Book Sharing Ideas

Performance Options:

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down! Write a review of the book you just finished reading -- in the style of a movie review. Conclude by awarding a thumbs up or thumbs down on the book. This activity could be even more fun if two students read the same book. You could plan a lively interaction about the book!

Interview a Character. Compose a few questions to ask a main character in a book just completed. Also write the character's response to each question. Get a friend to help you perform the interview for your class.

Script It! Write a movie script for a favorite scene in a book just read. Work with classmates to perform the scene.

Do a dramatic reading (Reader's Theater) of a scene. Select the scene and ask friends to help read it dramatically.

Impersonate a character and tell an episode from the book. Dress up as a character and retell the story.

Sell It! Pretend to be a publicist for the book. Write and deliver a speech that will persuade other students that they should read the book.

Prepare a television commercial about the book. Imagine a book is the basis for a miniseries on television. Prepare and give the television commercials that would make people want to watch it.

Return to the future. Pretend that you are one of the characters who has "come back" 25 years after the novel has ended. Describe your reactions.

Write and act out a telephone conversation between two of the characters.

Convert part of the book to a radio drama. Give a live or taped version about the story - or a scene from it - as a radio play. Include an announcer and sound effects.

Do a book talk. 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."

Convert part of the book into a puppet show. Make simple puppets (stick puppets, finger puppets, paper bag puppets, and so on) or complex puppets (marionettes) and present the story or an exciting scene from it.

In the News! Create the front page of a newspaper that tells about events and characters in a book just read. 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.

Perform a "You Are There" news program reporting on a particular scene, character, or event in the book. Be a TV or radio reporter, and give a report of a scene from the book as if it is happening "live".

Writing and Research Options:

Journal as you go - As you're reading the book, keep a two-sided reading journal. The left side should have quotes from the book and page numbers. The right side should have your questions, thoughts, observations, revelations, etc.

Theme Report. Select a concept or a thing from the book just finished. Use library or Internet resources to explore it further. Write a report that shares information about the topic.

Write a report of related information about one topic or person from the book. For example, research information about the trial of Benedict Arnold, how the covered wagons traveled, fishing off a particular island, and so on.

"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.

Compare and contrast the book with another you have read.

Write an editorial based on a controversial issue in the book.

Design a time-line for events in the book. 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.

Make a literary map of the author's works and life. Use references, biographical, and autobiographical materials (articles, books, interviews) to create an informative and colorful map.

The written word versus the video. Compare the book to the movie or television version of it. What aspects of the book have been altered for the visual performance and why? Do these alterations make the story "better"? Why or why not?

Rearrange a passage as a poem. Find a particularly effective description or bit of action that is really poetry written as prose. Rewrite it. Leave out words or skip a sentence or two, but arrange it to create a poem.

Write part of the story from a different point of view. Take an entire story (or part of it) and write a version as someone else would tell it.

Artistic Options:

Create a Comic Book. Turn a book, or part of it, into a comic book, complete with comic-style illustrations and dialogue bubbles.

Characters Come to Life! Create "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 involve that character.

Picture Books. After reading a book, create a picture book version of the story that would appeal to younger students.

Make a "Roll Movie" of the scenes or events of a book. Put a series of pictures in sequence on a long strip of paper. Attach ends to rollers and place in a cardboard box. Print simple dialogue to accompany the frames.

Design a detailed map or maps for the settings of the book.

Design a Travel Brochure. Illustrate and advertise the "world" of your novel.

Compile a scrapbook or a memory box. Choose one of the major characters in your book, and, as that person, put together a scrapbook or memory box of special memories and mementoes. Be true to your character.