

Teacher Resources: CELEBRATION + SEL

What Are We Celebrating?

Book Celebrations are important moments for students and teachers to honor the experience of building a personal library. The simple act of celebrating can recognize and validate students' interests. By taking a few minutes out of your day to distribute books to the whole class - you're signaling to your students that their choices matter, and are worth investing in!

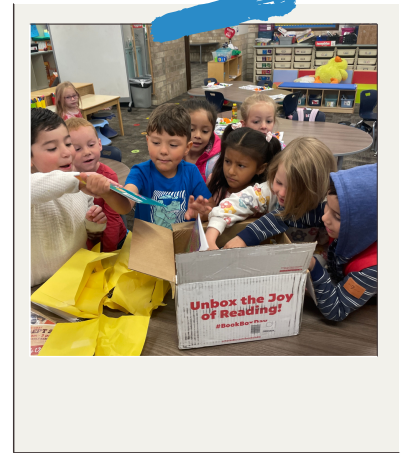
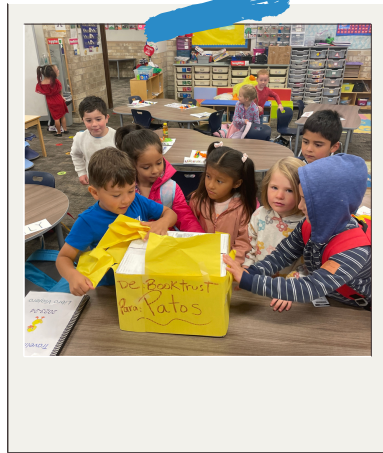
Book Celebrations can contribute to building a positive classroom culture and amplify your efforts to support students' social emotional development.

Building A Positive Classroom Culture Through Celebration



Your Book Box arrives, you've organized the books and distributed them to students - now what?

- Consider keeping books in class for the week before sending them home. Availability in the classroom gives students time to explore, share, and be proud of their choices.
- Upcycle your Scholastic Book Box as a place to hold and access books all week. Have students decorate the box with markers, pictures, or paper - make it your own!
- Let students celebrate by writing their names in their books. Use special markers, try rainbow writing, or use the printable Book Trust book plates.



The following pages offer connections to strategies you may already be using in your classroom. You know your students best - try the strategies that are most useful to you, adapt them, or come up with your own!

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Pre K + Kindergarten

New Book Show and Tell

When students celebrate receiving their books, use Circle Time to ask students to share their responses to the question:

Why did you choose that book?



Show and Tell and SEL

Asking students to explore their interests can promote building self-awareness by encouraging students to examine likes and dislikes and facilitating conversation that makes connections to their peers' interests.



First and Second Grade

Celebration Circle

After students have had time to explore their books, and before they take books home, bring students together for a Celebration Circle to reflect.

- Gather the students on the carpet in a circle with one of their Book Trust books.
- Give students time to say why they chose that book and what they love about it.

Celebration Circles and SEL

Celebration Circles can contribute to building classroom community, and provide opportunities for students to practice communicating in front of an audience while learning about their classmates' interests.



Story Connections

Ask one student to select one book from the Book Box for the teacher to read aloud to the class. After reading the story, [ask students to guess who in the class might have selected that book and why.](#)

Consider facilitating a discussion about the book and how it might connect to current topics in math, social studies, or science.

Story Connections and SEL

This exercise enables discussion among your students, and provides a low-stakes opportunity for students to make connections across the stories they love, their peers interests, and the new ideas they're learning across disciplines.

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Third - Fifth Grade

Book Recommendations

Give students time to read their books in school and have the Book Trust Recommendations sheet ready for them to fill out shortly after reading as independent work.

Consider two strategies for engaging the class in sharing recommendations:

1. Put all recommendations in a file folder that students can access when looking for new books, or display the recommendations around the room.
2. You might also choose a few to read aloud to the class. This may help students choose books outside of their comfort zone and give them ideas of which books to choose during the next order window.

Book Recommendations and SEL

Providing students an opportunity to both reflect on the ways their story resonated with them, and read their peers experiences with their stories can be a powerful moment not only to build community, but to build self awareness, confidence, and connection. Consider using this as an opportunity to model making authentic connections through empathy, compassion, and passion.