

Family Readathon



Give So Kids Can Have Books To Read At Home

 **bookspring** & **The Library Foundation**

READING CHALLENGE WORKSHOP #2: Create Your Own Fantasy Map

Workshop Notes: *The following lesson outline was created for workshops hosted virtually by The Library Foundation. This lesson was created to be adapted for a variety of grade levels, specifically 3rd-8th grade. Instructors are encouraged to modify this outline based on your background, teaching style, and, of course, the grade level of students that you'll be teaching. Parents are encouraged to attend and help their students navigate Bookopolis.*

Workshop Goals:

- Students will leave the workshop with a completed challenge meant to creatively engage them with books.
- Students will end with a drawing of a Fantasy Map, which they can share with Bookspring, The Library Foundation, and their school or team.

Welcome

- Fun warm-up/welcome/ice breaker for everyone to get comfortable and say hello
 - o Suggested: You are suddenly transported into a fantasy world. What five items would you bring along with you to describe your home to your new friends?
- Since we have small groups, feel free to spend time doing individual introductions. (This can obviously transition into the Reading Talk part of the lesson, below!)

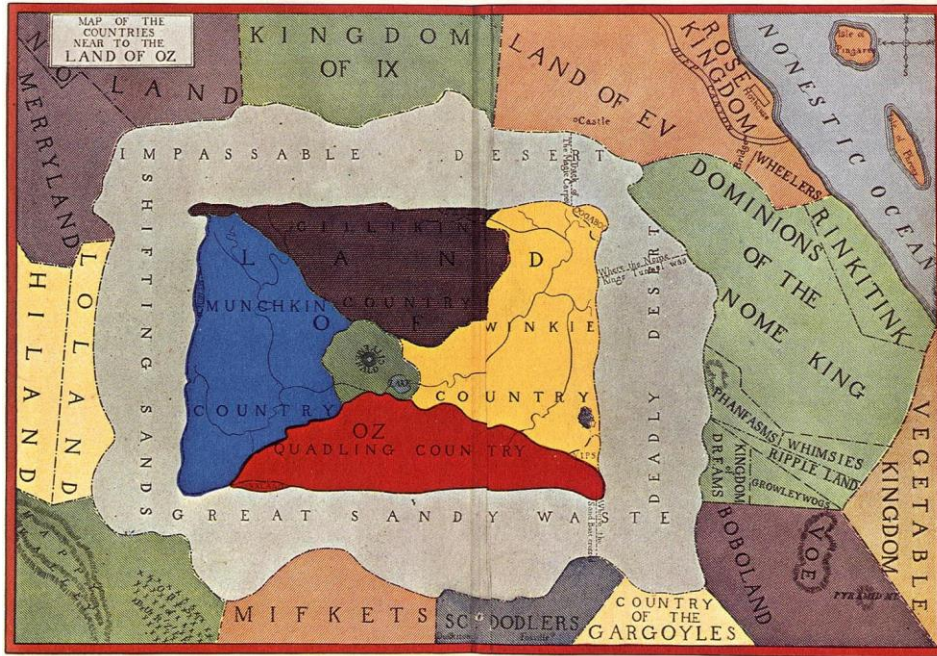
Reading Talk

- Group discussion about any exciting reading adventures since you last met
- Did you read anything new/exciting this week? Did you discover a new book that you want to read?

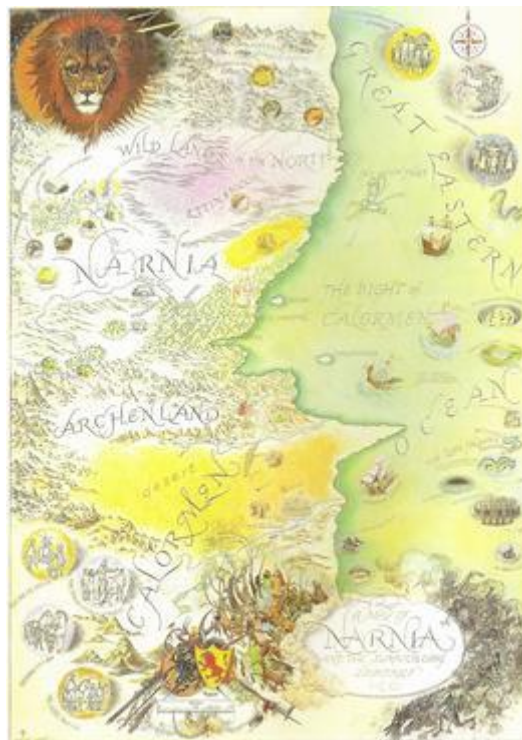
Challenge: Create Your Own Fantasy Map

- Ask students to gather the following materials: a few pieces of paper, a pencil or colored pencils. Let them know that whatever they have at home/in front of them is perfect material.
- Show them maps from fantasy books, which you might have on hand, or simply by sharing your Zoom screen and a Google search. Below are a few that you can use with students:

- "The Land of Oz" from *The Wizard of Oz* series

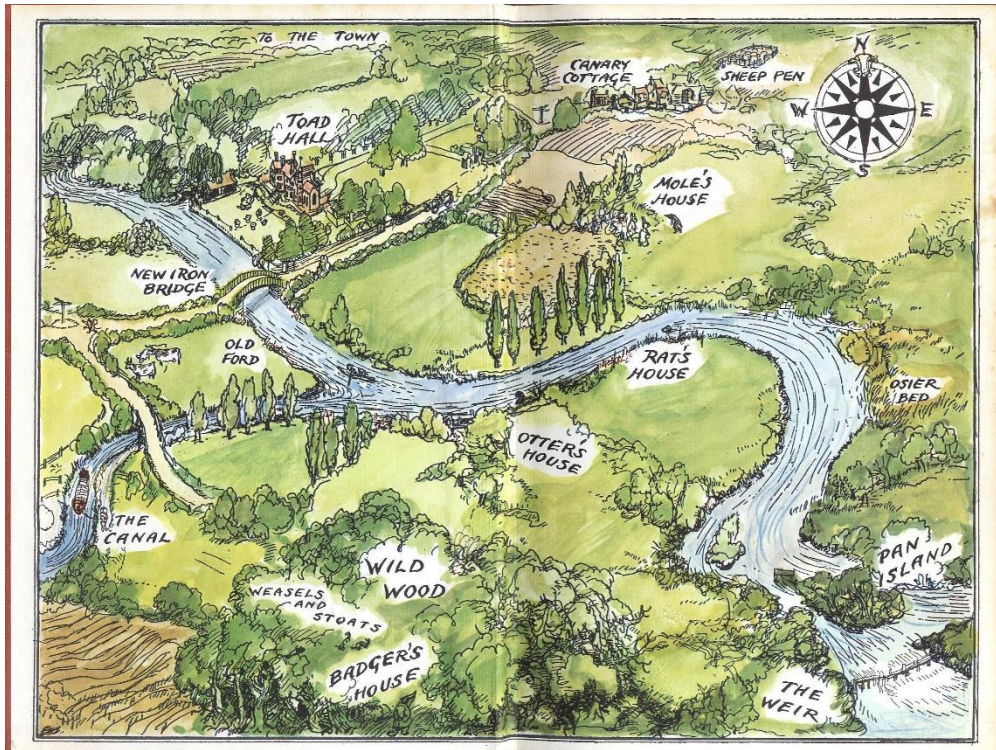


- Narnia from *The Chronicles of Narnia* series

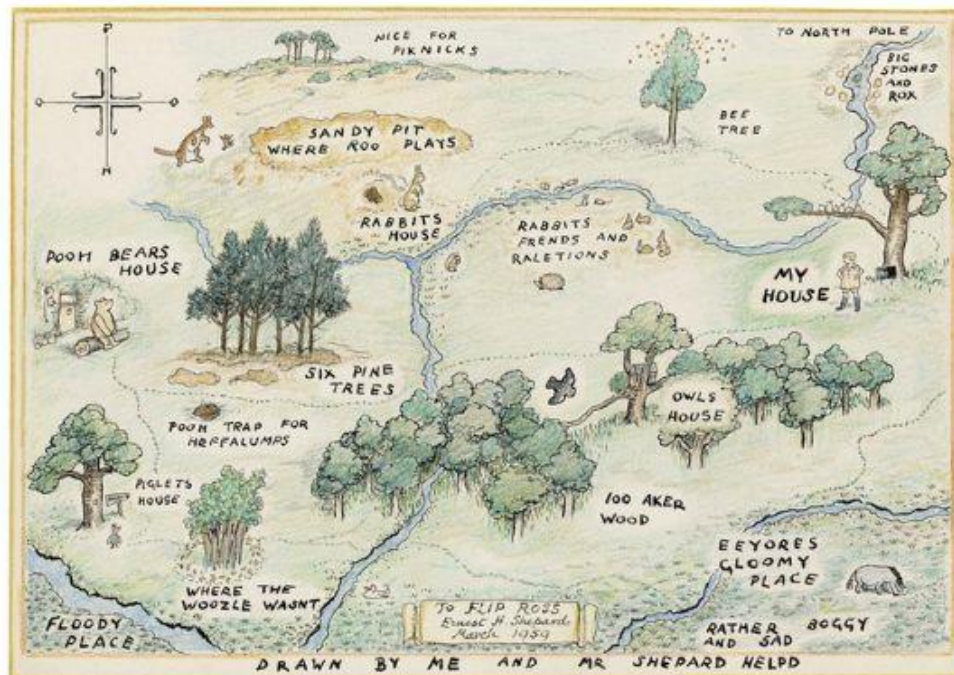


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- From *The Wind in the Willows*



- From *Winnie the Pooh*



- You can also check out maps from *Peter Pan*, *The Giver* series, or other maps for older kids.
- Spend time noticing a few places on the map:
 - Are there rivers? Trees? Hills? Mountains?
 - What are the lands shaped like? Neat and clean, or jagged because of a river?
 - What kinds of names are the
 - Are there any “Easter eggs” from the story? (Example: In the *Winnie the Pooh* map, there are characters from the story at specific parts.)
- Ask students to consider creating a fantasy map of their own. They might have a book in mind already, or maybe they’re writing their own story. Encourage kids to go in whatever direction they want, and if they are stumped, you can ask them to imagine their ideal world and name it after themselves. For example, I might call my perfect fantasy world Katherine-ville, and I would fill it with everything I wanted.
- To help them create their own map:
 - Start by drawing the borders of their country. Encourage students to create strange shapes or even use a nearby object to trace a border. The messier, the better! Because land isn’t very neat, is it?
 - Ask students to find the strangest or messiest part of their borders and think of a land feature that might explain the strange shape. Is this border actually a river? Is there a mountain? Is there a sea?
 - Then, ask students to create places inside of their country and name them. Participants might want to shout out ideas, and this discussion can help along other students.
 - Once they have clear ideas, put on music and allow the kids to draw for about 10 minutes (or whatever time allows.)
- Have the kids share their in-progress pieces, and encourage them to finish and share on social media using the hashtag #FamilyReadathon

- If you have extra time, here are a few extra activities to choose from:
 - Talk with students about where they find new books to read. Emphasize that they can find books for free at the library! Walk them through how to search for books on the APL website: <https://library.austintexas.gov/> . Curbside pick-up is available at all locations. And e-books are available through APL too!
 - Ask students to share their favorite places to read! Classroom? Library? Bedroom? Living Room? Closet?! Encourage to share other positive reading strategies. Do they read with a bookmark? Listening to music? What tips do they have for each other?
 - For older students, introduce the idea of annotating as a way of staying engaged (& in dialogue) with what they’re reading. When you annotate while you read, your writing counts toward your reading minutes! [Great annotating tips here!](#)