

Participate: Creative Reading

Ideas Bank

10 minute ideas

One-minute Halloween heart stoppers

Create fast scary stories that last one minute.

Pick of the week – best story/book of the week

Video people talking about their favourite books and then upload them to grolupthing.org

Facilitator talks about a book they've really enjoyed recently

Recommend a book for a friend, a librarian, or a specific group of people.

Trolley dash

Each person is given a list of things to find in the library, fastest time wins. Great way of getting people to learn more about what is in the library.

Cast the book

Discuss which actors would play which part in your favourite book.

Consequences

Start with a line from a book and then each person in the group adds a line of their own

6 degrees of separation

How to get from Jane Eyre to Harry Potter. Set yourself a reading challenge – could be to read something you think you might hate, something you've always meant to read, or reading more books in a given time. Each person in the group sets themselves a reading challenge, or you put them all into a hat and people have to take one.

Book charades

Act out the name or content of a book

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Consequences

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Desert island books

Which 5 books would you take with you if you were stranded on a desert island?

More ideas...

Place a selection of books on the floor. Each person pick up a book they would like to read (or one they wouldn't like to read) and discuss. Look at covers, blurbs, extracts.

As above but people pick something off a shelf.

Read some openings of books and ask people which ones would make them want to read on. They could be books from a prize shortlist, books from one of our CRP publishers or just a random selection.

As above but add a Britain's Got Talent element. Young people read extracts and others play the part of the panel, buzzing when they've heard enough.

Play shop-bought games e.g. Balderdash, Articulate. Pictionary

Write stories where each person writes the first line and then passes it on until everyone has contributed to each story

Cut up a laminated poem and ask the group to try to put it back together

Use fridge magnet words (or cut up a variety of poems) and ask people to construct their own poems

Laminate extracts, blurbs and covers of books and try to match them up

Everyone talk for a minute about something they've read that week or month – even if it's the TV guide

Find an image that represents the book you've read (from a magazine or from Google images)

Make posters including reviews for each book that the group reads

Search online for author info relating to the books you're reading

Contribute reviews to groupthing and/or other websites

Keep a group blog of the books you've read

Make video reviews and post them on groupthing

Discuss your secret reading habits. Where do you read? In the bath, on the loo etc. When? Before school, late at night. How? Hair chewers, nail biters etc. Are there different books for different places and times? Or books where you read the last page first? Etc.

Create your group's top ten (or top team of players) for books, comics, music, films etc.

Put objects in a bag and group must come up with a story that uses them all.

Single Session ideas

First pages

Read out loud several first pages from different novels. Discuss why some are better than others. The group then writes the first page (and just the first page) of a story that they think people will want to continue to read.

Comics & poetry

Allow the group to choose poems (or song lyrics). They use either their own drawing skills, or software to recompose the poems as comics. So typically you will use each panel to one or two lines of the poem. Get young people to create their own book displays

Watch the Film/Read the book

Use software such as Comic Life (download trial version for free) to create quick drama pieces/photo stories or storyboards. Basically Comic Life turns your photos into comic strips so it's ideal for photostories. Upload on to the creative section of groupthing. Or use <http://pixton.com/uk/> to generate your own comic strips. It's so easy you'll find yourself doing it just for fun!

Film a trailer for your favourite book. Can just use simple images with voiceover.

Book Covers

Ask the group to bring their favourite book covers. Allow each person to say what it is that they like about it. Now find the worst book covers in the library. Why are they so bad?

Blurb & cover

Type up a series of blurbs on single sheets. Photocopy enough for each participant. Lay out the corresponding book covers with numbers attached. See how many each person can match in five minutes.

Altered books

Create new works of art using old library stock or books from a charity shop.

<http://www.creativity-portal.com/howto/artsandcrafts/alteredsbooks.html>

Readers' Theatre

This is a dramatic reading from a book. There are no costumes, props or memorizing. The group chooses a two or three page scene from a book. How it works:

- The group must provide an introduction to the book and scene so that the audience understand what is going on
- Everyone has a part
- There can be more than one narrator
- There are choral parts where more than one person reads at the same time
- The lines and paragraphs of the original are broken up differently for the RT script
- It's okay to cut a few lines when making the script
- It's okay to add a few words to the script
- Sometimes lines are repeated for emphasis

Look for a scene with some action/excitement and a mix of narration and dialogue. Work with the group to decide how the original writing should be broken up for the script. Write out a final script. Decide who is reading which bit. Practice reading it out loud. Think about different styles of delivery. Get the groups to record themselves so they can see where they need to shout or whisper.

Make a *Poetree* for your library wall

Draw a tree outline. Add poems or lyrics on leaf shapes to hang off the trees. (NB at outdoor festivals you can literally hang the poetry leaves off the trees).

Create a soundtrack for a book

which songs would go well with it if you were turning it into a film

More ideas...

Write some 'We Recommend' cards to stick on shelves underneath popular books

Use www.bookcrossing.com to track down some books "in the wild" nearby. Read them and then release them and track how far they go. Or release some unwanted library stock.

Extreme reads: Take photos of your group reading books in unusual places.

Get each group member to make a collage representing themselves and their interests. Swap the collages around and ask young people to find a book that might suit the person whose collage they've been given.

Video young people talking about their favourite books and then upload them onto groupthing.

Get young people to create their own book displays.

Make short films of young people talking about their favourite books and show them on your plasma screen or on groupthing.

Make We recommend Powerpoints of upcoming titles and display them on your plasma screen or on a computer.

Longer projects

Soundscape

Choose a particular area of your town or city. What combination of music and spoken worked best captures its mood? This can be run as an activity or competition

Lost Diaries

A project with East Sussex archives and groups of children in residential care. Using the details of children that had been in Parish care over a hundred years ago (names, ages, brief descriptions of their personalities, and where they went after care) present day young

people composed fictional diary extracts and letters from those people. It led them to a greater understanding of how people lived in those times, and a debate over the moral issues of when children should be placed in care. You can link this to specific books such as *Coram Boy*, or *Tracy Beaker* but be aware that some young people in residential care will not want to read about it, and will prefer less realistic settings.

Every Picture Tells A Story

A group is assembled and given the task of taking pictures of objects. People, buildings, and strange details around your town or city. They can use digital or disposable phones. Another group are waiting to write a story that uses all the captured images. If the pictures are being captured on phones then they can be sent straight to the writers. If using prints they should be given to the writing group at the start of a workshop. In either case the activity should last more than a couple of hours so the participants work together quickly to complete the best story using the pictures they were given.

Make a podcast of a group discussion or author interview. Spend one session thinking of topics and questions, one session making the podcast, one session editing and posting on groupthing.

Email stories

Position groups in several libraries around your city. Each group starts a story and passes it by email to another library to finish.

Desert Island books longer version

Select your books then video or podcast young people talking about their choices as on Radio 4. Upload the results to groupthing.

Team up with Barrington Stoke publishers to edit books for young people with literacy difficulties.

More Ideas...

Take your group on a book buying trips. Spend a session beforehand talking about what kind of books young people would want to read and a session afterwards processing and displaying the books. If you're doing a book buy, why not go into a school and ask young people for the book they'd like to see in the library. When the books are displayed you could label them 'Chosen by.....'

Get the reading group to organise an author visit.

Run some manga reading and/or drawing workshops.

Run some creative writing workshops.

Get involved in making story sacks for young parents.

Set up a book challenge over a number of weeks with prizes for the winner e.g. read all the Book Trust Teenage Prize shortlist or a page a day for a week. Record in diaries.

Set up a 'We're all reading.....' month and see how many young people you can get all

reading the same book in your city. Set up discussion pages and polls on groupthing. Give prizes for your group members who sign up the most people.

Make video trailers for a book that people are reading using young people as actors or using photographs or software such as the Sims. Post it on groupthing and/or display it on your plasma screen.