



DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF LITERACY

As educators you are aware of the importance of reading and the impact it can have on a child's life. Here at Book Trust, we want to support you in your journey of **helping every student discover the joy and power of reading**. Developing a culture of literacy is something that you have probably heard leads to incredible academic gains. In our resources, you'll find actionable and transferable ideas that can be adjusted depending on whether your class is virtual or in-person.



The Research

Research suggests a strong link between reading motivation and reading achievement¹. We know that motivation is essential for learning to occur around any topic² and students who are encouraged to choose their own books appear to put more effort into learning new material³. As a program, Book Trust targets **reading motivation through choice**, allowing your students to discover the joy and power of reading.

What does that mean?



One way to foster motivation and achievement is to start with the reading environment. Creating a book-rich environment will help students become more enthusiastic readers. Providing areas around the room so students can leave their desk if they choose is a wonderful option. Some teachers opt for pillows, stuffed animals, or assigned reading spots. Others opt for soothing music and dimming the lights. The important piece to remember is to create a **concrete reading block** (same amount of time) that occurs each day where students get to read books of their choosing. The Book Trust program targets reading motivation through choice, helping students discover the joy and power of reading.



Ideas

- Speak to families about the family resource that we provided and get some feedback. Does it work, have the questions and activities provided been simple to build into their routines?
- Make it a game: set small intervals (start with 2 to 5 minutes depending on grade) and track the amount of time each day. See how many minutes of sustained reading they can do silently.
- Include buddy reading! This is a great way to get students talking about books of choice.



Questions

- Ask students what activities they like to do. This provides a good jumping point to find books of choice that they will be motivated by.
- Ask students: what are your favorite books and why? Students providing recommendations strengthen classroom connections, crucial at the beginning of the year. You could even incorporate this as a 'student job' later on.
- To ask families and students: have you been building 'talk around books' into your daily routine at home? Have the questions provided in the resources been helpful in getting your child excited about books?

¹Baker & Wigfield, 1999; Guthrie & Wigfield, 2005; Pintrich, 2003; Taboada, Tonks, Wigfield, & Guthrie, 2009. [#Gambrell | B | 1996](#) [#Gambrell | B | 1996](#)

