

9 ways

you can motivate students to read





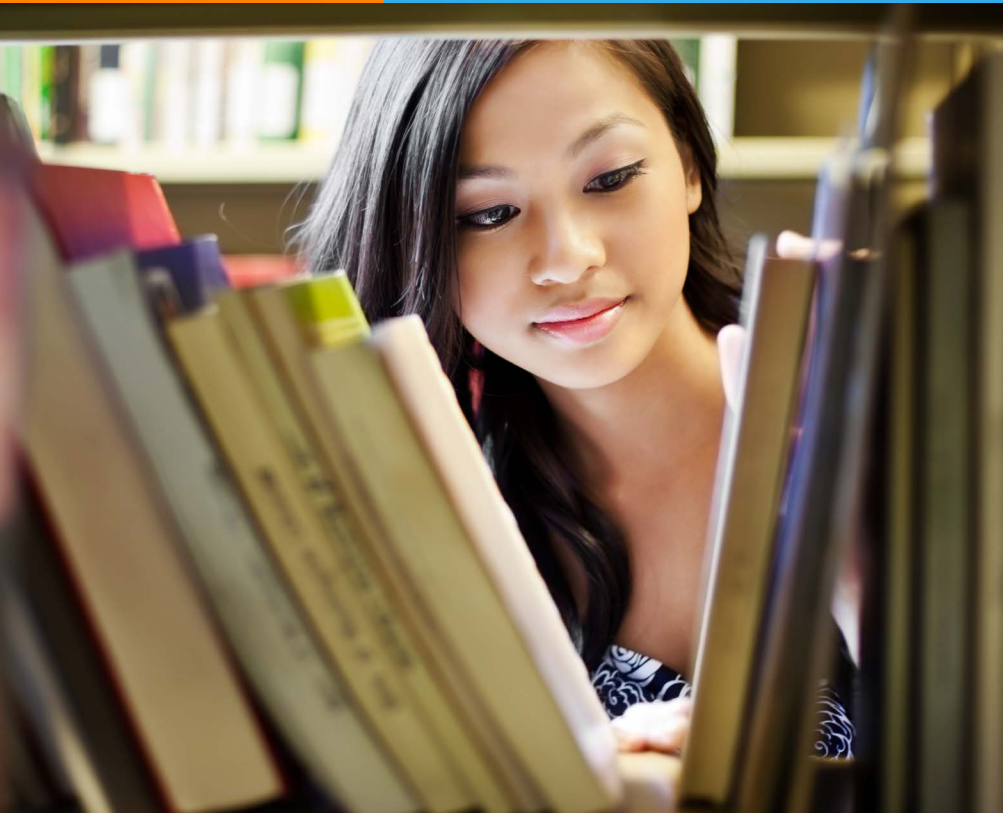
As a teacher, you are key to helping children discover the joy of reading.

Even as schools bring more tools and technology to the reading circle, the teacher remains the heartbeat of the classroom, bringing the love of reading to life for students.

A teacher knows a book on cats might spark Christine's curiosity. A teacher knows Juan will connect with an article on airplanes. The teacher who knows students' likes and dislikes can suggest books that connect to their interests and lives. Here are nine ways you can enhance the student-teacher relationship and motivate students to read.

1

Give your students more choices.



Students who enjoy fun, rewarding encounters with books naturally become motivated to read. Let your students choose from a wide range of books. When students make their own choices, they are more likely to read books by authors they enjoy and fall in love with reading.

As you get to know your students' interests, help them seek out books and topics that match their interests. Remember to mix it up by offering a balance of genres including fiction and nonfiction.



Did you know? Students are reading more nonfiction books and articles to meet new rigorous academic standards. See more in *What Kids are Reading 2017*.

2

Make sure the reading level is ‘just right.’

Just like Goldilocks found the chair that was “just right,” students need books at the level that is just right to guide their growth as readers. Not too hard. Not too easy. Engage students in texts at the level with the ideal blend of challenge and success.

Teach students to read a page. As a rule, if a student has difficulties with five words out of a hundred, or five words on a single page, the book is too difficult. The right book at the right level makes all the difference in motivating students.



Did you know? Based on our data, 1,481,865 fourth grade students read 55,378,225 books with 458,930,779,920 words during the 2015-2016 school year. See more in ***What Kids are Reading 2017.***

3

Devote time to reading practice.



If you knew it would help students grow and become lifelong readers, would you devote time for daily reading practice? Set aside 20 to 30 minutes for daily reading. Teachers—and entire schools—often join in to read with and to students.

Your students will enjoy a relaxing environment where they can look forward to reading every day. Create an area in your classroom with comfortable chairs, and perhaps offer open time when students can read before or after school.



Did you know? Engaging in reading practice at the right level helps struggling students catch up to their higher-achieving classmates. See more in *What Kids are Reading 2017*.

4

Build relationships with daily check-ins.

Creating a routine that allows you to connect with students is essential. During reading practice, take time to get to know your students and their interests. Move from student to student, checking to see their books are a good fit, and showing interest in their books and efforts.

It's best to spend this time connecting with your students—no grading or paperwork. You won't be able to connect with every child every day, but you can prioritize who needs your time.



Did you know? You can see students' top 25 fiction and nonfiction book choices by grade, state, and interest level. See more in *What Kids are Reading 2017*.

5

Make reading practice a social experience.



Why do you think book clubs are so popular? It's fun to talk with others about books. In fact, reading is more of a "social experience" for students than you may think. Have fun and celebrate reading during whole-class and small-group book talks.

You and your students can pick a few popular titles and share a bit about each, or read the first few sentences or pages. Create an area on a class or library website where students can post book comments. Students also use movie-making software to create short trailers.



Did you know? The collective impact of spending a few extra minutes reading each day can be astonishing. See more in *What Kids are Reading 2017*.

6

Create a book-store style display.

You know the feeling you get when walking through a book store? Titles, authors, and covers call to you, piquing your interest. You pick up books and read their first pages or back covers. You are engaged and motivated. Do the same in your classroom or school.

Display books both students and teachers love. Develop and share lists of books recommended by students and teachers. Students will be even more interested in books you recommend if you have read and talk about the books.



Did you know? Students who meet personalized goals for independent reading practice achieve better outcomes. See more in *What Kids are Reading 2017*.

7

Read aloud to students of all ages.



Everyone loves to hear a story, especially when listening to a teacher who loves the book. When you read to your younger students, you introduce them to stories in books they might not yet be able to read independently.

Reading to your older students exposes them to new genres and authors, and enables you to model comprehension strategies, such as visualizing, making predictions, previewing, questioning, clarifying, and summarizing.



Did you know? Based on reading data of 1,041,644 first graders who read 47,248,514 books during the 2015-2016 school year, approximately 13% of books were read to students. See more in ***What Kids are Reading 2017***.

8

Acknowledge and celebrate success.

Your recognition means more to students than you may ever know. Teach students to recognize their own success as you acknowledge their achievements. Recognize accomplishments based on students' individual differences and goals, so you praise and motivate all readers.

Display a Reading Wall of Fame where it will draw the attention of students, parents, and visitors. Note accomplishments of the entire school, such as total books or words read.



Did you know? Based on our data, more books with STEM topics were read at the elementary grades than in middle and high school. See more in *What Kids are Reading 2017*.

9

See What Kids are Reading in your state.



You don't need to search far to discover what kids are reading in your state. Simply download the 2017 edition of ***What Kids are Reading***, which lists the top books and nonfiction articles students read in grades 1-12 during the 2015-2016 school year. Customize the report to see and create lists of students' popular choices by state, gender, reading level, and interest level. Visit www.renaissance.com/learnalytics/wkar to access the annual report.

[See WKAR 2017](#)



About the author: Lynn Esser is a Senior Product Marketing Manager for Accelerated Reader 360 at Renaissance, where she has worked for 10 years. Prior to that, she was a middle school teacher and school administrator. Lynn is passionate about reading and often volunteers for causes that promote literacy.

More resources to boost reading growth!

Keep your confidence soaring with additional resources to help you spark tremendous K12 reading growth. Check out our Renaissance® blog with ongoing posts offering new insights on reading practice. (Join in the inspiring conversations taking place in the comments section.)
Access a quick video to discover the incredible Power of Reading Practice.

You can even watch a personalized demo to see how to engage students in personalized independent and close reading practice.



[See reading resources](#)

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