

national **READATHON** day

Saturday, May 21, 2016
#Readathon2016

Join Penguin Random House, the American Library Association, and readers nationwide for the second annual National Readathon Day. Celebrate the joy of reading and make a commitment to support early childhood literacy development of children in libraries across the nation by joining the conversation online (#Readathon2016) and in person. Keep reading for tips and ideas!

Connect with fellow readers in your community by hosting a Readathon Day party.

ADULT PROGRAM IDEAS:

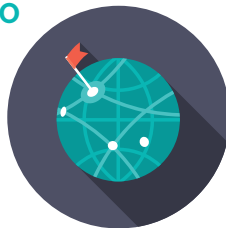


BOOK GRAB BAG: Stuff tote bags with a variety of books from science fiction to romance. When readers arrive, assign them a bag and challenge them to read whatever is inside.



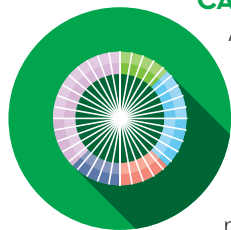
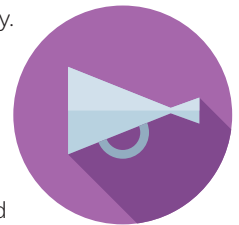
POTLUCK PARTY: Ask guests to bring dishes that correspond to their favorite books. Mix and mingle amongst the different appetizers, as party-goers explain why they chose the dish, and why they love the book.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MINUTES: Select eight books that take place in eight different countries. Every ten minutes ring a bell and ask readers to switch books.



LISTEN WHILE YOU COLOR:

Put some R&R into Readathon Day. The library is the perfect place for busy adults to find some peace and quiet—so allow them to de-stress while enjoying a story on audio. Encourage readers to bring their own coloring books and pencils—or have printouts at the ready—and you provide the audiobook.



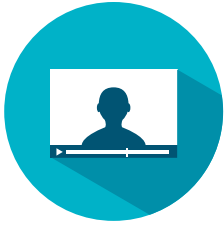
CASINO ROYALE: Ask readers to spin a roulette wheel and read whatever book he or she lands on. Or play “dealer” with a deck of cards, where each card shows the cover of a different book on the reverse side. Readers must select a card to discover their read for the day.

HOLIDAYS: Have guests dress up as their favorite holiday! Sitting in order of each holiday, readers should pass the book they’ve selected (must be themed within the holiday) to the right. Everyone gets a chance to read a new book!



INVITE A NARRATOR TO YOUR BOOK CLUB:

Schedule a book club meeting to coincide with Readathon Day and Skype in the narrator of the audiobook! Members will love the added connection to the story and the narrator can lend a truly unique perspective to any book talk. Email: botmarketing@penguinrandomhouse.com if you are interested in more details about how to set up a narrator Skype session at your library.



TEEN PROGRAM IDEAS:

MARATHON READ: Choose one book and organize a group marathon reading, inviting teens to read out loud together.

RELAY READING: Invite local leaders and community members (local bookstore owner, school principal, mayor, etc.) to relay read; choose one book and have them each read five chapters before handing it off to the next reader.

READATHON BLIND DATE EVENT:

Invite teens to choose a wrapped book to read. At the end of the party, ask them to rate their “date.”

FIRST LINE SCAVENGER HUNT: Have teens choose a first line out of a bin (or from a bulletin board) with the title and author listed. That is the book they must find and READ in your library, school, or bookstore.

NAME THAT CHARACTER: In this literary take on Name that Tune, teens will be challenged to use their ears and recognize their favorite characters as they come to life on audio. Select a beloved series or a popular title such as the Harry Potter series or *Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children*. Pre-select the clips you would like to play for the crowd. Have teens write down their best guesses, or create multiple choice questionnaires for them to fill out.

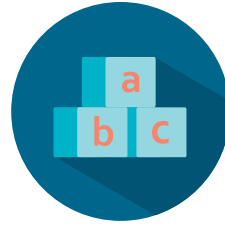
TEEN TRIVIA PROGRAM: Take 15-minute reading breaks at every hour to answer questions and win prizes.

BOOK SWAP PARTY: Invite teens to bring in their favorite book and swap with others.

TEEN STORY TIME HOUR: Have teens nominate their favorite picture books from their childhoods and read a few aloud.

“READING UNDER THE SUN” EVENT: Host an outdoor reading event with lawn chairs, blankets, picnic baskets, and treats throughout the day.

“GET CAUGHT READING” SWEEPSTAKES: Every teen caught reading in the library on Readathon Day is entered to win a free book.



CHILDREN’S PROGRAM IDEAS:

CELEBRATE AT SCHOOL: Post flyers, make in-school announcements, and send home letters with your readers to promote National Readathon Day.

MAKE IT FUN!: In the days leading up to the Readathon, invite students to come to your party to select a special book or hold a mini book buzz in which you present exciting options for your readers.

TAKE A BREAK: Consider scheduling short (5 minute) breaks each hour of your event to keep the energy up and allow readers to re-focus. During the breaks host guest readers, invite students to enjoy a bookmark or craft making station, or dance and stretch.

HOST A READING PARTY: Set up and decorate a large, open space and invite students to get cozy and settle in for the reading party! If possible, tell students to bring pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, stuffed animals, and most importantly, something they are excited to read!

CALLING ALL AUDIOBOOK ARTISTS: Provide sketch paper and crayons or colored pencils. As you play an audiobook for the kids, encourage them to draw a scene or illustrate a character as they listen to the story. Seeing the variation in the art that’s created can lead to a fantastic conversation about the power of imagination.



GENERAL TIPS:

PLAN AHEAD AND SPREAD THE WORD: Create a one sheet to distribute with relevant information such as a location of your Readathon Day event, sponsorship information, who the Readathon is benefitting, how to share online, and other logistics.

CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESS: Encourage readers to share what they are reading on social media using the hashtag **#Readathon2016**.

AND THE WINNER IS . . .: Take time to recognize individual accomplishments by awarding prizes for top fundraisers and other creative categories, or by raffling off prizes at the conclusion of the event.