Ideas for Encouraging the Return of Overdue Books and Library/Media Center Materials

Sometimes verbal reminders, notes home and even overdue notices with listed fines/replacement costs are not enough to prompt students and parents to return overdue materials. Here are some additional ideas for getting materials back.

1. **Phone Home!**
   Ask your student if they have an answering machine at home. If so, have them use the media center telephone, call themselves, and leave themselves a message. “Susie, this is Susie. Find your library book and bring it back tomorrow!”

2. **Amnesty Day**
   If you charge fines for overdue materials, you may want to have an occasional “Amnesty Day”. Students can return materials with no questions asked.

3. **A note for students who are graduating from High School:**

   A senior! Wow! Graduation! If you want to walk at graduation, you need to return the books/materials listed below. Can’t find the book? The replacement cost is _________.

   Thanks and Congratulations!

4. **Wanted! Posters**
   Create a “Wanted! Fugitive Books” poster that lists the titles of overdue and missing books and other media center materials. The “reward” can be reinstatement of borrowing privileges, waiver of overdue fines, etc. A “bounty” of a small treat can be given to siblings who find and return missing or overdue materials.