

The Global Read Aloud FAQ

One Book to Connect the World

While you can use any tool for the Global Read Aloud, here are a few crowd favorites and what they can do for you.

Skype:

Skype is used to facilitate video conference calls between classrooms. All you need to use it is a webcam and a free account. You can also have group calls between classes or others if you would like. People use this for weekly book discussion, performances of projects, or Mystery Skype games to establish a connection. To see more information and to sign up for Skype, go here: www.skype.com

Kidblog:

Kidblog or any other blogging platform is used to have students write back and forth with each other. It is a great way to have students post their thoughts and then have asynchronous communication. It has been used a lot to have students work on their writing skills, as well as to offer up predictions and opinions. To get more information about Kidblog, go here: <http://kidblog.org/home/> Be aware though that Kidblog no longer offers a free version, other than a 30 day free trial.

Edmodo:

Edmodo is like a private Facebook for students, meaning you can set up your class and they can use the wall to interact with each other. You can also create groups for several classes to be in where they can speak and share ideas. Unlike Facebook there is no private messaging so you can see all conversation unfolding. Edmodo can also work as has many other features geared toward educators as well to truly create an expansive online classroom experience. For more information, go here: www.edmodo.com

Twitter:

Twitter is the home of the Twitter slow-chat for the books, as well as the hub for a lot of sharing out. The official hashtag for the Global Read Aloud is #GRA16, however, each book also has its own hashtag:

Lauren Castillo - #GRALauren

The BFG - #GRABFG

Pax - #GRAPax

Orbiting Jupiter - #GRAOJ

All American Boys - #GRAAAB

Some of the authors of the books can also be connected with through Twitter and will sometimes even tweet back!

Lauren Castillo is @StudioCastillo

Sara Pennypacker @SaraPennypacker

Brendan Kiely @KielyBrendan

Jason Reynolds @JasonReynolds83

What is a slowchat? It is when a class posts questions for other students to answer and they post them throughout a week, you can therefore tweet them back at any time during the week rather than during a set time.

The Global Read Aloud FAQ

One Book to Connect the World

Padlet:

Padlet is an online bulletin board. Students can pin their thoughts on it answering a central question or add any other things they might like. It is a great way to reach out to many other classrooms to get their thoughts. For more information, go here: <https://padlet.com/>

WriteAbout:

WriteAbout is an online collaborative writing space where students will have access to an authentic audience for their writing. I am currently working on creating a Global Read Aloud area for students to share their writing in and will release more information soon. Students can receive feedback from teachers and peers and elicit crowd responses to their writing. With a variety of privacy settings, teachers can decide how large an audience they would like for their students. For more information, go here: <http://www.writeabout.com/>