

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

WINTER LITERACY GUIDE

Winter and the holiday break both offer excellent opportunities for school librarians to encourage and foster a love for reading and learning among students and families. During this time, students may have more leisure and free time to explore books and develop their reading skills. This guide provides you with strategies and activities to help you promote literacy throughout the winter months.

- **Create a Winter Reading Challenge:** Organize a reading challenge tailored to different age groups. For younger readers, you can set goals like "read 5 picture books over the break," while older students might have challenges like "explore three genres you've never tried before." Offer small incentives or prizes to encourage participation.
- **Thematic Book Displays:** Decorate your library with winter-themed book displays. From holiday classics to snowy adventures, showcase a diverse range of titles that capture the essence of the season. These displays can pique the interest of patrons looking for seasonal reads.
- **Read-Alouds:** Consider bringing classes to the library for winter-themed read-alouds. Invite a local storyteller or librarian to read holiday and winter stories. Read-alouds not only promote reading but also provide a wonderful learning opportunity for all age levels.
- **Recommendation Lists:** Create curated book lists for different age groups and reading interests. These lists can cover a variety of genres and subjects, ensuring that there's something for everyone. Share these lists both in the library and on your website or social media platforms. Consider collaborating with teachers to create these lists.
- **Online Resources:** Highlight the digital resources available through your library, such as eBooks and audiobooks. Promote these options for those traveling or staying home during the break.

- **Library Book Clubs:** If your library has book clubs, encourage members to read a winter-themed book during the break. You can host discussions when everyone returns, fostering a sense of community and shared reading experiences.
- **Reading Challenges for Teachers:** Don't forget your teachers. Create a winter reading challenge tailored to their interests. Encourage lifelong learning by suggesting non-fiction titles or works by local authors.
- **Collaborate with Public Libraries:** Partner with local public libraries to distribute reading lists or winter break reading packets. These packets can include book suggestions, reading logs, and fun activities related to the books. It's a great way to extend the love of reading from the classroom to the home.
- **Winter Workshops:** Host winter-themed workshops or author talks to engage older students and staff members. These events can spark discussions and encourage attendees to explore new genres and authors.
- **Creative Writing and Art:** Organize creative writing contests and/or art contests with prompts related to winter. Display winning entries in the library.
- **Parent Involvement:** Share reading tips and suggestions with parents to encourage reading at home. Host a family reading night or invite families to a winter book fair.

Remember to adapt these suggestions to the specific needs and resources of your school library.

Happy Winter Reading!