



How to...

BIG IDEA

Read Across America was launched in 1998 by the National Education Association.



Go places with reading

Embark on an adventure—and celebrate National Reading Month—with books.

Read Across America Day takes place on March 2, which also kicks off National Reading Month. One of the goals of Read Across America (RAA), a celebration of reading sponsored by the National Education Association, is to introduce children to diverse and inclusive books with characters they can relate to and worlds that are different from their own. Here's how you can take part in the celebration.

Host a book swap

Ask a few friends or family members to think about a middle-grade book that introduced them to new genres and voices and that they would be willing to loan to someone else. Then host a book swap. You can lay the books out on a table and give everyone a chance to read the plot summary on the back or check out the first few pages. Try making the swap extra fun with snacks, like a bowl of “book worms” (gummy worms). Everyone can go home at the end of the event with one or more new books.

Read as a group

Since reading can also be a joyful experience to share with others, another idea is to plan a

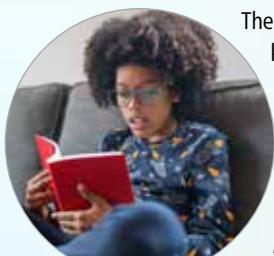
“read-in,” which is an event where a group can read together. Or ask a teacher to hold the read-in in a classroom. Ask everyone to bring a book to the event and to read a short excerpt aloud from it. This is a great way to spark conversations, and you can also make notes about books you'd like to add to your own reading list.

Explore this year's theme

The 2026 theme for Read Across America is kindness, so this is a great time to choose titles with that focus. You can find a few options in the orange box on page 23. Others include *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio, *The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig, *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli, and *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson.

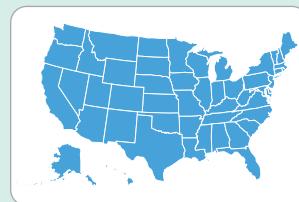
Reflect on what you've read

You might enjoy keeping track of the books you've read in a journal, on a device, or by filling out the form on the next page. You can think about what stood out to you about the story, setting, or characters and reflect on what you learned. For more reading suggestions, see the “50 books, 50 states” box at right.



See the world through books!

50 books, 50 states



You can read across the US with the books on our two separate lists titled “Read Across America,” featuring 50 books for 50 states. That's 100 books to choose from!

One fun challenge would be to read four or more books that take place in different states. Pick any states you wish. You could choose books that take place in the state where you live, states you may have visited, or places you are curious about.

The lists of 50 books for 50 states can be found on *The Week Junior's* Book Club page at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub. Use the form on the next page to write your reviews. You can find more forms at kids.theweekjunior.com/activities.

Read your way across the country

Enjoy four books that are set in any state and use this form to rate and review them!

First name _____

Age _____ State _____

Book #1

Title _____

Author _____

Rating  (1 star is the lowest, 3 is the highest)

The state where the book takes place _____

Your review in one word _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Book #2

Title _____

Author _____

Rating  (1 star is the lowest, 3 is the highest)

The state where the book takes place _____

Your review in one word _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Book #3

Title _____

Author _____

Rating  (1 star is the lowest, 3 is the highest)

The state where the book takes place _____

Your review in one word _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Book #4

Title _____

Author _____

Rating  (1 star is the lowest, 3 is the highest)

The state where the book takes place _____

Your review in one word _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

