

**2023 CHILDREN'S
BOOK WEEK
EDUCATOR KIT**

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1919, Children's Book Week has been celebrated across the United States. It is the longest running literacy initiative in the country and the cornerstone of Every Child a Reader's mission to celebrate the powerful impact books have on young people.

Children's Book Week connects kids and adults with books, authors, and illustrators while supporting the work of the educators, caregivers, librarians, and booksellers who introduce young people to the magic of reading. The twice-a-year celebration gives everyone a structured and fun occasion to celebrate books and their importance.

This year's Book Week slogan is Read Books. Spark Change. It encourages young readers to think about books as a spark for positive change, whether in themselves or in their communities.

Use the activities and prompts in this Educator Kit to encourage students to connect with each other. We hope conversations around all the ways that books spark change can lead to growth in your students and your school.

We believe in championing the voices of young people and giving them as many avenues as possible to share their own stories and the stories of their communities. You can use this Educator Kit and more resources at everychildareader.net/cbw to deepen your student's sense of connection with their peers and their wider community.

All kids need is some blank paper, a pencil, and a book or two.

Thank you for your participation and for the work you do to create lifelong readers!

EVERY CHILD A READER

Teacher Tip: As students go through the steps in this guide, collect their responses to prompts. At the end of the Challenge, ask them to draw their own Children's Book Week poster and use that as a cover for a Read Books. Spark Change. booklet of their own. Staple it all together and voilà!





STEP 1: HUNT

Use this Scavenger Hunt to help students find books that inspire, entertain, and inform. Browsing and talking are amazing ways to discover new books and the spark they can bring. Encourage students to explore books in the classroom, the school library, the bookstore, and the public library. They can also discover new book recommendations in conversations with the wider school community. Students should use the checklist below to find at least three different books.

CHECKLIST

- A book about an invention
- A book about exploring a new place
- A book about making something with your hands
- A book with recipes
- A book about a real-life person
- A book about a character who makes a difference
- A book where a character gets a bright idea
- A book about the future
- A book featuring a team that works together
- A book about your favorite talent or ability
- A book with an interesting cover which made you want to read it
- A book with different perspectives (from different characters or times, for example)
- A book that tells of a change in the past which has made our lives better today
- A book about _____ (your choice)



SPARK HUNTING: COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Now, ask students to answer these questions about the books they picked.

- Do these books have anything in common?
- Have you read any of these books before?
- What is one reason that you picked each of these books from the shelf?
- Do you have a friend or classmate that you think would like one of the books you picked out?
- Which book do you want to read first?





STEP 2: READ

What is the absolute best way to celebrate Children's Book Week? To read of course! Ask students to select one or more of the books from their scavenger hunt to read. As they are reading, students should be asking themselves "What does this book spark for me? What does it inspire in me?" Students can use a blank piece of paper, or one with the below questions printed on it, to record their thoughts as they read, or after they have finished the book.

BOOK Q&A

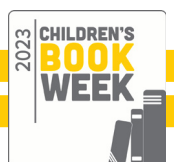
- What book did you read? Who wrote or illustrated the book?
- If you had to pick one thing about the book to tell someone else, what would you tell them?
- Who was your favorite character in the book?
- What thing did the character do that made them your favorite?
- What talent or ability did one of the characters have that you can identify with? What was a talent or ability you wish you had?
- Is there an action the character(s) took that inspired you to do something similar?
- Did the story show you something new that you had never thought or heard about before?
- Did the cover art of the book inspire you in a particular way?



FIND YOUR SPARK: COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

When we take the time to ask questions and listen to people, we learn more about where they come from and what's important to them. Now that students have read a new book, or maybe an old favorite, it's time to see what everyone else enjoys. Share these prompts with students and encourage them to ask their peers, adults at school, or people outside of school and bring responses back to share in class.

- Ask your teacher or librarian about a book they read recently. What was it about?
- Ask a friend or classmate about their favorite part of their favorite book and ask why it's important to them.
- Think of your favorite character in any book, are they brave, kind, strong, or maybe rebellious? Do you know anyone at home or school that reminds you of that character? Try writing a short letter to that person explaining what you admire about them.
- Is there a talent or ability that you wish you had or want to learn? E.g. drawing, writing, dancing, etc. Is there someone at school or in your community that can teach you more about this talent?
- Imagine you and a classmate are writing a book together. Take some time to think of a title and work together to draw a book cover that you both love. Make sure to include the title of the book.
- Ask a parent or guardian where they would go if they could visit anywhere in the world. Now imagine you both have spent a week in this place together, write a short journal entry about all the fun things you both did!





STEP 3: MAKE

Now it's time for students to create their spark in a tangible way. Use the ideas below with students to turn their spark into something they can put into action. Did students discover a few different sparks in the books they read? Help them think of ways to connect them.

IDEAS TO PUT SPARKS INTO ACTION

- Tell a friend, make a plan-for-change together
- Write a poem, this can inspire others into action
- Ask an adult to help you with a petition to help spread your message of change
- Create a poster to raise awareness for your spark or idea
- Create a video to share with family and friends

For example, if I read a book about trucks, one about plants, and a third about superheroes. I could find that my spark is to be a superhero in my neighborhood by helping plant small gardens and using a small toy truck as a tool to accomplish this. Or, I could also find my spark by asking adults to help me petition for more gardens in my town or city where trucks can help bring soil to empty lots and create community gardens so I can be a green superhero.

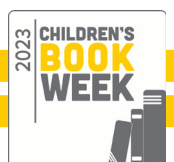


SPARKS IN ACTION: COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

After students have had some time to think about their personal spark, it's time to think about how they can use it for good! Use these prompts to help them put their ideas into action.

- Team up with a classmate, neighbor or family member. What do you both love doing? E.g. Cooking, painting, helping others. Find someone with a similar spark and take some time to think how you both can help others in your community.
- Find a friend, classmate or sibling and think about where you live. Now imagine we are 20 years into the future! What kind of changes would you both like to see? E.g. a new waterpark, more gardens and flowers, flying cars, etc.
- Imagine you and a friend are community leaders working to make a difference at your school or city. What change would you both make? Brainstorm ideas and write a poem or speech to help others join your cause.
- What is something you are really good at? E.g. Reading out loud with fun voices, math, talking to people you don't know, singing, etc. How can you use your talent to spark change in someone's day?
- Do you like cooking, baking, handmade gifts, or just using your hands? Find a recipe or a Do-It-Yourself book/video, and with the help of a teacher or guardian, try making something new together.
- Team up with a friend or classmate and think of an invention that could help you both at school or home. What would the invention do? Try drawing out your idea together.

Teacher Tip: Don't forget to download and print the [Find Your Spark Certificate](#) to give to students who participate in these activities around and during Children's Book Week.





STEP 4: SHARE

We would love to hear about how you and the young people in your care celebrated Children's Book Week. What sparks did they discover and how did they express those or use them to make change? You can share anecdotes, photos, videos, and more in any of these ways.

SHARE SPARKS

- On social media. Make sure to use #ReadBooksSparkChange in your posts and tag The Children's Book Council.
- Send an email. Share with us directly by emailing paulina.ramirez@cbcbooks.org.
- Upload to our Dropbox. Share images and video with us [via the CBC Dropbox](#). Please note: anything shared with us can be used in future promotional materials. Please label files with any credit info so we can attribute properly.

