

## Details

*10 Classroom Book Study Ideas for Any Subject - 385*

*In this episode, I share ten classroom book study ideas that use AI to support reading experiences from start to finish. You'll also hear how AI-powered tools can help you build background knowledge, introduce vocabulary, spark discussion, create paired passages, and gather student feedback in any subject. If you want to use AI for book studies in practical and engaging ways, this episode has you covered!*

## Link to live show notes:

<https://classtechtips.com/2026/08/25/classroom-book-study-ideas-385/>

*\*Classroom Book Study Ideas*

## Introduction

Hello there, and welcome to today's episode of the Easy EdTech podcast. My name is Monica Burns, and I am so glad you're here to join me today. If you want to make the most of education technology, AKA EdTech, you are in the right place. My goal has always been to help make EdTech easier and give you ideas to try yourself, share with a colleague, or bookmark for later in the school year.

Every Tuesday on the Easy EdTech podcast, you'll hear stories from my time in the classroom, my work with schools and districts, and my travels to different EdTech events. Get ready for solo episodes where I share some quick tips, stories, and interviews full of practical ideas and stories from new guests each month. If we mention something you'd like to check out, make sure to click the link. You'll find it in the episode description or the summary area where you're listening to this podcast, or you can find every episode and all of the resources we mention by going to [EasyEdTechPodcast.com](https://EasyEdTechPodcast.com) or by going to [classtechtips.com](https://classtechtips.com) and just clicking on the Easy EdTech Podcast button at the top of the page.

## Intro Sponsor Message

This episode is sponsored by... me! If your school or district is planning professional learning for this school year, I would love to join you. I lead keynotes, workshops, and virtual sessions for educators on everything from artificial intelligence to EdTech strategies that stick. Whether you're bringing me in for a full day or a one-hour virtual session, we'll make it practical and packed with ideas teachers can use right away. Head to **[ClassTechTips.com](https://ClassTechTips.com)** and click the "Work With Monica" button at the top of the page to learn more or send an email to **[hello@classtechtips.com](mailto:hello@classtechtips.com)**

## Today's Intro

This week's episode is titled: "10 Classroom Book Study Ideas for Any Subject - 385"

This summer I had the chance to lead a session for a fantastic group of educators who all had one thing in common: they love a good book study. We started off sharing some of our favorite books to use with students. Then we jumped right into ways to get some help from AI-powered tools to design a book study for your students.

Now, using AI for book studies doesn't mean handing the reading experience over to a chatbot. It means using a few tools intentionally to accomplish goals like building context, sparking conversation, and designing the kind of reading experiences that stick with students. As a classroom teacher, with only so many hours in the day, I had plenty of things I wished I could do but simply didn't have the time for. When I think of the power of artificial intelligence in the hands of an educator, it's really about taking care of items on your wish list in addition to tackling items on your to-do list.

This session was all about scaling your impact with the help of AI. And it connects to three of the twelve essentials in my book [EdTech Essentials](#): Generate, Assess, and Create.

In today's episode, I'll walk you through ten of my favorite ways to bring AI into your next book study, along with a spotlight tool and a sample prompt or instruction to try with each one. Let's jump in!

## Episode Transcript

Whether you are brand new to AI or you have been experimenting for a while, these strategies are designed to be easy entry points. Pick one to try with your next read, then add more as you go. You can use [a favorite chatbot](#) like Gemini, ChatGPT, or Copilot, along with a handful of tools I will spotlight below.

### 1. Build Instant Background Knowledge

A book study can begin before you even open the first page of a book. You can ask an AI-powered tool to generate a one-page, grade-level primer on a book's setting, era, or central topic. This overview can help students start a book study with some context already in place. For this tip, [you can try Gemini](#), which can put together a kid-friendly overview you can tweak and refine before sharing with students.

**Try this prompt:** *"Write a one-page background primer for 5th graders on the Dust Bowl era, including 3 key facts and 2 questions to think about before reading."*

### 2. Introduce Vocabulary with a Game

You can introduce new vocabulary to students through a game. Try using Padlet Arcade, an AI-powered tool to create a quick game that introduces a handful of words students will meet in the book. [Padlet Arcade](#) makes it easy to set up a playful review activity that gets students interacting with new words before they read.

**Try this prompt:** *“Create a matching game with 8 vocabulary words and student-friendly definitions for a middle school novel about survival in the wilderness.”* Alongside your prompt you can paste a vocabulary list or upload a PDF of vocabulary words if you like.

### 3. Create an Author Snapshot

An author snapshot can take a variety of forms. With [NotebookLM](#) you can upload a handful of resources about an author’s life and use the Studio panel to make a few different types of AI-generated content. You might create an infographic, a short explainer video, or an audio overview with the help of AI.

**Try this feature:** *Use the infographic tool, and in the “customize” box explain that you want a timeline that follows important events in the author’s life.*

### 4. Hook Your Readers with Multimedia

You can use AI-generated audio and video to build excitement and get students curious about a new book. You might create a song with ElevenLabs or a short video with Canva’s AI tools.

**Try this strategy:** *Use the “Video Clip” option in Canva AI and describe the opening scene of a book you are about to introduce to students. Create the video and share with your class.*

### 5. Make Cross-Text Connections

Help your readers connect what they’ve read in a book study to other texts. You can create a custom Gem in Gemini that suggests similar books, poems, or articles to pair with your current read. With a reusable Gem, you can generate text-to-text connections for any book your class tackles this year.

**Try this tip:** *When creating your Gem, give examples of the types of texts you like to share with students to help it give you stronger recommendations.*

### 6. Generate Leveled Paired Passages

Pairing a novel with a nonfiction passage can deepen a student’s interaction with the story. Finding the perfect text at a “just right” reading level can be a challenge. Diffit lets you create leveled, paired passages on topics connected to a book’s theme, so every student gets a text they can access.

**Try this tip:** *Head over to the custom lessons I created with Diffit to see what this tool can do.*

## 7. Find Real-World Tie-Ins

Help students see how a reading experience connects to today. Use an AI chatbot to identify current events or careers linked to a book's themes. A chatbot like Duck AI can help you find timely connections that make a story feel relevant right now.

**Try this prompt:** *"Find 3 real-world careers or current events connected to a book about environmental activism, with a one-sentence explanation of each."*

## 8. Spark Better Discussion Prompts

The best book discussions start with the right questions. Ask AI for open-ended, debate-worthy prompts with no single right answer. This can push students to have a deeper dialogue about what they're reading. If this is something you do with students frequently, you could even build a Gem for this repeatable task.

**Try this prompt:** *"Give me 5 open-ended discussion questions for chapters 1–3 of [add book title] that have no single right answer and encourage students to defend their thinking."*

## 9. Brainstorm Project Ideas and Exemplars

When it is time to wrap up a book study, AI can help you map out the final project. Use ChatGPT to brainstorm project ideas for your class. Depending on the project you have in mind, a chatbot may even be able to create exemplars so students can picture their final product before they begin.

**Try this prompt:** *"Suggest 4 project options to conclude a novel study about immigration, and describe what a strong example of each would include."*

## 10. Gather Student Feedback

Once your group is finished with a book, ask students to share what they thought. Create a quick survey or form to gather feedback on the book and the experience. The [Jotform Quiz Maker](#) makes it easy to build a student-friendly form and see the results at a glance.

**Try this prompt:** *"Create 5 short survey questions to ask middle schoolers what they thought of [add the title of your class novel] and what they want to read next."*

## Getting Started with AI for Book Studies

It was a lot of fun leading a webinar about this topic for educators earlier this summer. The ideas we explored today are starting points. When using a chatbot or AI-powered tool, the more specific you are about your grade level, your students, and the book you are reading, the more useful the results will be.

Want more ideas like these delivered to your inbox? Every Monday I send out a free newsletter packed with EdTech tips and ready-to-use resources for educators. [Sign up](#) at [classtechtips.com/newsletter](https://classtechtips.com/newsletter) so you do not miss a thing, and check out my [AI resources page](#) for even more strategies to explore - click the Artificial Intelligence Resources button at the top of my page or click the link in today's shownotes.

And if you would like to bring a conversation like this to your school or district, I'd love to join you. You can learn more about my workshops and webinars at [classtechtips.com/events-and-workshops](https://classtechtips.com/events-and-workshops). Whether it is in person or virtual, I love working alongside educators to share tips and strategies they can use right away!

### So let's make this EdTech easy with some key points from the episode...

Use AI to build background knowledge before students begin a book.  
Create vocabulary games, author snapshots, and multimedia hooks to spark interest.  
Generate paired passages, discussion prompts, and project ideas to deepen learning.  
Collect student feedback to improve future book studies.

Remember, you can find the shownotes and the full list of resources from this episode on [EasyEdTechPodcast.com](https://EasyEdTechPodcast.com) and finding today's episode #385!

### Outro Sponsor Message

This episode is sponsored by... me! If your school or district is planning professional learning for this school year, I would love to join you. I lead keynotes, workshops, and virtual sessions for educators on everything from artificial intelligence to EdTech strategies that stick. Whether you're bringing me in for a full day or a one-hour virtual session, we'll make it practical and packed with ideas teachers can use right away. Head to **ClassTechTips.com** and click the "Work With Monica" button at the top of the page to learn more or send an email to **hello@classtechtips.com**

### Outro

Thank you for listening to this new episode of the Easy EdTech Podcast! I love creating new episodes for you each week, but I could use a bit of help spreading the word about the podcast. Can you leave a rating or review on your favorite podcast app?

Spotify will let you tap on the stars, and Apple Podcasts will let you tap on the stars and leave a one or two sentence review.

Thank you so much for taking this extra step, it helps other educators find episodes like this one when they are searching for EdTech tips.

## Episode Resources

- Connect with Dr. Monica Burns on [X \(Twitter\)](#), [Threads](#), [Bluesky](#) & [Instagram](#)
- Sign up for the [Free Newsletter](#)
- Check out [EdTech Books](#) by Dr. Monica Burns
- Explore [Artificial Intelligence Resources](#), [Events & Workshops](#) & [Free Stuff](#)
- Grab [EdTech Essentials: 12 Strategies for Every Classroom in the Age of AI 2nd Edition](#) & download the [FREE Study Guide](#)
- [ChatGPT](#) (Chatbot)
- [Microsoft Copilot](#) (Chatbot)
- [Gemini](#) (Chatbot)
- [Duck AI Chat](#) (Chatbot)
- [Padlet Arcade](#) (AI game creator)
- [Google NotebookLM](#) (AI-powered research & note-taking tool)
- [ElevenLabs](#) (AI audio)
- [Canva AI Tools](#)
- [Diffit](#) (AI curated teaching resources)
- [8 AI Chatbots for Teachers: A Simple Guide and Quick Tips](#) (Blog Post)
- [Time-Saving Gemini Tips for Teachers](#) (Podcast Episode)
- [5 Wild NotebookLM Features for Teachers You Need to Try](#) (Blog Post)
- [Quick Strategies for Making Classroom Infographics with AI](#) (Podcast Episode)
- [How to Build Custom Classroom Quizzes in Minutes with Jotform's Quiz Maker](#) (Blog Post)