

Unlocking Opportunities Through Classroom Libraries: Promoting the Joy and Power of Reading

Presented by: Maria Walther

<http://mariawalther.com> Twitter @mariapwalther maria_walther@ipsd.org

Silvestro, A. (2017). *Bunny's book club*. (T. Mai-Wyss, Illus.). New York: Doubleday.

As a librarian reads aloud to kids outside the library, bunny listens in. From that day on, he "couldn't live without books." So, he sneaks into the library at night. Soon his animal friends join him on his late-night library visits. When they're discovered by the librarian, she gives all the animals a library card and the animals form "Bunny's Book Club."

• Tip #1: Place Books Up Front

- What is the first thing children see when they walk into your classroom? Consider rearranging some furniture so that the first thing kids see are BOOKS!
- Display books outside your door—change according to subject or season.
- Make posters of your favorite quotations from book.

• Tip #2: Promote Books

- Read aloud
- Perform engaging book talks
- View "Book Trailers"
- Sing Emily Arrow's "Book Songs" <http://www.emilyarrow.com/>
- Celebrate "Book Birthdays" - Use Mr. Schu's Book Release Calendar <http://mrschureads.blogspot.com/2012/01/book-release-calendar.html>

• Tip #3: Know Your Readers

- Reading Interest Survey - Give a reading interest survey. See *Scholastic's Next Step Guided Reading Assessment* <http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/next-step-guided-reading-assessment/>

• Tip #4: Know Your Books

- Picture Book PD—Meet with your colleagues to read and discuss picture books.
- Anderson's Bookshop
- Twitter
 - @mariapwalther, @MrSchuReads, @Loveofxena (Margie Myers-Culver), @CarrieGelson, @JoEllenMcCarthy

- **Tip #5: Match Readers with Books**
 - “Shop” for books with readers
 - Confer
- **Tip #6: Teach Readers About Authors and Series Books**
- **Tip #7: Introduce a Variety of Genres**
- **Tip #8: Surround Students with Books: Create a “Library Classroom”**
- **Tip #9: Provide Ample Time for Supported Independent Reading**
- **Tip #10: Celebrate the Joy and Power of Reading**
 - World Read Aloud Day: <http://www.litworld.org/wrad/>
 - Elephant and Piggie Literacy Night
 - End-of-Year Reading Celebration: Invite readers from your school building like the principal, P. E. teacher, secretary and so on to read their favorite book to the students.

Find classroom strategies galore in these professional resources:

Transforming Literacy Teaching in the Era of Higher Standards K-2 (Walther, 2015)

Transforming Literacy Teaching in the Era of Higher Standards 3-5 (Biggs-Tucker & Tucker, 2015)

Month-by-Month Reading for the Differentiated Classroom (Walther & Phillips, 2012)

Month-by-Month Trait-Based Writing Instruction (Walther & Phillips, 2009)

Teaching Struggling Readers with Poetry (Walther & Fuhler, 2010)

Literature Is Back! (Fuhler & Walther, 2007)