International Literacy Day Activities:
In the Classroom

1) Found Poetry

Using primary source documents, selected pages/chapter from book, etc., students select *x* number of words by circling them. Then, using only these words (or you can give the option of using articles as well [the/a/etc]), the students can string them together in any order they wish to create a unique piece of poetry.

2) "Gallery Walk"

Teachers hang various images or primary source documents around the classroom (or building). Students are asked to critique each piece and journal their reflections, followed by classroom discussion.

3) Big Paper/Graffiti

Teachers hang banner paper around their classroom or school. Students are able to use these spaces for reflective opportunities around reading. This creates a written dialogue amongst peers.

4) Accordion Books

Create these folded structures to share student autobiographies, stories, and more!

5) Global Book Clubs

Connect with a classroom abroad and engage in a book club. Hearing the impressions of the text from other students from potentially differing cultures can provide a number of wonderful learning opportunities!

6) Scavenger Hunt

Create a scavenger hunt where the answers are found in students' texts. This can lead them around the school – keeps them active, engaged, and critically thinking!

7) WebQuests

Create an online module for students to work through. This gives them the opportunity to explore primary sources, audio, visuals, and more while completing assigned tasks.

8) Wikis

Create a classroom or school wide workspace for teachers and students to communicate and share writing projects.

9) Fine Arts Performance

Students can create music, artwork, and more around assigned readings.

10) Multiage Tutoring Opportunities

Create tutoring labs and tutoring training classes for your school. Student tutors can be introduced on International Literacy Day, or you can begin recruiting these tutors to kick-off your program!

11) Read to a Dog!

Students can throw caution to the wind, and practice their reading skills next to a nonjudgmental four-legged companion. Many communities offer this program, although any mellow, well-behaved dog will work perfectly!

12) Open Mic Night

Invite the school community to an "Open Mic Night" – serve hot chocolate, coffees, pastries, etc., and facilitate an opportunity for students and adults to share things they have written. Of course, lots of finger snapping after each reading is a must!

13) Comic Strips

Comic books are a wonderful way for students to engage in reading. How about they make their own? Provide students with an empty template, and have them create a comic strip based on a classroom reading or other prompt.

14) Cake Decorating Contest

Divide students into teams, and provide them with large sheet cakes and various supplies. Students can also be assigned to bring in decorating supplies as well. Each team is to decorate their cake using a classroom reading as inspiration. A fun – and TASTY – way to celebrate International Literacy Day!

15) Character Dress-up

Everyone enjoys dressing up, and we would love to see you dressed as your favorite character from your favorite book. Take pictures and send them to info@worldliteracyfoundation.org and your pictures might make an appearance on our website!

16) Morning Assembly

A school assembly or classroom discussion regarding International Literacy Day is a great opportunity to showcase and discuss the best costumes. This also gives students the opportunity to explain why they chose their costume. A list of books based on student's favorites can then be used as recommendations for future reading.

17) Read-a-thon

A read-a-thon is a fun and simple competition where students read as many books as they can within a week. Children must keep track of their reading progress and ask their friends and family to sponsor their efforts! The winner of the read-a-thon will appear on our website and will enter a chance to win a tablet for their school!!

18) Create

Teachers are encouraged to hold a competition based on a theme or idea. We ask that you choose the best story(ies) from your classroom and send them to us. The most captivating stories might be published and sent to students in developing countries!

19) Dreamworks

Children are always dreaming. Whether they are dreams for the future or a vision from the night before teachers can encourage students to write them down. Teachers can then submit their best 'dreamworks' or use it for an activity with the class.

20) Role Models

Send an invitation to a respected member/s of the community and invite them to talk to students about the importance of literacy.