

Idea #3: Add Nature to Your Research Lessons or Centers

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)

Spring is just around the corner (or maybe here for you already)! Time to bring some nature literacy and animal life cycle research to our school's library centers!

My students love the ladybug terrarium and bird watching centers in the library, and they look forward to it every year. These centers teach nature's wonders and research and information fluency skills through inquiry. If you're uncomfortable with live critters in or around your library, this article also includes links to live web cams for students to observe.



[Read the full article on Mrs J in the Library](#)



Favorite New Book Releases

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

New Titles
released in
March

PICTURE BOOKS

- *Partly Cloudy* (Freedman)
- *The Book That Can Read Your Mind* (Coppo)
- *Yaya and the Sea* (Marable)
- *Brave Baby Hummingbird* (Montgomery)
- *Spider in the Well* (Hannigan)
- *The Iguanodon's Horn* (Rubin)
- *The House Before Falling Into the Sea* (Wang)
- *The Last Zookeeper* (Becker)
- *Animal Albums From A to Z* (Bell)
- *This Book Is Full of Holes* (Nickum)

CHAPTER BOOKS / NOVELS

- *Warrior on the Mound* (Headen)
- *The Luminous Life of Lucy Landry* (Johnson)
- *One Big Open Sky* (Cline-Ransome)
- *Sona and the Golden Beasts* (LaRocca)
- *Unicorn Boy* (Roman)
- *Walkin' the Dog* (Lynch)
- *Next Stop* (Fong)
- *The Vice Principal Problem* (Magoon and Smith)
- *Poetry Comics* (Snider)
- *Olivetti* (Millington)
- *The Circuit: The Graphic Novel* (Jiménez)

CHECK OUT FOLLETT'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

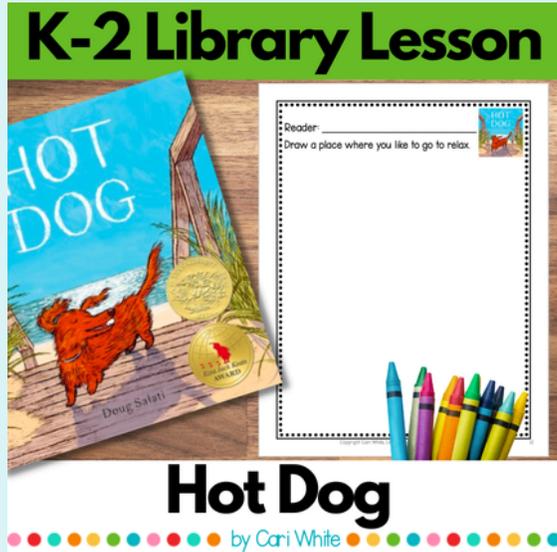


Did you know that Follett has a YouTube channel? Just a few weeks ago they added videos to their new Story Corner.

It features authors and illustrators sharing their stories. They also have a number of First Chapter Friday videos featured too!

Idea #4: Cool Off with *Hot Dog* Activities

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Grab a free picture book book library lesson featuring the Caldecott Medal book, *Hot Dog*, by Doug Salati.

This lesson includes printable activity pages, a STEAM challenge, plus extension activities.

It's perfect for warmer weather!

[\(download this freebie from Library Learners\)](#)

Idea #5: Wrap Up March Madness with Origami

activity submitted by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

Red Ted Art has a fun and easy basketball origami toy to make as March Madness winds up with the NCAA championship game on April 8!

[\(see the directions from Red Ted Art here\)](#)



IDEAS FOR HOSTING A POETRY SLAM

Are you curious about hosting a "Poetry Slam" event at your school?



In this blog post, Ralph Fletcher, author of *Poetry Matters*, has practical ideas for grades 3-5.

Idea #6: Create a Book Spine Poetry Bulletin Board

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Celebrate Poetry Month with this fun activity - Book Spine Poetry!

Your students will love documenting their creations for an easy, engaging bulletin board.

([see it in The Trapped Librarian TPT store](#))



OUR FAVORITE READ-ALOUDS FOR NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

- *Can I Touch Your Hair?* by Irene Latham and Charles Waters
- *Meow Ruff* by Joyce Sidman
- *How to Write a Poem* by Kwame Alexander
- *Mirror Mirror* by Marilyn Singer
- *Last Laughs: Animal Epitaphs* by J. Patrick Lewis
- *This Poem is a Nest* by Irene Latham
- *Boom! Bellow! Bleat! Animal Poems for Two or More Voices* by Georgia Heard
- *One Last Word* by Nikki Grimes
- *Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku* by Lee Wardlaw and Eugene Yelchin
- *After Dark: Poems about Nocturnal Animals* by David L. Harrison and Stephanie Laberis
- *Hidden City: Poems of Urban Wildlife* by Sarah Grace Tuttle and Amy Schimler-Safford
- *Jumping Off Library Shelves* by Lee Bennet Hopkins and Jane Manning
- *Thunder Underground* by Jane Yolen and Josée Masse
- *Bow Tie Pasta: Acrostic Poems* by Brian P. Cleary
- *If it Rains Pancakes: Haiku and Lantern Poems* by Brian P. Cleary
- *Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems* by Bob Raczka
- *I'm Just No Good at Rhyming* by Chris Harris
- *Dogku* by Andrew Clements



Idea #7: Teach Proper Source Citation

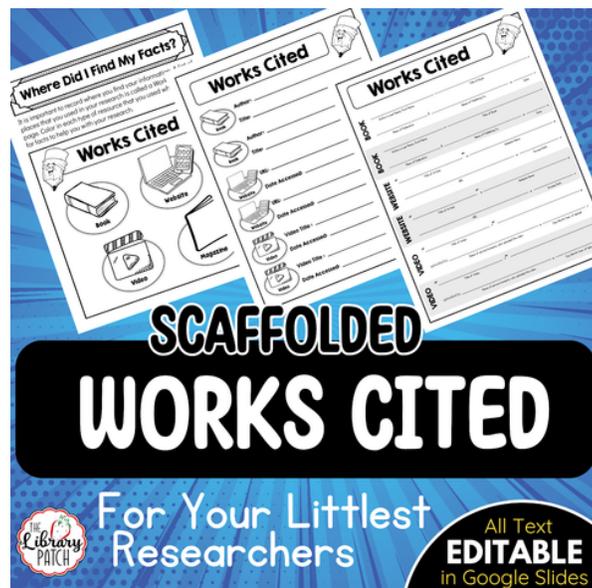
by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Even our littlest researchers should be able to cite their sources.

As librarians, it's vital that we build a foundation of proper citing.

This download will give you the tools to scaffold this concept with your elementary students.

[\(download this freebie from The Library Patch\)](#)



Idea #8: Share Earth Day Picture Books

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

A graphic for "EARTH DAY DIGITAL BOOKTALK". It features the text "Books featuring endangered animals (all grade levels)" and three book covers: "Yoshi and the Ocean" by Lindsay Moore, "The Elephant in the Room" by Holly Goldberg Sloan, and "Save the People!" by Stacy Manasty. At the bottom, it says "Ready to present in the library!" and includes a "MrsReaderPants" logo.

Celebrate Earth Day in the library with 27 Earth Day books!

This article includes a free, downloadable presentation that includes Earth Day picture books, middle grade titles, and YA books. You can edit it as needed to suit your library.

[\(read the full article and download the presentation from MrsReaderPants\)](#)

A banner for "LIBRARIANS teach" with the text "Curated, engaging library curriculum for teacher-librarians" and "Click to learn more!". It features a blue mouse cursor arrow pointing towards the text.

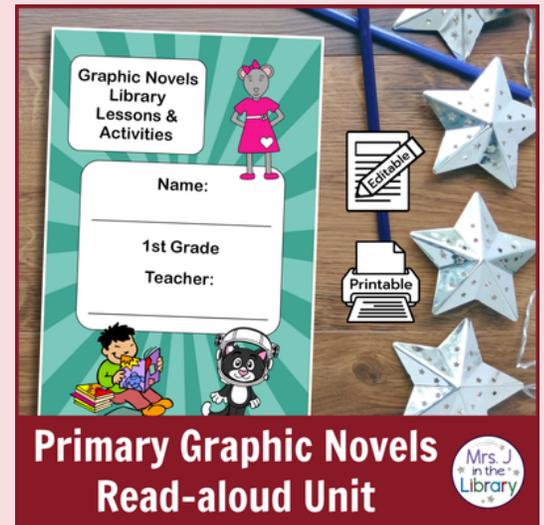
Idea #9: Share Graphic Novels for Read-Aloud Lessons

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)

One of my favorite units to teach is graphic novels for primary students. I used this activity booklet with 1st and 2nd grade students, and introduced 5 graphic novel series they could continue reading in our collection.

These books are especially great for demonstrating how to read speech bubbles and text across panels...which may be a new skill for some students

(see it on [Librarians Teach](#) or on [TPT](#))



Idea #10: Celebrate National Poetry Month in Small Bits

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Do you want to celebrate National Poetry Month in April, but you're short on time?

I've got you covered!

Check out this blog post with ideas for adding poetry to your school library in 10 minutes or less!

([read this article from Library Learners](#))

PLAY GOOGLE'S INTERLAND GAME



This game is great for reviewing digital citizenship skills. You can use this game as part of a unit about media literacy, or just let students go through the game independently.

Important note: There is no way for students to save their game, or their high score.

Idea #11: Practice Library Skills with Basketball Scoot

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

If you feel like your students are bouncing off the walls, give "Basketball Scoot" a try! (At least they'll be bouncing around with a purpose!)

Depending on the grade level, your students will SCOOT as they read book blurbs, practice ABC order, or work with text features -- each task card has a bball theme!

(see [Basketball Scoot](#) from [That Library Girl](#)).



Idea #12: Share Some Earth Day Read-Alouds

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Earth Day is April 22!

Here are seven books to motivate your students and inspire them to make a difference for the planet that we love.

([read the full article from The Trapped Librarian](#)).

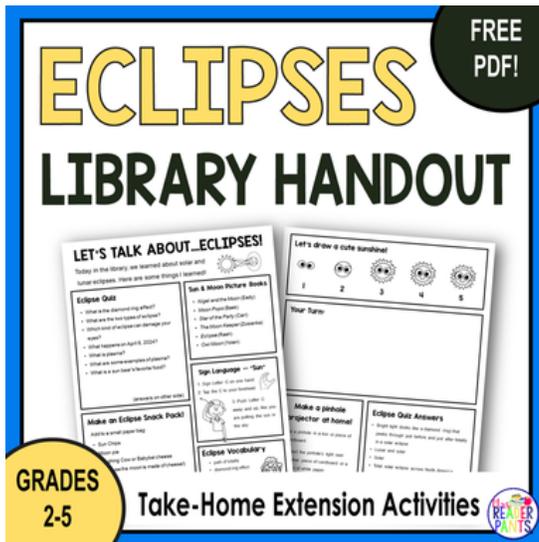
ENJOY SOME SILLY POETRY FROM BRIAN P. CLEARY



Someday your students will have to read and interpret dreary, obscure poetry...for a grade nonetheless... but that day is not today! Instead, help them explore fun poetry that will make them giggle and beg to write their own versions! This webpage describes some of the colorful, quirky poetry "how to" manuals by the master of the 400s section -- Brian P. Cleary!

Idea #13: Celebrate the Eclipse on April 8th

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



This Eclipse Library Handout Freebie can be used alone with eclipse storytime or library lessons.

It includes eclipse vocabulary, a quiz, eclipse snack pack ideas, directed drawing, and more for both solar and lunar eclipses.

Give it to students to take home for the April 8th eclipse.

(download this freebie from MrsReaderPants)

Idea #14: Go on a Poetry Picnic

by Cari White (Library Learners)

Library centers are a great way to learn more about poetry.

A picnic theme adds even more fun to your poetry centers in April.

We invited parents to join us for this event and had a great time learning together!

(see this resource from Library Learners)



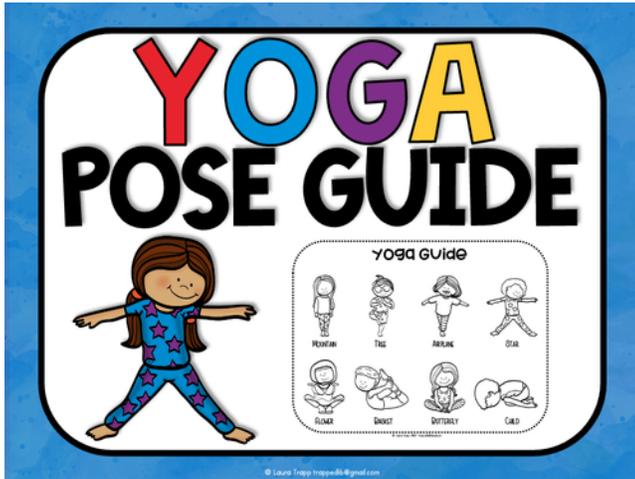
POETRY WEBSITE FOR KIDS

Ken Nesbitt's Poetry for Kids website has lots of fun poems, poetry lessons and activities. Try clicking on "Funny Poems" for some chuckles with your students!



Idea #15: Get the Wiggles Out with Yoga

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Spring is the perfect time to get the wiggles out with some yoga in the library!

Grab this free Yoga Pose Guide and inspire calm today!

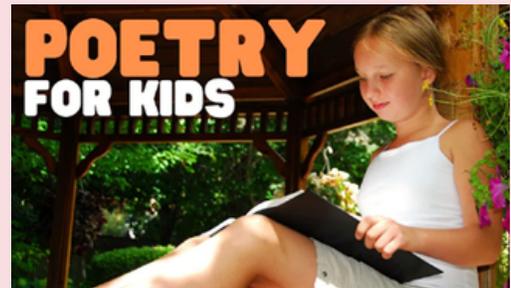
(download this freebie from The Trapped Librarian - Scroll to the bottom of the post to download the freebie.)

OUR FAVORITE VIDEO LINKS!

Each month we feature some favorite videos for the library. Some videos are from us, and others are from other librarians, authors, or publishers. You can click the image to watch the video on YouTube.



Emily Arrow's "Poem in My Pocket" song is fun to sing along with during Poetry Month!



This ten minute video by Learn Bright does a great job of introducing poetry to kids. It brings in Dr. Seuss, Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky



DO YOUR STUDENTS KNOW THIS BOOK REFERENCE?

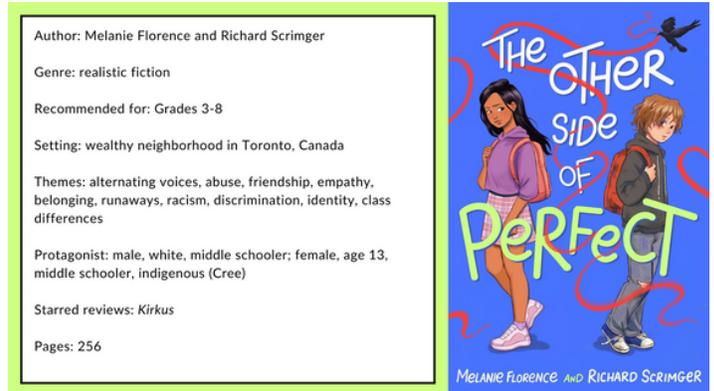
Librarians and teachers will certainly know exactly what this image refers to, but what about students? Generate interest in Shel Silverstein's poetry by posting this image to see who knows the book reference!

FREE PRESENTATION OF NEW BOOK RELEASES

On Tuesdays, Leigh Collazo of MrsReaderPants publishes an analysis of the newest YA, middle grade, and picture books for that week. There is also a FREE and EDITABLE presentation of the new books.

This is great to scroll on a loop in the library to see what new titles your students and teachers are most interested in!

[Click here to see this week's New Release Spotlight](#) and download the presentation. Archives go back one year.



from April 2 Middle Grade Spotlight

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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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