



Is In2Books Right for You?

Welcome to In2Books!

- Get a quick introduction to In2Books
- Find out if this is the right volunteer opportunity for you!





How In2Books Works

Students in 3rd – 5th grade classrooms:

- Are connected with **carefully screened adult eMentors**
- **Exchange** 6 online letters each year with their adult eMentors
 - One “Getting to Know You” letter
 - Five book letters – about the important issues in the books
- **Select** and read 5 books closely each year
- **Have** engaged adult pen pals who read the same books



In2Books teachers: Reinforce and extend the learning with in-class book discussions about the books and related instruction in genre and literacy skills.



How Do We Know In2Books Works?

- 11 years of implementation in classrooms
- Used currently in 200 classrooms in 30 states
- In2Books students scored significantly higher on standardized reading tests than their peers in the same district who did not use the program (*Phi Delta Kappan*, March 2007)
- 9 out of 10 teachers report that In2Books positively impacted their students' achievement. (*Reading Teacher*, May 2007)
- Research shows that In2Books increases student motivation for learning



The eMentor Commitment

1. **September - June** – Commit to be an eMentor for the school year. Be a highlight for a student. Your student counts on your letters and views you as a friend.
2. **Write on time** – Your teacher sets the schedule and tells you what books to read and letters to write. Late or absent letters hurt students' feelings and slow down the class.
3. **Read books and letters carefully and write engaging letters** – Encourage student learning by sharing your thinking about a book and asking good questions. Show students that you care what they think and want to understand why they think the way they do.
4. **Communicate with your teacher** – Check your spam folder regularly for misplaced mail from us and sign in to In2Books every few days. Let your student's teacher know if you have questions or have unanticipated delays. Be a good team player.

eMentor Information

Q: Who are the eMentors?

A: Successful adults of all ages and professions, college students to retirees, librarians to business executives

Q: How does In2Books ensure the safety of its students?

A: Safety is very important at In2Books:

- All eMentor applicants undergo a short **background check**
 - We ask eMentors to help offset the cost by paying \$6 when they sign up.
 - All information is kept confidential and detailed privacy information is available when you sign up.
- Teachers must read and **approve** all of the eMentors' letters before children see them.



Pen Pals participate from all across the country! This is a map In2Books pen pals in a classroom in Iowa.

Q: How are eMentors coached to support classroom instruction?

A: There is a required tutorial and an optional tutorial. eMentors are provided many **resources** on Pen Pal Place for how to write engaging, thought-provoking letters to students

Pen Pal Place – Everything you need

The site has explicit resources to help pen pals learn about the genres, the topics, and literacy

Home Page:

Provides specific directions and topic related websites, vocabulary, genre study, etc.

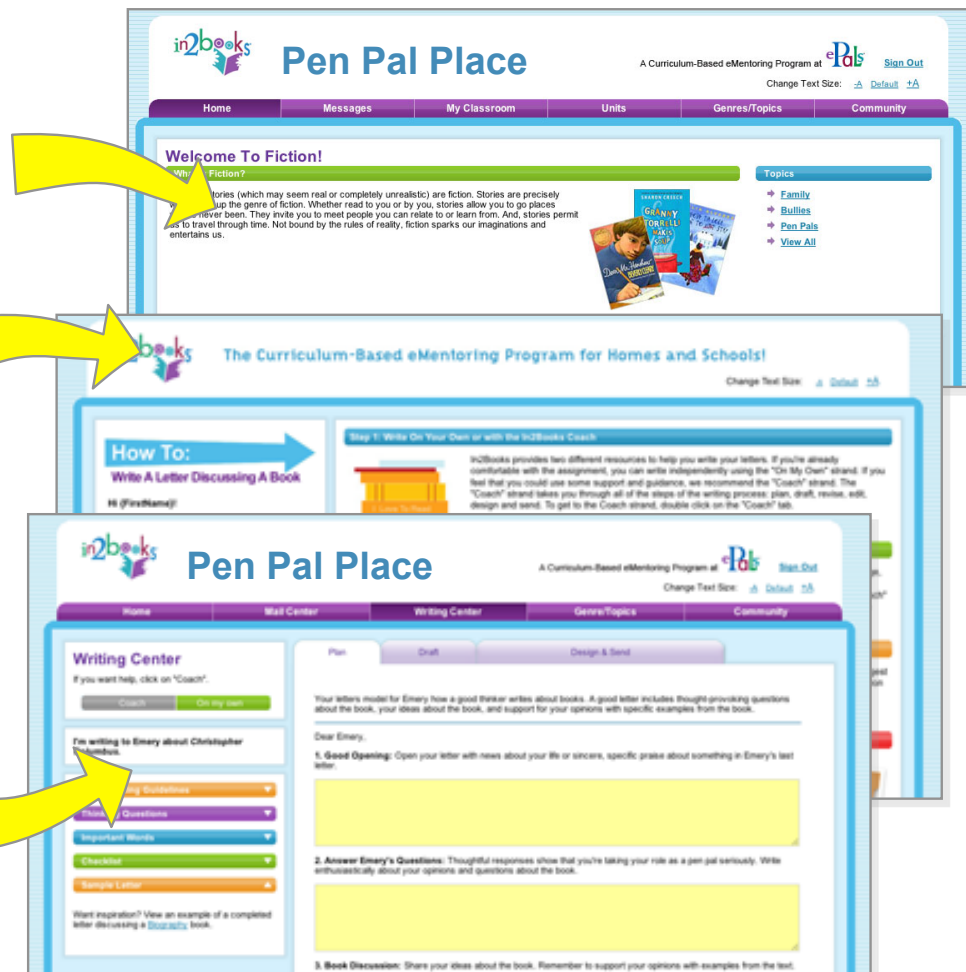
How-to Pages:

A step-by-step approach to support the development of literacy skills

Writing Center:

Everything a pen pal needs to write good letters:

- Sample letters
- Key vocabulary words
- Thinking questions
- Letter checklist
- Student's letter



The written conversation begins with students and their pen pals exchanging friendly “Getting to Know You” letters.

Dear Pen Pal,

Hello, my name is Nancy. I am thrilled to be

pen pal this year. I am very excited about reading books with you and writing to you to discuss them! I hope you had a fantastic summer vacation!

Where did you go for your vacation? What did you do on your time away from school? I visit different places in my vacation.

Since we are going to be friends, let me tell you a little about me. I am from Maryland and used to work in Washington, DC until 1 year ago. I moved to New York City and that is where I currently live. I do legal search and writing for a pretty large women's clothing company. This requires a LOT of reading and writing.

Once I find the information, I write a summary. So the people I work with can understand easily.

I love to read, go shopping, play in Central



Dear Nancy,

Thank you for the letter you sent me.

I really liked it. I am happy to be your pen pal this year, too.



Yes, I do have pets. I have two pets gerbils. One of them is named Tommy. The other is called Pepper. They are cute boys.



You like a lot of the things I like! I wish I had dogs like you. Do your two dogs chase your cats? I never travel. But, my mom told me that I went to El Salvador when I was a little baby.

You asked me about what I like and dislike. I like playing basketball and watching TV.

What is your favorite TV show? My favorite TV show is Arthur. My favorite book is

Donavan's Word Jar.

I like ice cream, just like you. My



In2Books

- o Pen Pals
- o Books
- ✓ Letters
- o Teachers

Continuing the conversation: Students and their eMentors discuss the books they read with online letters

Realistic Fiction Cycle 1



Social Studies Cycle 2



Biography Cycle 3



Folktales Cycle 4



Science Cycle 5



eMentor Role: eMentors ask open-ended questions and encourage deep discussions about the books



Steve's Letter (Pen Pal)

Dear LaTonya,

Thank you so much for your letter. I have to say your handwriting has really improved! You are doing a great job! I am glad you had a nice Thanksgiving. I hope you had a nice Christmas too. I also want to thank you for the student profile you sent me. My favorite color is blue too. The same color as my car! I also really like candy and sweets, especially dough-nuts.

I just finished reading *Diego*. I really enjoyed the book. Before reading the book, I didn't know of Diego Rivera, but now I know about one of the greatest Mexican painters in the world! He didn't let being sick as a child prevent him from pursuing his dream of becoming a great artist. I also liked that he painted public murals, so that everyone could enjoy his beautiful artwork. Where do you think Diego got his ideas for painting his murals? If you could paint a mural, what would you choose to paint about?

LaTonya's Letter (Student)

Dear Steve,

—Thank you for your letter. I got two best things for Christmas, a Barbie Computer and a big T.V. My class is reading a story about a seal. We made animal books, too.

—I just finished reading *Diego*. I learned that Diego was a muralist. Diego's brother Carlos fell ill and died. Diego's parents sent him away to live with Antonia and when he became sick, she took care of him. Diego's health improved and he went back home. He was given colored chalk as a welcome home gift. Diego started drawing everything. Diego's father made him a studio because he wanted to encourage his son. He wanted Diego to have a place to work. He

Before reading the book, I didn't know of Diego Rivera, but now I know about one of the greatest Mexican painters in the world! He didn't let being sick as a child prevent him from pursuing his dream of becoming a great artist. I also liked that he painted public murals, so that everyone could enjoy his beautiful artwork. Where do you think Diego got his ideas for painting his murals? If you could paint a mural, what would you choose to paint about?

—I just finished reading *Diego*...Diego was a muralist. He liked to paint pictures about things that people were doing and about things in Mexico. He wanted people to know about Mexico. So he told them through his murals.

—My art teacher loves to draw pictures on the board. I love to draw pictures for my mom and dad and put them on the refrigerator so everyone can see them.

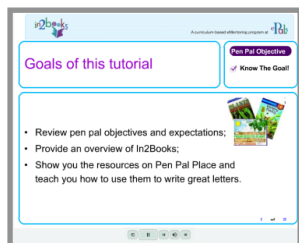
—I think Diego got his ideas for painting murals by being a careful observer. He painted everything he saw about life in Mexico. I think if I could paint murals the first one I will paint about my friends. Then, I will paint about my family.

Support is available to guide eMentors through every step!

eMentors must complete this step first...

Getting Matched with a Student

1. Watching the **required eMentor Tutorial** (<10 minutes) will introduce you to your new role as an eMentor

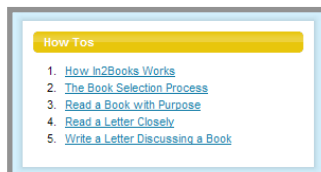


2. Tips found in the Writing Center and toolbar will help you write your **required “Getting to Know You” letter**

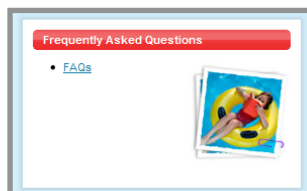
Then they can explore all of our optional resources for support, coaching, and community!

Pen Pal Place

Check out the:
How To Guides



Optional Tutorials



And **FAQs**

Community Participation

In the **Pen Pals' Lounge** you can participate in discussions with other pen pals and get updates from In2Books



Our **Facebook** fan page provides another forum for pen pals!

Quotes from In2Books eMentors

"I so enjoy the efforts of the students in their letter writing, their thoughts. It's wonderful. Not to be overlooked, I learn too!"

"The children's letters are such a joy. They are honest and open. It is a privilege to watch them as they gain confidence in their ability to communicate their thoughts."

"I can't tell you the joy I have gotten as I have seen one of my pen pals improve his reading and comprehension skills."

"Sign me up for a lifetime contract!"

Join us today!



- Share your love of reading and writing with a child
- Volunteer easily and online, even during a busy day
- Be part of a movement and a community working to change education in our country!

Visit www.in2books.com/penpal to register!