

On with the Show!

FROM THE RIF MOTIVATIONAL ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

Since its founding, RIF has emphasized the importance of motivation in becoming a reader. For kids with a flair for drama, the performing arts might be the way to get them excited about reading. Shine the spotlight on reading with these field-tested activities from RIF volunteers.

ACTIVITIES

WRIF "Read-io" Show

One RIF project turned their morning announcements into a full-fledged radio show production, complete with announcer. Fourth grade students scripted the entire show, which included reviews of books, book talks, and read-aloud segments.

RIF City Music Hall

When a local restaurant donated the use of karaoke equipment, one RIF school seized the opportunity to put on a show with a unique tie to reading. Children sang along to video discs, reading song lyrics as they flashed across monitors. Different groups of children took turns stepping up to the microphone to sing their numbers. The student numbers were interspersed with performances by teachers, the PTA president, and a member of the local school board.

That's a Rap!

Retelling a favorite story or responding to it in the form of rap will tie together a popular musical form with kids' creative abilities. Let children work together to write and perform their raps, poems, or songs.

Book Commercials

Students can write and make video commercials or book trailers for books to try to hook other students on certain titles. Host a Book Film Festival to showcase their videos or post them on your school website.

Café RIF

Create a special setting for students to perform dramatic readings from their favorite books or poems, either in groups or individually. Set up the library with tables and special lighting and serve refreshments. Read a latte!

Book Academy Awards

Host your own awards ceremony based on books instead of Hollywood movies. Brainstorm categories such as best main character, best title, etc., with kids. Allow students to nominate and select their favorites. At the ceremony, have students dress as or take on the persona of characters or authors to give acceptance speeches and present awards.

