast, **ALWAYS**. A healthy meal to start your day could be the difference between a morning of energetic teaching and feeling drowsy by 10 AM.

Try a vegetable omelet with a cup of coffee or tea. It's delicious AND nutritious, the best combo for a successful day in the classroom.

Nutritional information was taken from Edutopia. Edutopia shares evidence and practitioner-based learning strategies that empower you to improve K-12 education.



Books

10 BOOKS TO HELP KIDS UNDERSTAND THEIR FEELINGS



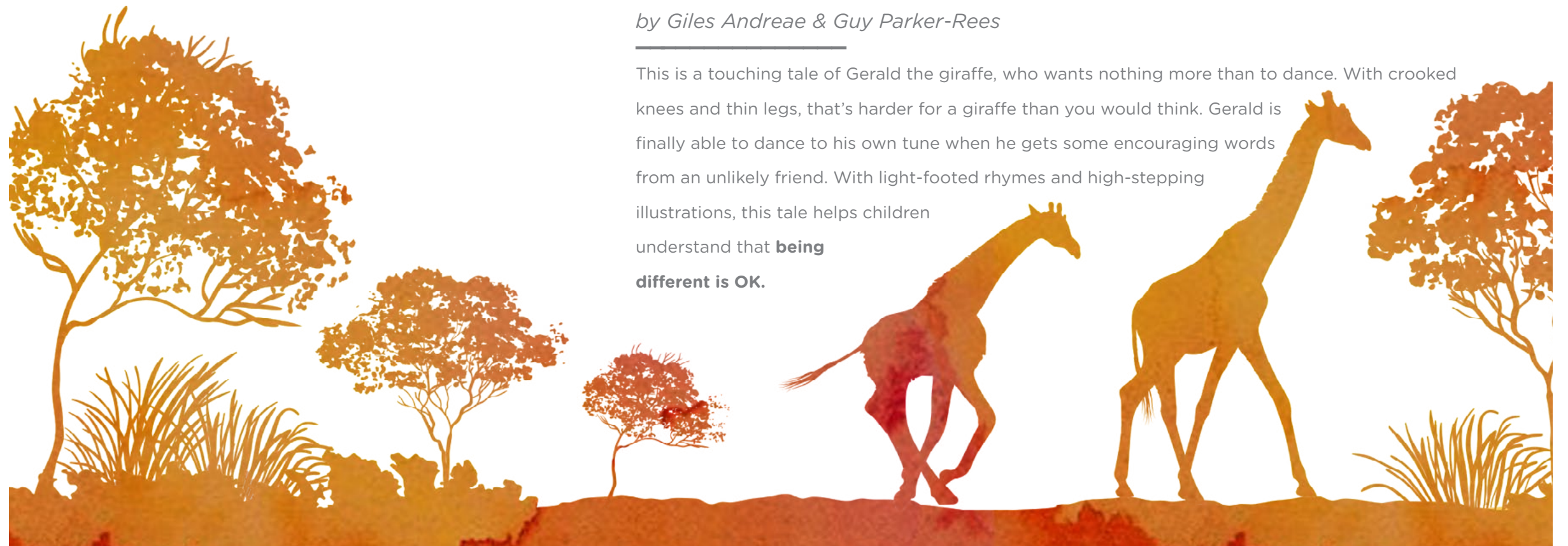
**DO YOU TEACH
HIGH SCHOOL
students?
RATE their SOCIAL
& EMOTIONAL BEHAVIOR
& EARN UP
to \$20!**

[TAKE THE SURVEY ▶](#)

10 BOOKS TO HELP KIDS UNDERSTAND THEIR FEELINGS

WE'VE COMPILED A LIST OF 10 BOOKS THAT HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND THEIR FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS. SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING IS CRITICAL TO STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND THEIR OVERALL WELL-BEING. LEARNING TO UNDERSTAND AND COPE WITH THEIR FEELINGS WILL HELP ENSURE STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL IN SCHOOL AND BEYOND.

Whether you use these selections during story time, for independent reading, or part of your SEL curriculum, they're sure to help your students gain greater awareness of their feelings and how to handle them.



Teach children being different is OK.

1 THE HUNDRED DRESSES

by Eleanor Estes

Awarded the Newbery Honor in 1945, *The Hundred Dresses* has never been out of print since. This is a story about a girl who is ridiculed by her classmates for wearing the same faded blue dress every day. One of her classmates ultimately decides that the bullying is wrong and vows to never stand by silent again.

2 MY MANY COLORED DAYS

by Dr. Seuss

We waited more than two decades to see this Dr. Seuss manuscript in print. Husband-and-wife team Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher's stunning, expressive paintings reveal striking images such as a bright red horse kicking its heels, a cool and quiet green fish, a sad and lonely purple dinosaur, and an angrily howling black wolf.

3 GIRAFFES CAN'T DANCE

by Giles Andreae & Guy Parker-Rees

This is a touching tale of Gerald the giraffe, who wants nothing more than to dance. With crooked knees and thin legs, that's harder for a giraffe than you would think. Gerald is finally able to dance to his own tune when he gets some encouraging words from an unlikely friend. With light-footed rhymes and high-stepping illustrations, this tale helps children understand that **being different is OK.**

4 THE POUT POUT FISH*by Deborah Diesen*

Swim along with the pout-pout fish as he discovers that being glum and spreading “dreary wearies” isn’t really his destiny. Bright ocean colors and playful rhyme come together in Deborah Diesen’s fun fish story that’s sure to turn even the poutiest of frowns upside down.

5 TODAY I FEEL SILLY & OTHER MOODS THAT MAKE MY DAY*by Jamie Lee Curtis*

Jamie Lee Curtis has starred in many movies, but she says that the children’s books she has written mean more to her than any of her films. This tale follows a little girl with curly red hair through 13 different moods. The narrative helps children learn to recognize their different moods and how to deal with each emotion.

6 LOVE, HUGS, & HOPE: When Scary Things Happen*by Christy Monson*

Written after the tragic shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, this book helps children identify feelings that may overwhelm them with anxiety and despair. Author Christy Monson guides readers through emotions of fear, sadness, and anger, then lends constructive and practical ideas for how to manage such feelings and seek comfort.

7 FOCUSING & CALMING**ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN***by Deborah Plummer*

It is never too soon for children to learn the process of peaceful conflict resolution. This book teaches children how to calm themselves, state the problem, listen, think of solutions, try one, evaluate results, and even agree to disagree when a solution isn’t possible. Included are skill-building games and role plays for adults to use with children.

8 CRAZY HAIR DAY*by Barney Saltzberg*

Stanley Birdbaum couldn’t be more excited. He has rolled and wrapped and dyed his hair. He has dipped it and sprayed it and made it, well, perfect. He is ready to celebrate Crazy Hair Day at school. But when Stanley saunters up to the classroom, he learns, to his horror, that Crazy Hair Day is... next week. To make matters worse, today is School Picture Day, and everyone is expected to line up for the class photo! What is Stanley to do? This heartwarming tale is a great lesson on compassion and anti-bullying.

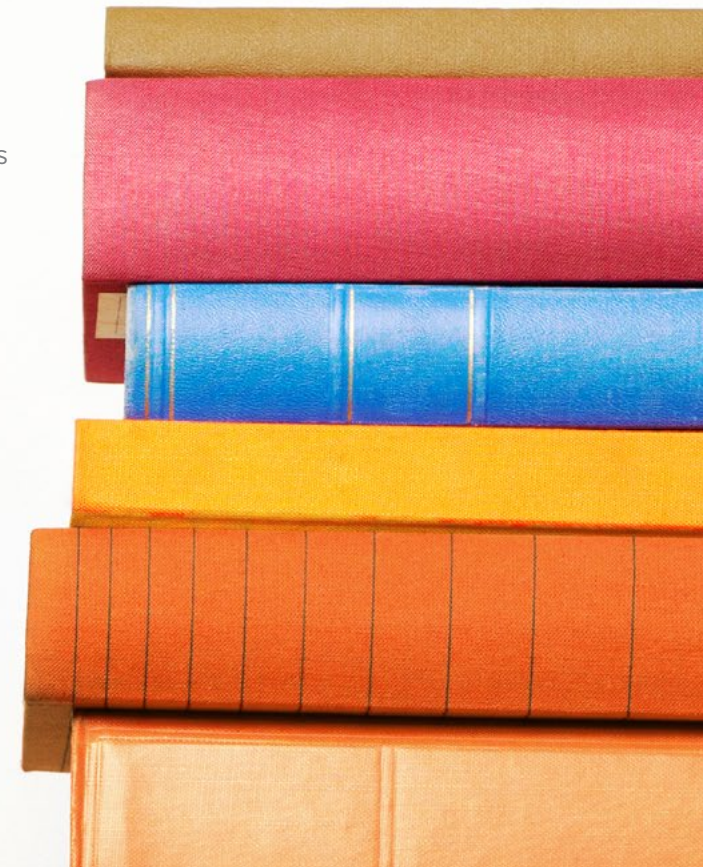
9 VISITING FEELINGS*by Lauren Rubenstein*

Gold Medal winner of the 2013 Mom’s Choice Awards, this story invites children to sense, explore, and befriend any feeling with acceptance and

equanimity. Children can explore their emotions with their senses and nurture a sense of mindfulness. Gaining this objectivity allows space for a more considered response to the feelings. Practicing mindfulness can also enhance many aspects of well-being, help develop insight, empathy, and resiliency.

10 WHEN SOPHIE GETS ANGRY - REALLY, REALLY ANGRY...*by Molly Bang*

A little girl’s anger and emotions are illuminated by color in this story. Sophie’s temper flares when her sister demands a turn playing with a favorite stuffed gorilla. To make matters worse, Sophie’s mother seemingly takes her sister’s side. Sophie lets her anger rage in a healthy way and is able to come back to the situation calm and relaxed.



KNOW MORE. GO MORE.
Fast, Versatile & Portable.

DATALINK 1200
**Product does not really print plane ticket to your dream vacation.*

LEARN MORE ▶

Organization Tid Bits

10 BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION MUST-HAVES

5 THINGS TO ALWAYS HAVE AT YOUR DESK

15 FREE OR CHEAP WAYS TO STOCK YOUR CLASSROOM LIBRARY

10 BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION MUST-HAVES

SETTING UP YOUR CLASSROOM SO IT'S WARM, WELCOMING AND CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES YOU'LL DO AS YOU GEAR UP FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR. HERE ARE 10 CREATIVE AND INEXPENSIVE IDEAS FOR ADDING FUNCTIONALITY AND FUN TO YOUR CLASSROOM.

1| USE WALL SPACE WISELY

There never seems to be quite enough space on your desk or work tables for all the supplies, books and papers in your classroom. Hanging supply holders are the answer! Use removable hooks (like the ones 3M makes) to suspend colorful plastic baskets on the wall. Fill the baskets with supplies like pencils or crayons or use them as homework turn-in stations.

2| GET UNTANGLED

Keep all the cords and wires that cause clutter organized and out of sight by slipping them through used paper towel or toilet paper tubes. Paint the cardboard tubes or cover them with wrapping paper to turn an eyesore into something pretty.

3| DOING DOUBLE DUTY

File cabinets can do more than just keep papers neat and tidy. Push two together to create an inexpensive magnet board where you can display student work, post homework assignments, or even decorate it like a bulletin board. Give your new magnet board a little flair by covering the side of your filing cabinets with a piece of polka dot or



colorful fabric. All you need are magnets to keep the fabric in place.

4| STRAIGHT LINES, PLEASE

Whether you're leaving for lunch or heading to the library, getting students out the door in an orderly fashion can be a challenge. Putting line up stickers on the floor provides a clear visual reminder to students of how to form a straight line. Cut circles out of colorful contact paper or floor tape and write numbers on them. Start with #1 at the doorway. Be sure to leave enough space in between stickers to keep students from crowding up.

5| READYMADE DESK CADDIES

Don't recycle those cardboard six-pack holders quite yet! Cover them with

wrapping paper or patterned duct tape then use them to organize desk or art supplies.

6| CLEAR THE CLUTTER

Cereal, diaper or all those boxes you get shipped from Amazon can be turned into pretty storage containers for your classroom. Simply cover them with fabric, wrapping paper, contact paper, or duct tape and in an instant you'll turn a plain cardboard box into a place for students to return library books, turn in homework, store games, and more. Cut the tops off of cereal boxes, stack several on top of each other, tape or glue them together, then cover them with wrapping paper. Voila! You've got a classroom mailbox or a tray for stacking papers.

7| MAKE REARRANGING QUICK AND QUIET

The screech of desks and chairs being moved is worse than nails on a chalkboard. Make moving desks and chairs so students can work in pairs or groups a quiet, easier task by popping tennis balls onto the legs. Just slit a tennis ball and slip it on. Your furniture will slide easily and silently across the floor.

8| GIVE THEM (OR YOURSELF) MORE SPACE

Place a shoe rack with multiple shelves at workstations or on your own desk to keep work areas free of clutter but supplies close at hand.

9| USE COLOR AS A VISUAL AID

Help students find just the right books for their

reading levels by color coding your bookshelf. Paint each shelf a different color—one for each reading level. This is a great way to organize your books and make your classroom a little more colorful.

10| ZIP IT UP

It's easy to lose the pieces of puzzles, games and manipulative. Store them in plastic zipper bags then use a binder clip and shower curtain ring to hang them up within easy reach of students on a paper towel holder or curtain rod.

15 FREE (OR CHEAP) WAYS TO STOCK YOUR CLASSROOM LIBRARY

WE FOUND FREE BOOKS FOR LOW-INCOME SCHOOLS, LITERACY GRANTS, FREE EBOOK DATABASES AND WE EVEN OFFER SOME OF OUR FAVORITE IDEAS FOR FINDING BOOKS ON THE CHEAP. WE HOPE THIS HELPS YOU FILL THE SHELVES OF YOUR CLASSROOM LIBRARY AND FOSTER A LOVE OF READING IN YOUR STUDENTS.

FIRST BOOK

If at least 70% of the students in your class come from low-income families, check out First Book. [First Book](#) offers a marketplace where teachers can find new books at 50 to 90 percent off retail prices. Additionally First Book has a National Book Bank offering free books. The only catch is that you pay the shipping of \$0.35 to \$0.50 per book. [First Book](#) has a huge selection with Spanish language titles, music and arts books, global stories, STEM books as well as ordinary fiction and nonfiction.

KIDS NEED TO READ

[Kids Need to Read](#) is another program that provides free books and literary resources to schools and libraries. To be eligible for the program your school must serve at least 50% of children living at or below the national poverty line. There is no guarantee of acceptance. However, unlike some programs that only target early readers, [Kids Need to Read](#) serves middle readers and young adults as well.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

For teachers in the DC-area or those already planning a trip to our nation's capital, don't miss [The Library of Congress surplus books program](#). While the selection of early-level books is limited, the supply is constantly changing. The surplus books can only be received in person. However, you can send an authorized representative for your organization. If you have friends or another teacher planning a trip to the DC area, you could ask them to pick out some books for your classroom.

READING RESOURCE PROJECT

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation sponsors [the Reading Resource Project](#), an ongoing program that distributes softcover books to support literacy programs. Reading levels are available for Pre-K through Second Grade. [The Reading Resource Project](#) offers book sets in Spanish as well as English in various subjects. Recipients are required to pay shipping and handling of \$.78 per book. Team up with other grade level teachers and split the 100-book box among several classrooms!



GRANTS

There are also a number of grant opportunities available that provide funding for the purchase of Children's books. Some of these include the [National Home Library Foundation](#), [Snapdragon Book Foundation](#), [Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation](#), [The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries](#) and [the Dollar General Literacy Foundation](#). Work together with other teachers at your school to write a killer grant and let your classroom libraries reap the benefits.

SCHOLASTIC WAREHOUSE EVENTS

Periodically [Scholastic Book Fairs](#) hosts [warehouse sales](#). This is a great way to purchase books and activity sets for your classroom or library up to 80% off the published price. Most books are at least 50% off and there are hundreds of items priced at \$2 or less. Some locations even offer a Build-A-Box option! Grab a box, pack it with books from a selected collection of clearance items and pay only \$24.95. To find a warehouse sale in your state, just [enter your zip code](#). Also, once you find your local event be sure you register online to receive a special coupon for \$10 off a \$50 purchase or \$25 off a \$100 purchase.

SCHOLASTIC READING CLUB

[The Scholastic Reading Program](#) is a fabulous source for acquiring books for your classroom. When parents purchase books through your classroom catalogue you earn bonus points to spend on books for your class library. The more parents order, the more free books you receive. There are options for all parent budgets. The catalogue even features a \$1 book each month. We also found this blog post that has some [fabulous ideas for boosting parent purchases!](#)

You can also shop the online [Scholastic Teacher Store](#). They have deals specifically for educators with hundreds of titles as low as \$1. Occasionally they offer free shipping days to make it even more affordable.

LIBRARY SALES

Public libraries receive book donations on a regular basis. Most of these titles do not actually land on library shelves but instead are saved for book sales. The majority of these sales are sponsored by Friends of the Library volunteer groups. You will typically find books priced from \$0.25 to \$1 in a wide range of subjects and genres. These sales are a win/win since your money goes back to supporting public library programs. **Call your local library to find out when they will hold their next sale.** You can also check [Book Sale Finder](#) to find sales in your state.

HALF PRICE BOOKS

Half-Price books conducts a book drive every winter and distributes these books to nonprofit organizations, schools and hospitals during the month of April. [Bookmark the Half-Price Library page](#) and check back every year to find a giveaway event in your area. The request forms typically become available in March with giveaway events occurring in April. Half Price Books also offers a [10% off educator discount](#) to help you save on books throughout the year.

GARAGE SALES

People often sell outgrown children's books at garage sales. The prices vary but usually you can negotiate and purchase them very inexpensively. Your best bet is to search for neighborhood-wide garage sales so you can visit a large number in the same area. Grab some teacher friends and make a fun morning out of it!



Let's get kids excited about reading!

AMAZON.COM

Amazon has a large selection of [children's bargain books](#). You'll often find titles as low as \$1. The selection frequently changes so check back often. Amazon also has a Wish List feature. You can create a list of books you would love to receive for the classroom and share with parents or simply add a link to your email signature. Ask and (maybe) you shall receive! You can also explore other bargain booksellers like: [Book Outlet](#), [Thrift Books](#), [Better World Books](#) and [Books A Million](#).

WORK TOGETHER

Find a teacher in an older grade. Ask if she would be willing to have her class do a book drive for yours. Students can bring in a book or two that they enjoyed in the previous grade. Then have a buddy day where her students can read the donated books to your class. Reciprocate with a book drive for another teacher in a younger grade.

RESALE SHOPS

Goodwill and children's consignment stores are fabulous resources for inexpensive books. It can sometimes be a scavenger hunt but you should be able to find some fun titles to add to your classroom library. You can also shop annual consignment sales as well. These typically have lower prices than stores. Find a consignment sale happening near you.

ASK PARENTS

If parents know that donating books to the classroom is an option, they may choose you over donating to a resale shop. Put a sticker inside donated books. Kids will love when their donated book is being enjoyed by their friends.

**FREE EBOOKS**

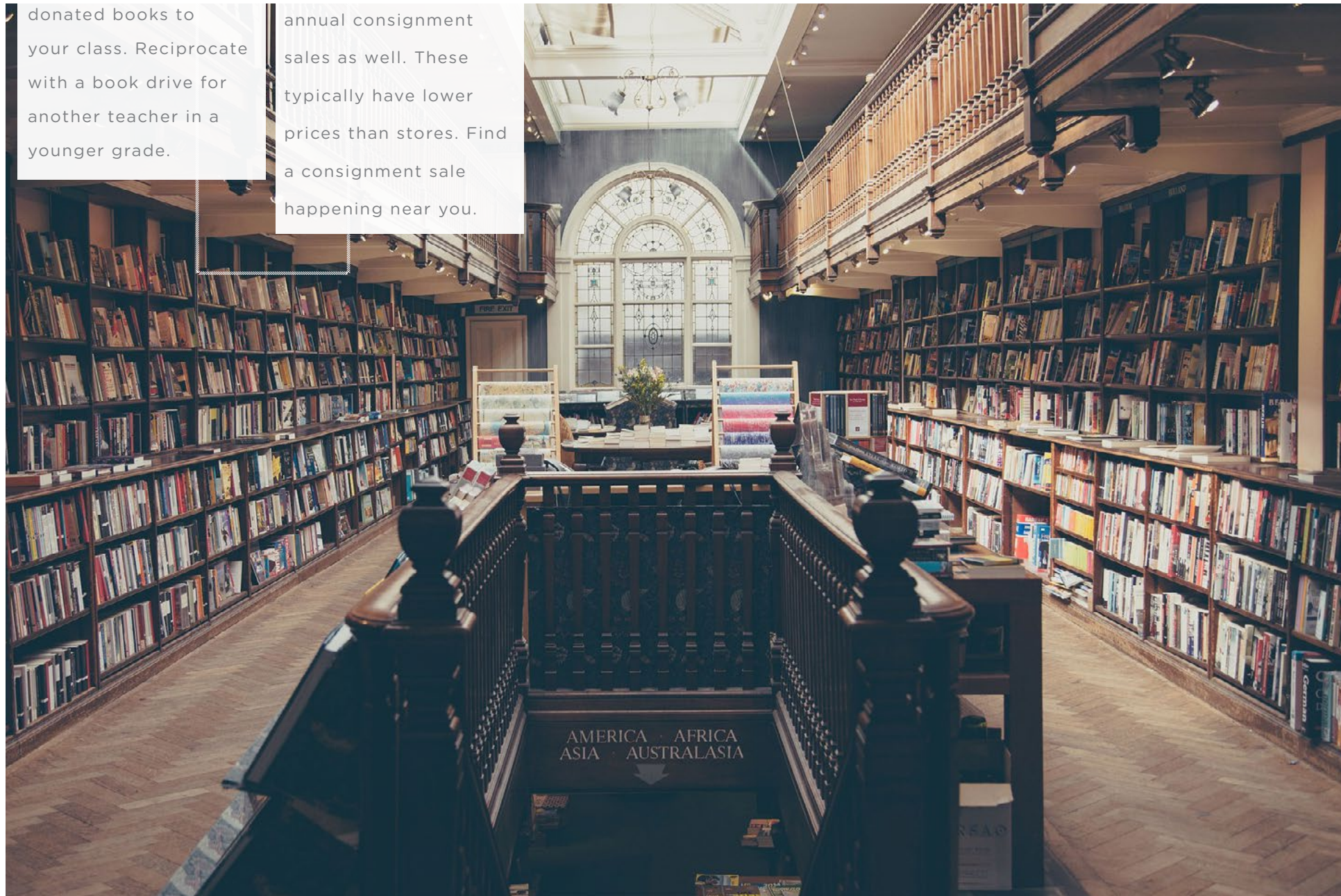
If you have tablets in your classroom, a digital library can be a great resource for students as well. There are a number of sites that are exceptionally helpful for finding free ebooks.

The most comprehensive is the [Digital Book Index](#). This is a catalogue of all the major eBook sites, university collections and other smaller publishers. Also be sure to check the [International Children's Digital Library](#). This is the world's largest digital collection of children's books. They have thousands of books in a variety of languages.

[The Library of Congress](#) has a selection of free books that have been digitized. These include many illustrated children's classics. [Project Gutenberg](#) is a collection of free electronic books. The site boasts more than 40,000 free titles. The site features all types of ebooks but there are titles for children.

If you would rather have the free books come to you instead of hunting for them, check out [BookBub](#). This is a free daily email that notifies you about limited-time, free and discounted bestselling e-book titles in genres you choose.

If you are looking for more ways to encourage readers, don't miss our post with [free Get Caught Reading posters](#) and several different [free printable bookmark sets](#). Students can have fun making their own books with the [free Bookabi App](#) and be sure to take advantage of the [free Storyline Online program](#). *Let's get kids excited about reading!*





5 THINGS TO ALWAYS HAVE AT YOUR DESK

You're a pro at organizing your classroom with the latest and greatest school supplies. But there may be a few things you should always have handy that you may be overlooking. Check out these five things that will help you get through the school day a little easier.

Emergency Supplies

Just like your students, it's really difficult for you to be your best when you're battling a headache or hunger pains. Keep a little emergency kit at your desk that includes Tylenol, cough drops, Emergen-C packets, chocolate, hand lotion, water, and an energy bar or two.

Student Supplies Center

A good way to keep students on-track in their classwork is by having a Student Supplies Center. Fill a basket or container with extra supplies that are just for your students to use. Include things like tape, glue, a stapler, a three-hole punch, extra paper, rulers, red ink pens, etc. Let students know that these materials are for them to use but any items that are not in the basket are yours and are off limits.

Extra Phone Charger

This will be a lifesaver on those days when you ran out of the house without your charger and a cell phone that's nearly out of juice.

An "I Need to Smile" Folder

All teachers have at least a few extra-challenging days. Keep a folder in your desk to help cheer yourself up when you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed. Add things like notes or cute artwork from your students, uplifting news or magazine articles, special photos, positive reviews from your principal, etc. Give yourself a confidence boost on a bad day by looking through the folder and **reminding yourself why you became a teacher.**

DataLink 3000

The DataLink 3000 is a cutting-edge scanner that enables educators to focus on developing curriculum and facilitating learning. It's compact, easy to use and **the best teacher's assistant you'll ever have.**







Calendars


Get extra organized this summer with 2 print-ready calendars for 2016!

AUGUST

"GREAT TEACHERS ENGINEER LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT PUT STUDENTS IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT AND THEN GET OUT OF THE WAY."

-ben johnson, *educator*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5 	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

-  Summer Olympics Begin
-  Friendship Week
-  2 PM EST The DESSA in Special Ed Setting







'16



SEPTEMBER

"WE NEVER KNOW WHICH LIVES WE INFLUENCE, OR WHEN, OR WHY."

-stephen king

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	 2	 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	 12	13	14	15	16	 17
18	19	20	21	 22	 23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

-  Labor Day
-  Read A Book Day
-  Remembrance Day
-  National Play Doh Day
-  2 PM EST SEL & DESSA-High School Edition
-  First Day of Fall

'16



Let's get social. Click to follow along.