



ILA CHAPTER AFFILIATE

August 2018 - Literacy Strategy Spotlight

Interest Inventories

The first day of school is my favorite day of the year. The markers are new, the reader's and writer's notebooks are empty and ready to be filled, and the prospect of a new year is inspiring. The beginning of the school year provides the first opportunity to become acquainted with our students and discover their interests, so we can begin to help them make their own reading and writing choices.

Interest inventories are an important part of developing a community of classroom readers and writers. They provide an opportunity to gauge student interest so teachers can start to make book suggestions and connect with their students. In turn, the students also begin to engage each other, mutually suggesting book titles, authors and genres: constructing their own community of readers and writers.

Interest inventories are used with students of all ages. There is a plethora of interest inventories available on the internet, but they are also easy to create; simply ask students what interests them and document their responses. Below are some sample questions you can use on an interest inventory. We've also attached one that can be created by using a foldable. The questions can be adapted to meet the needs of any classroom.

- What are some of the favorite things you've read?
- What are some of the things you like to do when not in school?

We would love to share with the TALE membership your interest inventories. If you are interested, please email Matt Panozzo, Community Involvement Director, at talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com to submit your inventory for possible publication on the TALE website or social media.

Enjoy the first day of school and getting to know all your students! Have a great 2018-2019 school year.

Roberta Raymond has been teaching for over 20 years and can be currently found at the University of Houston-Clear Lake working with pre-service teachers and graduate students. For more information and ideas on interest inventories, contact Dr. Roberta Raymond at raymond@uhcl.edu.

If you would like to share a literacy strategy or highlight something your school is doing, please email Matthew Panozzo, the Community Involvement Committee Director, at talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com

Texas Association for Literacy Education
www.texasreaders.org / talemembership@gmail.com

If your school is interested in applying for the International Literacy Association's Exemplary Reading Program Award, please visit their online [application](#) for more information.