

# Book Buddy Reading

Book Buddy reading is a term for paired discussions about a book that two students—sometimes from different grade levels—read together. This encounter offers both students an opportunity to experience rich, authentic literary discussions. When two different classes come together for Book Buddy reading, thoughtful logistical planning is the key to success. Choose a book that is accessible to students with a range of reading abilities. At the same time, look for a book with interesting events and universal themes to stimulate rich discussion. Depending on your choice of text, you may wish to divide the reading over two days. Each day the Book Buddies meet to read and discuss the assigned section of the book together. You may ask them to choose a response mode from a suggested list (see the student activity sheet Book Buddy Response Invitations). Finally, both classes met together in one classroom to discuss their reading and their responses.

Providing students with multiple opportunities to experience envisionment building is a central aspect of effective literature classrooms. Book Buddy meetings offer students authentic occasions to do just that.