



# 18 ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS FOR OCTOBER

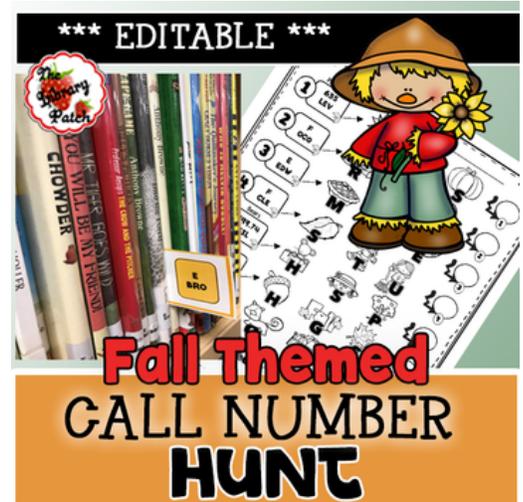
## Idea #1: Practice Locating Call Numbers - Fall Activity

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Happy Fall Y'all! Don't miss this fun activity that will engage your library patrons in a practice session on locating call numbers!

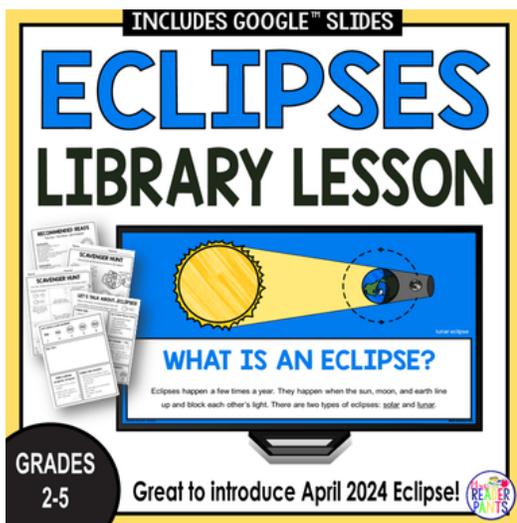
The kids won't even know that you are putting them to work.

([see this activity from The Library Patch](#).)



## Idea #2: Prepare for TWO Eclipses Coming Soon!

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



The April 2024 Eclipse is expected to be a huge event! But did you know there is another one on October 14, 2023?

This Eclipse Library Lesson will ensure your students understand the differences between solar and lunar eclipses and why solar eclipses are such a big deal.

([See it in the MrsReaderPants shop](#).)

CONTRIBUTING  
AUTHORS:

[The Trapped Librarian](#)  
[The Library Patch](#)

[That Library Girl](#)  
[Mrs J in the Library](#)

[MrsReaderPants](#)  
[Library Learners](#)

# Idea #3: Board Books for Adapted Library Classes and More

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)

A few years ago, my principal added adapted library class to the elementary specials schedule. The students who attended this class were often destructive to books, sometimes without meaning to be, and the classroom staff were hesitant to let them check out books at all.

Board books have been the perfect solution, and this article shows you how to get started.



[Continue Reading at Mrs. J in the Library](#)



## Favorite New Book Releases

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



### PICTURE BOOKS

- *What's Inside a Caterpillar Cocoon?* by Rachel Ignotofsky
- *A Walk in the Woods* by Nikki Grimes
- *How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney?* by Mac Barnett
- *Slowly, Slowly* by Toni Yuly
- *Dear Stray* by Kirsten Hubbard
- *The Christmassy Cactus* by Beth Ferry
- *Once, A Bird* by Rina Singh
- *I'm From* by Gary R. Gray, Jr.
- *Flat Cat* by Tara Lazar
- *Say My Name* by Joanna Ho
- *The Light Within You* by Namita Moolani Mehra

### CHAPTER BOOKS / NOVELS

- *The Curious Vanishing of Beatrice Willoughby* by G.Z. Schmidt
- *Saving Sunshine* by Saadia Faruqi
- *Nothing Else But Miracles* by Kate Albus
- *Farewell Cuba, Mi Isla* by Alexandra Diaz
- *Chinese Menu* by Grace Lin
- *Something Like Home* by Andrea Beatriz Arango
- *Dogtown* by Katherine Applegate
- *Enlighten Me* by Minh Lê
- *Salsa Magic* by Letisha Marrero

[Laugh and Learn with a Free PDF Comic from Dav Pilkey](#)

Your older students will laugh and be inspired by "The Almost Completely True Adventures of Dav Pilkey." This [5-page, free PDF](#) of a graphic novel short autobiography tells of the struggles Dav had as a kid in school. Read this with your upper elementary classes and discuss how Dav is still unconventional and making us laugh!

“HA  
HA,  
HA”

## Idea #4: Start a Creative New School Tradition

by Cari White (Library Learners)



One of our favorite school traditions is the Storybook Pumpkin Patch.

This activity takes very little effort on your part, but it creates lots of excitement and happiness around books and reading for your whole school community.

Families love taking pictures with their pumpkins that they've created together.

[see this Freebie in the Library Learners Shop on TPT](#)

## Idea #5: Celebrate October and Autumn

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Take advantage of fun seasonal themes when you plan your October library lessons.

From Fire Safety to Harry Potter to Halloween... these engaging lessons are fun for everyone! Make your library the center of your school in October!

[\(Read entire article from The Trapped Librarian\)](#)



## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



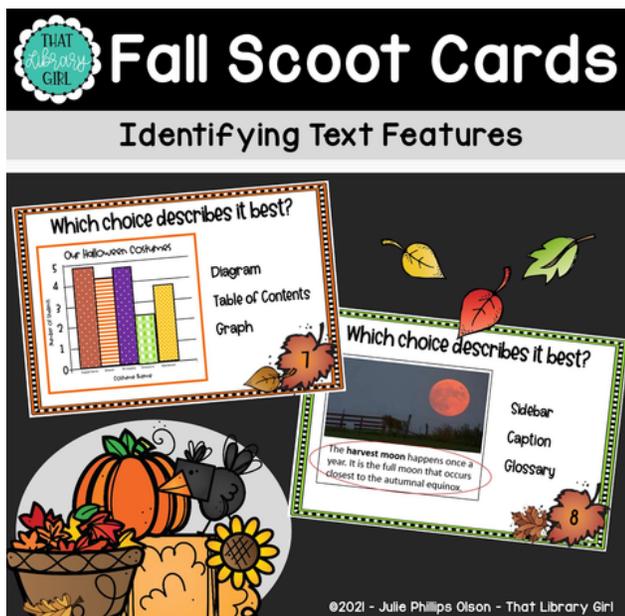
They say 1 in 8 American women will develop breast cancer. Two librarians in this group of newsletter author friends are proof of this data. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and we encourage you to go have a check-up, get your mammogram, and take care of YOU... early detection was a key to our survival!

Much love -- Julie and Laura



# Idea #6: Have Fun Teaching Text Features

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Teaching about text features?

Help your students review what they've learned by playing SCOOT -- or use these as task cards in a library center!

(See this resource in the That Library Girl TPT store)



## OUR FAVORITE OCTOBER READ-ALOUDS

- *Dragon's Halloween* by Dav Pilkey
- *How to Make Friends with a Ghost* by Rebecca Green
- *Even Monsters Need Haircuts* by Matt McElligott
- *Leonardo the Terrible Monster* by Mo Willems
- *She Made a Monster: How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein* by Lynn Fulton
- *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich* by Adam Rex (poetry)
- *Creepy Carrots!* by Aaron Reynolds (as well as the sequels *Creepy Pair of Underwear* and *Creepy Crayon*)
- *Kitty and the Moonlight Rescue* by Paula Harrison (early chapter book series)
- *A Big Mooncake for Little Star* by Grace Lin
- *My Papi Has a Motorcycle* by Isabel Quintero
- *Flora's Very Windy Day* by Jeanne Birdsall
- *The Leaf Thief* by Alice Hemming
- *Arnold and Louise #3: Happy Fell* by Erica S. Perl
- *Runaway Pumpkins* by Teresa Bateman
- *Big Pumpkin* by Erica Silverman
- *Sophie's Squash* by Pat Zietlow Miller
- *The Monster's Monster* by Patrick McDonnell
- *The Stranger* by Chris Van Allsberg
- *Crankenstein* by Samantha Berger



## Idea #7: Research Animals with an Interactive PDF

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Animals are one of our kids favorite research topics.

Use this interactive PDF file to make their favorite research even more accessible!



(See this Freebie in [The Library Patch TPT store](#).)



## Idea #8: Booktalk Halloween Titles

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



Looking for some spooky Halloween books for kids and teens?

This Halloween Digital Booktalk includes picture books, middle grade titles, and YA books.

Each Halloween book title was hand-selected for the recommended grade levels.

You can download and edit the free presentation below in Google Slides.

(See the full article and download the free presentation at [MrsReaderPants](#).)

### [Going to AASL in Tampa? Stop By and Meet Us!](#)

Three of our six-member newsletter team will be at AASL from October 19-21! Stop by the Librarians Teach Booth #832 in the exhibit hall and say hello to Cari (Library Learners), Collette (Mrs J in the Library), and Leigh (MrsReaderPants)!



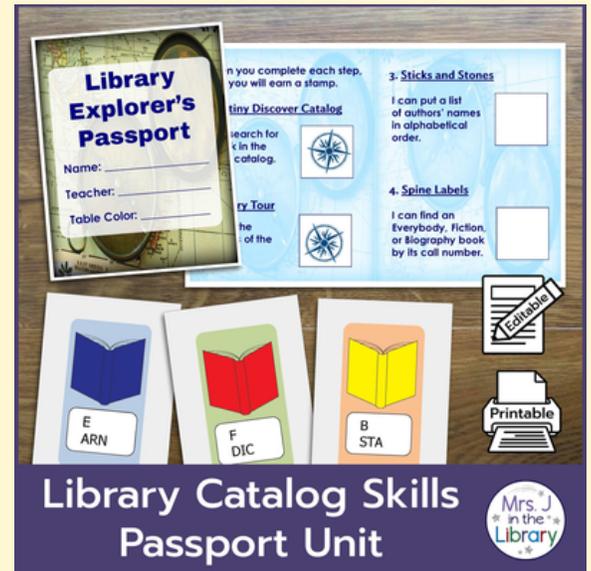
## Idea #9: Teach Catalog Skills with Games

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)

Learning to navigate the library sections, read a call number from the online catalog, and find that specific book are all essential skills to teach and review.

For students in 2nd through 4th grades, this travel-themed unit allows students to explore and learn about how to use the library with their own "passport" during 6-8 class periods.

[See this Library Passport Catalog Skills Unit at Mrs. J in the Library.](#)



## Idea #10: Add in Some Fun Scavenger Hunts

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Yes, library scavenger hunts are a lot of fun, but they are also a powerful teaching tool.

In this blog post, I share 5 reasons why I think every librarian should include scavenger hunts in their lesson plans.

[\(Read the full article on Library Learners\)](#)



Curated, engaging library curriculum  
for teacher-librarians

Click to learn more!



# Idea #11: Practice Fall-Themed Library Catalog Skills

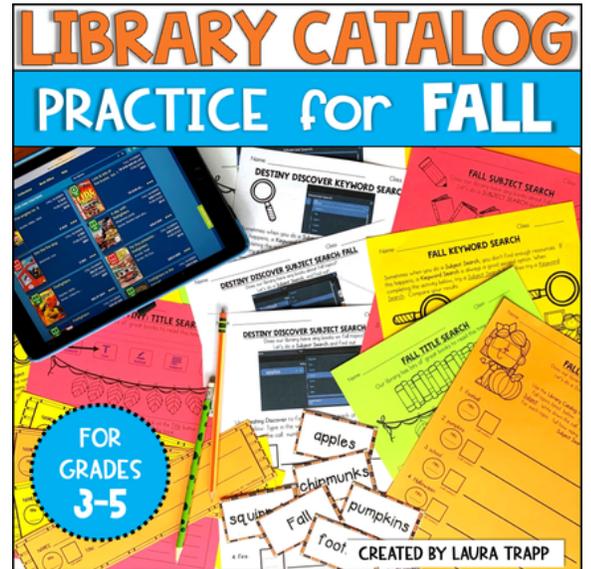
by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Make fall library lessons fun with this engaging library catalog unit!

Your 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will love practicing library catalog skills by searching for fall topics.

Reinforce the concepts of subject, title, and keyword searches and play a fun library location game using seasonal subjects!

[See this Library Catalog Practice from The Trapped Librarian on TPT](#)



# Idea #12: Manage Behavior with a BRAVO Board

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



How can a BRAVO Board help you manage behavior? Find out here and grab a FREEBIE, too!

[\(find out in this article from That Library Girl\)](#)

# BRAVO!



## Safety Tips for Eclipse Viewing

Did you know that there is an annular solar eclipse on Saturday, October 14th? It will be visible across several US states.

Annual eclipses are amazing, but eye damage is possible. [This website](#) has tips to help students view the eclipse safely. Since the eclipse is on a Saturday, this information is great to share with families. And don't forget to hang on to those eclipse glasses! There's another major eclipse for the US in April 2024.

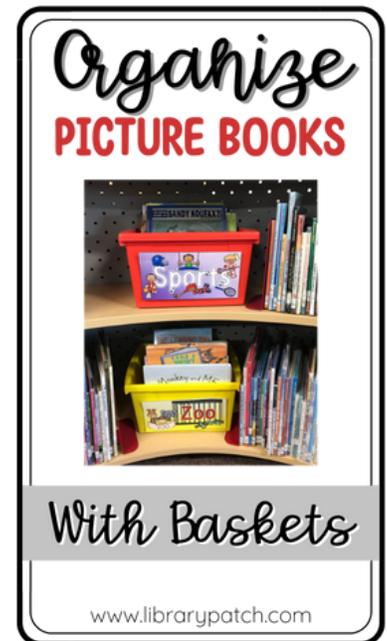
# Idea #13: Add Their Favorite Picture Books to Bins

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

After incorporating a dozen or so picture book baskets for my little ones, I am seriously considering a total transformation from shelves to baskets.

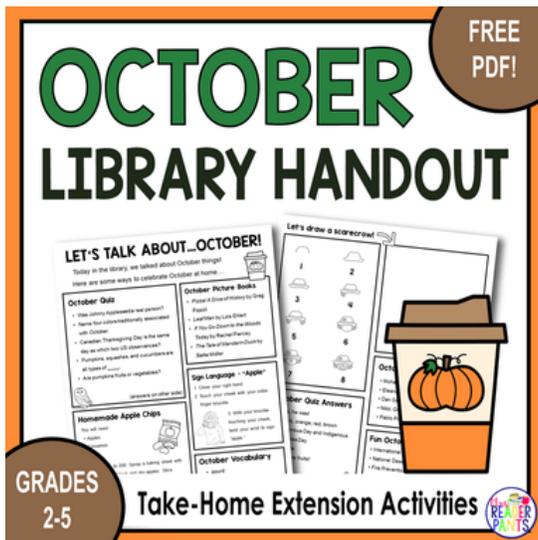
Learn more about how and why I began to use bins for our picture books. My kids have LOVED them.

(Read more about this organizational system from The Library Patch)



# Idea #14: Hand Out October Take-Home Activities

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

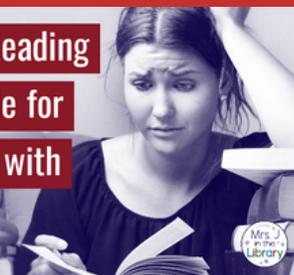


This October Library Handout Freebie can be used alone or with autumn or October library lessons and activities.

It includes an October quiz, how to draw a scarecrow, recommended October picture books, a recipe, and October celebration dates.

(Download this October Freebie from MrsReaderPants on TPT)

Making Reading  
Accessible for  
Students with  
Dyslexia



## October is Dyslexia Awareness Month

Share this article with your teachers to give them a practical, ready-to-use resource for supporting their students with dyslexia. In the article, there is a Google Doc template to use when assigning an article or text to read on a screen (no email signup necessary).



# Idea #15: A Simple Lesson to Encourage Using the Library Website

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)

One of the best habits to teach students is how to navigate and use your library website for any school project or question they have.

This editable scavenger hunt in Google Docs is an easy-prep activity for students to explore different parts of your library website. Use on paper or with Google Classroom.

[Get this Freebie from Mrs. J in the Library.](#)

## LIBRARIAN VIDEOS WE ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

These videos are just for school librarians! Links are in the titles and on the images.



[Check out the Giant Pumpkin Races!](#)

Have some extra time in an October library class? Share this 6-minute video of Giant Pumpkin races in Maine, and have students draw what their pumpkin boat could look like.



[Upcycle Those Weeded Books!](#)

[Ugh... are you wondering what to do with a stack of weeded books?](#)

[Upcycle them! This video shares 17 cool things to DIY for home or library decor!](#)

# Idea #16: Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Want to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in an engaging way?

Try a library scavenger hunt! With four engaging library lessons, your students will find authors, illustrators, and biographies of Hispanic (Latinx) heroes and heroines who shaped our world.

(See this [Hispanic Heritage Month Scavenger Hunt in the Library Learners TPT store.](#))

# Idea #17: Gather a Stack of Read-Alouds!

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Get a list of my favorite fiction and nonfiction Halloween-themed books.

You'll find recommendations for kindergarten, first and second grades.

A Halloween storytime is the perfect time for a fiction vs. nonfiction lesson!

[Read this article from The Trapped Librarian](#) (scroll to the bottom for a Freebie).



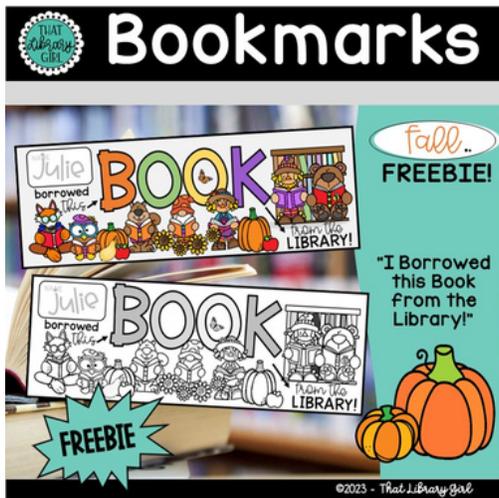
## Advocate Proudly!

Want to share the advocacy message that librarians actually do teach? Check out these great shirts in the Librarian Tees shop!

Lots of colors, cuts, and sizes available!

# Idea #18: Fall Freebie Bookmark

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



These fun fall “critter” friends will help your students mark the spot when it’s time to take a break from reading!

(Download this freebie from That Library Girl).

## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

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You do not have to subscribe to all six lists to get the newsletter (unless you want to - we do send out other content individually!) since we all send it out every month.

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