



Celebrating New Arrivals and Highlighting Hidden Gems

Stoke kids' interest in the classroom library by introducing new books and reintroducing buried treasures across the year with pomp and circumstance.

* WHY

It's important for kids to know that the classroom library is dynamic rather than static. Like any "garden," it needs to have eye-catching features that bloom continuously across the year. Novelty sparks curiosity and motivation to read. Refresh your library regularly across the year by bringing in and showcasing new titles—either by purchasing them or borrowing "satellite collections" from colleagues and/or libraries. Create new bins and timely displays: Pair new books with existing ones in novel ways to stir interest and promote circulation.

* WHEN

We recommend updating the collection, tweaking its arrangement regularly, and drawing students' attention to the changes at least monthly. If you have a mechanism in place to order books across the year, then it makes sense to showcase them as they come in. It's also fun to create dramatic rituals around new arrivals—the possibilities are endless! If your resources are limited, it's even more important to reconfigure your collection regularly and spruce it up with borrowed items to prevent staleness.

* HOW

Get kids fired up about new books and rekindle their interest in the existing collection by:

- 1. Creating new and timely book bins.** Let kids' passions, the time of year, and current events inspire you to group books temporarily. Involve kids in curating and naming bins. For example, when the weather finally turns, a "Suddenly Spring" basket could include the new nonfiction books on baseball and gardening you ordered,

grilling cookbooks borrowed from the library, oldies you've plucked from your collection like *Clifford's Spring Clean-Up* and *Planting a Rainbow*, and Marie Kondo's *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, which you brought in from home.

- 2. Celebrating new arrivals.** Designate and have kids decorate a special bin or basket for new books. Create a suspenseful unveiling ritual. For example, one teacher we know invented a Book Stork who leaves new books in a wicker bassinet every so often, wrapped in a baby blanket. It sounds hokey, but the kids love it! Or create a "Reading Fairy" or "Book Wizard" who comes at night either spontaneously or—even better—in response to compelling letters kids have written with requests.



- 3. Borrow satellite collections from the school or community library.** Invite librarians to draw from their collections books you think will appeal to your students, and ask them to come in and present them. In Mamaroneck, community librarians make a "Winter Blues Tour" in which they visit the elementary schools with bundles of new books. Kids love these visits and benefit from the direct connection to the libraries. Mamaroneck middle and high school librarians Kelsey Cohen and Tina Pantginis regularly wheel carts of tempting titles to middle and high school English classrooms, book-talk them, and leave the carts in place as satellite collections for a time to augment teachers' libraries.

