

# WORD PLAY

THE ISJL'S LITERACY  
NEWSLETTER



**SPECIAL  
EDITION**



Thank you to everyone who participated in and helped out with the 4th Annual Literacy Achievement Bonanza! As we settle into the routines and "new normal" of self-quarantine, many families are looking for new ways to entertain and educate their students at home. We've rounded up some resources that we hope you will find helpful. If there is any way we can support you right now, please do not hesitate to reach out.

*Rachel Glazer*

*Community Engagement Program Manager*

## Online Literacy Resources

There are countless resources popping up to help families navigate distance learning. If you do not have access to WiFi at home, the Mississippi Library Commission created [this map of parking lot WiFi access points](#) across the state.

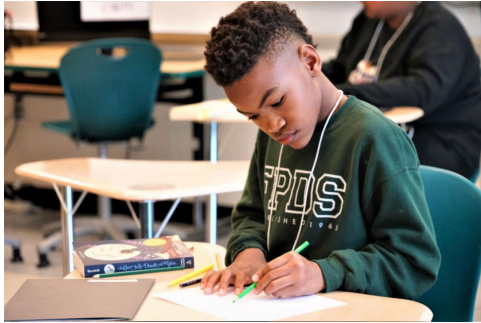
- **Bring a celebrity guest to story time!** [Storyline Online](#) and the Instagram account [@SaveWithStories](#) feature actors, authors, and other famous faces reading a variety of kids' books. You can find a list of authors doing similar work [here](#).
- **Knock out your lesson planning for the month.** [Scholastic Learn at Home](#) provides 20 days' worth of active learning journeys designed to reinforce and sustain educational opportunities for those students who are unable to attend school.
- **Get some Relief Packs!** [Have Fun Teaching](#) has free downloadable packets from Pre-K through 4th grade, including at-home teaching resources with worksheets, activities, songs, and videos for English, Math, Phonics, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and Writing.
- **Get some guidance on Remote Learning.** [ReadWorks](#) has a great one-pager and presentation, as well as oodles of online reading comprehension practice activities. [The New Teacher Project](#) also has a great article with strategies and resources.
- **Rack up those free subscriptions.** [Here's a list](#) of some of the many educational websites waiving their usual member fees.
- **Learn American Sign Language (ASL) through stories.** The Center on Literacy and Deafness has created a [variety of videos](#) to help young children gain a foundation in ASL.
- **Access learning resources across content areas.** The Parents' Campaign has an [extensive catalog of activities](#) ranging from reading, math, and science to the arts, special education, and fun breaks.



## Living Room Field Trip Resources

- **Visit a museum, aquarium, opera, or symphony.** [Many art institutions](#) are offering free virtual tours, performances, and interactive exhibits right now.
- **Learn about Mississippi history.** The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has an extensive [encyclopedia](#) and [lesson plans](#) for students K-3. For grades 4 and up, check out [Mississippi History Now](#) or view their [distance learning videos](#).
- **Take a hike!** Google is now offering [360-degree virtual tours of national parks](#).
- **Escape from Hogwarts!** If your family enjoys escape rooms and Harry Potter, this is [the perfect puzzling activity](#) for you!

## Mental Health Resources



- **Help your child process through this event.** The current health crisis is a lot to handle for anyone, and kids often need a little help discussing how they're feeling. The Center for Disease Control created a [coloring activity book](#) specifically to help children cope with disaster.
  - **Explore mindfulness together.** [Mindful Schools](#) is offering free mindfulness classes for kids online. Tune in for mindful activities, mindful movement, and read-alouds.
- **Let them play!** There is [an argument to be made](#) for giving kids unstructured creative play time at home.

More resources on the ISJL's Literacy Community Facebook Group

For more information contact us at 601.362.6357 or [engagement@isjl.org](mailto:engagement@isjl.org).  
LAB and Our Reading Family are programs of the ISJL.

**THIS IS ISJL:** [www.isjl.org](http://www.isjl.org)

**Call Us:** [601-362-6357](tel:601-362-6357)

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