

#INspirEDlit

September 2020



The Joy of Reading

During the first few weeks of a new school year it can be very easy to get caught up in the procedures that are required to run a school day and this year that pressure is compounded by all the adjustments that have had to be implemented. We want to remind teachers, especially teachers of literacy, the number one educational goal for our students is to create life long readers and that cannot be done without providing opportunities for students to enjoy reading.

Building a student's capacity to enjoy reading takes lots of intentional choices and chances for students to engage in low-stakes reading experiences. In this newsletter, we provide suggestions for incorporating the joy of reading into your classroom. These steps can ensure that among all the other responsibilities teachers are facing, we remember that instilling a joy of reading is the best and most important part of the job.

Ideas and Insight

Opportunities to Grow the Joy of Reading in Your School

Family Book Studies

Consider the opportunity to create family book studies. A project like this can be implemented by any teacher in the building, an administrator, or the school media specialist. Choose a book that would be intriguing for parents to read with their child. Maybe it is a book about not being a bully, a book that discusses peer pressure, or a book that addresses drug or alcohol abuse. These texts can be great jumping off



points for families and schools to engage with students on issues young people often deal with as they progress through life. Parents want to have these conversations with their child, but often don't know how to and schools can create that safe space to model these practices. Choose a book every month, quarter, or semester depending on the length of the book and the expected time commitment from families. Create virtual or in-person meetings for families and students to come together with the school to demonstrate the importance of reading and to model that reading is a social experience. Not only does this communicate the importance of reading to your school community, it creates an opportunity for parents to feel plugged into the school and for parents to get to know one another.

Student Choice

Providing opportunities for students to choose what they read is essential for them to develop a love for reading. We can all relate to the difference of engagement between reading something that has been required of us versus reading something based on our own interests. This opportunity for choice can occur in multiple ways. Consider utilizing this [challenge board](#) activity to enable teachers, families, and librarians to diversify the type of reading students do. This challenge also allows reading to serve different purposes: a mirror, a window, and a sliding glass door into other worlds and experiences.

Another way to promote student choice in reading is to facilitate literature circles in your classroom. Literature circles are a great activity for students to practice independent reading while also working within a small group to dig deeper into a text. You can watch this [video](#) on how to facilitate literature circles in the classroom. Literature circles create interactive and text centered learning experiences that also help establish joy in the reading process.

When giving students the time to choose a text to read consider that libraries can be very overwhelming to a new or emerging reader. To help ease students into choosing books, provide students a smaller selection of five or ten titles which can be a great starting point for them. Allowing students to read books that interest them needs to be tied to low or no stakes assessments on that reading. When students feel the pressure of reading for a grade or for an upcoming test, they lose that internal motivation for the reading and that joy can be lost.

Creating a Culture of Reading

Building a culture of reading in your school means that reading should extend beyond the English Language Arts classroom. Make a habit of talking about reading in all subjects and with all different members of a school faculty. One great way to build relationships between teachers and students is for all teachers to have their favorite book or a book they are currently reading posted somewhere in their classroom. Please utilize this [template](#) for yourself and your colleagues to post in your classroom a favorite text. This book can create a point of conversation for students to talk to their teachers about something more personalized. Students must see that the adults that they look up to value reading in their personal lives, and in turn, students will begin to do the same. Here are some examples where schools have taken building a culture of reading to the next level.



In this picture, a teacher has used enlarged images of book covers to line the entryway into the classroom.



This picture shows a school that decorated the exterior of lockers with paintings of the spine's of books.



Here is a mural painted on a school playground where book titles are represented.

Literacy Updates from IDOE

Survey for Instructional Support

Please share your thoughts in this short survey below to help the IDOE Teaching and Learning Team provide the most relevant support to you and the field.

Support Survey

IDOE has created a Re-entry Resources page for educators and families (<https://www.doe.in.gov/covid-19/re-entry-resources>). In addition to this, the Teaching and Learning Team would like to know how we can best support your instructional needs during this time.

* Required

I need additional instructional supports in *

- Math
- ELA/Literacy
- Social Studies

Professional Development Opportunities

IDOE Offerings

The Literacy Team has created professional development opportunities for educators. We are offering professional development that takes into consideration current cultural and educational challenges. We have released the following recorded sessions via [IDOE's literacy professional development page](#):



- The Writing Revolution - Digital Resources and Writing with Distance Learning (K-12)
- The Five Components of Reading with Support to teach them Digitally (K-12)
- Facilitating a 90-Minute Reading Block Digitally (K-5)
- Structured Literacy/Recommended Approaches for Struggling Readers in a Digital Setting (K-12) (Coming Soon!)
- Utilizing Literature Circles to increase Student Reading Opportunities (6-12)

Partnership for Inquiry Learning

The Indiana Department of Education has partnered with a team of literacy and math educational coaches and specialists from the Partnership for Inquiry Learning to provide content to assist educators in understanding and applying select Indiana Academic Standards in grades 2-5. Each standard is accompanied by a one page description of the vertical articulation of each standard or concept, a brief overview video introducing the standard, and grade-specific videos demonstrating strategies to effectively teach each goal.

Click here to access the resources: <https://tinyurl.com/y2rs4v1v>



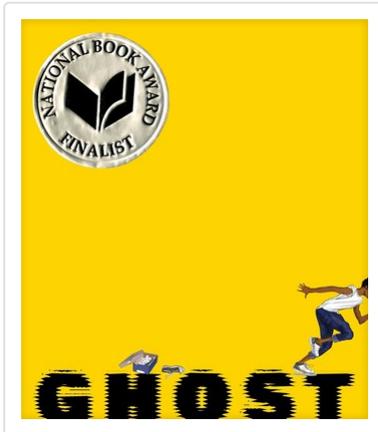
Literacy Framework

Does your school utilize a curriculum map, scope and sequence, or pacing guide? The [Literacy Framework](#) is a tool you can use to curriculum map and plan throughout the school year. Use the Literacy Framework to dive into each standard through "I can" statements, question stems, practical examples, and digital resources!

Have special requests for support? Feel free to reach out to us at any time. That's what we are here for!

Book Suggestions

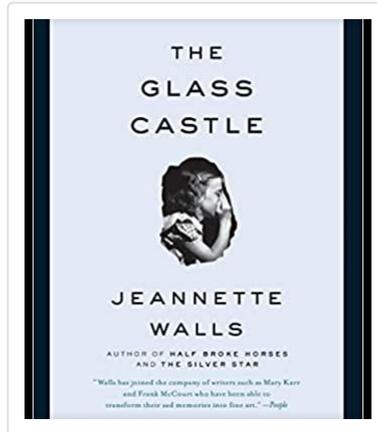
The books listed below are books that are tried and true in creating high student engagement. When students realize that books like this are out there for them to read, it encourages them to read full books, on their own, and to keep going back for more!



Ghost

By: Jason Reynolds

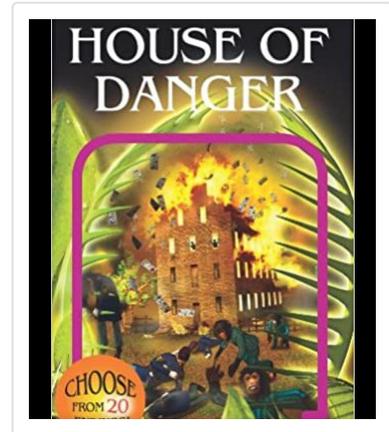
Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has been running from things his whole life. Now, in middle school, he realizes that all of that running has prepared him to be a star on the track team. His coach, a former Olympic medalist, helps Ghost focus his attention and train for a chance to run on a junior Olympic team.



The Glass Castle

By: Jeannette Walls

This memoir by Jeanette Walls tells the story of her life growing up in a family plagued by transiency, alcoholism, and chaos. Jeanette tells the story looking back on her life as an adult who has achieved success yet struggles with from where she came.



Choose Your Own Adventure Books

A **gamebook** is a work of printed fiction that allows the reader to participate in the story by making choices. The narrative branches along various paths, typically through the use of numbered paragraphs or pages.

Educator Opportunities to Check Out!

Lily Endowment Teacher Creativity Fellowship

Lilly Endowment has announced its [34th Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program](#) (TCFP). We are aware that educators are facing mounting and evolving challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Especially during this difficult time, the TCFP renewal program plans to support educators through new experiences, exploration and reflection. The Endowment anticipates that educators will discover renewed energy in their careers, innovative approaches to teaching and educational leadership, and thoughtful ways to encourage students' creative thinking. Approximately 100 grants, each totaling up to \$12,000, will be awarded in 2021.

Digital Citizenship Week September 14-18

IDOE will celebrate Indiana Digital Citizenship Week September 14-18. The celebration is part of an ongoing effort to teach students how to make safe, smart, and ethical decisions in the digital world. You can find more information and resources [here](#).

Mark your calendars!

- Digital Citizenship Webinar September 15
- #INedchat September 16
- Common Sense Education organization offers free, research-based [K-12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum](#)

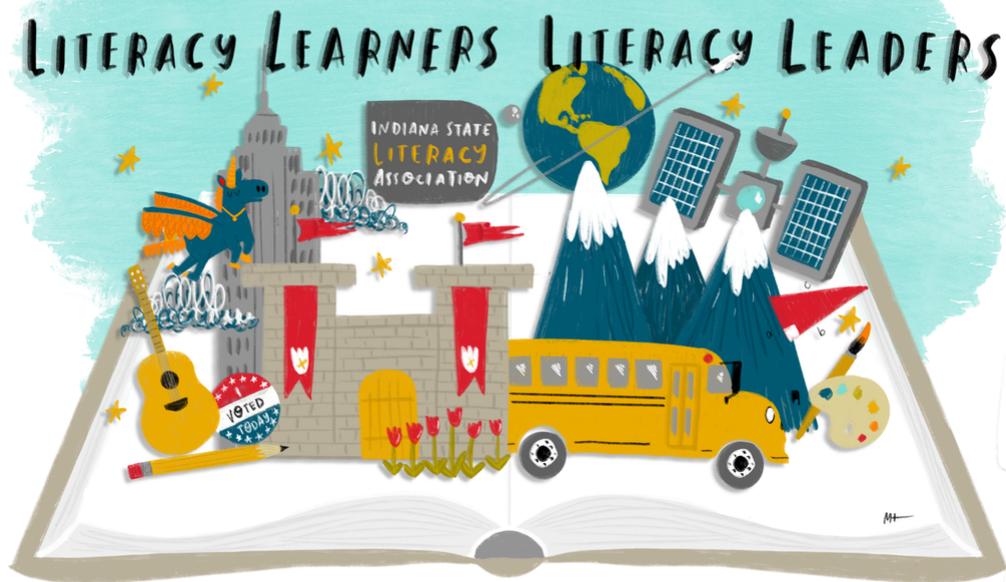


IDOE receives a lot of questions from parents regarding kindergarten enrollment.

This [document](#) is meant to help guide parents on Indiana law, options for kindergarten and Pre-K, and answers to frequently asked questions. For more questions, please check out the kindergarten webpage [here](#).

Indiana State Literacy Conference

Join the Indiana affiliate of the International Literacy Association for a great day of learning. Register [here](#).



INDIANA STATE LITERACY CONFERENCE 2020

September 10 - 12, 2020 | Register at www.indianareads.org | #ISLA20 | @IndianaReads



Literacy and Tech: Thought of the Month!

Teaching Books is an online catalog of thousands of book resources, lesson plan activities, and extras for classroom implementation. The Indiana State Library has paid for all Indiana educators to access this site.

How to sign in to Indiana's paid TeachingBooks access

1. Go to <https://teachingbooks.net/INSPIRE>
2. Click 'Sign In' and enter your school email
3. Follow the prompts and if you have any issues [email accounts@teachingbooks.net](mailto:emailaccounts@teachingbooks.net)
4. Enjoy!

Connect on Twitter!

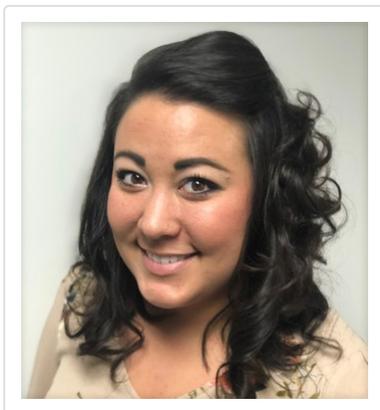
It's been reported that over four million educators use Twitter for professional conversations. As educators, there is so much we can learn from each other. We invite you to connect with

us and each other!

1. Tweet about all things LITERACY using #INspirEDlit
2. Follow the hashtag and connect with other coaches and educators
3. Follow @EducateIN for the latest updates from Indiana Department of Education
4. Follow your IDOE Literacy Team: @RoseTomishima, @KellyKWaller, & @JMRisch1

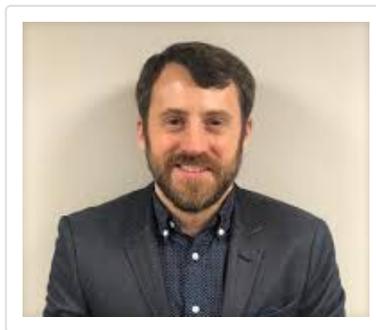


**Want to join our Literacy Community of Practice?
Click here.**



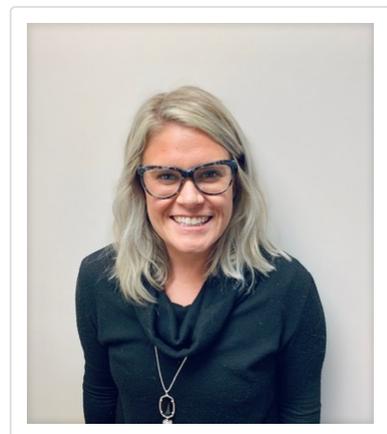
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