

March 2 is  
NEA's Read Across  
America Day

[www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)



## Read Across America Day Activity: Kinder and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Buddy Reading

### Prep Before March 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Each 5<sup>th</sup> grade class is matched with a kindergarten class. Each 5<sup>th</sup> grader is matched with a kinder child in the class. Try to pair boys with boys and girls with girls. You will almost certainly have more 5<sup>th</sup> graders than kinders, so have kinders with special needs or behavioral issues be matched with two 5<sup>th</sup> graders who will work together. Also, you will want to get your hands on as many Dr. Seuss books as possible, and have read a bit about Dr. Seuss's life (Wikipedia is fine).

### Prep with 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Before the Activity:

1. Announce that it is Dr. Seuss's birthday and have a short discussion about memories of Dr. Seuss and favorite Seuss books.
2. Explain the significance of Dr. Seuss to children's literature. Talk about how he broke all the rules in a Dick and Jane world by making up words and animals and presenting wacky worlds and situations to engage kids in reading.
3. Explain that you are going to pair them up with kinders, and that they will read to them and, in essence, be their teachers. Brainstorm on the board how they can keep the kinders' attention and interest.

### Activity:

1. In kinder classroom, put a giant pile of Seuss books on the table. Announce that the kinder in each pair will get to choose the book.
2. As you call out each pair, have them go up and pick their book.
3. They can start reading right away as you continue through the pairs list. Let the kids sit anywhere they want in the classroom, including on the floor. It is their time.

### Post with 5<sup>th</sup> Graders After the Activity:

Have them pair/share and then group discuss what it felt like to be a teacher and anything they learned. Ask if anyone has more interest in teaching now!