

Summer Reading: Back to School Activities 7th Grade & Up



Reading is an exciting personal adventure!

It can take us to unknown worlds. A book can tug at our emotions, making us cry, laugh, scream or even shout. When we choose our own books and follow our interests, reading becomes a lifelong passion.

Each person is touched by a book in a unique way. The experiences you've had in your life, your feelings about different things and what you know about the world influence how you respond to the book you are reading. You can become a character; you can experience the book as if you were there.

Reading a good book can be very energizing. It's fun to use that energy to create something that symbolizes what we've read.

Different Ideas for Back to School Activities:

LITERATURE GROUPS/ CIRCLES

- Sharing is a very enjoyable part of reading. Literature groups are also called literature circles because the group takes place in a circle. There are usually six or seven members in each group. It is useful to have a leader to get the group going. Literature groups can share books of the same genre, same author, story elements of the same books. They provide a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read and discuss books.
- If the class has chosen different books for summer reading, a group can read one of them, and another group the other one, so as to be able to exchange books when they come back from holidays and share their book experience.

THEY HAVE TO MOTIVATE EACH OTHER TO READ EACH OTHERS' BOOKS.

MY TYPE OF BOOK:

The students will focus on **Genre** (adventure, biography, fantasy, mystery, historical, realistic fiction...)

- Make the students write on a page the genre of the book chosen and analyze it with the information below. They can create a word web that lists words and phrases related to the genre.

Adventure/Suspense:

- Which parts of the adventure/suspense would you like to experience?
- Which were the biggest obstacles and the most exciting part?
- How would you change the adventure/suspense?

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Biography:

- Who is the character?
- Do you like this person's life? His accomplishments, major events, why or why not?

Fantasy:

- Where does this story take place?
- Who is your favorite character? Why?

Mystery:

- Was a crime committed in the story? If so, which?
- Did the author do a good job building suspense, how?
- Clues, suspicious characters, detectives, spies
- How would you change the mystery?

Historical:

- When does the story take place? Is it fiction or non-fiction?
- What is interesting of this period of time?

Realistic fiction:

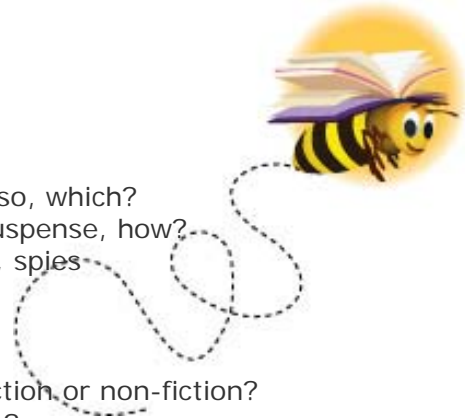
- Who are the main characters?
- How does this story remind you of your life?
- Do you think this story could really happen? Explain why or why not.

Humor:

- How does the author express humor in the story? Jokes, absurd situations, funny characters.

Romance:

- Who are the main characters? Which were the obstacles the couple has to get together? Heroes and heroines, villains, love, hate.



PREDICTING STORY OUTCOMES:

Predicting makes reading a book more exciting. We are eager to see if our prediction is similar to or different from what actually happens in the story.

- Look at the cover and see if the book cover gives you any clues about the story
- Look at the title and see what the title suggests.
- Read the first paragraph of the book. After reading it: What do you predict will happen throughout the story?
- Compare and contrast your ending with the author's book ending.
- What would have happened if . . . ?
- Have the students share their endings, invite the class to vote about which ending appeared to be more realistic.

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A BOOK REPORT JOURNAL:

It's a good way to express the personal meaning a story has for you, using the writing process.

Report 1: **Setting Identification:**

- Title, author, Illustrator, number of pages, easy, medium, challenging.
- Where does the story take place? Describe the setting and the time period.
- Does the setting remind you of anywhere you have been?
- Do you think the setting fits the story? Why?
- Does the setting remind you of the area in which you live?

Report 2: **Plot Identification:**

- Title, author, Illustrator, number of pages, easy, medium, challenging.
- What happens at the beginning of the story? What problems do the characters have to face?
- An explosive situation or conflict (man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. society, man vs. himself.)
- How is it solved? How would you solve it? Explain.
- What happens at the end? Does the ending make sense to you? Why or why not.
- Do you like the ending? If you could change the ending, how would you change it?
- Does this story plot remind you of any other story you've read?
- What have you learnt from the story? Is there a moral lesson?

Report 3: **Main character and Goal identification:**

- Title, author, Illustrator, number of pages, easy, medium, challenging
- Who is the main character?
- What is the main character's goal?
- Do you like the main character? Why? Why not?
- How do you feel about the main character?
- If you were the main character, in what other ways would you try to reach the goal?
- What things do you have in common with the main character?
- Does the main character remind you of someone? Who?
- Is the main character your favorite? What makes this character your favorite? If he / she isn't, who is your favorite character and why?

Report 4: **Mood/Feelings identification:**

- Title, author, Illustrator, number of pages, easy, medium, challenging
- Describe a scene in the book that made you laugh. What was funny?
- Describe a sad scene. Did it remind you of anything you've experienced?
- Which was the most exciting part of the book? How did it make you feel?
- Review some of the feelings that the characters in the book showed.
- Have the students find words that describe feelings.



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READING RESPONSE PROMPTS:

RECALL:

- Draw a picture of the climax of the story.
- List 5 adjectives that describe the book's main character.
- Describe the setting of the story.
- What is the major problem in the story?



PREDICTION:

- How do you think the story will end?
- Which character do you think will change the most by the end?
- Based on the title, what do you think the book is about?
- Look at the Pictures. What do you think the book is about?
- How do you think the conflict will be resolved?

CONNECTIONS:

- How is this book similar to another you have read by this author?
- Create a Venn diagram to compare the book setting with the area you live,
- Why were your feelings altered after reading the first chapter?
- What advice would you give to the main character? Why?
- What character would you most like to be? Why?
- Write an e-mail to the author, telling him about your opinion about his book.

OPINION:

- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Which do you think is the most important scene in the book? Why?
- How would a different setting affect the story? Why?
- Was the cover design effective? Did it make you want to read it?
- Create a new cover for the book?
- Did you like the ending? How would you have liked it to end? Rewrite a new ending.

EVALUATION

- Did you enjoy reading this book? Why or why not?
- Was the book easy or hard reading? Why?
- Would you like to read more books by this author? Why or why not?
- Do you think the author chose a good title for the book? Why? Or why not? Choose your own title.
- Describe your feelings after finishing the book.

BUY THE BOOK/BOOK ADVERTISEMENT

To create a poster that will make people want to buy and read your book.

The poster should include:

- Title
- Author
- Setting
- Genre
- Main Characters
- Invite the audience to READ THIS BOOK! Example: Find out how... You've got to read this book because...
- Something interesting about the story (but don't give the ending away)