

# LET'S TALK LITERACY

In this lesson, students will consider the importance of reading and engage in a project to encourage readership in their school or community.

## Grade Levels 3–6

*Note: Lessons are designed to support multiple grade levels. Modification suggestions and extensions are for alternative pacing and to engage students at various levels.*

## Standards

### Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.6  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.2

### Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

SOCIAL AWARENESS  
RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

### Social Studies Standards (NCSS)

Individual Development and Identity  
Culture

## Essential Question(s)

- What is the purpose of reading?
- How can a lack of access to reading materials affect people?

## Learning Objectives

- I can list some reasons for reading.
- I can explain one important thing I have learned from reading.
- I can help encourage others to become readers.

## What You'll Need

“Kid of the Year Orion Jean” article from TIME for Kids; plain butcher paper or brown paper bags, writing materials, books

## INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

### Introduce It

Start the lesson by having students take out a notebook or a blank sheet of paper. Have them jot down some responses to the following questions:

- What is the purpose of reading?
- What is the most important thing you've learned from reading?

Bring students back together for a discussion, and have volunteers share some of their responses. On the board, make a list of reasons for reading (e.g., for information, entertainment, etc.).

### Read About It

Read the article “[Kid of the Year Orion Jean](#)” (TIME for Kids, February 2022). While they read, have students take note of why Orion started an initiative around books.

### Discuss It

Bring the class back together to discuss the article. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- What inspired each of Orion's initiatives?
- Do you think literacy is as important as Orion's other goals? Explain.
- Based on discussions from earlier in the lesson, what might be the effect of living in a book desert?

### Act on It

Create a “blind date with a book” table in your school library to encourage reading.

- Have each student bring in a book they would like to share with others.
- Wrap each book in plain paper for students or put them into a brown lunch bag and seal them.
- Have each student write a short explanation of the book on the front to explain who might like it (e.g. “I am a fiction book,” “I am an adventurous page-turner,” “Someone who wants to get lost in a fantasy world would love me”).
- Display the books for others to choose and read. You might include a blank bookmark with the books, where readers can write their name and a review. That way, a book can be passed around to many kids, and readers will have an idea of who enjoyed the book before them.

### Take It Further (optional)

Repeat this activity with the intention of donating the books to a library, community center, or after-school program. Make sure students include the age-range of each book. Have them invite their parents to create their own book blind dates to expand readership in your community. Then have students work together to make a poster advertising the books. They might include some reasons for reading to persuade hesitant readers to give it a try.