



# TEACHER ENEWSLETTER

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## Has your class visited Phoenix Public Library?

Did you know Phoenix Public Library encourages classrooms to come and visit us? Get an exclusive “behind-the-scenes” tour for your students! Learn about how the library works, visit a storytime and **get library cards**.

Our goal is your goal – to get kids to make reading a habit!

Contact [jacqueline.higgins@phoenix.gov](mailto:jacqueline.higgins@phoenix.gov) to arrange a library field trip.



## Literacy Tip: Reading Time

It's one thing to help students learn how to read, but finding meaningful and engaging ways to instill a love of reading is not always easy. The most important thing is to make sure that reading time in class is fun and rewarding. Not all lessons are inherently fun, but making sure to pair a more rote task with a 'reading reward' task is great way to ensure kids end their reading lesson with a positive and intrinsically rewarding feeling.

Some ideas:

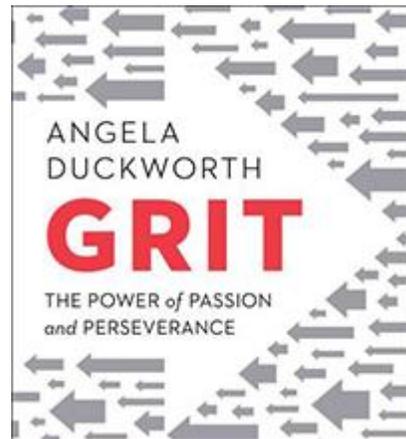
- After a timed reading session, take a moment to **read aloud** from a recreational or fun book.
- When working on reading or vocabulary skills, **make it a game** – [send kids on a word hunt](#) throughout the classroom to find new words or words that fit a pattern.
- **Start a dialogue.** Talk about favorite characters, stories, etc. before starting a new lesson. Talk about who and what your favorite characters and stories are.
- **Reader's theater.** Create fun incentives in exchange for hard or less exciting reading tasks. Allow the kids to stage a "[reader's theater](#)" with their favorite book and get them inside the story.

Don't take my word for it... [read to what Levar Burton has to say!](#)

## Featured Print Resource

### Book Review: *Grit* by Angela Duckworth

[Grit](#) is a pretty strong buzzword these days. But what is it? According to Angela Duckworth, a psychologist and former teacher, it's a combination of passion and perseverance. In her book, *Grit*, Duckworth lays out her personal experience growing up with a hard-to-impress father and her own quest to help her children find passion and stick with it, along with her thorough research into the psychology of grit and what it takes to be good (or even great) at something. (Spoiler alert – it's not all about IQ.)



One of the early, and major, takeaways from Duckworth's book is that effort counts twice as much as talent. Jumping from that premise, she goes on to explain how to be motivated enough to actually put in the effort it takes to become great – which is a marriage of practice, passion, and sticking it out through the tough spots.

What makes this book such a great read for educators is that it gives insight into how you can incorporate a “culture of grit” into your classroom using simple tasks and tools. From how to tailor praise to creating a gritty culture. Duckworth talks about the importance that interest plays in a person's desire to persevere. *Grit* is absolutely worth a read. [Put a copy on hold](#) at Phoenix Public Library today!

