

K-5 Class Libraries

Tips to Help Set Up Your Classroom Library

- These books are not for guided reading but are books for students to have access to and enjoy. These can be used for independent reading, buddy reading, teacher read alouds...
- Make the distinction between fiction and nonfiction easy to see.
- Sort the books into easy-to-navigate categories that support student choice.
 - You can sort by genre, topic, theme, content area, or even student-generated categories. Some common themes and topics include songs, holidays, fairy tales, space, math, ocean, famous people, featured authors, humor, etc. Some teachers prefer to alphabetize their collection by title or author name.
- Keep the books in labeled containers
 - After you decide on a storage method, clearly label each bin with its corresponding category.
- Decide on a checkout system so students know where to return books
 - Checkout systems tend to be a matter of personal preference. Involving students by rotating who's in charge of the library and monitoring it gives them a sense of ownership and responsibility.

[30 Tips for Setting up an Inspired, Organized Classroom Library](#)

Thank you,
The ELA Department
The Office of Teaching and Learning