

Start Your Own Undercover Book Club

A Guide for Teachers and Librarians

By Colleen Nelson, author of *The Undercover Book List*.

In *The Undercover Book List*, two students form an unexpected friendship as they share book recommendations by leaving anonymous notes for each other.

Here are some ideas to start an Undercover Book Club at your school or library.

Option #1

1. Choose some books that are popular and are sure to be checked out in a timely manner.
2. Hide a note in the middle of the book that reads:

Hello!

Welcome to the Undercover Book Club! There's no pressure to join but if you'd like to, all you need to do is write the title of a book you'd recommend to the next reader of this book. That's it!

Sincerely,

Your Secret Book Buddy

Option #2

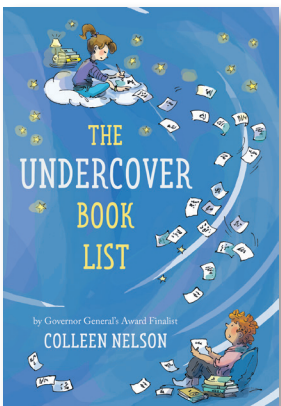
1. Select a few titles and place them on an Undercover Book Club cart or shelf in the library or classroom.
2. Students who choose these titles can write messages on Post-It Notes as they read and leave them in the book.
3. The next reader can add their own messages and comments.

Option #3

1. Partner kids up based on their reading preferences.
2. They'll need an alias to keep their identity a secret (they'll have to share their alias with you).
3. Keep the partners a secret. You'll need two copies of the same book so each student gets one.
4. Conceal the covers by wrapping them in brown paper and distribute the books to the book buddies.
5. Encourage Undercover Book Buddies to write anonymous notes to each other by 'mailing' them in the Undercover Book Club mailbox in the classroom or library. The notes need to be signed using their alias. Distribute the notes weekly.
6. When the books are finished, students reveal their identity and find their partners.

Option #4

1. Teachers or librarians can set up a Padlet and can affix the link or QR code to the book.
2. When students read the book, they can upload their ideas, comments, or reflections to the Padlet.



The Undercover Book List

By Colleen Nelson
Middle Grade Fiction ages 8–12
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“The narrative explores what it means to be accurately perceived, by both others and oneself, while simultaneously serving as a satisfying love letter to Louis Sachar, Rebecca Stead, Jacqueline Woodson, and other cherished authors, and emphasizing books’ transformative power.”—[Publishers Weekly](#)

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