

Sharing Favorite Reads

Asking students to talk about their out-of-school reading is a wonderful way to get a richer sense of them as readers while helping class members begin to get to know one another. Here are some ideas you may want to try.

- Ask students to keep a list of everything they read over a 24-hour period—billboards, cereal boxes, notes from a friend, magazine articles, the TV guide—everything. As you discuss the lists, try to establish some different reasons for reading: to gather information, from boredom, to learn something new, or just for pleasure.
- Ask students to bring in three or four favorite things to read. In groups of four or five, ask them to talk about their choices and why they are favorites (some of the choices may not be books). After groups have had 10-15 minutes to talk, ask each group to choose one or two to share with the entire class.
- Alternately, after groups have discussed favorites, give each student a sticky note on which to list his or her name and chosen titles. Have them come to the front of the room one at a time and attach their sticky notes to a “Favorite Reads” chart, giving the name of just one title.

Ask students to bring in one reading favorite. Give each student a 3” x 5” index card and ask that they write one or two sentences about their choice, signing their name. Create a display area for the texts and the cards and invite the class to browse the display. (If display space is limited, you may wish to divide the class into groups of six to eight and change the display weekly until everyone has participated.)