



Jody Feldman  
P.O. Box 32032  
St. Louis, MO 63132  
[jody@jodyfeldman.com](mailto:jody@jodyfeldman.com)

## YOU WANT ME TO READ A ... WHAT?

Connecting Kids and Books in an Era of Toys, Texting and Technology

With all the distractions out there, it's easy to understand why technology is luring kids away from libraries. However, the same distractions that have taken kids away from books may be part of the solution to drive them back. Following are activities and ideas to do just that:

- \*Map out a book's world in terms of era, theme, pacing, and/or setting as character
- \*Explore character archetypes through character interviews
- \*Similarly, have students act as characters and interview one another
- \*Watch book trailers and use as basis of discussion on synopsis, pacing, theme, characterization
- \*Create fan fiction, taking the characters out of their setting and putting them into students' everyday world.
- \*Hold Battle of the Books, basing trivia questions on literature
- \*Hold Battle of the Characters, pitting characters in one book against those in another
- \*Book-talk books without showing covers or revealing titles
- \*Generate alternative endings for books (what if Sylvester catches Tweety Bird?)
- \*Create virtual tour of a book's setting, finding real places that author uses or fictional places as student imagines them
- \*Bring characters into the real world and decide what roles they'd play on a sports team or how they'd fit into certain circles of friends
- \*Explore emotional reactions; scenes that made them angry, happy, say huh?, etc.

Encourage students to design and/or create ...

- \*Book trailers (post on YouTube, TeacherTube)
- \*Music playlists
- \*Interactive websites
- \*Quizzes (are you Harry, Hermione, Ron, etc.?)
- \*Blogs
- \*Book-related SWAG (stuff we all get) – bookbags, stuffed animals, mugs, or whatever they can imagine
- \*MySpace or Facebook Fan Pages (if appropriate) ... Teens Who Love Harry Potter
- \*PowerPoint Projects ... Why I'm like *Millicent Min*, *Girl Genius* ... Why I'm Not
- \*Bookmarks
- \*Posters
- \*Business cards for characters
- \*T-shirts
- \*Songs incorporating theme or characters or plot
- \*Computer games
- \*Contests
- \*Readers theatre
- \*Video games
- \*Board games

Suggest that students ...

- \*Build (literally or in their imaginations) fantasy worlds
- \*Design sets for certain scenes
- \*Design character costumes
- \*Cast a book's characters with movie actors
- \*Write online journals from main character's point of view
- \*Rewrite story as movie, play, manga, or other format
- \*Tell a scene in tweets or IMs
- \*Shop for character – Where would they shop? What would the character buy for him/herself? As presents?
- \*Design character's bedroom
- \*Fill online quizzes from a character's point of view

Have readers interact with authors through ...

- \*Social networking sites; friending authors on Facebook or MySpace; following on Twitter
- \*Author websites
- \*Author blogs where they should feel free to comment
- \*Creating classroom book review blogs and contacting the authors when their books are featured

#### BOOKS AND AUTHORS MENTIONED IN THE PRESENTATION

*Dracula*, Bram Stoker

*The Color Purple*, Alice Walker

*Dear Mr. Henshaw*, Beverly Cleary

*Perks of Being a Wallflower*, StevenChbosky

*Snail Mail No More*, Paula Danziger & Ann M. Martin

*TTFN and L8R G8R*, Lauren Myracle

*Heart on My Sleeve*, Ellen Wittlinger

*The 39 Clues*, various authors

*The Amanda Project*, Stella Lennon & Melissa Kantor

*Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift

*1984*, George Orwell

*Feed*, M.T. Anderson

*Harry Potter* series, J.K. Rowling

*The Emerald Tablet*, P.J. Hoover

*The Warrior Heir*, Cinda Chima

*Mortal Engines* series, Phillip Reeve

*Leviathan*, Scott Westerfeld

*Johnny Tremain*, Esther Forbes

*Harriet the Spy*, Louise Fitzhugh

*Hatchet*, Gary Paulsen

*Millicent Min*, *Girl Genius* by Lisa Yee

Samuel Richardson, Montesquieu, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Charles Dickens, Kenneth Oppel, Eric Berlin

*Prepared for the Missouri Library Association Conference, October 2009*

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