**The Top 5 Ways I Have Built Up My Classroom Library**

By Sarah Gerrard

​When I first heard of the concept of a classroom library, I thought it sounded great, but was impractical because of the cost. Passionate about making this a reality in my classroom I explored various means of attaining books and discovered that at least in Saskatoon and the surrounding area, it is entirely feasible.  For all people interested in investing in a library, here are my top five places to get books (in order of cost):
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1.  Ask friends and family for books.  Make it known that you're collecting them.  Most people read books once and donate them anyway.
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2.  Visit the [Salvation Army Thrift Store in Saskatoon](http://www.thriftstore.ca/saskatchewan/saskatoon-north). They sell softcover books for $.99/book and when individuals get 5 books they get the 5th one free.  I have found they have an excellent selection.
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3.  [Value Village](https://stores.savers.com/sk/saskatoon/valuevillage-thrift-store-2020.html)is just across the street from the Salvation Army and their most expensive books cost $5.99.  They have a wider selection and organize their books by category.

4.  *​*​[Bookoutlet.ca sells cheap books in Canada and offers free shipping over $45](http://bookoutlet.ca/Store/Details/9781573223157B/my-friend-leonard)

5.  My favourite book stores in Saskatoon are McNally Robinson & Indigo.  They have great selections and there is nothing better than browsing for books with a fresh coffee in hand.

Other free book ideas:

* I downloaded numerous free kindle titles from Amazon.ca - see this article, which made me aware of this process: [Free Digital Download Ideas](http://bookoutlet.ca/Store/Details/9781573223157B/my-friend-leonard)
* Numerous "take a book, leave a book" boxes are springing up in peoples' yards.  Often there are some interesting titles hidden away in these gems.