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10 Read Across America Ideas

1. Have your mayor, school board, or legislators issue a proclamation. You can use our [sample proclamation](#) to create your own (included in this kit).
2. **Reading Buddies.** Pair students in early elementary grades with older readers from upper grades, middle or high school.
3. Play the pajama game. Invite parents and students to don their pajamas and snuggle up and read in an **overnight read-a-thon**.
4. Tip your hats to hometown heroes. Have students **write to local heroes** and ask them about their favorite books. Showcase these hometown heroes and their choices in your reading celebration.
5. Put on your culture cap. **Create a culture cafe** and put books on the menu. Your reading recipes can combine food and fiction or nonfiction and offer a taste of reading's great adventures.
6. Make your reading event a multilingual, multicultural affair. Looking for readers? Why not try **storytellers from your ethnic minority communities**. Their oral traditions are treasure troves for your students.
7. Team up for reading. **Contact your local sports team** for guest readers and invite high school marching bands to welcome your students.
8. **Involve all NEA members.** For example, bus drivers can set up a reading challenge; cafeteria workers can prepare recipes from your favorite books; and students and higher ed members can get their campus involved in your community. All of them can be guest readers.
9. **Create your own Cat-in-the-Hat hat** using construction paper and glue. Have students write their favorite books on each stripe or get creative! Older students can create Dr. Seuss rhymes or haikus. Younger students can draw a picture or write one word that best sums up what reading means to them.
10. Take pictures and **share your reading experiences** on Facebook and Twitter: www.facebook.com/OakReads and @Oaklandreads