



LEADING LITERATE LIVES

Extending the Invitations for You and Your Students

Dear Reader,

I wrote *Leading Literate Lives: Habits and Mindsets for Reimagining Classroom Practice* to connect and collaborate with other educators as fellow readers and writers. I truly believe that cultivating our own literate lives reminds us of what matters most so we can bring joyful reading and writing practices to our classrooms.

Throughout the process of writing this book, I reconnected with my own reading and writing life. I read. I wrote. I connected with others. I reflected. I set goals. I changed my routines. I documented my own literate practices, reread the seminal literature that impacted my own vision for learning and renewed my beliefs on living a literate life. And in the process, I captured twenty seven of my most powerful reading practices, twenty seven of my most powerful writing practices and curated them together in this book to share with you. But the best part? These invitations go hand-in-hand and support each other, which means the book offers over one hundred invitations to help you lead a literate life and then extend those same invitations to your own students.

I've created this chart so you can easily see how to re-create each of the fifty-four reading and writing invitations into one hundred and eight practices across your reading and writing life. There are such possibilities across these pages!

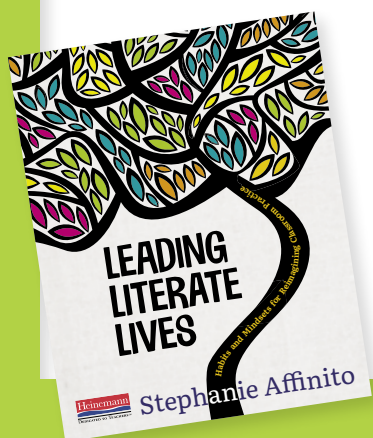
I'd love to join you on your journey to lead a more joyful literate life. We can connect on Twitter using #LeadingLiterateLives to celebrate our practices, share book recommendations, offer writing ideas, and make plans to bring our learning to our classrooms. You can tag me using @AffinitoLit and I'll happily jump into the conversations with you.

Let's begin!

Stephanie Affinito



READING INVITATIONS	HOW TO EXTEND THIS TO WRITING
Cultivate Our Reading Habits	
Surround Yourself with Books	Surround Yourself with Writing Inspiration
Build To-Be-Read Stacks (Page 17)	Create To-Be-Written Lists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a list in your notebook of the writing projects you want to complete: emails, blog posts, journal entries and more. This can be a weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly list.
Fill Your Social Media Feeds with Books (Page 20)	Fill Your Social Media Feed with Writing Ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head to your favorite social media platform and scroll through the lens of a writer. What are others reading and writing? What events in the world could help you choose your next writing piece? Search for writerly hashtags and writing inspiration.
Surround Yourself with Books (Page 22)	Keep Your Notebook Visible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your notebook visible as a reminder to write in it. Keep it in your purse or school bag so you always have it on hand.
Find Just Ten Minutes a Day	Find Just Ten Minutes a Day
Give Habit Stacking a Try (Page 25)	Habit Stack Your Writing Routines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pair writing with a current habit or routine, such as your morning cup of coffee, your lunch break or your evening wind-down routine.
Create a Reading Trip Wire (Page 27)	Create a Writing Trip Wire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind yourself to write. Keep your notebook visible, set a reminder on your phone, schedule writing time on your calendar and leave sticky note reminders where you'll see them.
Use a Habit Tracker (Page 28)	Use a Writing Habit Tracker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track your daily writing and celebrate the cumulative effects over time. Add a dot to your printed calendar, use a one-page printable for your notebook or go digital and download an app.



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Explore New Readerly Habits	Explore New Writerly Habits
Learn to Love Audiobooks (Page 31)	Learn Craft Moves From Audiobooks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can find craft moves in the books we read AND listen to. Start jotting down interesting lines and compelling quotes in your notebook from the books you listen to.
Push Play on Podcasts and Playlists (Page 32)	Push Play on Writing Podcasts and Playlists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are many podcasts dedicated to writing and writers. Add a few to your daily playlist, such as Writing Class Radio, Write About Now and The Writer's Voice
Rely on Bots for What to Read Next (Page 34)	Use Bots for Writing Reminders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You might find it helpful to set digital reminders to write: set a recurring date on your calendar, add a reminder to your phone or download a goal-setting app.
Honor Our Reading Hearts	
Embrace Your Reading Identity	Embrace Your Writing Identity
Honor Your Reading Preferences (Page 39)	Honor Your Writing Preferences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How, where, when and why do you like to write? Get clear about your preferences and then indulge them. This way, you'll look forward to writing more often.
Read to Explore Your Sense of Self (Page 41)	Write to Explore Your Sense of Self <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spend time writing in your notebook to explore your own identity. Which identities are important to you? Which do you want to let go of? What identities do you want to cultivate?
Inspire Reading with Personal Goals (Page 44)	Inspire Writing with Personal Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a writing goal and then make a list of three actions that can help you reach it. Carve out time to work on your goals and inspire your writing life.



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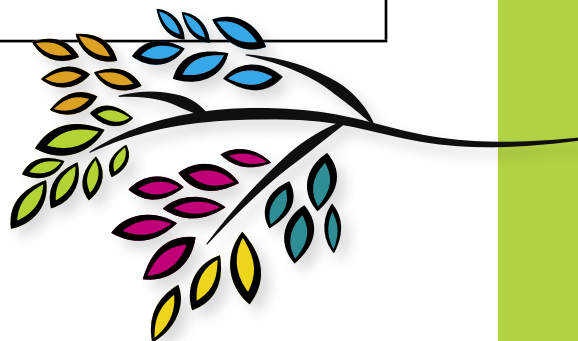
Find Passion and Purpose in Reading	Find Passion and Purpose in Writing
Read with an Open Heart (Page 46)	Write With an Open Heart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing with an open heart means surrendering to the page. Write about topics you love, topics you hate, things that make you happy, things that weigh you down. Jot down quotes and phrases that mean something to you and use them to spark writing from the heart.
Make Room to React to Texts (Page 49)	Write in Response to Texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to the texts you read beyond the title and author. Jot notes about when and where you read it, the plot or characters or any personal reactions.
Live Curiously Through Books (Page 53)	Write Curiously Through Books...and Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a list of the burning questions in your mind, simple and mundane to the grand and aspirational. But don't stop there. Write your tentative answers to those questions and revisit them over time to see how you've grown.
Outgrow Your Reading Life	Outgrow Your Writing Life
Imagine a Bigger Version of Your Reading Self (Page 56)	Imagine a Bigger Version of Your Writing Self <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step outside your writing boundaries. Write in a format you've never tried, a genre you've never attempted or a medium that is new for you. Repeat often.
Create a Reading Staircase (Page 58)	Create a Writing Staircase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw an outline of a staircase on a fresh page of your notebook. On the first step, write the title or topic of a piece of writing you've recently completed. Think about where that piece could lead your writing life next and write a new piece as a result. Continue until the staircase is complete and begin again.
Crowdsource Your Collections (Page 60)	Crowdsource Writing Ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share your writing life on social media, ask for recommendations on what to read next and use writerly hashtags to gain new writing ideas. You can even use ready-to-go writing prompts to launch your writing, too.



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Strengthen Our Reading Communities

Make Your Reading Life Visible	Make Your Writing Life Visible
Go Public with Your Stacks (Page 64)	Share Your Writing with Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share your To-Be-Written ideas with a trusted friend or colleague. Share your writing on social media or start a blog to reach a broader audience.
Connect with Readers on Goodreads (Page 68)	Connect with Writers on Writing Platforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join a writing organization, such as the National Writing Project, and connect with fellow writers online in discussion forums, Facebook groups or even a writing group on Clubhouse.
Analyze Your Reading Life (Page 69)	Analyze Your Writing Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take stock of your writing and list all your writing projects for the last month, quarter or year. Reflect: What genres do you tend to write in? What formats do you prefer? Which mediums work best for you? Set a new writing goal based on the collected data.
Broaden Your Reading Circles	Broaden Your Writing Circles
Ask: "What Are You Reading Lately?" (Page 73)	Ask: "What Are You Writing Lately?" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask everyone you meet "What are you writing lately?". You might get a few odd looks, but might also get some new writing ideas and a new writing colleague.
Connect with Reading Partners (Page 74)	Connect with Writing Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find one person you trust to talk about your writing life with. Share ideas, swap drafts and accomplish your writing dreams together.
Start a Book Relay (Page 77)	Start a Writing Chain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think of this as a positive chain letter. Write a letter to someone or share a writing piece with them instead. Urge them to read it and then pay it forward, writing a letter to someone else or sharing a piece of their own writing with someone new. Don't break the chain!



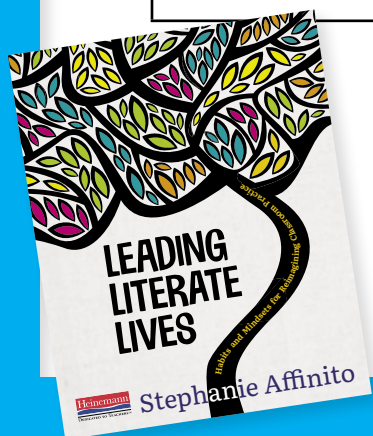
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Connect with Authors and Illustrators	Connect with Authors and Illustrators
Be Inspired by Author Backstories (Page 79)	<p>Write Your Own Backstory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning the backstory behind our favorite authors can be incredibly inspiring, so why not write your own? Imagine yourself living your best life and write a piece describing your backstory and how you got to where you are today.
Seek Out Author Events (Page 80)	<p>Seek Out Events for Writers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find workshops for writers. Check your library, local book store or virtual opportunities to hone your craft and connect with other writers.
Connect on Social Media (Page 82)	<p>Connect with Writers on Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with your favorite writers on social media. Let them know you're reading their book, admiring their work and even trying to emulate it. You might be surprised how much this public declaration fuels your writing community.



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WRITING INVITATIONS	HOW TO EXTEND THIS TO READING
Cultivate Our Writing Habits	
Start a Writer's Notebook	Start a Reader's Notebook
Choose Your Notebook (Page 91)	Choose Your Notebook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many reader's notebooks to choose from: a blank notebook to make your own, a hand-made notebook from a collection of printables or a published notebook just for readers. Choose the one that works best for you so you'll look forward to tracking the books you've read.
Show Up to the Page (Page 94)	Pair It With Your Book <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always pair your reading notebook with the book you're reading, along with a writing utensil and maybe even some sticky notes. If you'd like, keep them in an attractive pouch or bag to make it easy to read and respond on the go.
Try the 5 x 5 Method (Page 96)	Track Your Reading Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide which aspects of your reading life you'd like to track in your notebook: books on your TBR list, books you've finished reading, books you've abandoned, books that have been recommended to you and more.
Quiet Your Inner Critic	
Declare #WhyIWrite (Page 99)	Declare #WhyIRead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you make reading a priority in your life? Create a list of reasons why reading matters to you. Keep them private in your notebook or share online to make your status as a reader public.
Convert Challenges to Goals (Page 101)	Convert Reading Challenges to Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn to a fresh page in your notebook and list all the challenges you face in growing your reading life. Brainstorm multiple solutions and choose one to try tomorrow.
Start with a Sentence a Day (Page 104)	Start with a Chapter a Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short on reading time? Commit to just one chapter a day. This is typically enough time to get hooked back into a book and often leads to more reading later on, too.



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Adopt Writerly Practices	Adopt Readerly Practices
Design Your Studio for Positivity and Success (Page 106)	Create a Reading Nook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carve out a special place for reading in your home and stock it with everything you need to set yourself up for reading success: your glasses, a notebook, a framed quote about reading or whatever makes you feel like a reader.
Write Just Because (Page 109)	Read Just Because <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read for no other reason other than sheer enjoyment: a poem, a lifestyle website, your favorite author and more. Put obligation aside and read from the heart.
Practice the Art of Noticing (Page 111)	Practice the Art of Sneaky Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a book wherever you go so when an opportunity to read presents itself, you're ready: your home, school, your work bag, the car, etc. E-books work particularly well for sneaky reading because they are available on any device.
Honor Our Writing Hearts	
Write to Explore Your Sense of Self	Read to Explore Your Sense of Self
Honor the Commonplace (Page 115)	Read the Commonplace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read something that you typically ignore because it's always there: mail flyers, email signatures, books that have been on your shelf for a long while or even books you've already read before.
Uncover Your Writing Dreams (Page 117)	Uncover Your Reading Dreams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you dream of reading? All the classics? The 100 books everyone should read before they die? All of the books in your favorite series? A particular number of books? Create a plan to reach that dream and start reading.
Write from the Soul (Page 120)	Read to Feed Your Soul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try some bibliotherapy: read a book to soothe your soul and help you through a specific time in your life. Choose fiction, non-fiction, memoirs and other genres that feature characters and content that can help you grow through what you go through.

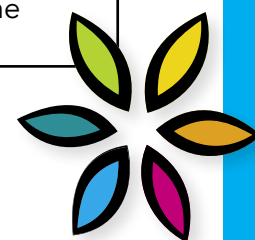
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Write to Explore Your Creativity	Read to Explore Your Creativity
Give Sketchnoting a Try (Page 123)	Give a New Book Format <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the format you normally reach for as a reader? Physical books? Digital texts? Audiobooks? Change it up a bit and see how it feels as a reader.
Layer Your Pages (Page 126)	Add Marginalia to Your Books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave tracks of your thinking in your books. Jot notes, questions and wonderings in the margins or use sticky notes instead. Look back on your notes to think more deeply about the book and how it might impact your life.
Write from Social Media Sparks (Page 128)	Read in Response to the World <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world often hands us a curriculum of study: holidays, world events, pop culture and more. Use it to help expand your reading life on a particular topic and perspective.
Write to Explore Your Craft	Read to Explore Writer's Craft
Mine for Writing Gems (Page 130)	Lift Lines From Your Books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep track of the lines, sentences and phrases that make you stop short as a reader: to laugh, to cry, to think and to question. Jot them in your notebook to hold them close and revisit often.
Try On Craft Moves for Size (Page 132)	Read with a Writer's Eye <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep track of the lines, sentences and phrases that sound like music to your ears. Noting these craft moves not only helps you appreciate your reading more, but might spark you to try the same in your own writing.
Participate in Writing Workshops (Page 135)	Join a Book Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push your boundaries as a reader and purposefully join a book club that can broaden your reading life, a club that reads genres, authors and time periods you might not typically gravitate toward.



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Strengthen Our Writing Communities	
Expand Your Personal Writing Network	Expand Your Personal Reading Network
Fill Your Writing Feeds (Page 140)	Fill Your Reading Feeds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head to your favorite social media platform and scroll through with the lens of a reader. What are others reading? What events in the world could help you choose your next book? Search for readerly hashtags and get some reading inspiration.
Find Inspiration in Podcasts (Page 143)	Find Reading Inspiration in Podcasts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscribe to podcasts dedicated to reading to find your next book and connect with other readers. My favorites are What Should I Read Next? and The Children’s Book Podcast.
Join an Online Writing Community (Page 146)	Join an Online Reading Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get intentional about the readers you surround yourself with. Create an account on Goodreads, join the What Should I Read Next Book Club or follow the #IMWAYR and #ALitLife hashtags.
Connect with Other Writers	Connect with Other Readers
Pair with a Writing Partner (Page 149)	Find Your Reading Twin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reading twin is a reader who has a reading taste similar to yours. You can choose books for each other, talk about selected titles and look out for each other’s reading lives.
Start a Writing Group (Page 150)	Create a Reading Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather interested readers together to follow a workshop structure: share reading goals, spend time reading independently and discuss the books as a group. Repeat often.
Enjoy a Writing Retreat (Page 152)	Enjoy a Reading Retreat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a DIY reading retreat for yourself or a group of friends who read. Arrange for a long stretch of time to read, gather drinks and snacks and simply enjoy time together as readers.



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Broaden Your Writing Boundaries	Broaden Your Reading Boundaries
Try a Writing Experiment (Page 155)	Experiment with Your Reading Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try a little experiment in your reading life: Vary where, when, how and what you read and see how it invigorates your reading life for the better.
Participate in a Writing Challenge (Page 158)	Participate in a Reading Challenge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join a reading challenge to spark your reading life and connect with other readers. Try the Modern Mrs. Darcy Reading Challenge, the Pop Sugar Reading Challenge or Book Riot's Read Harder Challenge.
Go Public by Blogging (Page 162)	Share Your Reading Reviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a public platform to share your book reviews online for others to benefit from. Try Goodreads, Amazon, Netgalley, social media or even Youtube video reviews.



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