

Ten Cool Literacy Strategies That Work in Any Classroom

Mike Roberts

thebaldenglishteacher.com

@BaldRoberts (Twitter)

thebaldenglishteacher@gmail.com

- 1. Good Weekend / Bad Weekend (Starter)**
 - Begin class on Monday by letting students share the highs and lows of their weekend. You can model this by sharing what your weekend was like, too.
- 2. Attendance Question (Starter)**
 - As you take attendance, have each student answer a random preset question.
- 3. Friday Facts (Starter)**
 - Begin class on Friday by allowing your students to ask you questions about your life outside of teaching. You then follow this up by asking them a question about their life outside of your class. The next week, ask questions of your students, with them asking you questions afterward.
- 4. Haiku Review**
 - Review any reading, lesson, or unit by having students create a haiku (5-7-5) that reviews the main points. You can easily add a speaking element to this by letting students share their haikus.
- 5. Vocab Story**
 - After presenting your vocab words to the class, let them create a story about anything they want using those words within the story.
- 6. Twitter Summary**
 - Review any reading, lesson, or unit by having students create a Twitter summary that reviews the main points using 280 characters or less. And don't forget to let students use emojis with this! You can easily add a speaking element to this by letting students share their "tweets".
- 7. Student of the Week**
 - Allow students to share their lives via a student of the week presentation. Whereas they don't have to learn any information about the subject, they can now focus on how they organize and share their ideas.
- 8. Goal-Setting Letter**
 - At the beginning of each year/term, have your students write a letter where they set goals for themselves. Collect these, and then when the year/term ends, hand the letters back to see how many of the goals were met. Futureme.org is a great tool for this.
- 9. What Else Did You Learn?**
 - At the end of each test, leave a box titled "What else did you learn about this topic that wasn't on the test?" Let students show you the full extent of what they know versus simply responding to what you wanted them to know.
- 10. Word Twist**
 - When studying a book or a topic, write a key phrase or a few important words on the board. Students then have ten minutes to create as many new words as they can using only the letters provided. After five minutes, have students pick their three best words to share with the class. Have each group read their three selected words aloud. If any other group has the same word as one of their three, both groups lose that word. The team with the most words at the end wins. If there is a tie, the team that uses the most letters in their three words wins. The final tie breaker would be the longest word.

Ten Cool Literacy Strategies That Work in Any Classroom

Examples

Attendance Questions

1. What is your favorite cereal?
2. Name your favorite movie.
3. Would you rather be a tree or a rock?
4. SnapChat or TikTok?
5. What's your favorite color?
6. Would you rather be invisible or be able to fly?
7. Your favorite vacation spot is...
8. If you found \$100, what would you buy?
9. What's your favorite tv show?
10. Pie or cake?

Haiku Review – Samples

Taylor Swift

Sings 'bout her exes
She knows how to shake it off
Wonder who is next?

Mulberry Boy

Masked by a big mark
Wandered into the jungle
That was a mistake!

Twitter Summary – Sample Tweet

Lord of the Flies – Chapter 11 Summary

OMG! That was cray cray! I can't believe Roger killed Piggy! And what's up w/ the savages? Don't they want 2 b rescued? #idiots

Word Twist - Sample

Of Mice and Men

1. Mince
2. Mom
3. Foam
4. Ice
5. Can
6. Dice
7. Nice
8. Dance
9. Dam
10. Mad