

# Virginia Reads One Book<sup>®</sup>

## Strategies for Using Trivia

Each *Book Packet* contains an extensive list of trivia questions organized by chapter. Trivia is a powerful tool for connecting students with the book, turning even reluctant readers into active, engaged listeners. Answering a trivia question correctly builds pride and confidence in students, making them ready for more challenging trivia and deeper discussions.

Trivia questions can be used in many different locations and may different ways:

**At Home** – Pick out some trivia questions to send home so families can join the fun. Encourage families to start the day with a question about the reading from the night before. You may find that your students are quizzing their family members.

**In the Community** – Get local business owners involved by circulating some trivia questions along with the reading schedule. Everyone's favorite ice cream shop might offer a discount on a cone or the local pizza restaurant might offer a free drink for a correct trivia answer. And, those businesses might become big school supporters after being involved in your reading program.

**The School as a Whole** – Use trivia to build a community throughout your school. Invite the staff of your school – from cafeteria workers to custodial staff – to quiz students throughout the day. Bus drivers could greet students with a trivia question as they get on the bus. Host a Family Quiz Bowl tournament as a culminating event, with a team of students facing off against a team of parents.

**In the Classroom** – There are lots of ways to use trivia in the classroom beyond the morning Question of the Day on your school's daily announcements. Here are a few to get you started, but you are sure to think of lots more.

- **Currency** – Use trivia questions as a form of currency in your classroom. Five questions answered correctly get you and extra 5 minutes of free reading time and 10 answered correctly could get a homework pass. Each correct question could give you one vote toward what the next classroom read aloud is. If your class has a Class Economy program, use trivia questions to earn points in that program.
- **Referee** – We all know that, inevitably, some squabbling is likely to occur within a classroom. Use trivia questions to resolve disputes. Two kids fighting over the last playground ball? Have a Trivia Face-Off to decide who gets it!
- **Trivia Time Transitions** – Every school day involves transitions: lining up to go to lunch, waiting for the music teacher to be ready, filling time until dismissal. These times can be disruptive or they can be Trivia Time. Keep your trivia bank with you and fill up those dead times with trivia.

*Every Family. Every School. Every Night.<sup>®</sup>*

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- **Trivia Jeopardy** – Divide your class into teams and turn trivia around by using it to play Team Jeopardy. Give the answer and have students come up with a question to go with it. You might need to modify the trivia answers a bit to make them specific enough for Jeopardy. Or, you can broaden what are acceptable questions to go with the answers.
- **Build a Character Puzzle** – Add some creativity to the morning Question of the Day by giving each class a poster board cutout of a character or important item from the book. Imagine a huge skunk kit in your school! Have each teacher cut the shape into the number of pieces corresponding with the number of days in your reading event. Then, with each correct daily announcement trivia question, the class adds a puzzle piece to the shape so it will be complete by the end of the reading event. (With the whole class working together to answer the question, they are likely to get each one right.) Teachers could have small groups of students fill in each piece with colorful drawings so the final shape looks like a quilt.
- **Class Quiz Bowl** – After you have read for a week, hold a Class Quiz Bowl. Divide the class into teams and see which team can answer the most trivia questions from that week. Use the full bank for the book to that point so you have plenty of questions. If you want to be extra tricky, mix up the questions, rather than going in order through the book.
- **Trivia Land** – Challenge small groups of students to make a board game out of the trivia questions. They could make something like Candy Land but with trivia questions instead of colors. You could roll a dice to see how many spaces you move forward for a correct answer. Or, you could draw a numbered card, or even assign points to questions based on how tricky they are. See what they come up with! As you proceed through the book, they can add pictures to the game board that reflect the plot.
- **Hidden Trivia Hunt** – A great way to use up those plastic eggs that are so cheap after Easter. Tuck trivia questions inside and hide them around the classroom or schoolyard. After all the eggs have been found, open them and see if you can answer the questions.
- **Trivia Scavenger Hunt** – Kick up your hunt for trivia by making it a scavenger hunt. Start with one trivia question. When it is answered correctly, reveal the clue that will lead to the next question. Answer the next one and get the next clue. Maybe the last clue will lead to the cafeteria freezer for popsicles!

**As your students, families, school, and community engage with the book,  
you will be wrapping literacy around your students, building better readers.**

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