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## FAMILY READING NIGHT IDEAS

All ideas from 2008 FRN program evaluations.

Program Idea	Explanation	Contact Information
Guest Readers	Invite local authors, community leaders, principals, librarians, veterinarians, military personnel, police officers, firefighters, doctors, ballerinas, pilot, farmer, sports players/professional athletes, etc. to read themed books. Readers in uniform are the most popular!	Many offered this type of program.
Costumed Guest Readers	Themed books are read by Frosty the Snowman, Mrs. Clause, Ms. Frizzle, Tooth Fairy, Mother Goose, Princess, Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, Pirate, Junie B. Jones, Witch, Clifford, Emily Elizabeth, Amelia Earhardt, Paul Revere, Fancy Nancy, Juggler, Spider and Staley – the Chicago Bears Mascot.	Many offered this type of program.
Readers Theater Presentation	High School students present a readers theater program.	Fran Johnson, Wild Rose School, St. Charles, 630-513-2211, <a href="mailto:fjohnson@d303.org">fjohnson@d303.org</a>
Puppet Show	Fifth graders host a puppet show.	Fran Johnson (see above)
Author Visits and/or Book Signings	Authors include Nancy Knight, Mary Wildes Stevens, Julia Durango and W. Nikola Lisa	Many offered this type of program.
Free Books	Each child receives a book to take home.	Many offered this type of program.
Book-themed Events	Themes include sports, Rebecca Caudill books, camping, spies and detectives, fairytales, bingo, Thanksgiving, health and nutrition, fitness, knights, a Day at the Beach, a safari, mysteries, cowboys.	Many offered this type of program.
“Night Under the Stars for Reading”	Tents complete with glow-in-the dark stars, sleeping bags, lanterns and camping chairs are set up for families to read camping stories.	Julie Rose, Kaskaskia College, Centralia, 618-545-3117, <a href="mailto:jrose@kaskaskia.edu">jrose@kaskaskia.edu</a>
Regional Theater Group Production	“Rumpelstiltskin” presented by Western Illinois University theater.	Linda Barackman, Farmington Area Public Library District, 309-245-2175, <a href="mailto:farmingtonpublic@yahoo.com">farmingtonpublic@yahoo.com</a>
Top Secret	Solve riddles by telling stories with bodies (Yoga). Expanded mystery stories using puppets, fingerprint analyzing, writing secret messages, and drawing suspects based on written descriptions.	Colleen Douglass, Christopher House, Chicago, 773-235-4073, <a href="mailto:cdouglas@christopherhouse.org">cdouglas@christopherhouse.org</a>
Puppet Theater	Read fairytales. A production of “The Dreamweavers” highlighting fairytales was performed by The Madcap Puppet Theatre from Cincinnati, Ohio.	Cheryl Diehl, Rochester Elementary School, 217-498-9778, <a href="mailto:cdiehl@rochester3a.net">cdiehl@rochester3a.net</a>

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Library Partnerships	Many school libraries and public libraries partnered for FRN events.	Many offered this type of program.
Storyteller	Paddy Lynn presented "Color My World," a program where children act out books that she retells.	Paulette Babchak, Johnsborg Public Library, 815-344-0077, <a href="mailto:pbabchak@johnsborglibrary.org">pbabchak@johnsborglibrary.org</a>
Teachers Skit	Teachers performed the "Little Red Hen."	Louise Herberger, Kids Hope United, Waukegan, 847-245-6809, <a href="mailto:Lherberger@kidshopeunited.org">Lherberger@kidshopeunited.org</a>
Sign-Language Readers	One of the guest readers signed a book.	Christina Basham, Iroquois West Elementary School, Gilman, 815-265-7631, <a href="mailto:basamc@iwest.k12.il.us">basamc@iwest.k12.il.us</a>
Pajama Party	Kids wear their pajamas, eat cookies and read books with their families on a blanket.	Jennifer De Long, Early Childhood Center, Carlisle, 217-854-5071, <a href="mailto:Jfrlonh98@hotmail.com">Jfrlonh98@hotmail.com</a>
Reading Club	During November 1-20 families are invited to pick up a bag of five books (based on ages of family members) along with hot chocolate mix and microwave popcorn.	Connie Purcell, Fremont Public Library, Mundelein, 847-918-3212, <a href="mailto:cpurcell@fremontlibrary.org">cpurcell@fremontlibrary.org</a>
Family Reading Kits	Individualized kits with books, snacks, stickers, bookmarks, coloring and activity sheets, and other surprises are created for families to take home for Family Reading Night.	Alice Johnson, Prospect Heights Public Library, 847-259-3500, <a href="mailto:johnsona@phpl.info">johnsona@phpl.info</a>
Book Swap		Many offered this type of program.
Book Fair		Many offered this type of program.
Co-sponsored Event	The library partnered with the Carl Sandburg Literacy Coalition for its FNR event.	Amy Gee, Carthage Public Library, 217-357-3232, <a href="mailto:cartlib@adams.net">cartlib@adams.net</a>
Signed Flyers for New Books	Flyers are sent home with students asking families to "Turn off the TV and Turn on to Books." For every 15 flyers returned by students with family member signatures, the school's learning center dedicated a new book to the school library.	Kim Jones, Centennial Elementary School, Bartlett, 630-213-5632, <a href="mailto:kimjones@u-46.org">kimjones@u-46.org</a>
Build-a-Book	Participants create books from a kit and other materials.	Cheryl Rivera, Ridge Circle Elementary, Streamwood, 630-213-5600, <a href="mailto:cherylrivera@u-46.org">cherylrivera@u-46.org</a>
Games, Crafts, and Snacks	Coordinated activities including games, crafts and refreshments go with event themes.	Many offered this type of program.
All-School Read and Dress Up	Students dress up as their favorite book characters.	Librarian, Goodfield Elementary School, 309-965-2362
Book Drive		Many offered this type of program.
Book Walk	Similar to a cake walk with books given as prizes.	Patricia Rosenberger, DeSoto CUSD #86, 618-867-2317, <a href="mailto:prosenberger@desoto.jacksn.k12.il.us">prosenberger@desoto.jacksn.k12.il.us</a>
Read at Home with Your Family and Write About it	Students write a description of their evening of reading. Family members read or share favorite passages, books or magazines.	Vivian Burns, Simpson Academy for Young Women, Chicago, 773-534-7201

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Raffles and Prizes	Prizes are awarded or raffles held for returning reading forms signed by parents. Prizes include book bags, pencils, bookmarks, stickers, books and gift certificates.	Many offered this type of program.
Puppet Show	The Secret Garden was presented.	Pat Roche, Carol Stream Public Library, 630-653-0755, <a href="mailto:proche@cslibrary.org">proche@cslibrary.org</a>
Pajamas/Stuffed Animal Event		Kathy Schild, Howe Elementary School, Beach Park, 847-599-5361, <a href="mailto:kaschild@bpd3.org">kaschild@bpd3.org</a>
Supper/Dinner Provided	Many offered themed dinners or group suppers/potlucks.	Many offered this type of program.
First Lines of Books Contest		Kathy Bergen, Irvington Grade School, 618-249-6439, <a href="mailto:kbergen@charter.net">kbergen@charter.net</a>
Reading Songs		Kathy Bergen (see above)
Books are Full of Characters	Participants dress as their favorite book characters and a character parade is held.	Nan Phillips, Hoover-Wood School, Batavia, 630-937-8300, <a href="mailto:nanette.Phillips@bps101.net">nanette.Phillips@bps101.net</a>
Speakers' Podium	Children pick out a short story or poem to read to the audience.	Jessica Arnold, Stockton Township Public Library, 815-947-2030, <a href="mailto:stocktonlib@aeroinc.net">stocktonlib@aeroinc.net</a>
Reading Under the Stars	A camp setting is created for reading bedtime stories.	Barbara Suess, Scott Elementary School at Scott Air Force Base, 618-746-4738, <a href="mailto:suessb@mascoutah19.k12.il.us">suessb@mascoutah19.k12.il.us</a>
Partnered with RIF	Each child takes home a free book provided by RIF.	Connie Wrigley, Pershing Early Learning Center, Decatur, 217-876-8334, <a href="mailto:cwrigley@dps61.org">cwrigley@dps61.org</a>
Passport for Activities	Children receive a free book after visiting each station.	Ann Adams, Christopher School, Chicago, 773-535-9375, <a href="mailto:annraineadams@yahoo.com">annraineadams@yahoo.com</a>
Family Story Bingo		Teri, Limestone Township Library, Kankakee, 815-936-1696, <a href="mailto:Toconnor@limestonelibrary.org">Toconnor@limestonelibrary.org</a>
Readers' Theater	"The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" and "Rumpelstiltskin, Private Eye" were read.	Louella Moreland, Lincoln Public Library District, 217-732-5732, <a href="mailto:louellam@rpls.lib.il.us">louellam@rpls.lib.il.us</a>
Storyteller	"Singing Storybooks" was held by Anna Stange.	Connie Beetz, Graves-Hume Public Library, Mendota, 815-538-5142, <a href="mailto:Dcjx5@hotmail.com">Dcjx5@hotmail.com</a>
Bilingual Read Alouds		Dorothy Clabaugh, Alexander Graham School, Chicago, 773-535-1308, <a href="mailto:dlclabaugh@cps.edu">dlclabaugh@cps.edu</a>
Read a Recipe and Make the Snack		Christina Benson, Warren Township Public Library, 815-745-2076, <a href="mailto:warp3@aeroinc.net">warp3@aeroinc.net</a>