



LEADING LITERATE LIVES

Dear Reader,

Leading Literate Lives: Habits and Mindsets for Reimagining Classroom Practice is meant to take you on a journey: a journey to cultivate your own literate life and a journey to share your learning with your students, too. The book is filled with fifty-four specific invitations to launch you on that journey and when paired together, offers over one hundred ways to lead a more literate life.

These choices ensure that our journey is personalized to each of us: our daily lives and routines, our interests and motivations and our reading and writing goals. But sometimes, a vast number of options can feel overwhelming. Where do we begin? Which starting point feels best? Where do we go from there? Since the book was published, I've spent my time connecting with teachers and working through those questions in person, through email and even social media. Together, we've identified starting points, charted courses and celebrated along the way.

I'd like this for you, too. That's why I created this self-reflection tool to identify a starting point for completing the invitations in the book and develop personal literate goals for yourself. Here's how it works:

- First, choose which aspect of your literate life you'd like to cultivate first: reading or writing.
- Next, start at the top of the document and reflect on each item listed, checking Yes, Sometimes or No.
- Then, examine your results. Celebrate the items that you already have firmly in place in your life and take stock of the ones you don't. Which aspects of the framework do these items fall into? What do the patterns you see tell you about what your reading or writing life needs next?
- Last, choose a particular goal. I recommend starting with the first reading or writing gap you see and starting there with one of the three recommended goals for each aspect of the framework. Once you've shifted your 'sometimes' and 'no' responses to 'yes' there, you can move onto the next goal.

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!

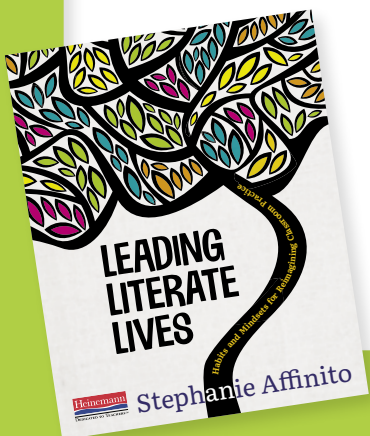
Stephanie Affinito



LEADING LITERATE LIVES: A Self-Reflection Tool



Cultivate Our Reading Habits		Y	S	N
Surround Yourself with Books	I have a stack of books waiting to be read close-by.			
	I visit libraries and bookstores regularly.			
	I have my favorite go-to sites for online book shopping.			
	I use social media to learn about new books and resources.			
	I always have a book within arms reach to indulge in.			
Find Just 10 Minutes a Day	I plan my schedule to consistently find time to read each day.			
	I have strong readerly habits in place in my daily life.			
	I have daily routines that promote reading.			
	I have tripwires and reminders in place to read.			
	I use a habit tracker to celebrate my reading each day.			
Explore New Readerly Practices	I listen to audiobooks at home or during car rides or commutes.			
	I read books on a mobile device.			
	I listen to podcasts and playlists that inspire more reading.			
	I use technology to find my next book to read.			
	I explore new book titles from publishers and book review sites.			



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by Stephanie Affinito [HERE](#)



Honor Our Reading Hearts		Y	S	N
Embrace Your Reading Identity	I know myself as a reader and identify as someone who reads.			
	I honor my reading preferences.			
	I read to explore my sense of self and views of the world.			
	I choose books based on my own personal reading interests, goals and wishes.			
	I chart personal reading goals that fuel my reading life.			
Find Passion and Purpose in Reading	I choose books to read based on my own interests, dispositions and purpose for reading.			
	I read wide awake and with an open heart to learn from the pages of a book.			
	I read curiously to learn new information that I can apply to my own life.			
	I respond to texts in ways that are personally meaningful.			
Outgrow Your Reading Life	I read books with characters that are different from each other.			
	I choose books with diverse settings and plots.			
	I regularly read books across multiple genres.			
	I regularly choose books of different formats.			
	I choose my next book to read using a wide variety of sources.			



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Strengthen Our Reading Communities		Y	S	N
Make Your Reading Life Visible	I display my reading life in visible ways to share with others.			
	I use social media to claim my status as a reader.			
	I am part of an online reading community, such as GoodReads.			
	I track my reading so I am better able to reflect on the messages it might be sending.			
Broaden Your Reading Circles	I regularly talk about the books I am reading with others.			
	I seek book recommendations from a wide range of readers.			
	I am a member of a book club and/or participate in book studies.			
	I participate in reading challenges to broaden my community of readers.			
Connect with Authors and Illustrators	I learn about authors' backstories to become more personally invested in their texts.			
	I attend author and book events when I am able to.			
	I use social media to connect with authors and illustrators.			



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Cultivate Our Writing Habits		Y	S	N
Start a Writer's Notebook	I have a writer's notebook			
	I make time to write each week.			
	I can think of multiple topics to write about in my notebook.			
	I find writing inspiration in the world around me.			
Quiet Your Inner Critic	I know my purpose for showing up to the page to write.			
	I embrace my identity as a writer.			
	I share my identity as a writer with those around me.			
	I know the power of starting small. Every word matters.			
	I own my writing challenges and work to overcome them.			
Adopt Writerly Practices	I have a space dedicated just for writing.			
	I indulge in writing supplies that invite me to use them.			
	I write for reasons that matter personally.			
	I write just to write and do not need another reason.			
	I notice the world around me and document it.			



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Honor Our Writing Hearts		Y	S	N
Write to Explore Your Sense of Self	I mine my own life for writing inspiration.			
	I write to explore who I am and what matters most to me.			
	I write to uncover my dreams and what I want next.			
	I write to celebrate each stage of my life. All of it.			
	I use writing to celebrate life and work through challenges.			
Write to Explore Your Creativity	I use more than text in my writing. I sketch, sketchnote, draw, doodle and more in full color.			
	I layer the pages of my notebook with paper scraps, moments, stickers, washi tape and more.			
	I use my notebook as a starting point and see what it takes me.			
	I use social media to spark my own writing.			
Write to Explore Your Craft	I approach my writing with an appreciative eye and mine it for gems.			
	I read like a writer and find inspiration in others' writing.			
	I try new craft techniques in my writing.			
	I regularly write in different genres.			
	I seek out opportunities to learn new writing ideas, formats and techniques.			



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Strengthen Our Writing Communities		Y	S	N
Expand Your Personal Writing Network	I use social media to fill my feeds with writing inspiration.			
	I subscribe to newsletters that inspire my writing.			
	I listen to podcasts about writers and writing.			
	I'm part of an online writing community (formal or informal, in-person or online).			
Connect with Other Writers	I regularly share my writing with others.			
	I have a writing partner to bounce ideas off of.			
	I'm part of a writing group where we come together to share writing and push each other forward.			
	I enjoy writing retreats (in-person or online, formal or DIY).			
Broaden Your Writing Boundaries	I'm open to changing up my writing life to see what I learn and where it takes me.			
	I participate in writing challenges (ex.: Slide of Life or NaNoWriMo)			
	I share my writing with others outside of my inner circle.			
	I have a blog and post regularly.			



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