This is the official week in the school year devoted to reading. Enjoy the celebration—and its obvious benefits—all year long.

**Mark Your Calendar**
The week of March 3 is also Children’s Authors and Illustrators Week! Celebrate their talents in you class every week.

**Read Across America Map**
Encourage students to literally “read across America” by choosing stories about different places in the country. After reading a book, ask each student to write his or her name on a precut star, which can be die-cut from multicolored construction paper and taped or tacked onto the map. On a wall map, help students find and attach their stars next to the place where their books were set. Your “stars” will take pride as the map fills up with their reading accomplishments.

**Reproducible**
**Books From Across America, page 104**
How are other towns in our country different from where you live? Urge students to answer questions that explore the place where a book they've read is set with this reproducible companion to the Read Across America Map activity above. FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS: Read a story and answer the questions together. FOR OLDER STUDENTS: Using the information on the reproducible, ask students to create a brochure inviting tourists to visit the town. Have them decorate the brochure with their own illustrations of the main characters and scenes from the book.

**Here are some great books to get students started on their reading journeys across America.**
For each region, a picture book and a chapter book are listed.

- **Miss Rumphius** by Barbara Cooney (Viking, 1986). Picture book.
- **Tar Beach** by Faith Ringgold (Scholastic, 1991). Picture book.
- **Thunder Cake** by Patricia Polacco (Scholastic, 1990). Picture book.
- **The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush** by Tomie dePaola (Scholastic, 1988). Picture book.

**Teacher Resources**
- **Read Across America** by Gloria Rothstein (Scholastic, 1997) and 35 Best Books for Teaching U.S. Regions by Toni Buzzeo and Jan Kurtz (Scholastic, 2002). For grades 1–4 and 4–8. Information-packed teaching guides for exploring seven U.S. regions through popular children’s literature and young adult literature.
- **Web Link**
Read Across America is a project of the National Education Association. The organization’s Web site, www.nea.org, includes useful activities for teachers.

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Dr. Seuss Reading Corner  

Read Across America pays special homage to Theodore Seuss Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, who was born on March 2, 1904. Invite family members, local leaders (the mayor, a police officer, even a store owner), older students, and others to read Dr. Seuss books with your class. Here are a few favorites and their themes.

★ **And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street** (1937)
  Imagination: “for I had a story that NO ONE could beat! And to think that I saw it on Mulberry Street! . . . ”

★ **Green Eggs & Ham** (1960)
  Trying new things: “I do so like green eggs and ham! Thank you! Thank you, Sam-I-am!”

★ **The Lorax** (1971)
  Environmental protection: “Grow a forest. Protect it from axes that hack. Then the Lorax and all of his friends may come back.”

**Wearable Book Charts**  

Chart reading progress with Cat in the Hat hats. Tape red construction paper to fit around the crown of each student’s head. For the rim, use a large paper plate; trace the opening of the hat in the middle of the plate, cut out the circle, and tape it to fit around the top of the hat. With every book the student reads, add a white paper stripe around the top. Students can write the book title, author, and a short summary on the stripe.
Books From Across America

You know your hometown. What do you know about the town or city in the book you just read? Answer these questions to find out!

On the map, mark your hometown with a heart. Mark the location of the place you read about with a star. Label the city and state for both.

My book about another part of America is ____________________________________________

The town or city and state where the book is set is ________________________________________

This town is _______ miles from my home. (Use the scale on a map or atlas to estimate.)

To get to this town from my town, the direction I would travel is ___________________________

How is this town different from your hometown? How is it similar? Use the back of this page to draw a Venn diagram. Fill in the diagram with things that are different and the same, including the weather, size (small town or big city?), things to do, geography, and types of businesses.