



## RESOURCES FOR FREE OR LOW COST BOOKS

### *Free or Low-Cost Books:*

#### **First Book**

First Book is a non-profit that provides new books and educational resources to schools and programs serving children in need, from birth to age 18. The benefits of registering with First Book include free books from the First Book National Book Bank, low-cost books and resources from the [First Book Marketplace](#) at 50-90 percent off retail price, and potential funding from First Book's corporate partners and generous donors.

#### **WNDB in the Classroom**

To help children find stories and authors that they can relate to, We Need Diverse Books' program [WNDB in the Classroom](#) provides free diverse books to schools serving low-income students around the country. Contact [classroom@diversebooks.org](mailto:classroom@diversebooks.org) for more information.

#### **Better World Books**

[Better World Books](#) receives books from libraries, booksellers, book drives, and through community Drop Boxes, and then sells what they can to raise money for literacy, donate books in good condition, and recycle the balance. Make a request to become a donation recipient.

#### **Literacy Empowerment Foundation**

[Literacy Empowerment Foundation's Reading Resource Project](#) offers free books to recipients who can pay shipping, handling, and administrative costs. Reading Resource Project books come in sets of 100 books per set and any literacy-based effort qualifies for these books. You do not have to be a school or teacher to qualify.

## **Free Books to Read Online:**

### **Epic!**

This [digital reading platform](#) for kids 12 and under with more than 35,000 thousand high-quality and award-winning fiction and nonfiction books, audio books, and videos from 250 publishers. Epic! is completely free for teachers and librarians.

### **International Children's Digital Library (ICDL)**

The non-profit [International Children's Digital Library](#) identifies exemplary books that help children to understand the world around them and the global society in which they live and makes them freely available on the Internet.

### **Free Audiobooks and Video Read Alouds**

#### **KidLit TV**

Children can experience authors and illustrators reading their works through [KidLit TV's Read Out Loud](#) program, which includes an array of titles featuring diverse people and cultures. Find more read-alouds, plus podcasts, activity ideas, book trailers, and more at their [award-winning website](#).

#### **Story Time from Space**

[Story Time from Space](#) is a project of the Global Space Education Foundation, which sends children's books to the International Space Station. While in space, astronauts record themselves on video reading these books to the children of Earth and share them on the Story Time from Space website.

#### **Storyline Online**

At [Storyline Online](#), SAG-AFTRA Foundation records well-known actors reading children's books and makes graphically dynamic videos so that children around the world can enjoy favorite stories, such as *The Kissing Hand*, *A Bad Case of Stripes*, and *Stellaluna*.

#### **Julie's Library**

Join Julie Andrews for story time at [Julie's Library](#)! Julie and her daughter, children's author and educator Emma Walton Hamilton, invite you into their library to read their favorite children's books. Every story comes to life with sound, music and activities. Authors, kids and other special guests chime in, too.

#### **Lee & Low Storytime**

Publisher Lee & Low Books' [Lee & Low Storytime](#) has a growing library of author read alouds which include several titles read in Spanish.

#### **PBS KIDS Read-Alongs**

[PBS KIDS Read-Alongs](#) offers families a place to come together and read along with favorite titles read by celebrities, including Michelle Obama, and PBS KIDS authors.

#### **PBS Books Storytime**

[PBS Books Storytime](#) is a resource developed by the PBS Books channel to offer author read-aloud stories and book features for educators, libraries and families. The segments feature children's book authors and others in "Read-Aloud" segments and/or video features on new and best-loved children's books.

### **Goodnight with Dolly**

[Goodnight With Dolly](#) features Dolly Parton reading aloud titles from the Imagination Library. Snuggled in bed with her Imagination Library book, Dolly shares stories that are just right for this moment in time.

### **Read, Wonder, and Learn!**

Author Kate Messner's [Read, Wonder, and Learn!](#) compiles a growing collection of resources from favorite authors and illustrators that include everything from first-chapter and picture book video read-alouds to drawing and writing mini-lessons.

### **Lit2Go**

[Lit2Go](#) is a free online collection of stories and poems in Mp3 format.

### **Book Distribution Programs**

#### **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

The Dolly Parton [Imagination Library](#) is a unique book gifting program that mails a brand new, age-appropriate book to enrolled children every month from birth until five years of age, creating a home library of up to 60 books and instilling a love of books and reading from an early age. The cost of the books and the mailing is typically financed by community businesses, school districts, civic organizations, individuals, or local government.

#### **Reach Out and Read**

[Reach Out and Read](#) is a nonprofit organization that trains and supports medical providers who give books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud at well-child exams.

#### **Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)**

[Reading Is Fundamental](#)'s flagship Books for Ownership program ensures that kids living in poverty have access to new, free books of their choice and participate in reading motivation activities.

### ***Additional Resources:***

[In Search of Free Books](#), Reading Rockets' roundup of sources for free and low-cost books.

[Where to Find Free Audiobooks and Digital Text-to-Speech Books for Your Child](#) from Understood.

Find this information and much more at [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)

<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america/support-your-readers/free-materials>