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The Library of Congress encourages kids to read, write, and get inspired with resources dedicated to young readers! Read, Write, and Get Inspired Find talks by children's book authors at the National Book Festival paired with activity ideas and writing prompts. Hear the authors of the 2020 National Book Festival from the Teens Stage and Children's Stage on the Library's YouTube channel. Get writing tips from authors Leigh Bardugo, Jacqueline Woodson, Raina Telgemeier, and Jason Reynolds. Watch Dav Pilkey present his book, "Dog Man: For Whom the Ball Rolls" and learn to draw characters from his books. Check out The Technicolor Adventures of Catalina Neon, a bilingual, illustrated poem written by the 21st U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera. You will see contributions from 2nd and 3rd grade students and delightful illustrations from artist Juana Medina. Explore classic children's books in the Library's collections, then choose one that you would want to retell. Think about the setting, plot, characters, and conflict. What would you change, and what would remain the same? Take an Exquisite Corpse adventure! Hear a story created by an all-star cast of authors, then try one of your own. Read in braille with coloring pages from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, part of the Library of Congress. Download Aesop for Children, an interactive book with 140 classic fables, accompanied by beautiful illustrations and animations. Discover more in this interactive version of the classic Aesop's Fables. Look for the moving illustrations and listen for the sounds. Watch past story times from the Library, including special events from a partnership with Imagination Library. Explore More Jason Reynolds, the 2020-21 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, is the seventh writer to hold this position, which is co-sponsored by the Library of Congress, the Children's Book Council and Every Child a Reader, with additional support from Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Reynolds' platform for his two-year term is "GRAB THE MIC: Tell Your Story."Photo by James J. Reddington. Read more Our Digital Library has plenty on offer for tamariki, to keep them entertained, educated and distracted! BorrowBox is an easy to use platform with downloadable MP3 fiction and nonfiction eResources for children. There is a wide selection of titles including lots of Australian and New Zealand titles. Read more Wheelers ePlatform has eBooks and eAudiobooks in an easy-to use app with rich features that will inspire and engage you. Read more TumbleBook Library takes existing picture books, adding animation, sound, music and narration to produce an electronic picture book. 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By purchasing through these links, we get a small commission. Rest assured – we only share links to products that we know and love! Click here to read the full disclosure policy. FREE Online Books for Kids to Read For each website or app, I've included a brief description of what the website has to offer and any current limitations on free trials. I'll be honest – I listed these in order of the value (I believe) they have to offer. ☺ (FYI – I'm a reading teacher!) This is solely my opinion! Raz-Kids: Reading A-Z What is it? Raz-Kids' Reading A-Z is a website with leveled ebooks and quizzes for interactive reading practice. It includes digital and mobile access and 29 different reading levels! Free Offer Details: They are currently offering a free 90-day trial. When you sign up for the 14-day free trial, and it will automatically extend it to 90-days. Click HERE to sign up for Raz-Kids: Reading A-Z! Epic What is it? Epic is a free digital library for kids 12 and under. 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If you know of any other amazing websites that offer free online books for kids, please (with a ☺ on top) let me know in the comments below! 🙏 Let's keep fueling every child's passion for reading (even when schools are closed)! If you're looking for free reading resources for distance learning, you may also find these blog posts valuable! FREE Reading Tips Brochure for Parents (From Teachers) Interactive Online Games for Teaching Sight Words Online Games for Every Phonic Awareness Skill Print | Save as PDF Love at first page? It exists, but most students need guidance to find the right read. In an effort to cultivate a passion for reading and provide more access to books, educators are increasingly creating digital libraries for their students, writes Kathleen Palmieri, a middle school teacher for MiddleWeb. Using a variety of techniques, educators are encouraging students to read by connecting them to new, easy-to-access books that match their interests and mirror their identities. "It's important to tap into students' interests, and incorporating fun ways to build a reading life using technology is a definite path to achieving these goals," writes Palmieri. Bitmojis have taken the education community by storm. These customizable cartoon avatars of educators—and their classrooms—introduce their students to virtual lessons, games, resources, and increasingly, digital libraries, writes Palmieri, who provides some step-by-step instructions for how to make one. After downloading the Bitmoji app from the Apple Store or Google Play, download "the Bitmoji extension to your Chrome browser by going to the Chrome Web Store," then create a virtual "library" through Google Slides, advises Palmieri. To add books, snip "the cover of the books you will be displaying, paste each onto the bookcase, and then insert a link into the book cover using the book's web address," says Palmieri. When students click on images of digital book covers, they're able to access PDFs, video read alouds, and websites and apps like Epic and Sora that host free ebooks. Courtesy of Cammie DuValElementary school teacher Cammie Duval created 29 different Bitmoji library templates which were downloaded by more than 90,000 educators from across the country.Bitmoji libraries can even take on particular themes. Cammie Duval, an elementary school teacher in Milwaukie, Oregon, created a "Mad Scientist" library for her students, for example. With the help of her sixth-grade son, Duval selected books like Ada Twist, Scientist, and Beluga Whales, then linked the virtual book covers to YouTube videos of read alouds, which she put through VideoLink first to remove the ads. In Ishpeming, Michigan, Tracey Burton, a PreK-5 technology teacher, created a Bitmoji library to help her students understand that people are more alike than different to do her part to help prevent further incidents like the murder of George Floyd. "I didn't think I could change the world, but I do feel like I [can] make a change," she said. She filled the library with read-alouds like Hair Love, Mixed Me, and The Proudest Blue. "Reading about other cultures makes the world smaller and more connected," says Burton. Courtesy of Tracey BurtonTo help her students find commonalities with people different from their own, elementary school teacher Tracey Burton filled her Bitmoji library with books reflecting different races and cultures. A popular practice in classrooms—book tastings—has turned virtual too, according to Palmieri. Tastings let students sample a variety of types of books to try out new topics and styles they may not consider normally. Palmieri organizes her tastings by making a virtual "book tasting room"—a Google Slide with pictures of doors labeled with genres like "mystery" or "fantasy" that link to separate digital libraries with books of each type. To promote choice in reading, high school English teacher Jori Krulder organizes virtual book tastings on the school's online library. Students use the library's search tool to find recommendations based on authors they've liked before and keywords that reflect their passions and interests. They also browse the web, typing "If you liked [insert book name]" to get results of similar books from Google, or, they use the site Goodreads, which lists award-winning and top-voted books by the Goodread community for all age levels. Krulder says. After each search, her students write down the title, author, and why they think they'd like the book, then reserve their selections from their school library. Once in the system, the librarian and supervisory staff schedule a time for safe pick-up at the school while students are learning from home. Because Palmieri's middle school students "love to listen to read alouds" she also transferred this approach to virtual learning. Research shows that when strong readers lead read alouds, they benefit students of all ages, and while teachers often focus on reading to younger students, studies show that read alouds increase comprehension, engagement, and motivation to read independently for secondary students too. To expose students to more options, Palmieri records the first chapter of books that she thinks her students would like and hosts them on Flipgrid. "Simply go to Flipgrid.com and set up a free educator account. Then create a topic, set your access settings, and share the link," she explains. Many publishers and authors like Mo Willems, RJ Palacio, and JK Rowling have given educators their permission to record their books during the pandemic, as long as they follow certain guidelines, she notes. Similarly, Wendy Gustavel, an elementary librarian, launched a virtual story time during the pandemic from the comfort of her couch—often cuddled up with her daughter and dog. Gustavel started out by recording a read aloud and posting it on the school's learning management system. "Within hours, there were positive responses from families saying how much their children loved the story and its message," she says. The positive reception Gustavel received inspired her to switch from asynchronous readings to live virtual ones spanning 15 to 30 minutes. Soon, students also wanted to be guest readers and read their own writing. Storytime became an amalgam of students across grade levels sharing their passion for literacy—they even invited their neighbors and friends from around the world to join. "With each passing day, I did less of the talking and leading as students took ownership of our time together," reflects Gustavel. LiteracyOnline LearningStudent Engagement

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