

7 Strategies for Fostering Students' Intrinsic Motivation to Read

Activating students' love of reading amid the distractions of our media-saturated world and the academic pressures of the classroom can feel like an insurmountable challenge. But psychology and gamification research offer powerful lessons for helping students embrace reading on their own terms. Our team of researchers and educators devised these actionable strategies for fostering an intrinsic motivation to read among all your students within Beanstack's reading challenge platform.



Build confidence with attainable goals.

Set small benchmarks for earning badges and completing challenges and then build on them to help students grow in confidence.



Provide diverse reading options.

Increase reading's relevance and value to students by offering a wide range of topics and types of books for them to browse freely.



Embrace student independence.

Encourage reading-resistant kids to make minor classroom decisions, like picking a book for class storytime, and work up to student-led reading activities.



Use small rewards at frequent intervals.

Small rewards, like stickers and buttons, for reaching regular reading goals helps put students on the path of forming lasting reading habits.



Give books as prizes to make reading its own reward.

Rewarding reading with the tools to continue reading creates a positive feedback loop that helps students see the value in reading and stick to their good habits.



Broadcast public praise and recognition.

Weekly all-school announcements or regular newsletter blurbs that call-out top readers or classroom leaderboards reinforce students' internal motivation to read.



Make prizes a surprise.

Unanticipated rewards or mystery prizes give students an unexpected competence boost and positive associations with reading.

