

# What's to Love About Reading?



- What kinds of things do we need to read in the course of everyday life? (Street signs, business names, signs in stores or airports, school textbooks, greeting cards, e-mails, schedules, etc.)
- What problems might we have if we don't read those things?
- Besides books, what might we read just for fun? (Cartoons or comic strips, magazines about our interests or hobbies, game directions, recipes, text on entertaining websites, etc.)
- Besides books, what do you like to read for fun?
- What are your favorite books? Authors? Book series?
- What books have you read more than once?
- Do you like reading fiction, nonfiction, or both?
- What subjects have you learned about by reading books for fun?
- What have you learned about other places in the world by reading books for fun?
- What have you learned about people who are different from you by reading books for fun?
- What have you discovered about yourself by reading books for fun?
- What books spark your imagination and make you think, "What if ...?"
- Do you ever read the same books your friends are reading and then talk about them?
- Has reading a book ever made you want to see a movie based on it? Has seeing a movie ever made you want to read the book it's based on?
- What's the funniest book you've read? The saddest? The scariest?
- Who's your favorite fictional character from a book? Why does that character appeal to you?
- Finish this sentence: "Reading helps (or makes) me \_\_\_\_."

**Don't be afraid to share your reading experiences and your new and lifelong favorite books, magazines, comic strips, and so on!**



# Independent Reading Survey

Have individuals or small groups choose aspects of independent reading to examine through surveys. They'll design questionnaires, have classmates complete them, analyze the results, and share their findings via charts, graphs, or other visual representations.

## Here are some sample topics students might explore:

- How do we choose books for independent reading?
- How much time do we spend on independent reading?
- What genres (mystery, historical fiction, fantasy, realistic fiction, science fiction, etc.) do we read?
- What are the best books we've read?
- What are the worst books we've read?

## Here's a sample questionnaire for the first topic above:

Please complete this questionnaire on how you choose books for independent reading.

1. How likely are you to read a book by an author whose book(s) you've liked before?  
a) not likely  
b) somewhat likely  
c) very likely
2. How likely are you to choose a short book over a long one?  
a) not likely  
b) somewhat likely  
c) very likely
3. How likely are you to choose a book because it has a catchy title or appealing cover?  
a) not likely  
b) somewhat likely  
c) very likely
4. How likely are you to read a book recommended by your teacher or librarian?  
a) not likely  
b) somewhat likely  
c) very likely
5. How likely are you to read a book recommended by a friend?  
a) not likely  
b) somewhat likely  
c) very likely
6. How likely are you to read a book on which a movie you liked is based?  
a) not likely  
b) somewhat likely  
c) very likely
7. How likely are you to read another book in a series you've started?  
a) not likely  
b) somewhat likely  
c) very likely
8. How likely are you to go looking for a book about a subject or hobby that you are interested in?  
a) not likely  
b) somewhat likely  
c) very likely

