



School-Wide Book Swap

Consider rallying your entire school or homeschooling community to hold a *Book Swap*. I don't know of any other event that so quickly excites such a large number of youngsters to want to read.

Prepare invitations asking members to attend and encourage them to bring a picnic lunch and a blanket. The invitation should instruct attendees to bring five favorite books (or any number you deem appropriate) that they have read and don't need anymore. The premise is that they will then get to choose the same number of books from the swap that are of interest to them.

You can set up various tables for your swap with signs such as "picture books," "chapter books," "nonfiction," "how-to," and "poetry" or have a general table for all books. Have attendees place their books on the appropriate tables while encouraging everyone to browse.

Highlight the event by inviting authors to talk about the writing process and their books. You can call your local writing club for volunteers. Create a writing station with book-making materials and encourage youngsters to start writing their own stories. Involve parents by positioning them in various places to read aloud to small groups. Create a table with yarn and paper for making bookmarks and encourage young artists to bring their illustrations for display. The possibilities for this are endless. Following the activities, call everyone to the tables to pick out the "new" books they would like to have as their swap. If they don't get a book they had their eye on, encourage them to give the new book owner a bookmark with their name on it for trading or lending in the future. Afterwards, invite all to spread out a blanket, eat their picnic lunch, and enjoy their new books!

Skill Set: Loving Literature
Check out The Reading House book for additional story celebrations!
www.readinghouse.com/book