

Peace, Joy, and BOOKS: Cultivating Engaged and Motivated Readers

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mariapwalther@gmail.com

Twitter @mariapwalther

mariawalther.com



Click on images to learn more about these resources!

Tip 1: Place Books Up Front

- What is the first thing children see when they enter your classroom or teaching space? Consider rearranging some furniture so that **books** welcome them as they walk in the door!

[A-Frame Bookshelf Plans](#)

- Display books outside of your door—rotate according to subject or season.
- Make posters of your favorite quotations from books.
- Create book bulletin boards:
 - *The Big Umbrella* (Bates & Bates, 2018)
 - *What to Do with a Box* (Yolen, 2016) or *What to Do with a String* (Yolen, 2019)
 - [The Box Challenge Family Engagement Activity](#)

Tip 2: Begin or End with a Song!

A Few of Kids' Favorite Song Picture Books

Footloose (Loggins, 2016)

Groovy Joe Ice Cream and Dinosaurs (Litwin, 2016)

Octopus's Garden (Starr, 2014)

Sing (Raposo & Lichtenheld, 2013)

Take Me Home Country Road (Denver, 2005)

There Was an Old Monster (Emberley, 2009)

Song Picture Book Videos

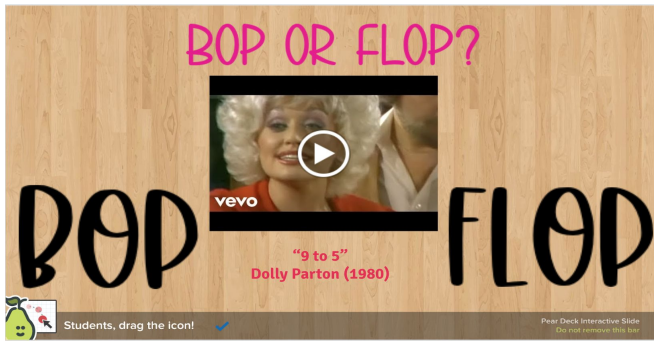
[Barefoot Books](#)

[Emily Arrow](#) (Writes and performs songs about popular picture books)

For research and ideas about using poetry and song see [Tim Rasinski's Website](#)

Tip 2: Begin or End with a Song! (Continued)

Try “Bop or Flop?” Created by [Jessica Walsh](#)



Tip 3: Promote Books

- **Share your reading life: Post, display, and chat about the books you are reading.**
- **Read aloud**
 - *Fred Gets Dressed* (Brown, 2021)
 - *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* (Ho, 2021)
 - *Milo Imagines the World* (de la Pena, 2021)
 - *Outside, Inside* (Pham, 2021)
 - *Something's Wrong* (John, 2021)
 - *Watercress* (Wang, 2021)

Underwear Text Set

- **Share Book Talks - #30SecondBookTalks**
 - *The Last Last-Day-of-Summer* (Giles, 2019)
 - *Another* (Robinson, 2019)
 - Two Traveling Teachers on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsmZPk8RWBtZ_47_XGd4wg/videos
- **#FirstChapterFridays**

3rd Grade Recommendations from Michelle Knott via Mrs. Knott's Book Nook or @knott_michelle

 - Stella Diaz Has Something to Say* by Angela Dominguez
 - The Unicorn Rescue Society* by Adam Gidwitz
 - Zayd Saleem, Chasing the Dream: Power Forward* by Hena Khan
 - Marty McGuire* by Kate Messner
 - Like Bug Juice on a Burger* by Julie Sternberg
- **View Book Trailers**
 - Select book trailers created by publishers
 - Preview the trailer before showing it to students
 - Put trailer links in [SafeShare.TV](#) to avoid commercials
 - *I Really Like Slop* (Willems, 2015)
 - *The Day You Begin* (Woodson, 2018)
 - *Carmela Full of Wishes* (de la Peña, 2018)
 - *Meet Yasmin!* (Faruqi, 2018)
- **Promote Reading at Home**

Tip 4: Know Your Readers

- Reading Interest Survey – Administer a reading interest survey. See *Scholastic's Next Step Guided Reading Assessment* <http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/next-step-guided-reading-assessment/>
- Check out [Julie Wright's](#) Blog Posts: Building Relationships Re-Thinking Surveys [\[Part 1\]](#) and [\[Part 2\]](#)

Tip 5: Know Your Books

- Book PD—Meet with your colleagues to read, review, and discuss picture books and novels.
- [Social Justice Books: A Teaching for Change Project](#)
- [We Need Diverse Books](#)
- Twitter [@mariapwalther](#), [@ClareLandrigan](#), [@MrSchuReads](#), [@Loveofxena](#) (Margie Myers-Culver), [@CarrieGelson](#), [@JoEllenMcCarthy](#)

Tip 6: Match Readers with Books

- Shop for books with readers
- Confer

Find strategies galore in these professional resources:

The Literacy Workshop: Where Reading and Writing Converge (Walther & Biggs-Tucker, Stenhouse, 2020)

The Ramped-Up Read Aloud: What to Notice When You Turn the Page (Walther, Corwin, 2019)

Game Changer! Book Access for All Kids (Miller & Sharp, Scholastic, 2018)

From Striving to Thriving: How to Grow Confident, Capable Readers (Harvey & Ward, Scholastic, 2017)

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

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

No More Independent Reading Without Support (Miller & Moss, Heinemann, 2013)

The Next Step Guided Reading Assessment, K-2 (Richardson & Walther, Scholastic, 2013)

The Next Step Guided Reading Assessment, 3-6. (Richardson & Walther, Scholastic, 2013)

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

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