



ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS FOR SEPTEMBER

Idea #1: Start with Back-to-School Storytime

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

Your back to school library lessons can be fun and engaging with this beginning of the year storytime unit.

The engaging activities for K-2 classes include suggested school-themed songs, a book review activity, School Supply Bingo, and a fun scavenger hunt.

Use the suggested back to school books or your own beginning of the year reads and your elementary library will be buzzing with excitement!



(See this resource from The Trapped Librarian)

Idea #2: Review Catalog Searching & Book Finding

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)



No matter what grade your students are in, they always need a refresher at the beginning of the year on your online library catalog.

Whether it's searching for their favorite graphic novels series, or using a call number to find where a book is, take the time NOW to review those skills and promote student independence!

(See this resource on TPT and at Librarians Teach.)

CONTRIBUTING
AUTHORS:

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Idea #3: Get Some Ideas for Hispanic Heritage Month

by Cari White (Library Learners)

Learn more about how you can celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15) with your students in this blog post!

Even the simplest ideas can help your students feel seen and celebrated.

[Read the full article from Library Learners](#)



PreK-6

Favorite New Book Releases

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

New Titles
released in
August

PICTURE BOOKS

- *Sometimes We Fall* (de Sève)
- *The Ofrenda That We Built* (Gutiérrez and Gutiérrez)
- *Godfather Death* (Nicholls)
- *Evidence!* (Hopkinson)
- *We Are Definitely Human* (Fang)
- *Almost Underwear* (Roth)
- *A Star Shines Through* (Desnitskaya)
- *The Zebra's Great Escape* (Rundell)
- *I'm Sorry You Got Mad* (Lukoff)
- *The Next Scientist* (Messner)
- *The Painter and the President* (Albee)

UPPER ELEMENTARY GRADES

- *Moko Magic: Carnival Chaos* (Baptiste)
- *The Maker's Club* (Yee)
- *We Are Big Time* (Khan)
- *Read At Your Own Risk* (Lai)
- *Nightmare in the Backyard* (Strand)
- *Lion Dancers* (Tse)
- *The Secret Dead Club* (Strong)
- *The Science of Friendship* (Davis)
- *Island of Whispers* (Hardinge)
- *Not Nothing* (Forman) - Grades 5-8
- *Pearl* (Smith) - Grades 5-8
- *The Outsmarters* (Ellis) - Grades 5-8
- *Buffalo Dreamers* (Duncan) - Grades 5-8

INTERESTING SCIENCE CONCEPTS FOR KIDS

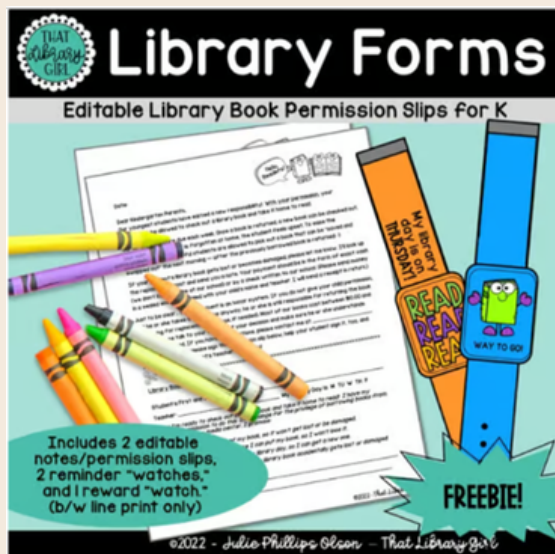
Many of you already know about SciShow Kids on YouTube. If you've never shown their videos, you are missing out!

SciShow Kids breaks down science concepts for elementary age students. Check out this one for the [Signs of Autumn!](#)



Idea #4: Get Kindergarten Ready for Book Exchange

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Is the idea of starting kindergarten book exchange a little daunting to you? This freebie has an editable permission slip to help you get started and a “watch” pattern to help your students remember when to bring the books back to the library!

(Download this FREEBIE from That Library Girl)

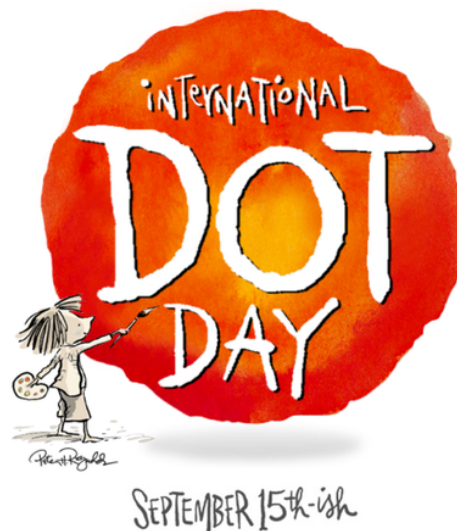
Idea #5: Celebrate Dot Day

submitted by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

International Dot Day is celebrating their 15th anniversary this September 15th. *The Dot* is the story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to “make her mark”.

Join people all over the world to celebrate creativity and inspiration.

(Check out the free *Dot Day* resources from International Dot Day)



DOWNLOAD A FREE DOT DAY POSTER

Peter H. Reynolds (author/illustrator of *The Dot*) has created a wonderful “We Love Our Library” poster! Download it for free here!

Idea #6: Celebrate Autumn's Arrival

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



This Autumn Storytime is perfect for back to school and fall library lessons with Grades K-3.

It includes a librarian-led discussion of fall objects, plus additional scrolling slides with fun facts, autumn idioms, vocabulary, would you rathers, and more!

Includes differentiated scavenger hunt, recommended reads, and editable, standards-aligned lesson plan.

[\(See it in the MrsReaderPants TPT store\).](#)

OUR FAVORITE AUTUMN READ-ALOUDS

- *The Leaf Thief* by Alice Heming
- *In the Middle of Fall* by Kevin Henkes
- *Wonderfall* by Michael Hall
- *Fall Mixed Up* by Bob Raczka
- *A Very Big Fall* by Emmy Kastner
- *The Very Last Leaf* by Stef Wade
- *Those Darn Squirrels!* by Adam Rubin
- *Pumpkin Trouble* by Jan Thomas (for very young students)
- *Bats at the Library* by Brian Lies (fall vibes, if not directly about autumn)
- *A Big Mooncake for Little Star* by Grace Lin (The Mid-Autumn or Mooncake Festival in Chinese culture is held in September this year.)



- *Acorn was a Little Wild* by Jen Arena
- *A Bold Pumpkin Plan* by Katy Hudson
- *Make More Smores* by Cathy Ballou Mealey
- *Lost in the Corn Maze* by Precious McKenzie
- *Sour Apple* by Linda Liu
- *It's Fall!* by Renée Kurilla
- *Follow the Flyway* by Sarah Nelson
- *Pumpkin Heads* by Wendell Minor
- *The Tale of the Mandarin Duck: A Modern Fable* by Bette Midler
- *Leif and the Fall* by Allison Sweet Grant
- *The Scarecrow* by Beth Ferry

Idea #7: Advocate for Your Library Program

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)

An important role we fill as school librarians is as an advocate for our libraries!

This School Library Advocacy PD will help you feel prepared to speak up for your school library program at any time.

(Check out this free School Library Advocacy PD from The Trapped Librarian)



Idea #8: Wondering What to Teach?

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)



It can feel overwhelming to come up with and teach new lessons every week, especially as a new teacher-librarian.

This page shows the exact curriculum I used to teach kindergarten through 5th grade on a fixed library schedule (40-minute classes). Use it for inspiration, or find tomorrow's library lesson!

Check out Library Lessons & Activities by Grade Level from Mrs. J in the Library



Curated, engaging library curriculum
for teacher-librarians

Click to learn more!



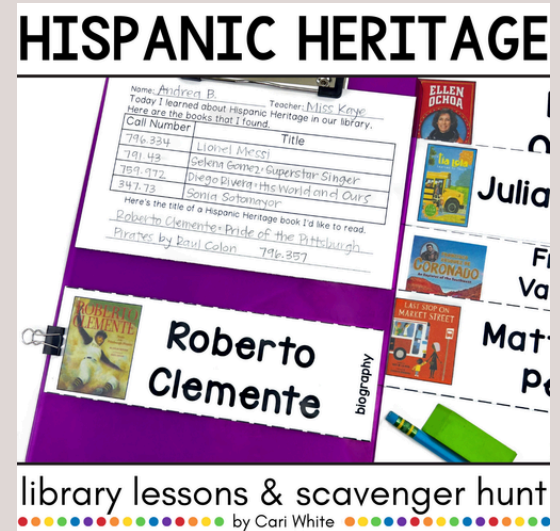
Idea #9: Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

by Cari White (Library Learners)

I've made it easy for you to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with your students.

These library lessons with a scavenger hunt are educational AND engaging!

(See these [Hispanic Heritage Month Library Lessons from Library Learners](#)).



Idea #10: Learn Techniques for Repairing Books

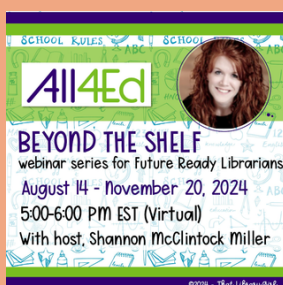
by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Do you have library books that need repair... but you're not sure what to do?

Check out my YouTube playlist for over 100 tutorials that can help you handle everything from ripped pages to water damage!

(See this [YouTube playlist from That Library Girl](#)).



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

Do you need more PD hours? Librarian Shannon McClintock Miller is offering a [webinar series](#) through "All 4 Ed" this fall.

This website lists several in-person events as well, such as a Saturday session coming up at Arkansas Tech University on October 19.

Idea #11: Teach Students to Sort FIC and NF Books

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

Even our youngest readers need to be able to decipher between fiction and nonfiction texts.

This PPT presentation and book sort activity is perfect for reinforcing this foundational skill.

I used the included book sort several times a year for reinforcement!

(See this book sorting activity from The Library Patch)



Idea #12: Scroll Autumn Books on a Library TV

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)



Share fall titles with this FREE Autumn Booktalk!

The booktalk is separated into categories for elementary, middle school, and high school.

Many of the included titles have starred professional reviews. Some have also won book awards, so it can also make a great collection development tool. Editable.

(Download this FREE Autumn Digital Booktalk from MrsReaderPants)



ARR! TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY IS SEPTEMBER 19TH!

Are you ready to celebrate Talk Like a Pirate day on September 19th. This link to 100 books about pirates is sure to help you plan your read aloud and book suggestions!

Idea #13: Celebrate International Dot Day

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



It's so fun to celebrate creativity with your students using Peter H. Reynolds' classic book for International Dot Day!

Get ideas and links to free downloads to make this an unforgettable event for all ages.

[\(Get Dot Day ideas and links from The Trapped Librarian\)](#)

Idea #14: Make Time To Update Your Library Website

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs J in the Library)

It's easy to put off making or updating your library's website, but it is so important to have a "one stop shop" to access your library's resources. It can also help you advocate to your community and get donations you actually want.

Get a FREE Website Checklist for what to include on your library website, plus a Logins & Passwords template to customize so your students can access your library resources at home.



[\(Get the Checklist & Logins Template here\)](#)



INTRODUCE LITTLE ONES TO ELPHABA AND GLINDA

One of the big fall movie releases will be part I of *Wicked* in late November. These two soon-to-be-released "Little Golden Books" will help define the two main characters and their sisterly conflict!

Idea #15: Get Students Talking About Books

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Do you want to share more book talks this year, but you're not sure how to fit one more thing into your schedule?

Just add this sign to your circulation desk and place a book you've read next to it. Students will notice the sign and start talking to you about the book on display. Easy peasy!

[\(Download this free sign from Library Learners\)](#)

OUR FAVORITE VIDEO LINKS!

Each month we feature some favorite videos for the library. Some videos are from us, and others are from other librarians, authors, or publishers. You can click the image to watch the video on YouTube.



A Simple Trick to Prepare Young Learners for Learning

Have you ever wondered how to get your littlest learners to be quiet and listen? The trick is super simple, and I share what worked for me in [this video](#) from Library Learners.

Award-Winning Videos for Kids

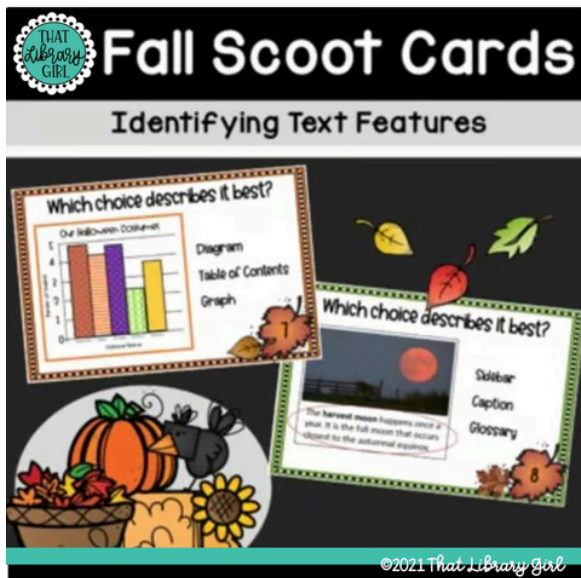
["The Kids Should See This"](#) is an award-winning website of kid-friendly videos that are curated by Rion Nakaya (who used to work at DIY.org).



I recommend adding a link to both "TKSST" and DIY.org your library website for students to explore the STEAM-, history-, and culture-focused videos.

Idea #16: Learn About Text Features with Scoot!

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)



Get your students up and moving as they practice identifying nonfiction text features.

This fall-themed SCOOT game includes 14 cards and a recording sheet... plus teaching tips. See my preview on TPT for more details.

([See this Fall Scoot Game from That Library Girl](#)).

Idea #17: Try an Independent Reading Program

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)

This independent reading program can be used in a single classroom or school wide.

As a librarian, I run this as a school wide reading program, and my teachers have very POSITIVE reactions to it. They find it easy to manage in the classroom and appreciate how it has made their students more accountable in their daily reading.

([See this Independent Reading Program from The Library Patch](#)).



START LIBRARY TIME WITH A SONG

"If You Can Hear Me" by Emily Arrow is a great song for starting your read-aloud lessons with our youngest classes!



Idea #18: Prepare for the Unexpected

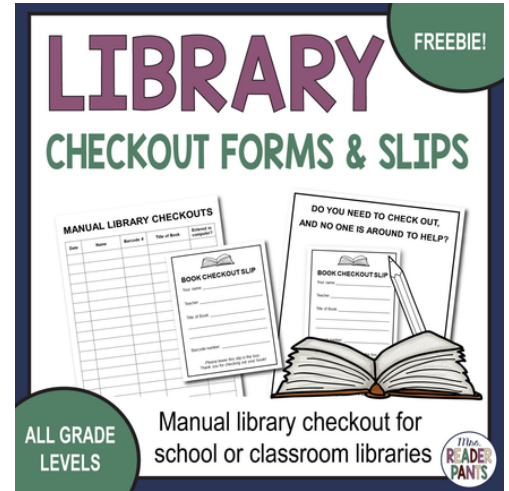
by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

You never know when you might need this set of Library Checkout Forms and Slips!

These are manual library checkout forms that are great if your library system goes offline or if the power goes out.

After 18 years in the library, I can promise you, this will happen eventually. Be prepared!

(Download these FREE Checkout Forms and Slips from MrsReaderPants)



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