



Information sheet 7
**THINKING OUTSIDE
THE READING BOX**

READ OUTSIDE THE BOOK

But how?

Reading skills play a fundamental role in students' educational success, but a poor motivation to read can sometimes be an obstacle to the development of reading skills.

To overcome this obstacle and get away from the traditional reading environment, here are 10 examples of projects that will get students to “read different.”

Read for INFORMATION

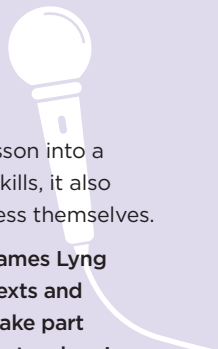
To adapt and convey information in another medium, you must first absorb that information; this is one of the many benefits of projects that make use of reading to transform a text or piece of knowledge into another form.

The *La vie de quartier en BD racontée par les jeunes* project involves young people in creating a comic book based on the history of their neighbourhood. The activity includes workshops on the different kinds of comics and on creative writing, as well as visits to the library.

Use STREET ART

Producing a slam or transforming a lesson into a poem not only helps to build literacy skills, it also gives students an opportunity to express themselves.

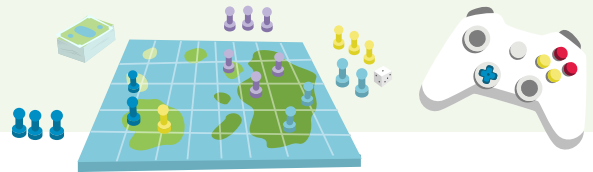
In the W.O.R.D. program, students at James Lyng High School are encouraged to write texts and compose hip-hop music. All students take part because the program is now part of the teachers' pedagogical tools.



Learning to read THROUGH PLAY

When we play, it's not reading, right? And yet all kinds of games provide opportunities to read—cards used in board games, quests given to protagonists in video games, and so on.

Transforming a book chapter into a video game (through the Bloxels platform, for example) not only creates an entertaining game, it associates reading with young people's interests.



Focus on YOUNG PEOPLE'S INTERESTS

Organizing activities on subjects relevant to young people's interests, combined with an approach that makes use of visual elements, can help overcome a certain reluctance to read.

The *DÉLIRE* project uses albums from the *Coup de poing* collection, which deals with ethical and social issues that young people are interested in (e.g., difference, discrimination, racism), to facilitate discussions with students aged 16 to 20. The students take part in selecting the books covered.

Write and record A STORY

Obviously, making an audiobook relies heavily on reading and writing, from creating the story itself to the final editing of the audiobook. This is true both in terms of the creative process and of mastering the tools and software used during the project.

For the *Des livres audio en cadeau* project, high school students, guided by an author of youth literature, develop an audio book for a grade 2 class. The process includes studying children's books, creating characters, developing a story, and helping to produce the audio book.



Involve PLASTIC ARTS

Creating a work of art inspired by song lyrics, a story, a book chapter, or an article relevant to young people not only makes use of reading, it also gives students an opportunity to better assimilate the original work.

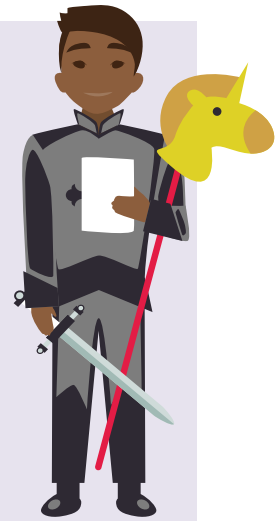
With the *Tremblay* project, students create a virtual installation inspired by the socio-cultural context of a play by Michel Tremblay. With a 360-degree camera and VR headsets, students can visit the museum to picture themselves in the locations evoked in one of Tremblay's plays.

Stage A PLAY

It is well known that drama can help develop literary skills, especially when it comes to reading, reading comprehension, and story comprehension.

Staging a play, which involves reading a story in dialogue form as well as in multimodal scenic form, is an excellent way to approach reading differently.

There are plays for all ages and tastes, but to make the project even more creative, have the students collectively write their own play and then stage it.



USE SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media are an important part of young people's everyday lives, and their contribution to the development of literacy skills is well known. A project based on social media will combine young people's interests with effective reading and writing strategies.

For one high school plastic arts project, the teacher provided guidelines for the students to publish daily social media content on topics suggested by the students. This allowed them to express themselves by sharing images and thoughts while getting to know their classmates better.



Read to EXPERIMENT

Taking part in a botany or robotics activity will help anchor learning in many subjects while promoting the development of literacy skills. From the project's documentation to carrying it out, many steps rely on reading and writing.

For the *Educ@tic 3.0* project, students aged 16 to 20 use their reading skills to build and program robots to navigate an obstacle course during the final competition.

Create a SHORT FILM

Developing the storyboard, shooting the film, and editing the footage are all opportunities to involve reading and writing, especially when it comes to adapting literary works.

In another part of the *Educ@tic 3.0* project, students are guided through a literacy-based creative process, from reading an existing work or creating an original collective work to producing a short film.



**For more information about reading and persevering at school,
SEE OUR KEY TOPIC WEBPAGE:**

(French only)

www.reseautreussitemontreal.ca/dossiers-thematiques/lecture-et-perseverance-scolaire/