

Our Readers Write

ABOUT BOOKS AND SUCH

All-Star Reading

Hit a reading home run with these all-star ideas! Invite your students to wear baseball attire—such as uniforms, caps, and shirts—on a specified day. Start your day by singing the well-known song “Take Me Out To The Ball Game!” with your students; then share a story with a baseball theme. (One excellent choice is *The Baseball Star* by Fred G. Arrigg, Jr. [Troll Associates, 1995]. The colorful illustrations and simple text

will inspire any young ballplayer.)

Serve a snack of baseball foods, such as peanuts, popcorn, and soda. Then have students illustrate their favorite books on pennant-shaped cutouts to display around the room.

The Itsy Bitsy Spider



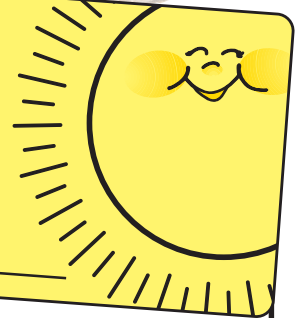
by Rodney Luck

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Summer
Swap
Coupon

Kelvin Phillips

student name



Summer Book Swap

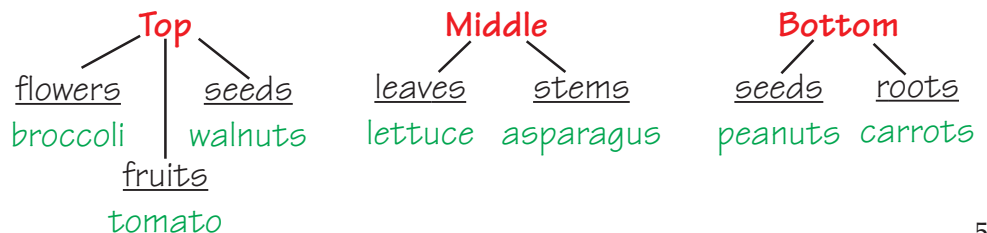
Keep your students reading throughout the summer by trading in their used books for new ones. Encourage each student to bring in appropriate, used paperback novels during the last two weeks of school. Award each student one coupon for every novel that he contributes. On the last day of school, display the donated books. Allow each student to use his coupons to “buy” books for summer reading fun!

Cynthia Joslin, Winston Elementary,
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Tops Or Bottoms?

Germinate your students’ interest in plants with a humorous look at plant parts.

1. Begin by reading aloud *Tops & Bottoms* by Janet Stevens (Harcourt Brace & Company, 1995).
2. Have students note the edible plant parts mentioned in the story.
3. Have students brainstorm a list of other edible plant parts that fall into the categories of *top*, *middle*, and *bottom*.
4. Break the list into smaller categories: *seeds*, *roots*, *stems*, *leaves*, *fruits*, and *flowers*.
5. Bring in plants that contain edible parts that fall into these categories.
6. Give several plants to each student group.
7. Instruct each group to dissect and label the plant parts.
8. Afterward present a fresh platter of plant parts (veggies) and vegetable dip for a tasting of tops and bottoms!



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