



a teacher's guide
created by Marcie Colleen
based upon the picture book
written by Tara Luebbe & Becky Cattie
illustrated by Victoria Maderna

This classroom guide is designed for students in first through third grade. It is assumed that teachers will adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of their own students.

It offers activities to help teachers integrate *Ronan the Librarian* into the curricula.

All activities were created in conjunction with the Common Core and other relevant content standards.

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Before You Read...

Before reading *Ronan the Librarian*...

Look closely at the Front Cover ~

- Read the title aloud.
- Describe what you see.
- Who do you think the man is? What is he doing?
- Imagine you are the man in the illustration. How does this pose make you feel?
- Who else do you see on the cover? What are they doing? How do you think they feel?
- When do you think this story takes place? Today or a long time ago? What clues on the cover tell you this?

English Language Arts

Reading Comprehension

Now read or listen to the book.

Help students summarize in their own words what the book is about.

- "Ronan was a mighty barbarian." Describe what this means in your own words.
- Why does everyone always want to trade with Ronan?
- Why does Ronan think "one raid went horribly wrong?"
- What makes Ronan change his mind about books?

- How does reading change Ronan?
- How do the others react to Ronan's new love of reading?
- Ronan decides to open a library. What do you think he hopes to accomplish?
- Why do you think Ronan wants to get his people to read?
- What kind of stories does Ronan read to the others? Why do you think he makes the choices that he does?
- Explain each rule and advice that Ronan posts in his library and why each is important.
- How does Ronan prove himself to be a great leader throughout the story?

My Favorite Book ~ Writing a Book Report

Sometimes book reports can help us encourage others to read the books that we love.

Do you have a favorite book? If so, why is it your favorite? If you cannot think of a favorite book, ask a parent or caretaker if you had a favorite book when you were little. Or you can write your report about *Ronan the Librarian*.

Write a book report about your favorite book, using the prompts below.

Be sure to write in paragraph form.

Use complete sentences, correct spelling, correct punctuation, and correct capitalization.

1. Begin with an introduction. State the title of the book and the author's name. Next, write a one-sentence summary of what the book is about. Last, explain why you chose this book.

For example, "My favorite book is *Ronan the Librarian* by Tara Luebbe and Becky Cattie. This book is about a barbarian who discovers the joy of reading and opens his own library to encourage others to read. I like this book because I also love to read and can relate to Ronan."

2. Describe the setting. This is where and when the story takes place. It might be in a building or outside, or in an imaginary place. The time might be now or a long time ago. Describe where and when the story takes place.
3. Describe the main character(s). Most stories have a main character and one or two others who are important. Choose 1 or 2 important characters from this book and describe them. Write about what they look like, what they like to do, and how they act – silly, honest, smart? Describe some things that make the character(s) special.
4. Write a summary (the important ideas) of the plot. Explain what happens in the beginning, the middle, and the end. Explain the main problem or conflict the characters must solve and how they do it.

5. End with a conclusion. This is where you give your opinion of the story. Write a paragraph explaining why this is your favorite book. Be specific.

For some extra fun, students can share their favorite book and book report with the class. Place all the books in an "Our Favorite Books" classroom library, along with a bookmark containing the key information in the book reports. Students can then borrow a book from the classroom library, read it, and write reports with their own opinions.

Vocab Barbarians

Ronan the Librarian contains many "barbarian-related" words which may be new for students. Encourage them to use context clues from both the text and illustrations to infer meanings.

mighty	barbarians	invade(d)	raid(ed_	trade(d)
legendary	pillage	worthless	barter	kindling
devour(ed)	epic	berserk	fierce	massive
threatened	tame	defeat		

Additional Exploration:

- While they read, ask students to look carefully for words they do not know. As soon as they come across a new vocabulary word, they should jot it down.
- Look up the unknown word in the dictionary. (Depending on the level of your students, a student volunteer can do this or the teacher can.) Read the definition.
- Come up with a way to remember what the word means. Using Total Physical Response, students can create an action that symbolizes the word and helps them remember it.

Math

Ronan's Scavenger Hunt

Use this scavenger hunt to sharpen counting skills.

- Create several paper cut-outs of gold coins. Number them from 1-5, so there are different sets of each number. Hide these cut-outs around the room.
- Ask students to find #1 coin, #2 coin, etc. until they have a set of 5. If a student sees a number they already have collected or an item that is not what they are collecting, he/she must leave it for another student to find.
- The first student to find gold coins in a 1-5 sequence, wins.

- Additional activity: This same game can be played with a set pattern of colors or pictures to teach sequencing.

Social Studies

Famous Libraries

Most schools and communities have libraries. Some houses have libraries. Ronan creates his own library.

Assign a famous or unique library for students to research. A list of 10 are below, but do not feel limited to those on the list.

- The Biblioburro (delivering books via donkey)
- The Levinski Garden Library in Tel Aviv, Israel
- Arma de Instruccion Masiva in Argentina
- Book Vending Machines
- Biblioteca Sandro Penna in Perugia
- Epos Book Boat in Norway
- Stuttgart City Library
- The Kenyan Camel Library
- The Little Free Libraries
- Vasconcelos Library

Possible sources for information:

- Nonfiction books
- Encyclopedias
- The Internet

Take notes and gather as much information as possible on the following 6 topics:

- History of when library was built
- Information about where the library is located
- Statistics
- What makes this library unique?
- Other fun facts

Once the information is gathered, work to create either an illustrated poster or booklet of the findings.

BONUS: Research a library in your hometown.

Kids Love Libraries, Libraries Love Kids!

Libraries are really special and often in need of extra help or funding.

As a class, brainstorm a list of ways to help your local community or school library.
Ideas can include:

- Volunteering to reshelve books
- Volunteer to read to younger kids
- Create a "We Love Our Library" bulletin board display or wall mural
- Throw a Librarian Appreciation party
- Write thank you letters to the library
- Hold a book drive
- Raise money by:
 - Bake sale
 - Car Wash
 - Craft Sale
 - Book Sale

As a class, organize one or more of these events to show the library you care.