

ENGAGE STUDENTS WITH SORA

throughout the school year



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- Student title suggestions
- Create a TBR list

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AUGUST

Get students signed in

Share your direct sign-in link or Sora setup code online, in routine communication, and in your physical library/classroom (try QR codes!). Use a customizable [Getting Started Guide](#) or [Sora Student ID cards](#) to help students sign into Sora.

Student title suggestions

Invite students to recommend titles for your digital library with a [Sora Book Requests spreadsheet](#) or dropbox.

Create a TBR list

Encourage readers to build personal “To Be Read” (TBR) lists in Sora. Help them explore new genres, series, or authors they haven’t tried before. Set up a fun group challenge where students and families can share lists and track progress.

SEPTEMBER

Back-to-school author visit

Use the author or illustrator pages on [TeachingBooks](#) to prepare for your visits. Learn how to pronounce their name. Visit their website to learn as much as you can before the big day. Read as many of their books as you can.

Ensure academic success with Sora

Host mini-lessons on Sora’s interactive reading tools like annotations, definitions, and Read to Me. Review [Curricular Reads with Sora](#) to explore how Sora features can support classroom learning.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Celebrate, learn about, and honor Hispanic heritage with titles featuring Hispanic culture. Demonstrate definition finding in Sora, then post new words in your classroom or library. Utilize Spanish audiobooks to listen to the beauty of the language.

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OCTOBER

Connect with your community

During informational events like Open Houses, parent teacher nights, or library events, introduce Sora to parents, guardians, and other community members. Highlight how Sora supports literacy with features like equitable access, reading goals, learning tools, achievements, and more. Find ways to share student success stories and consider providing mini tutoring sessions and user guides to families.

Highlight student work (local content)

If your school puts together student work in a compendium or literary magazine, upload a copy to Sora as local content for everyone to enjoy. Add shelf talkers to these titles to increase visibility and interest.

Dyslexia Awareness Month

Help students customize Sora to support their specific learning needs. Review text customization, including the OpenDyslexic font and others, line spacing, and text weight options. Curate hi-lo content into a featured collection. Meet with Special Education and reading teachers to discuss how audiobooks and Read to Me can help readers.

NOVEMBER

National Nonfiction Month

Celebrate readers who are passionate about fun facts. Arrange a visit with a nonfiction author, create a reading competition focused on nonfiction titles in Sora, and introduce clubs to niche hobby content in Sora. Check out the [National Nonfiction Month](#) website to download a booklet of more ideas!

Native American Heritage Month

Celebrate Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples in North America by spotlighting award-winning titles from the American Indian Youth Literature Award. Awarded biennially, the AIYLA identifies and honors the very best writing and illustrations in picture, middle grade, and YA books.

Give thanks to authors

Show appreciation for the authors who bring us stories! Have students write thank-you letters or create artwork inspired by their favorite books or authors. Share these expressions of gratitude through school events or social media, and let the authors know how much their work is valued and how Sora has increased access to their books.

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DECEMBER

Pleasure reading

Remind readers to dive into books simply for the joy of reading without the pressure of reminders or goals. Share the importance of reading for fun and how Sora offers a variety of formats and subjects. Display themed reading lists (like mystery, sci-fi, and historical fiction) to inspire exploration and ask students to add their favorites.

Read-Alongs for Everyone

Find a Read-Along title in Sora that aligns with the topic you're currently teaching, no matter the grade level you teach. Everyone benefits from (and usually enjoys!) being read aloud to, and your lesson will be more memorable for its uniqueness.

Year in Review

Have students reflect on their reading accomplishments with a fun "Year in Review" activity. Use data from Sora to find out how many books they read, what new genres they discovered, and how often they hit their goals. Create a template to share on a display board or go digital with a social media template.

JANUARY

Reading resolutions

Start a new year strong by setting reading resolutions! Encourage students to be creative and think beyond just the number of books they want to read. For example, maybe they want to read more children's books to help a younger sibling learn to read or to be more daring (or intentional!) about what they read. Consider displaying the resolutions (anonymously) in your classroom as a visual reminder.

Genre exploration

Expand students' literary horizons by soliciting "genre experts"—students who gravitate toward specific genres—to share with the class what's most appealing about their favorite genre. Create and share a list of cross-genre books for those who would benefit from a gentler transition.

Self-improvement and growth

Inspire positive change and empower learners to develop life skills by asking each student to identify an area of personal growth they want to develop in the new year. Curate a list of self-improvement and personal development titles on Sora's **Explore** page.

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FEBRUARY

Black History Month

Explore the impactful stories of Black authors, historical figures, and cultural movements. Choose a specific title to feature or curate an entire collection. Once a week in class, share a short story, memoir passage, or primary source that reflects a diverse perspective followed by a class discussion to reflect and further deepen student understanding and appreciation.

Book Matchmaker/Blind Date with a Book

Spice up reading with a digital “Book Matchmaker” or “Blind Date with a Book” event. Create brief, intriguing descriptions of books (without sharing the title or author) and a QR code to the title in Sora. Then, let students pick one based on their interests and see how the element of surprise plays out as they explore the title.

Character love letters

Invite readers to write love letters to their favorite book characters. Ask them to share why the character is important to them, what traits they admire, or how they relate to the character’s journey. Create a space for students to share their letters and consider pairing this activity with a group read or discussion to dive deeper into character development.

MARCH

Women’s History Month

Spotlight books and resources about influential women throughout history. In Sora, feature inspiring biographies, memoirs, and fiction centered around women’s accomplishments and contributions. Encourage students to explore stories of trailblazing women and discuss the importance of gender equality and empowerment.

Test prep

Help students prepare for upcoming tests with tools in Sora: study guides and test prep materials, reviewing defined words, and looking back through annotations on the texts they’ve read. Create reading plans that focus on key subjects, vocabulary, or review materials. Offer mini-quizzes, study groups, or tips on managing stress.

March Madness/Battle of the Books

Turn March into a month of reading excitement with a “Battle of the Books” competition. Organize head-to-head matchups where books face off to see which one will be crowned the favorite. Create brackets to post in high visibility areas to promote engagement and enthusiasm for reading.

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APRIL

National Poetry Month

Celebrate the beauty of poetry during National Poetry Month by introducing students to diverse poets and styles. Explore poetry collections, create writing challenges, and host poetry slams or readings. Encourage students to write their own poems and share them, fostering a love for creative expression and the power of language. You can even upload a collection of student work as local content!

Earth Day

Honor Earth Day by exploring content about nature, environmental conservation, and sustainability. Ask each student to share a “green” tip they learned from a book in Sora—green living, climate change, upcycling, new technology, etc. Collect and compile the tips to share with families—maybe during a “fun walk” in nature!

National Library Week

Support your libraries by highlighting the role they play in community literacy. Have students add their public library in Sora and explore the content available. Consider inviting a local librarian to your classroom to talk about the programming they offer or coordinate a library tour.

MAY

Get Caught Reading

Host a month-long Get Caught Reading Campaign. Encourage students and families to share photos of themselves reading in (safe) unique, unusual, or creative places. Get silly and ask students to “tell on each other” whenever they “catch” someone reading. Consider creating a social media challenge where participants are entered to win a prize for participation and a leaderboard of those “caught reading” most.

Use Sora to study/review (9-12)

Support high school students in cumulative reviews by utilizing Sora’s study tools and features. Encourage students to organize their notes and highlights and export them to review collaboratively in study groups—create a quiet, calm environment for students to reflect on and synthesize their learning from the school year.

Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

Celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month by exploring books, stories, and authors that reflect AAPI communities. Curate a collection of titles in Sora and begin each week with a thoughtful title recommendation along with information about the author’s country of origin.

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JUNE

Break Bingo/Summer reading challenge

Make reading fun during school breaks with challenges. Check out your local public library first, as many have longstanding programs. Create bingo cards with reading activities, such as reading a new genre, finishing a book, reading for a set amount of time, reading somewhere new, etc. Encourage students to complete their cards and offer prizes or recognition for those who do. If your district has an assigned summer reading list, curate it in Sora!

Pride Month

Celebrate Pride Month by exploring LGBTQIA+ authors, stories, and experiences. Highlight inclusive books that represent a wide range of identities and journeys and ask readers to reflect on the importance of love, acceptance, appreciation, and equality. Partner with your school's LGBTQIA+ club to make new connections.

Favorite quotations

Inspire reflection on the impact books can have and honor the power of words by asking readers to share their favorite book quotations. Use Sora's notes and highlights to track meaningful quotes and organize a "quote of the week" activity where students can share theirs, reflect on the meaning, and reveal why they love the quotation.

JULY

Travel the world through reading

Suggest readers take themselves on a global adventure by exploring books that transport them to different countries and cultures. If any students will be traveling over the summer, find books set in their destination location. Consider curating a list of books in translation and/or asking students to keep a "travel diary" over the summer of all the places they "visited" through books.

National Anti-Boredom Month

Help students combat boredom by offering fun, exciting, and engaging reading options—all reading counts. Provide students with an exploration checklist that will surprise them: include audiobooks, Read-Alongs, magazines, comics, new genres, and oft-forgotten titles. Have students track everything they've explored using Lists in Sora.

Library meetups

Once a month during the summer, organize a library meetup where students, families, and community members can gather to share books, discuss favorite reads, explore new titles, and enjoy some quiet reading time. Browse the library for new titles or check to see if they're available in Sora. If feasible, invite a local authors to join. These gatherings foster a sense of community and encourage a love of reading in a social setting.