

# Family Readathon



Give So Kids Can Have Books To Read At Home

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

## READING CHALLENGE WORKSHOP #1: REDESIGN YOUR FAVORITE BOOK COVER

**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 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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 book, 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: Would You Rather related to books. For example, "Would you rather go to a school of magic like in *Harry Potter*, or would you rather solve a mystery like in *The Westing Game*?"
- 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: Redesign Your Favorite Book Cover

- Ask students to gather the following materials: a few pieces of paper, a pencil or colored pencils, and a book whose cover they enjoy. Let them know that whatever they have at home/in front of them is perfect material.
- Show them your chosen book, and spend time noticing a few decisions the artist made when they designed the book cover.

- Is the main character shown? What about the supporting characters?
  - Is a specific scene from the book being shown?
  - Are there any “Easter eggs” from the story? (Example: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* features Fluffy, the three-headed dog, on the cover. In the far background, there are also Quidditch players in the sky.)
  - Instead of a main character, is there an important object on the cover? (Example: Gary Paulsen’s *The Hatchet* has a hatchet on the cover, and greenery from the forest the story is set in.)
  - Ask students to consider the cover of the book they chose. What’s special about that cover? What about it made them want to pick up that book? Discuss as a group.
  - After discussion, ask the group to imagine that they are artists, and the author of this book wants a brand-new book cover for their book. What will attract new readers to this book?
    - 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
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- 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!](#)