

### **Book Pass**

Students often make book selections without considering the range of what is available. Book Pass provides a way to expose students quickly to a wide range of books so that they can make more careful choices that go beyond selecting based on the cover or the thickness of the book. Book Pass also supports students in interacting with the book they select because they have a sense of the wider range of books within which that book fits and so can make comparisons across books. Another purpose for Book Pass can be to provide quick exposure to a range of perspectives on a particular historical event or to provide information on a specific context or issue as students engage in novel studies or class read aloud. The essence of Book Pass is to quickly provide students with access to lots of books and to support them in developing strategies for quickly skimming a book.

#### Procedure

1. Put together a set of books around a particular focus, genre, concept or theme (e.g. tall tales, Cinderella variants, friendship, power). Another possibility is new books for an independent reading time so students have a sense of what is available for them to choose for their own self-selected reading. One book per student is needed (either a small group or a class).
2. Each student receives a book and has a set amount of time to look at the book (2-3 minutes).
3. At the signal, everyone passes their book to the right. It is helpful to have students in a circle.
4. The pass continues until all of the books have made it around the class or group.
5. Students then briefly share their observations about the books they browsed and any patterns they noticed across the books. These can be shared orally or noted on a chart.
6. The books are put out for browsing and in-depth reading so that students can select the book(s) they want to read more closely.
7. This engagement can be followed by a literature circle, creating a chart, or some other response that takes students more deeply into the books they selected to read based on the Book Pass.
8. Initially, students can share strategies for skimming a book at the end of a Book Pass so that students who are unsure about how to skim gain ideas on how they might approach the task.

#### Variations

1. Numbered stickers on the books for Book Pass can organize the sets and help students know who to pass the books to next.
2. Poetry Pass involves students quickly reading poetry books to tag favorite poems to copy for their personal poetry notebooks. They need longer to read poems in each book before passing.
3. Instead of individual books, the book pass can involve paired books which are put together based on a theme or topic or pairing fiction/nonfiction, etc.
4. The set of books can be organized around different perspectives on a particular historical event. The purpose of the set can be immersion into a specific time period or event in order to provide contextual information for a novel study. For example, picture books and informational books

about migrant farm worker experiences to provide students with background for *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan as the class read aloud.

5. Chapter Book Pass involves creating text sets connected to a chapter book and used either after or during the time students are reading a novel. For example, for *Dave at Night* (Gail Carson Levine), the baskets or containers could contain sets of books and materials on topics such as homes and homelessness, jazz, drawing, carving, Noah's Ark, orphan trains, Jewish culture, etc. Each day, a small group reads, discusses, and does a response or activity for one basket of books. Purpose is extension of the book rather than immersion.
6. Instead of individual books, students can pass baskets of text sets around a theme, topic, or genre or an author or illustrator set of books, with each basket containing 5-7 books. Each group gets a basket of books and does a quick look through all the books in their basket (5 minutes) and then they pass their basket onto another group and get a new basket.
7. Another variation is to use the Book Pass for the first 10 minutes of school or class where students are gradually coming into the room and waiting for the bell to signal the start of the day or class. Each day, each student or pair of students would interact with 1-2 books and then when the bell rings, pass them to their neighbor for the next day.