

# Independent Reading Activities

Silent reading is a solitary activity, but as social beings, we have the need to share. Here are some 5-minute activities to be done before or after reading where teachers and students can share what they are reading.

1. After reading, students select words that are new to them. Go around the room and do a waterfall with new words.
2. After reading, students select words that “speak to them.” It may be a word that is very visual or makes some kind of connection for them.
3. After reading, students select vivid verbs. Go around the room and do a waterfall with the words.
4. Draw an image from the reading.
5. Make a prediction.
6. Share with a partner.
7. Create a commercial to sell a book.
8. Write a question to a character.
9. Find out who finished a chapter. Ask what they hope will happen in the next chapter.
10. Before reading, the teacher or a student does a 3-5 minute book talk.
11. Find out who has started a new book. Ask how they chose that book.
12. Write a note to another student about a book.
13. Fly the book-write a comment about the book and make the paper into a paper airplane to fly across the room.
14. Think of a friend or family member who is like a character in the book. “This character reminds me of...” Tell why.
15. Tell the setting (time and place) of the story, if it can be determined.
16. Respond to “Based on the reading, I am feeling (scared, excited, depressed, etc.) because...”
17. Find an awesome adjective to share.
18. Find a proper noun to share.
19. Find a word that uses a prefix, suffix, or root studied in class.
20. Find a simile or metaphor to share.
21. Identify the author’s tone.
22. Put the titles of three books on the board. Read a short selection of one of the books. Based on the selection, students guess the correct title.
23. After reading, make a bookmark based on the book. Laminate the bookmark and create a “Bookmark Bulletin Board.”
24. Keep an ongoing vocabulary log of new words. Include the word, its definition from the dictionary and an original sentence using the word correctly. Reward students for keeping the log by giving an extra credit grade.
25. After reading, students will write letters explaining why they liked the book. The letter may be in either prose or poetry. Letters may be displayed on a “Letters to the Teacher” bulletin board.
26. Distribute post-its. Each student sticks a post-it on a special line or passage, writes a comment and shares with a partner.