

Reading Extension Activities

1. Write a Letter to the Author. After reading a book, each student shares reactions to the book in a letter written to its author. If you write to an author who is still alive, you might actually mail the letter.
2. Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down! Each student writes a review of the book he or she just finished reading -- in the style of a movie review. The student concludes by awarding a thumbs up or thumbs down on the book.
3. Character Trait Diagram. Create a Venn diagram to illustrate similarities and differences in the traits of two of the main characters in a book just completed. (A student might elect to create a Venn diagram showing similarities and differences between the book's main character and the student!)
4. Sell It! Each student pretends to be a publicist for the book that's just been read. The student writes and then delivers a 60-second speech that will persuade other students that they should read the book.
5. Interview a Character. Each student composes six to eight questions to ask a main character in a book just completed. The student also writes the character's response to each question. The questions and answers should provide information that shows the student read the book without giving away the most significant details.
6. Ten Facts. Create a "Ten Facts About [book title]" sheet that lists ten facts he or she learned from reading the book. The facts, written in complete sentences, must include details the student didn't know before reading the book.
7. Script It! Write a movie script for a favorite scene in a book just read. At the top of the script, the student can assign real-life TV or movie stars to play each role. The student might also work with classmates to perform the favorite scene.
8. What Did You Learn? Write a summary of what he or she learned from a book just completed. The summary might include factual information, something learned about people in general, or something the student learned about himself or herself.
9. Glossary and Word Search. Create a glossary of ten or more words that are specific to a book's tone, setting, or characters. Define each word and write a sentence from the book that includes that word. Create a word search puzzle that includes the glossary words. Students can exchange their glossaries and word searches with others in the class.
10. Character Trait Chart. Create a chart with three columns. Each column is headed with the name of one of the book's characters. As the student reads the book, he or she can keep a record of the traits each character possesses and include an incident that supports each trait.
11. Characters Come to Life! Create life-size "portraits" of one of the characters from a book just read. The portrait should include a written piece that tells about the character. The piece might also include information about events, traits, or conflicts in the book that
12. Book Jackets. On the 'cover' they illustrate a cover for their report. On the inside flap they write a description of the main character. On the inside back flap they write a description of either the setting or the problem (she switches it every now and again). On the back 'cover' they write a summary of their story.
13. Lights! Camera! Action! Imagine that you are the author of the book you have just read, write a letter to a movie producer trying to get that person interested in making your book into a movie.
14. Resume Writing. Create a resume for a book character. The student should include in the resume a statement of the applicant's goals and a detailed account of his or her experience and outside interests.

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15. Sales Talk. Give a sales talk, pretending the students in the class are clerks in a bookstore and you want them to push this book
16. Setting. Write a one-page report explaining how that setting was important to the story.
17. Make up a lost or found ad for a person or object in the story.
18. "Dear Diary." Create a diary or journal and write at least five entries that might have been written by a character in a book just read. The entries should share details about the story that will prove the student read the book.
19. Create a Comic Book. Turn a book, or part of it, into a comic book, complete with comic-style illustrations and dialogue bubbles.
20. Mapping. Make a map of where the events in the book take place.
21. Miniature Stage. Build a miniature stage setting of a scene in the book. Include a written explanation of the scene.
22. Monologue. Dress as one of the characters and act out a characterization.
23. Timeline. Make a time line of all the events in the book.
24. Retell the Story. Retell part of the story from a different point of view.
25. Letter to the Character. Write a letter to the main character of your book asking questions, protesting a situation, and/or making a complaint and/or a suggestion. This must be done in the correct letter format.
26. Travel Brochure. If the story of your book takes place in another country, prepare a travel brochure using pictures you have found or drawn.
27. Character Description/Portrait. Write a FULL (physical, emotional, relational) description of three of the characters in the book. Draw a portrait to accompany each description.
28. Historical Timeline. After reading a book of history or historical fiction, make an illustrated timeline showing events of the story and draw a map showing the location(s) where the story took place.
29. Costumes. Design costumes for dolls and dress them as characters from the book. Explain who these characters are and how they fit in the story.
30. Write a Song. Write and perform an original song that tells the story of the book.
31. Summary. Write a one sentence summary of each chapter and illustrate the sentence.
32. Poetry Reading Activity. After reading a book of poetry, do three of the following: 1) do an oral reading; 2)write an original poem; 3)act out a poem; 4)display a set of pictures which describe the poem; 5)write original music for the poem; 6)add original verses to the poem.
33. TV Reporter. Be a TV or radio reporter, and give a report of a scene from the book as if it is happening "live".
34. Make a poem about the story.

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35. Collage/Poster. Do a collage/poster showing pictures or 3-d items that related to the book, and then write a sentence or two beside each one to show its significance.
36. Book Talk. Do a book talk. Present it to the class.
37. Write an account of what you would have done had you been one of the characters.
38. Environmental Research. Learn something about the environment in which the book takes place. Write a one page report about your findings.
39. Plan a party for one or all of the characters involved. Explain the decorations, food, entertainment/activities, etc.
40. Change the Climax. Choose one part of the story that reached a climax. If something different had happened then, how would it have affected the outcome?
41. Venn Diagram. Make a Venn diagram on the ways you are like and unlike one of the characters in your story.
42. Looking Ahead. Write about one of the character's life twenty years from now.
43. Postcard. Send a postcard from one of the characters. Draw a picture on one side, write the message on the other.
44. Compare this book with another you have read on a similar subject
45. Choose birthday gifts for one of the characters involved. Tell why you chose them.
46. Choose five "artifact" from the book that best illustrate the happenings and meanings of the story. Tell why you chose each one.
47. Conflicts. Stories are made up; on conflicts and solutions. Choose three conflicts that take place in the story and give the solutions. Is there one that you wish had been handled differently?
48. Put Yourself in the Story. Pretend that you are going to join the characters in the story. What things will you need to pack? Think carefully, for you will be there for a week, and there is no going back home to get something!
49. Nominate one of the characters for an office in local, state or national government. Which office should they run for? What are the qualities that would make them be good for that office?
50. Board Games. Make game boards (Shoots and Ladders is a good pattern) by groups, using problems from the book as ways to get ahead or to be put back. Groups exchange boards, then play.
51. Make a bookmark for the book, drawing a character on the front, giving a brief summary of the book on back after listing the title and author.
52. Write a multiple choice quiz of the book with at least ten questions.
53. Make a mobile using a coat hanger.
54. Pretend that you can spend a day with one of the characters. Which character would you choose? Why? What would you do?

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55. Use information in a book to make a scrapbook about the subject.
56. Write an ad for a dating service for one of the characters.
57. Research and tell a brief biography about the author.
58. Invite one of the characters to dinner, and plan an imaginary conversation with the person who will fix the meal. What will you serve, and why?
59. Write the plot for a sequel to this book.
60. Write an obituary for one of the characters. Be sure to include life-time accomplishments.
61. Write a scene that has been lost from the book.
62. Talk to the class about your book by saying a little about the author, explain who the characters are and explain enough about the beginning of the story so that everyone will understand what they are about to read. Finally, read an exciting, interesting, or amusing passage from your book. Stop reading at a moment that leaves the audience hanging and add "If you want to know more you'll have to read the book." If the book talk is well done almost all the students want to read the book.
63. Explain why the story, characters, conflicts, etc., would make a good film. Suggest a filming location and the actors to play the various roles. **YOU MAY ONLY USE BOOKS WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN MADE INTO MOVIES.**
64. Newspaper: Create the front page of a newspaper that would have been available at the time the book takes place. The newspaper page might include weather reports, an editorial or editorial cartoon, ads, etc. The title of the newspaper should be something appropriate to the book.
65. Take and PASS a Reading Counts test in the library.