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# Reading Logs

## Subject: Reading



### Activity for Student (individual and group)

BooksLog® is a great application for students to use for keeping track of the books they've read and allowing them to rate them without learning the complexity of creating and using a database application. Tony Vincent's fifth graders use this application on their handhelds in the school library to locate, evaluate, and share the best books available for free reading time. What could be more "cool" than beaming from handheld to handheld in the library media center?



### What students will know:

Students will learn about databases by using an application that is student friendly. They will be capable of completing simple database functions.



### What students will be able to do:

Students will learn to manage their own library of books for free reading time. This application allows students to enter, evaluate and share their titles with other students. The information collected and shared will make the visit to the school library media center more productive.



### Application(s):

#### **Palm™Reader for the Palm™ OS**

<http://www.peanutpress.com>

#### **BooksLog 1.0**

Type	Website	Min. OS	Filename(s)
freeware	<a href="http://www.palmgear.com">http://www.palmgear.com</a>	minimum OS 3.0	BooksLog.zip

#### **Freewrite**

Type	Website	Min. OS	Filename(s)
freeware	<a href="http://www.handheld.hice-dev.org/download.htm">http://www.handheld.hice-dev.org/download.htm</a>	minimum OS 3.1	freewrite.zip



### Procedure:

#### **Using a Database**

Introduce databases into your classroom by using BooksLog® on the classroom Palm™ handheld computers.

1. Download, install and perform the HotSync® operation to place this application on a handheld. Have the students beam it to each other.
2. As a whole class activity, choose a book title the whole class will be reading to introduce the entry of data into the application.
3. Enter the information for that book as a class, making sure the students can do this independently. Discuss the starred ratings feature of this application.

# Reading Logs *(cont.)*



4. Visit the school library media center. Have students locate books they have read previously and enter them into their handhelds. Have them write short descriptions of the book in the Notes section and choose a star rating. Have the students beam their book log entry to another student.

## Book Evaluations

1. Students fondly remember when their parents and elementary teachers used to read books out loud to them. Have the students remember a favorite book they read or listened to long ago. Have them write a brief summary and evaluation of that book in their journal.
2. Make a “We Remember” list of favorite titles to hang in the school or public library.
3. Introduce students to an optional reading of the e-book: *Walden, or a Life in the Woods* by Henry David Thoreau.
4. Use the Web to find out about Thoreau’s philosophical outlook on frugality and nature.
5. Have a classroom discussion as to whether the use of Palm™ handheld computers is helping people today to “simplify, simplify.”



## Resources:

### Walden, or Life in the Woods (e-book)

[http://religionanddemocracy.lib.virginia.edu/library/social.html#Thoreau\\_Henry](http://religionanddemocracy.lib.virginia.edu/library/social.html#Thoreau_Henry)

Johnson, Donald B. *Henry Builds a Cabin*. New York: Houghton-Mifflin Company. 2002.

### Henry Builds a Cabin Activity

<http://www.cyberbee.com/henrybuilds/>

