

81 Novel Activity Ideas

1. Decide on an alternate title for the book. Why is it appropriate? Is it better than the one the book has now? Why or Why not?
2. Make an ID card which belongs to one of the characters. Be sure to make the card look like the cards for that particular country. Include a picture and all information found on an ID card.
3. Prepare a list of 15 to 20 questions for use in determining if other people have read the book carefully. Must include some "thought" questions. "How?" "Why?"
4. Make a dictionary containing 20 or more difficult words from the book.
5. Describe the problem or conflict existing for the main character in the book. Tell how the conflict was or was not resolved.
6. Make a crossword puzzle using ideas from a book. You need at least 25 entries.
7. Create a radio ad for your book. Write out the script and record it as it would be presented. Don't forget background music!
8. Make a "wanted" poster for one of the characters or objects in your book. Include the following: (a) a drawing or cut out picture of the character or object, (b) a physical description of the character or object, (c) the character's or object's misdeeds (or deeds?), (d) other information about the character or object which is important, (e) the reward offered for the capture of the character or object.
9. Design an advertising campaign to promote the sale of the book you read. Include each of the following: a poster, a radio or TV commercial, a magazine or newspaper ad.
10. Find the top 10 websites a character in your book would most frequently visit. Include 2-3 sentences for each on why your character likes each of the sites.
11. Write a scene that could have happened in the book you read but didn't. After you have written the scene, explain how it would have changed the outcome of the book.
12. Create a board game based on events and characters in the book you read. By playing your game, others should learn what happened in the book. Your game must include the following: a game board, a rule sheet and clear directions, events and characters from the story.
13. Make models of three objects which were important in the book you read. On a card attached to each model, explain why that object was important in the book.
14. Design a film poster for the book you read. Cast the major character in the book with real actors and actresses. Include a scene or dialogue from the book in the layout of the poster. Remember, it should be PERSUASIVE; you want people to come and see the film.
15. If the book you read involves a number of locations within a country or geographical area, plot the events of the story on a map. Make sure the map is large enough for others to read the main events clearly. Attach a legend to your map. Write a paragraph that explains the importance of each event indicated on your map.
16. Complete a series of five drawings that show five of the major events in the plot of the book you read. Write captions for each drawing so that the illustrations can be understood by someone who did not read the book.
17. Make a test for the book you read. Include 10 true-false, 10 multiple choice and 10 short essay questions. After writing the test, provide the answers for your questions.
18. Select one character from the book you read who has the qualities of a heroine or hero. List these qualities and tell why you think they are heroic.
19. Imagine that you are about to make a feature-length film of the novel you read. You have been instructed to select your cast from members of your English class. Cast all the major characters in your novel from your English classmates and tell why you selected each person for a given part.

20. Plan a party for the characters in the book you read. In order to do this, complete each of the following tasks: (a) Design an invitation to the party which would appeal to all of the characters. (b) Imagine that you are five of the characters in the book and tell what each would wear to the party. (c) Tell what food you would serve and why. (d) Tell what games or entertainment you will provide and why your choices are appropriate. (e) Tell how three of the characters will act at the party. (f) What kind of a party is this? (birthday, housewarming, anniversary, etc.)
21. List five of the main characters from the book you read. Give three examples of what each character learned or did not learn in the book.
22. You are a prosecuting judge putting one of the characters from the book you read on trial for a crime or misdeed. Prepare your case on paper, giving all your arguments.
23. Do the previous activity, but find a friend to help you. One of you becomes the prosecuting judge; the other is the defence. If you can't find a friend, you could try it on your own.
24. Make a shoe box model of a scene from the book you read. Write a paragraph explaining the scene and its effect in the book.
25. Pretend that you are one of the characters in the book you read. Record a monologue of that character telling of his or her experiences. Be sure to write out a script before recording.
26. Record an interview with one of the characters in the book you read. Pretend that this character is being interviewed by a magazine or newspaper reporter. You may do this project with a friend, but be sure to write a script before recording.
27. Imagine that you have been given the task of conducting a tour of the town in which the book you read is set. Make a recording describing the homes of your characters and the places where important events in the book took place. You may want to use a musical background.
28. Do some research on the hometown of your book's author. You may be able to find descriptions of his or her home, school, favourite hangouts, etc. What else is of interest in the town? Repeat activity 27.
29. Make a list of at least ten proverbs or familiar sayings. Now decide which characters in the book you read should have followed the suggestions in the familiar sayings and why.
30. Produce a newspaper front page that is devoted entirely to the book you read. The front page should look as much like a real newspaper page as possible. The articles on the front page should be based on events and characters in the book.
31. Make a time line of the major events in the book you read. Be sure the divisions on the time line reflect the time period in the plot. Use drawings or magazine cut-outs to illustrate events along the time line.
32. Change the setting of the book you read. Tell how this change of setting would alter events and affect characters.
33. Make a paper doll likeness of one of the characters in the book you read. Design at least three costumes for this character. Next, write a paragraph commenting on each outfit; tell what the clothing reflects about the character, the historical period and events in the book.
34. Complete each of these eight ideas with material growing out of the book you read: This book made me wish that..., realise that..., decide that..., wonder about..., see that..., believe that ..., feel that..., and hope that...
35. After reading a non-fiction book, become a teacher. Prepare a lesson that will teach something you learned from the book. It could be a "how-to" lesson or one on content. Plan carefully to present all necessary information in a logical order.
36. Look through magazines for words and pictures that describe your book. Use these to create a collage on a bookmark. Make the bookmark available for others to use as they read the same book.
37. Choose an interesting character from your book. Consider the character's personality, likes and dislikes. Decide on a gift for him or her... something he or she would really like and use. Design a greeting card to go along with your gift. In the greeting, explain to your friend from the book why you selected the gift.

38. Search through classifieds such as Gumtree. Find something a character in your book was looking for or would like. Write a short paragraph telling why he or she needs/wants the item. Would the one advertised be a good buy for him or her? Why or Why not?
39. Create cut-out sketches of each character in your novel. Mount the sketches onto a board. Include a brief character description telling others about the characters.
40. Write a letter to the author of your novel and explain how you feel about the book.
41. Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during, or after the book's events. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.
42. If you are reading the same book as one or more others are reading, dramatise a scene from the book. Write a script and have several rehearsals before presenting it to others.
43. Prepare a spoken report of 5 minutes. Give a brief summary of the plot and describe the personality of one of the main characters.
44. Give a sales talk, pretending the people you are presenting to work in a bookstore and you want them to push this book.
45. Build a miniature stage setting of a scene in the book. Include a written explanation of the scene.
46. Imagine that you are the author of the book you have just read. Suddenly the book becomes a best seller. Write a letter to a movie producer trying to get that person interested in making your book into a movie. Explain why the story, characters, conflicts, etc., would make a good film. Suggest a filming location and the actors to play the various roles.
47. Write a letter (10-sentence minimum) 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.
48. Write a FULL (physical, emotional, relational) description of three of the characters in the book. Draw a portrait to accompany each description.
49. Write and perform an original song that tells the story of the book.
50. 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.
51. Create a newspaper for your book. Summarise the plot in one article, cover the weather in another, do a feature story on one of the more interesting characters in another. Include a collection of ads that would be pertinent to the story.
52. Do a book talk. Talk to others 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 everyone will want to read the book!
53. Write Graffiti about the book on a (fake!) "brick" wall.
54. Make a Venn diagram of the people, events or settings in your story.
55. Choose one part of the story that reached a climax. If something different had happened then, how would it have affected the outcome?
56. Make a Venn diagram on the ways you are like and unlike one of the characters in your story.
57. Write about one of the character's life twenty years from now.
58. Make a travel brochure advertising the setting of the story.
59. Choose five "artefacts" from the book that best illustrate the happenings and meanings of the story. Tell why you chose each one.
60. 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!
61. Do some research on a topic brought up in your book.

62. Write an obituary for one of the characters. Be sure to include life-time accomplishments.
63. Choose a job for one of the characters in the book and write a CV/letter of application.
64. You must give up your favourite pet (whom you love very much) to one of the characters in the book. Which character would you choose? Why?
65. Invite one of the characters to dinner, and plan an imaginary conversation with the person who will eat the meal. What will you serve, and why?
66. Write an ad for a dating service for one of the characters.
67. Pretend that you can spend a day with one of the characters. Which character would you choose? Why? What would you do?
68. Write a scene that has been lost from the book.
69. Write the plot for a sequel to this book.
70. Add another character to the book. Why would he/she be put there? What part would he/she serve?
71. Rewrite the story for younger children in picture-book form.
72. Write the plot of the story as if it were a story on the evening news.
73. Make a gravestone for one of the characters.
74. What other story could have taken place at this same time and setting? Write the plot and about 4 or 5 characters in this new book.
75. Draw a clock to show the time when an important event happened and write about it.
76. Make up a lost or found ad for a person or object in the story.
77. Make a list of words and definitions important to the story.
78. Make a mobile using a coat hanger.
79. Identify the parts in the story that show a character has changed his attitudes or ways of behaviour.
80. Find a song or a poem that relates to the theme of your book. Explain the similarities.
81. Draw a comic-book page complete with bubble-style conversations showing an incident in your book.