

Ice Breakers to Get School Faculty & Staff Talking About Reading!

Break into pairs or small groups of 3–4 people. Take turns answering the questions provided, choosing any that spark interest. Engage in meaningful discussions, and ask follow-up questions to explore each other's experiences more deeply. Feel free to spend extra time on topics that generate lively conversation. This activity aims to uncover valuable insights and perspectives on teaching reading.

Favorite Books and Genres

1. What were your favorite books when you were in elementary school?
2. In elementary school, what was your favorite book genre?

Reading Experiences and Preferences

3. How much did you like reading (either by yourself or with a caregiver) when you were a child?
4. What memories do you have of reading when you were a young child?
5. What was the first book you read by yourself?
6. Who was your favorite person to read with when you were a child?
7. What role did the public library play in your reading development as a child? Did you have any memorable experiences there?
8. Did you participate in any reading-related extracurricular activities or programs?
9. What was the role of storytelling or read-aloud sessions in your early reading experiences?
10. Did you have a favorite place or setting where you enjoyed reading?

Learning to Read

11. Did you find learning to read hard or easy?
12. How were you taught to read?
13. What type of reading practice did you do in school when you were a child?
14. When you were growing up, did your school have independent reading time?
15. How were you taught how to spell?
16. Were there any specific reading strategies or tools that helped you as a child?

Self-Perception and Influences

17. As a child, would you have described yourself as a strong reader or as a reader who had more challenges?
18. Was there anybody in your life who empowered you to believe in yourself as a strong reader? Who?
19. How did your family support your reading development?
20. How did your teachers or caregivers encourage a love of reading?
21. How did you feel about reading out loud in class?
22. How did your reading experiences as a child influence your approach to teaching reading now?