



FREE Virtual Author Readings on I Read Canadian Day

New for 2026:

Join this volunteer-led initiative to connect Canadian educators and school library professionals with Canadian authors and illustrators for FREE virtual readings on I Read Canadian Day!

What To Expect:

Readings will last 15–20 minutes and will generally flow as follows:

- 1–2 Minutes:** Book creator introduces themselves and their book(s)
- 3–5 Minutes:** Book creator reads picture book or excerpt from a novel
- 5–10 Minutes:** Book creator answers questions from students
- 1–2 Minutes:** Book creator recommends books by other Canadians

Want to participate?

Instructions for Book Creators:

1. If you'd like to volunteer to offer FREE virtual readings on I Read Canadian Day, fill out [this form](#) by August 1st.
 - In the contact field, you may either:
 - include a link to an automated calendar (such as Calendly) where educators can sign up directly OR
 - provide an email address and manually respond to queries, filling your schedule with confirmed visits
 - You may choose to focus on your most recent book or conduct readings across a variety of books/age ranges.
2. In late August, educators and library professionals will receive a spreadsheet that includes your information. Booking inquiries will begin at that time and may continue until the day before the event. Keep an eye on your spam folder and respond to any inquiries in a timely manner.
 - Be sure to confirm time zones when you are filling your schedule!
3. One week prior to I Read Canadian Day:
 - Confirm with all of your hosts. Let them know how best to reach you if there are any issues (tech problems, etc.) on the day of the reading.
 - Double-check that all hosts have provided links to their virtual classrooms.
 - Choose 1–3 books by other Canadian creators to recommend at the end of your visit. Be sure the books are appropriate for the age of the students you're visiting.
4. Have fun!



FAQs (Book Creators)

I've made a mistake in the form; how do I fix it?

Resubmit the form and email us at IRCbookcreators@gmail.com so we can delete the original entry.

I'm an author or illustrator interested in participating, but I missed the cut-off date for the spreadsheet. Can you add me now?

Sorry, we aren't able to update the spreadsheet after the cut-off. You are welcome to reach out to educators in your personal contact list to schedule readings. And keep an eye out for the 2027 call for creators!

How do you define "Canadian creator"?

Any self- or traditionally-published author or illustrator who is a resident of Canada, or a Canadian citizen living abroad—just be sure to coordinate time zones when scheduling your visits! Canadian residents whose publishers are based in other countries are also welcome to participate.

An educator asked about my availability, but after I responded, I never heard from them again. You may wish to send a single follow-up to make sure you didn't end up in their spam folder. If they still don't respond, assume they are no longer interested.

My schedule changed and I can no longer participate. What should I do?

As soon as possible, reach out to the school(s) directly and let them know.

I messed up my schedule and booked two visits during the same window (this can happen if you don't pay attention to time zones!). What should I do?

Contact one of the schools, explain the situation, and offer an alternative time.

An educator reached out; they can't participate on IRC Day and want to know if I'll do a visit on another day. What should I tell them?

These free readings are only available on I Read Canadian Day. But you can always offer to schedule a regular author visit on a day that works for both of you!

I'm fully booked and still getting inquiries from interested educators. What should I do?

Let them know you're full so they can look for another creator. You may wish to keep a wait list so that if any of your visits cancel, you can reach back out.

Can I sell books or provide a purchase link to my books during the visit?

No, I Read Canadian Day is about celebrating the joy of Canadian books, not about sales per se (although we certainly hope readers will search out your books after the visit!). You may tell them where your books are available if they ask during the Q&A.



Will you share the email list of interested educators so we can contact them?

For privacy reasons, educator emails will not be shared or used for any other purpose, including by the organizing committee. Educators will receive a spreadsheet with your contact info and they will reach out if they are interested.

I filled out the spreadsheet and didn't receive any inquiries. How can I participate?

Reach out to schools/educators in your own contact list and offer free readings for I Read Canadian Day. Be sure to advertise the readings on your website and social media platforms.

How should I arrange my schedule on I Read Canadian Day?

First, decide how many free readings you are able to offer. Make sure to leave enough time between readings to switch to new virtual classrooms, take food/water breaks, etc. After that, it's up to you!

I've never done a school visit and I'm super nervous. Any tips?

No need to be nervous; students will be excited to hear from you! Just show up with enthusiasm, stick to the schedule, and share your story! Other tips:

- Test your microphone/lighting/internet connection in advance.
- Conduct the visits in a quiet room.
- Be sure the space behind you is free of clutter so the kids aren't distracted.
- Have fun!

Still Have Questions?

Contact the I Read Canadian Day Virtual Author Visits Team at IRCbookcreators@gmail.com.