

IN MY EXPERIENCE, WELL-READ PEOPLE ARE LESS LIKELY TO BE EVIL.

(BOOKCROSSING.COM)

~LEMONY SNICKETT



Making Reading Fit into Tech and Tech into Reading

Bookcrossing.com is a site for readers who want to share their love for books. It is the “Where’s George?” of books. By combining the reading of books with this site, students will become excited about reading and writing book reviews (not reports) for an authentic audience.☺

What is BookCrossing?

It's the World's Library. It's a smart social networking site. It's a celebration of literature and a place where books get new life. BookCrossing is the act of giving a book a unique identity so, as the book is passed from reader to reader, it can be tracked and thus connecting its readers. There are currently **918,041 BookCrossers** and **7,874,607 books** travelling throughout **132 countries**. Our community is changing the world and touching lives one book at a time

What's our mission?

Very simply, we aim to connect people through books.

How do we do it?

Label. Share. Follow. Breath new life into books instead of letting your old favorites collect dust - pass them along to another reader. Our online archival and tracking system allows members to connect with other readers, journal and review literature and trade and follow their books as lives are changed through “reading and releasing”. Users are able to tag and track their individual books by marking them with BCIDs (BookCrossing Identity Numbers). Each BCID is unique to each book – once it’s registered on our site, the book can then be followed and journaled forever. BookCrossing is **free to join and free to play**. So don't be 'shelf'ish with your books - **read and release!**

When and how did it start?

Although there were websites tracking things such as dollar bills and pictures, business partner Ron Hornbaker noted that nothing existed for tracking books. After all, books were more than just tangible objects, rather they possessed elements of emotional attachment and strong opinion; books were not only items collected and revered, but were intrinsically **shared**. This was the nidus that began our journey. With the help of Ron's wife, Kaori, and cofounders Bruce & Heather Pedersen, the site **was launched on April 21, 2001**. The site remains a fun way to track and share books while connecting people at deeper levels using books as the architecture and glue to facilitate the Great Conversation.

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Step 1. Label

Register your book for FREE, and get a unique BookCrossing ID.

This BCID allows you to follow your specific book wherever it goes.

Think of it as a passport enabling your book to travel the world without getting lost!

There are several ways you can **label your book**:

Download free BookCrossing labels and print them from your computer onto label stock.

Order labels from our bookplate collections (such as Bookplate Creator using your own this one from our Artist Series).

Create custom labels with our image and message (even in your own language!).



Step 2. Share

Now it's time to pass it on!

You've labeled your book, and it's ready to travel the world.

There are a few different ways you can **share your book**:



Give it away. Pass your book on to a friend, a stranger, a strange friend, or a friendly stranger! You can find someone in the BookCrossing community who's looking for your book and make their day by sending it to them. These particular methods are referred to as "controlled releases", because you know the destination of your book's next stop.



Release it into the wild. Referred to as the "wild release" (and loved by so many BookCrossers), this type of sharing is a bit like nudging a baby bird out of the nest or sending your kid off to college. Your book doesn't want to spend its life on your shelf gathering dust; it wants to get out there and touch lives! So leave your labeled book on a park bench on a summer day, in a train station, on the table in your favorite coffee shop -- anywhere it's likely to be caught by another delighted reader. Then come back and read about your book's new adventures!

Be creative! BookCrossers find a myriad of creative ways to exchange books and make new connections! They might establish an "Official BookCrossing Zone" (known as an OBCZ); a physical location where books are regularly caught and/or released. They may start a "bookring", "bookray", or "bookbox", all of which are controlled ways of passing books throughout a set group of members. Many create "wishlists" to solicit books they'd like to read. We suggest you join now, release a book, and dive into the wonderful world of BookCrossing!

Step 3. Follow

See where in the world your book goes, and who reads it!

Once you've labeled and shared it, **follow your book's adventures**.

When another reader finds your book, they can enter the BCID on BookCrossing.com and report that it's been caught. Journal entries about your book allow you to see where your book is, who's reading it now, and follow where it goes next. Some books tend to stay in one region while others really move! Your book may touch the life of a reader you never would've met, or it may just circulate among your friends. At the time of this writing, over 850,000 active BookCrossers have collectively registered almost seven million books which are traveling around 130 countries! Imagine the world of opportunities for your book once you've labeled and shared it. Get started today!



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Is there more to BookCrossing?

"So I can follow my books checked into the World's Library. That's cool, but **is there more?**"

You bet! You can...

Join the World's Library

Manage your bookshelf (both on and offline)

Create customized bookplates for all your books

Hunt for books in your neighborhood or around the world using the "Go Hunting" pages

Chat in the forums about books, authors or anything else

Start an Official BookCrossing Zone (OBCZ) in your library, classroom, office or coffee shop

Connect with Members around the world (on and offline)

Travel to BookCrossing Conventions (currently held on 5 continents)

Review Journal Entries to determine reading preferences and find great books

Buy books at a discount

Share books with other BookCrossers

Check out the Mapping Feature to see where your books have been

Participate in a Random Act of BookCrossing Kindness (RABCK)

Mentor a BookCrossing Newbie

Read our Newsletter for the latest and greatest in the book world

Follow us on MySpace, Twitter, Snaptell and Facebook

Send virtual gifts to your BookCrossing friends and family

Enter contests and win cool prizes

Involve yourself in a themed releases

Get published by sending in your article & photo for our newsletter

Books just wanna be FREE! See what I mean at:

<http://bookcrossing.com/mybookshelf/connercreekeast>

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Ideas for using BookCrossing.com in the Classroom

- ❖ Plan cross curricular reading projects with the other teachers in your building and post book reviews in BookCrossing.com.
- ❖ Connect with other teachers on BookCrossing.com who may be interested in trading books with your schools.
 - Some teachers who have indicated interest in doing this with my previous classes:
 - Elateacher: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/mybookshelf/elateacher/>
 - K-i-s-m-e-t: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/mybookshelf/K-i-s-m-e-t/>
 - Sunshinemiss: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/mybookshelf/sunshinemiss/>
- ❖ Trade books with other people across the world who are looking for books you have by using the Wish List tool in BookCrossing.com.
- ❖ Map the locations that you trade books with, get books from, or send books to.
- ❖ Teach about Random Acts of Kindness and help students connect with other bookcrossers in the Random Acts of BookCrossing Kindness section on the BookCrossing.com forums.
- ❖ Use BookCrossing.com to raise your Accelerated Reader class points by finding AR books for the students to read and review.
- ❖ Celebrate March is Reading Month by dedicating reading time for BookCrossing.com book reading and review writing.



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BookCrossing in the Classroom

<http://www.bookcrossing.com/files/BookCrossing-in-the-Classroom.pdf>



BookCrossing in the Classroom

Reading and releasing books is fun *and* educational

Here are some ideas for using BookCrossing in the classroom/home school setting. You are only limited by your imagination! If you have a great idea, send it on to us or post it in our online discussion forum for educators and parents at <http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/12>.

Promote Reading

- Make books on the bookshelf available for extra credit as a way to encourage kids to read outside of their schoolwork.
- Use the bookshelf books as a reward for a service or job well done.
- Start a BookCrossing book club
- Run "themed" reading programs: Black history month, Lewis and Clark celebration, Favorite Author, etc. The possibilities are endless!

Encourage Journaling/Writing skills

- Classrooms or individual students can write journal entries (book reports, anyone?) on books read by themselves or as a class.
- Have students write an article for the school or local newspaper

Study Geography

- Track a book as it travels, and learn about different parts of the country or the world as each new BookCrosser makes a journal entry. Here's a journal that has traveled from Vermont to New Zealand, with some amazing stops in between: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1266669>
- Keep a map and use colored pins to indicate where books have come from and where books have gone. Here's a fun book that started its travels in Virginia, visited California, Washington state, Illinois, Texas and many others before getting lost in the mail (sometimes that happens!): <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/565671>
- Read a book about some place/thing in your area and take a field trip there

Learn about other towns and cities (study History and Geography!)

- Ask anyone sending or receiving a book to send a postcard of their town and/or tell the class something special about their town
- Pick a book enjoyed by all ages, and then send it around as a *bookring* (http://www.texaswren.com/fag_3.html#ring). Every time it gets to another person, it's a geography/history/culture lesson.

Get to know other teachers/students

- Participate in bookrings with other BookCrossing classrooms
- Correspond with another class
- Become BookCrossing pals/pen pals with classrooms or BookCrossers in other parts of your country or around the world
- Set up a BookCrossing exchange within your school district

Participate in *armchair travels* (<http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/23/1153675>)

- Create a Bookring for a journal similar to the Flat Stanley Project (<http://flatstanley.enoreo.on.ca/>) or the Cocoa and Mike journals (<http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1744475> and <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1730865>)
- Choose a specific topic for a journal and create a Bookring: what was school like when the participant was a child, holiday customs, etc. For example, here's a Random Act of Kindness Journal: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1726730>

Promote community service

- Use BookCrossing to collect books for underprivileged schools or ones that have had losses due to natural disasters. Here's just one of many examples where BookCrossers have helped students/libraries in need: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/9/1379289/64>

Develop Project-Planning skills

- Study and release books for Banned Books Week. Here's the 2004 Release Challenge on this topic: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/23/835371>
- Celebrate birthdays of favorite authors (Dr. Seuss, Laura Ingalls Wilder, J.K. Rowling, etc.) by reading/releasing books collected for the occasion. Here's a Release Challenge in honor of Jane Austen's birthday: <http://www.bookcrossing.com/forum/23/1195939>

Develop Mentoring/Tutoring programs

- Establish a "reading buddies" program where older students mentor the younger ones. They can read and journal together.