

List 59. BOOK REPORT ALTERNATIVES

Once you have enticed your students to read, consult this list of alternatives for fifty exciting things to do in place of writing a book report.

1. Draw a timeline to illustrate the events in the story.
2. Construct a story map to show the plot and setting.
3. Create a jacket for the book, complete with illustrations and blurbs.
4. Prepare a chart showing the characters, their relationships, and a few biographical facts about each.
5. Create a poster-sized ad for the book.
6. Have a panel discussion if several students read the same book.
7. Dramatize an incident or an important character alone or with others.
8. Do a radio announcement to publicize the book.
9. Have individual conferences with students to get their personal reactions.
10. Appoint a committee to conduct peer discussion and seminars on books.
11. Illustrate the story, take slides, coordinate music and narration, and give a multi-media presentation.
12. Write a play based on the continuation of the story or a new adventure for the characters.
13. Give a demonstration of what was learned from a how-to book.
14. Compose a telegram about the book, limited to twenty words.
15. Dramatically read a part of the book to the class to get them hooked.
16. Keep a diary of one of the characters in the story, using first person.
17. Write a letter to the author telling why you liked the book, your favorite parts, what you would have done with the plot.
18. Be a newspaper columnist; write a review for the book section.
19. Explain how the story might have ended if a key character or incident were changed.
20. Write a letter to the key character to tell him or her how to solve the problem.
21. Write a newspaper article based on an incident from the book.
22. Write a biography of the leading character, using information from the book.
23. Write an obituary article about a key character, giving an account of what he or she was best known for.
24. Give a testimonial speech citing the character for special distinctions noted in the book.
25. Compare the movie and book versions of the same story.
26. Make a diorama to show the time and setting of the story.
27. Have a character day. Dress up as your favorite character in the story and relive some of the story.
28. Rewrite the story as a TV movie, including staging directions.
29. Examine the story for the author's craft and try to write a story of your own, imitating the use of tone, setting, style, and so on.
30. Memorize your favorite lines, or write them down for future quoting.

31. Make sketches of some of the action sequences.
32. Read the story into a tape recorder so that others may listen to it.
33. Research the period of history in which the story is set.
34. Make a list of similes, metaphors, or succinct descriptions used in the book.
35. Make puppets and present a show based on the book.
36. Build a clay or papier-mâché bust of a key character.
37. Give a "chalk talk" about the book.
38. Paint a mural that shows the key incidents in the story.
39. Rewrite the story for students in a lower grade. Keep it interesting.
40. File information about the book in a classroom cross-reference. Include author, story type, list of books it is similar to, and so on.
41. Image a *Life* magazine story on the book you've just read. What are several scenes you think ought to be photographed? Describe the photographs and write captions for them.
42. Tell the general effect of the book on you. What made you feel the way you did?
43. Report on any new, interesting, or challenging ideas you gained through reading the book.
44. Letter the title of the book vertically; then write a brief phrase applicable to the book for each letter.
45. Tell what kind of people should read this book. Who shouldn't?
46. Explain why you would or would not recommend this book to your parents for their reading. Be specific in your references to characters, plot, and setting.
47. Explain why you think this book will/will not be read a hundred years from now. Support your viewpoint by making specific references to plot, setting, characters, and author's style.
48. Make a list of five to ten significant questions about this book that you think anyone who reads this book should be able to answer.
49. Write an original poem after you have read a book of poetry.
50. If it is a geographical book, make a map and locate places found in the book.

