



# BookCrossing in the Classroom

Reading and releasing books is fun *and* educational

Here are some ideas for using BookCrossing in the classroom/home school setting. You are only limited by your imagination! If you have a great idea, send it on to us or post it in our online discussion forum for educators and parents at <http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/12>.

## Promote Reading

- Make books on the bookshelf available for extra credit as a way to encourage kids to read outside of their schoolwork.
- Use the bookshelf books as a reward for a service or job well done.
- Start a BookCrossing book club
- Run “themed” reading programs: Black history month, Lewis and Clark celebration, Favorite Author, etc. The possibilities are endless!

## Encourage Journaling/Writing skills

- Classrooms or individual students can write journal entries (book reports, anyone?) on books read by themselves or as a class.
- Have students write an article for the school or local newspaper

## Study Geography

- Track a book as it travels, and learn about different parts of the country or the world as each new BookCrosser makes a journal entry. Here’s a journal that has traveled from Vermont to New Zealand, with some amazing stops in between: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1266669>
- Keep a map and use colored pins to indicate where books have come from and where books have gone. Here’s a fun book that started its travels in Virginia, visited California, Washington state, Illinois, Texas and many others before getting lost in the mail (sometimes that happens!): <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/565671>
- Read a book about some place/thing in your area and take a field trip there

## Learn about other towns and cities (study History *and* Geography!)

- Ask anyone sending or receiving a book to send a postcard of their town and/or tell the class something special about their town
- Pick a book enjoyed by all ages, and then send it around as a *bookring* ([http://www.texaswren.com/faq\\_3.html#ring](http://www.texaswren.com/faq_3.html#ring)). Every time it gets to another person, it’s a geography/history/culture lesson.

## Get to know other teachers/students

- Participate in bookrings with other BookCrossing classrooms
- Correspond with another class
- Become BookCrossing pals/pen pals with classrooms or BookCrossers in other parts of your country or around the world
- Set up a BookCrossing exchange within your school district

## Participate in *armchair travels* (<http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/23/1153675>)

- Create a Bookring for a journal similar to the Flat Stanley Project (<http://flatstanley.enoreo.on.ca/>) or the Cocoa and Mike journals (<http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1744475> and <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1730865>)
- Choose a specific topic for a journal and create a Bookring: what was school like when the participant was a child, holiday customs, etc. For example, here’s a Random Act of Kindness Journal: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1726730>

## Promote community service

- Use BookCrossing to collect books for underprivileged schools or ones that have had losses due to natural disasters. Here’s just one of many examples where BookCrossers have helped students/libraries in need: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/9/1379289/64>

## Develop Project-Planning skills

- Study and release books for Banned Books Week. Here’s the 2004 Release Challenge on this topic: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/23/835371>
- Celebrate birthdays of favorite authors (Dr. Seuss, Laura Ingalls Wilder, J.K. Rowling, etc.) by reading/releasing books collected for the occasion. Here’s a Release Challenge in honor of Jane Austen’s birthday: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/23/1195939>

## Develop Mentoring/Tutoring programs

- Establish a “reading buddies” program where older students mentor the younger ones. They can read and journal together.