

BOOKS FOR OWNERSHIP DURING COVID-19

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) understands that the Books for Ownership program will look very different for our schools this year as it must reflect the challenges of COVID-19 to support the safety and welfare of the children, parents, partners, and volunteers that are part of our community. To this end, we recognize that holding onsite book celebration events, that are usually the main component of our Books for Ownership program, are not currently realistic. However, it is even more critical that we work together to find creative and flexible solutions to get books into the hands of children and find ways to celebrate reading.

Below please find suggested book distribution ideas, tips, and resources to support your Books for Ownership program including distributing books and hosting book celebrations so you can continue to distribute RIF books while maintaining safe social distancing practices.

BOOK DISTRIBUTION IDEAS

RIF's Books for Ownership program can be modified to fit any current guidelines aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19. Consider some of the ideas below to safely distribute RIF books to your students.

Alternative Distribution Ideas

- Distribute books during pre-scheduled homework packet pick-up dates or add an assortment of books to the packets themselves.
- Offer books at district meal distribution locations by prepackaging a small selection of books within a disposable bag to be handed to families as they drive through.
- Package preselected books for each student and coordinate with volunteers to drop them off at student homes or ship the packages directly to student homes (please note that books cannot be shipped directly from the RIF Bookstore to residential addresses. All books would first have to be shipped your school or district facility).
- Identify community hubs used by your families during the pandemic, such as a local grocery store, pharmacy, or restaurant. See if it is possible to distribute books through one of those pathways.

Tips for Organizing Books

- With staffing constraints due to COVID-19, consider lowering the number of titles you order for distribution. Selecting fewer titles enables your staff to more efficiently sort and prepare the books prior to the distribution. Depending on the number of books that each student will receive, RIF recommends ordering a minimum of 3-5 titles to ensure that students receive distinct titles. Use our customizable book survey to gauge your students' interest in certain genres, topics or even book titles prior to selecting books from the RIF bookstore to help you decrease the number of titles while still maintaining choice.
- Arrange books by grade-level, theme, or genre for preselected book packs or individual selection by the students in order to make the distribution process as efficient as possible.

VIRTUAL BOOK CELEBRATION IDEAS

While things may be operating a bit differently in your school community, Reading Is Fundamental's Books for Ownership book celebrations can still take place and include motivational activities and student engagement - whether you are in-person or remotely learning. For a virtual event, here are quick tips to bring the fun to life virtually for the students you serve.

- **Incorporate an online read-aloud:** Use voices, props and online images to help students get excited about the story. Make sure you record your reading so families can watch them together again and again!
- **Make your read-aloud festive:** Bring the story to life and get children involved in the storytelling!
 - » **Kindergarten - 2nd Grade:** Invite children to bring a favorite snack, to all wear a certain color(s), to wear a funny hat, or to grab something from their home to serve as a musical instrument. Make your online read-aloud a reading party that the children can get excited about!
 - » **3rd - 5th Grade:** Invite children to bring the story to life. After an initial read of the book, let students select roles and scenes from the book that they can reenact together. Facilitate an interactive reader performance!
- **Extend learning beyond the book:** Choose an interactive activity to complement your read-aloud and engage your class(es). RIF has created three, specific activities that can be done as a group online or in person and are found in supporting resources under this guide.
 - » My Book Is Amazing
 - » Book Scavenger Hunt
 - » Book Review

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Below is a curated a list of supplemental digital resources to encourage and motivate students to read and support virtual engagement.

- Visit [RIF.org/literacy-central/reading-logs](https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/reading-logs) for reading logs, book challenges, and other at-home reading resources.
- Check out RIF's [collection of read-aloud videos](#), narrated by authors, celebrities, and more.
- Promote independent reading by using the resources found within RIF's Independent Reading center at [RIF.org/independent-reading-center](https://www.rif.org/independent-reading-center).
- Incorporate activities from one of RIF's many themed educator guides. The sample guides below support grades PreK-2, but additional guides can be found [here](#).
 - » [Careers, Jobs, Community Helpers](#)
 - » [Friendship and Inclusiveness](#)
 - » [Going to School](#)
- For additional resources, visit RIF's [Literacy Central](#). Please note that every book within RIF's Bookstore has corresponding support resources offered on RIF's Literacy Central.