

With our tight budgets, school library staff members are always searching for a good deal. I arranged a free author visit for my friend's school by asking my writer-husband to present there as a favor to me. Here are resources (other than my spouse) that you can try, sent in by our readers:

This is almost the opposite of what you are asking, but it is all about FREE. During exams, we now offer FREE coffee to our students. I had co-op students to put in charge of the Coffee Cart. They set up, sat outside the library, served the coffee, and also sold Tim Horton's™ donuts for cost—50 cents each. Teachers came by as well. It was a great success and it was a way of giving back to the students. As I told them, "It is your fine money at work." It didn't cost much: a tin of coffee, a bag of milk, a quart of cream, some sugar, and some cups, which equalled less than \$20 for a lot of goodwill.

Pam Evans
Western Technical Commercial School
Toronto, Ontario

My name is Kasia Kalat and I'm an elementary teacher in the London area. I also work in partnership with *The National Post* to provide free resources to schools and school libraries and wanted to pass on a great opportunity that is totally free—there is no catch.

The National Post is offering 10 FREE newspapers per day to every school in Ontario. All you have to do is send an email to learning@thedigitalpost.ca and include your name, school, and that you are the librarian and would like the 10 copies for the library.

In addition to the complimentary copies, we are also offering teachers and teacher-librarians free digital subscriptions to the full edition of *The National Post* and 12 other CanWest newspapers (from across Canada), delivered directly into a teacher-specific email account each day for use with their students. The digital subscription does not expire and can be instantly translated into 12 languages; be read out loud via computer speakers by clicking onto an article; and can be downloaded, saved, archived, and even sent to mobile devices to give students instant access to research material. All teachers and teacher-librarians are eligible for free subscriptions as long as they teach grade 4/5 split to grade 12.

Kasia Kalat
London, Ontario

Free Comic Book Day occurs in early May. I contacted my local comic book stores well before the date and asked if they could put aside some issues that would be appropriate for my school-age students. They were happy to accommodate, and with my teacher ID handy, I picked up the comic books and was able to get multiple copies of the same issue.

Cindy Mohareb
Teacher-Librarian
Our Lady of Fatima School
Brampton, Ontario

One of my primary students recently informed me that I could get free Lego™ magazines for my school library. I signed up all the teachers in our school to get multiple issues. As part of our students' media literacy lessons, we made sure they were aware that these issues were "free" as advertising for the toy company. The magazines are a hit, especially with our male students.

Helen Collins
St. Jude Catholic School
Ajax, Ontario

During my summer holidays, I emailed various publishers asking for free bookmarks for my students and told them I'd be distributing them as prizes for my library skills sessions. I received many packets and boxes, have been happily handing them out ever since.

Brenda Turl
Library Technician
Near North District School Board
Mattawa and North Bay, Ontario

A free resource that is available in both English and French for a secondary school audience is the Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs.

To download or order books, go to: <http://www.azrielifoundation.org/memoirs/program.asp>.

The suppliers do offer the following advisory:

"Due to the traumatic and often horrific experiences that the authors of the Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs are writing about, and the extremely difficult circumstances in which they found themselves during the years of Nazi domination in Europe, some of the books in the series contain sensitive material. The complex and sometimes delicate issues raised in the survivors' accounts are not only restricted to their encounters with brutality and violence—there are as many facets to their experiences as there are survivors. It is the policy of the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program not to excise these passages—our policy is to maintain the integrity of the survivors' accounts and to publish them as written, editing only for clarity and editorial consistency. While many of the Azrieli memoirs are suitable for readers age 14+, the series as a whole is intended for senior high school and adult readers. We strongly urge teachers who wish to use the books in the classroom to exercise their own best judgment and discretion in deciding which titles are appropriate for their students."

Derrick Grose
Teacher-Librarian
Lisgar Collegiate Institute
Ottawa, Ontario

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