

A virtual bedtime story can be great for families that have long-distance relatives or as a special event school activity. Choose a theme that is easily replicable by families at home and invite students and parents to dress for the occasion.

We offer two suggestions below, but feel free to choose a theme connected to your mascot or school mission statement so as to connect directly with *your* members.

If resources allow, PTAs might send each family a bag of microwave popcorn or packets of cocoa mix with a note to advertise the event. We suggest you review the **PTA Guide** for hosting a virtual read-aloud to find some additional tips and tricks for a virtual book event!

Lights Out

What more logical theme for a virtual bedtime story than a pajama party? Invite families to dress in their coziest attire, dim the lights and cuddle up in front of the computer as you take over reading their bedtime story.

Caregivers might set out a snack with hot chocolate or tea to enjoy during the story. Invite an unexpected pajama-clad guest, such as a principal or school crossing guard, to be the featured reader. If pajama day is a part of your school's regular spirit week, consider connecting this event to an at-home version of that celebration to keep student enthusiasm high. Some suggested books:

- "Bedtime Stories for Sweet Creatures" by Nikki Grimes and Elizabeth Zunon
- "Up on Bob" by Mary Sullivan
- "Sleepy the Goodnight Buddy" by Drew Daywalt and Scott Campbell
- "Everyone's Awake" by Colin Meloy and Shawn Harris
- "Monster and Boy" by Hannah Barnaby and Anoosha Syed (ongoing series)

Under the Stars

Even in the harshest winter conditions, families can build a blanket fort—or, if room allows, pitch a tent indoors—and enjoy a virtual campout and bedtime story. Families can also dress for an outdoor adventure—or put on pajamas and curl up in sleeping bags—and bring a flashlight to guide them to your onscreen story.

A cozy mug of hot chocolate makes the perfect reading treat or give toaster oven s'mores a go. Some suggested books:

- "The Hike" by Alison Ferrell
- "Who Wet My Pants?" by Bobby Shea and Zachariah O'Hara
- "Home in the Woods" by Eliza Wheeler
- "Astro Girl" by Ken Wilson-Max
- "Charlie and Mouse Outdoors" by Laurel Snyder and Emily Hughes (ongoing series)