INTRODUCTION

Grabbing teens’ interest and engaging them in library programs can be a challenge. The best experts on what teens want are the teens themselves. Use teen input to make your summer reading club as appealing as possible. Talk informally to your regular teens when they visit your teen area about their ideas, or schedule a meeting with your teen advisory board to get more formal input. If you don’t have a teen advisory board, recruit teens for a brainstorming meeting by offering volunteer hours for their time or by serving pizza or other treats. Collect their opinions on the summer reading club’s theme, name, concept, programs, prizes, decorations, etc., by having them fill out surveys, conducting a focus group-style meeting, or by getting their honest opinion on the ideas you’ve already generated. Then use their opinions—and their word of mouth advertising—to build a popular and successful program.

Prizes can be one of the biggest draws to your program, so getting input from teens on prizes is especially important. What do the teens in your area like to do? Is there a popular teen hangout in your community? If so, see if they will donate prizes for your reading program. For example, you could ask your local movie theater for movie passes or snack coupons, give away laser tag gift certificates, or offer incentives at a popular coffee house. Many teens prefer a chance at winning a big prize rather than receiving a smaller item of little value. So, see if you can get some higher quality items like an iPod, portable DVD player or Nintendo DS donated to use in a drawing or silent auction for teen participants. It may be possible to get a business or organization in your community to help “co-sponsor” your summer reading club and contribute to the prizes.

If you have a separate teen area, decorate it to go along with the theme, and create book displays and suggestion lists for readers. It’s a great way to promote the club and make teens aware that a special event is taking place. Involve teens in the making and hanging of all the decorations. The key is to stay away from decorations that feel young or gimmicky, or that feel like school—summer reading should be casual and fun. Prom catalogs are a great place to get decoration ideas, as are party stores.

Outreach visits to your local middle schools, high schools, teen center, or other teen-centered organizations are a great way to get the word out about summer reading. Be sure to lead any presentations with the most appealing aspects of your program, such as big prizes, popular programs, or other incentives, to grab and keep teens’ attention. If you have a good relationship with the schools or teachers in your community, discuss the possibility of partnering on summer reading to offer credit or extra credit for students who participate. Don’t forget to promote your program to the teachers, who can be great marketers when it comes to getting the word out to teens.

Finally, don’t forget to utilize young adults as summer volunteers. They can help with decoration of your teen space, craft preparations, programs for younger children, handling Summer Reading Club registration, prize pick-up, or a multitude of other projects that will help your library. The more you get your teens involved in your summer reading program, the more they feel vested in the library and the community.

THEME NAME AND GRAPHICS

“Reading Is So Delicious!” spotlights food—which is a natural fit with always-hungry teens. Be sure to get input from your teens on what they feel is the most appealing angle to take with this theme, especially finding out ways to tie the theme in to popular culture, their school, or things they are interested in their everyday lives. If there is a favorite restaurant or food among your teens, use this connection. A possible focus could include candy, chocolate and other sweet treats; restaurants or coffee houses; tater tots, pizza, and other teen-popular food; cooking
and food-related careers; movies, TV, and video games that have food tie-ins, such as *Iron Chef*, *Top Chef*, or *Napoleon Dynamite*. To distinguish your young adult club from your club for younger readers, use slightly edgier graphics or peruse teen Web sites and magazines to get ideas for fonts and images that have teen appeal. Give the teens ownership of the program and have them help you decorate their space for the summer. They may have even more ideas on how to apply the theme.
Programs and Events

Program and event ideas specifically for middle and high school readers.
**Death by Chocolate Party**
Invite teens to participate in a program that celebrates everything chocolate! You can include a chocolate tasting, taste-testing milk, dark, and white chocolate as well as different brands of chocolate. Give a brief history of chocolate, and then hold a trivia game. Make the program hands-on by offering chocolate pudding finger painting and Cocoa Krispies treat sculpting. Handout the Chocolate Tasting Pamphlet on pages 229-230 of this section and the Chocolate Tasting Trivia questions on pages 231-232. They are also available on the iREAD CD-ROM, if you would like to print them in color.

**Eating Passport**
Encourage teens to expand their eating experience by making up an Eating Passport that is specific to your area. Either include a list of local restaurants to try, or a list of international dishes to prepare. Have the participants write reviews of their experiences.

**Explore Your Senses!**
Think about your favorite food: how does it taste, how does it smell, and how does it feel? All five senses contribute to the enjoyment of our food.

**ACTIVITIES:**
- **Blind Taste Test:** Taste buds are amazingly dependant on your eyes. Test participants’ taste buds by blindfolding them and then passing out small samples of food. How many can tell what it is?
- **Sighted Taste Test:** Now open your eyes for this taste test, but use all white food items that look similar. Peel and cut up small pieces of pear, apple, cooked potato, and white onion and see if the participants can identify the items.
- **Something Smells:** Use small containers (such as paper/plastic cups that you can’t see through, cover them with tin foil, and poke small holes in the tin foil) to hide chunks of food or scented cotton balls. Children try to guess what food they smell. Try using onions, stinky cheese, fruit pieces, peppermint, vanilla, cinnamon, coffee beans, and other foods with distinctive odors.
- **Sense of Touch:** Place various pieces of food (fruit and vegetables work well) in brown paper bags and have the children pass the bags around. Without looking, have the child reach in each bag and try to figure out what the food is by feeling it.

Remember to ask about food allergies at registration.

**Extreme Food Science**
Bored with meat and potatoes? Then get ready to play with your food using the scientific techniques of molecular gastronomy! You’ll make samples of fruit juice “caviar” (no fish eggs required), fizzy candy, and more. If you’re a foodie or just want to try something new, register for this program!

You can use the Molecular Gastronomy Starter Kit from ThinkGeek for most of the recipes, supplies, and equipment: http://bit.ly/cuisinekit.

You can also buy the ingredients from other suppliers and find numerous recipe sources online. You may also be able to find a chef or cooking instructor in your area who can help demonstrate and teach these techniques.

**EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES (WILL VARY DEPENDING ON THE RECIPES AND TECHNIQUES USED):**
- Sterile syringes (without needles)
- Food grade silicone tubing
- Bowls for various solution mixes
- Slotted spoons
- Whisk
- Immersion blender
- Measuring spoons and cups
- Juice (brightly colored juice like cranberry juice, carrot juice, etc.)
- Toffee or similar candy
- Molecular gastronomy ingredients (will vary by recipe and can include sodium alginate, calcium chloride, ascorbic acid, xanthan gum)
Programs and Events

Extreme Food Science, continued from previous page

RECIPES
If you don’t pick up the Starter Kit with recipe book, you can find recipes on various Web sites:

http://www.moleculargastronomynetwork.com/home.html
http://www.willpowder.net/fullRecipes.html

SUPPLY SOURCES:
http://www.molecule-r.com/
http://www.trufflina.com/Store.html
http://www.willpowder.net/

Food Fear Factor
Do a Food Fear Factor game show program. Find some disgusting but edible foods that people might be scared to eat. Have people register ahead of time to participate. Then the last people standing after making it through all the food challenges get a prize. Visit http://www.familycorner.com/family/kids/recipes/halloweenparty.shtml for some treats that are quite safe to eat, but visually not appetizing for ideas.

No-Bake Iron Chef
Have teens work in a team of no more than three to create a 3-course meal: appetizer, entrée, and dessert, using only the materials provided within a specified timeframe.

Grades: 6–12

Time-Frame: 2.5 hours

• 15 minutes. Assign teams, and explain rules (share, use only what’s provided, etc.) Have each team pick a team leader.
• 15 minutes. Team leaders go to “store” (table with ingredients on it) to review items.
• 30 minutes. Leaders report back to team, brainstorm possible dishes to make, and write a “shopping list” of needed ingredients—only team leaders may retrieve items on shopping list (bartering/sharing necessary!)
• 40 minutes. Dish preparation.
• 10 minutes. Clean up (don’t want the judges to see the mess!) and table preparation
• 20 minutes. JUDGING—Have at least 2 judges try out every dish. Judge on taste, presentation, and creative use of ingredients.
• 20 minutes. Awards and final clean up!

Preparation: At least 2 days in advance, go out and purchase many regular and odd items that can be used for non-baking/cooking meals.

Cost: Depends on registrants. The higher amount of registrants, the more money you will need. Plan to spend approximately $7 in food costs for each participant, and at least $30 on prizes ($10 prizes for each member of a 3-person team).

For more information, including sample checklists, shopping list, and forms:
http://bit.ly/t31LsA
**Piece of Cake**

Do you think you could rival television’s top cake makers? Have you ever wondered how cakes are decorated? Do you want to give it a try? Learn the basics of cake decorating and then give it a try on your own cake that you can take home with you!

Hire a friend or local chef that has a good amount of cake decorating knowledge to help buy supplies and run the program. If possible, purchase reusable tools so that the program can be run again, including icing bags and icing bag nozzles. Bake small cakes or cupcakes for each participant ahead of time (for even more fun, bake them in a variety of 3-D shapes). Put these on cake boards for easy decorating.

Make your own cake board by covering cardboard with aluminum foil.

Purchase big tubs of icing from a cake decorating store, craft store, or anywhere that sells cake decorating supplies. You do not want to use regular store bought icing for decorating cakes because it will not hold its shape and does not pipe well. Buttercream recipes work well for making homemade icing. Try this one: [http://www.wilton.com/recipe/Buttercream-Icing](http://www.wilton.com/recipe/Buttercream-Icing). Use a small amount of gel dye to color white icing for a very vibrant icing color. If you use too much, it will make your icing bitter. Teach the teens how to use the different icing tips and how to change tips in your icing bag.

To run this program on a small budget, use cupcakes instead of cake molds and limit the frosting colors. It’s also possible to purchase or make prefrosted cupcakes and just give the teens the tubes of icing and a variety of sprinkles and candies and just let them decorate cupcakes. This is a great program because it can be as elaborate as you want to be.

Don’t have mad icing skills? Ask a local bakery if they would be willing to come in and lead a demonstration. A lot of craft stores also have staff that lead cake decorating programs that might be able to come to your library.

**Pizza Taste Off**

Four pizza places will go head-to-head in a blind taste test. Give your teens the chance to eat and vote and find out whose pizza will reign supreme.

Call four pizza restaurants in your area and ask if they will donate one extra-large cheese and one extra-large pepperoni pizza. Ask each owner to cut the pizzas into small squares to allow for more tasting. Conduct a blind taste test, labeling each pizza with a unique number or letter. Have teens vote on their favorite. Make up a written ballot ahead of time for teens to fill out. Encourage the teens to take one small piece of each pizza then vote on a written ballot. The winning location can be presented with a certificate for the best pizza in town and bragging rights. You may also want to feature the results on your Web site and/or blog to give even more exposure to the participating restaurants!

For more information:


Note: You can do this with many different foods: Best Egg Roll, Best Hamburger, Best Milk Shake...the possibilities are only limited by the restaurants in your area!

**Ramadan Program**

Depending on the dates of your summer reading program, Ramadan will probably occur during your program in 2012. Offer a program about Ramadan, fasting, and foods that are eaten to break the fast. Present the program before Ramadan begins, so you can serve examples of the foods that are eaten. Invite Muslim patrons to help plan and present the program.
**Sci-Fi and Sundaes**
This program makes reading delicious by bringing together science fiction books and ice cream sundaes. Allow teens to make their own sundaes by providing ice cream and toppings. Lead a discussion about the teens’ favorite science fiction books, movies, and video games. The librarian can then booktalk new and classic sci-fi books for teens. Follow this by open play of Star Wars Monopoly® or Trivial Pursuit™. You can also make paper Star Wars figures as described on this Web site: http://toy-a-day.blogspot.com.

**So You Want to Be a Chef**
This program can be marketed as a career panel for teens, or a behind-the-scenes look at the restaurant world. Contact various professionals in restaurant positions to present information to teens about career paths in the food industry. Think about including a head chef, sous chef, restaurant manager, restaurant owner, or pastry chef. Contact local banquet halls or restaurants with private rooms to see if they will host the event. The facility may even agree to give the teens a tour of the kitchen after the discussion.

**Taste of India**
Provide a “taste” of India by pairing interesting foods with cultural activities. If you have a large Indian population in your community, you could invite teens to help with the planning and implementation. To introduce Indian culture, you could offer henna tattooing, play popular music from India, show a Bollywood musical or select dance/music scenes. Provide Indian snacks and invite teens to try something new. Snacks could include: samosas, chaat, bhelpuri, or ready-made snack mixes from a local Asian grocery store.

This program can also be modified to include food and culture from other areas, including Thailand, Japan, Mexico, or any other country.
**Teen Cooking Club**

Offer a weekly or monthly cooking club where the teens are taught basic cooking/baking skills. Use the staff kitchen, if you have one. If you don’t have access to a staff kitchen, there are many recipes that don’t require an oven or a stove. You could also bring a microwave, an electric skillet, or an electric portable stove top into the programming room. To supplement the recipes, offer food facts and trivia or cooking-related worksheets. Topics to cover can include, cooking terms, cooking utensils, food safety, nutritional information, international foods, and unique fruits and vegetables. Present a different theme each week/month such as appetizers, breakfast, desserts, and foods from a certain country.

**Twinkie Party**

This program combines creativity with…Twinkies! Using Twinkies as your base, invite teens to make inspired food creations and award prizes to the best of the best.

- Give a brief history of Twinkies
- Have some Twinkie recipes already made for the teens to sample
- Make one Twinkie recipe together such as Twinkie Sushi
- Show clip from Iron Chef television show
- Have an Iron Chef inspired Twinkie Competition—Stack Twinkies on the table and put a cloth over them for the “reveal,” have other ingredients on a table and they have to run up to get them.

**RULES:**

- Limit 3 Twinkies for each person (you do not have to use all 3)
- Time limit of 15 minutes
- Must use at least one additional ingredient—provide sprinkles, peanut butter, chocolate sauce, etc.

Prizes: Each participant gets a certificate (include a variety of awards including Most Creative, Best Use of Ingredients, Most Visually Appealing, Most Likely to Be Seen in a Restaurant, etc.) and first place receives a box of Twinkies.

Programs and Events

Vegetarian Teens
Invite teens who are vegans, vegetarians, or are interested in vegetarianism to explore more about the vegetarian lifestyle.

- Discuss why each teen came to the program (Are they already vegetarians? Do they want to become a vegetarian?) and the different types of vegetarians that are represented.
- Invite a registered dietitian to present nutritional information about being a vegetarian.
- Sample various meat substitutes such as Boca Burgers, Morning Star Buffalo Wings, tempeh, Morning Star Black Bean Burgers, seasoned tofu, etc.
- Describe vegetarian celebrities and let the teens guess who they are (examples: Carrie Underwood, Tobey Maguire, Leona Lewis, Carl Lewis, Andre 3000, Miley Cyrus).
- Make and eat vegetarian tacos or another vegetarian recipe.

Victory Garden
Is there a space for a Victory Garden on your library grounds? Have a discussion about the history of Victory Gardens, and tie it to the current Grow-Your-Own/Locavore movement. If there is no place for an outdoor garden, try growing an herb garden indoors.

Where Does Your Food Come From?
Host a viewing of the documentary Food Inc. (Check to make sure the movie falls under your library's existing movie license, or contact PBS for licensing information.) After the movie, have a discussion about the food industry as presented in the movie. For more program ideas around the film, visit http://pov.org/tunein/2010/foodinc/.

Yoga and Smoothies
Combine a yoga class with smoothies for a relaxing, treat-filled teen program that will be extremely popular! Hire a yoga instructor to come in and teach a 45–60 minute beginning yoga class. Or, on a smaller budget, use one of the library’s yoga videos to get participants started. While the teens are practicing yoga, prep smoothies made with fresh fruit, yogurt, milk, and ice in a couple of blenders. Serve this refreshing treat at the end of the event. For more details, see A Year of Programs for Teens by Amy J. Alessio and Kimberly A. Patton (American Library Association, 2007).

Books for Program Ideas:


BOOK DISCUSSIONS


ANNOTATION:
Thrilling adventure meets reality TV in this gripping bestselling novel. Heroine Katniss lives in the bleak futuristic world of Panem, and is forced to make a heart-wrenching decision when her beloved sister’s name is drawn in the Hunger Games lottery. Can Katniss take her sister’s place, outwit the other contestants and be one of the few to survive the brutality of the games?

View the official Scholastic discussion guide: http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collateral.jsp?id=36164

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think about the country of Panem? Do you think this could ever happen in real life?
2. How does the fact that the tributes are always on camera affect their behavior from the time they are chosen? Does it make it easier or harder for them?
3. Does the opening ceremony of the games remind you of events in our world, either past or present?
4. When Peeta declares his love for Katniss in the interview, do you think he really means it or did Haymitch create the “star-crossed lovers” story?
5. Before the Games start, Peeta tells Katniss, “…I want to die as myself…I don’t want them to change me in there. Turn me into some kind of monster that I’m not.” What does Peeta fear more than death? Is he able to stay true to himself during the Games?
6. Why does Katniss ignore Haymitch’s advice to head directly away from the Cornucopia? Did she do the right thing to fight for equipment?
7. What are the most important skills Katniss has for staying alive?
8. Why do you think Peeta joins with the Career Tributes in the beginning? Why do groups form when they know only one of them will be able to survive?
9. What makes Katniss and Rue trust each other to become partners? Is Katniss and Rue’s partnership formed for different reasons than the other groups?
10. How do you think it affects the tributes to know they are being manipulated to make the Games more exciting for the gamblers and viewers? Does being on live TV make Katniss behave differently?
11. When does Katniss first realize that Peeta does care for her and is trying to keep her alive? When does she realize her own feelings for him? Are they actually in love?
12. What do you think is the cruelest part of the Hunger Games?
13. Compare The Hunger Games to reality TV in our world. Why are survival reality shows so popular?
14. Each of the tributes has some sort of advantage or talent. What would your talent be?
15. What was the most moving part of the story for you? The most frightening?
Hunger Games Trivia
(Answers on next page.)

1. What is Gale’s nickname for Katniss?
2. What district does Katniss live in?
3. During the games, Katniss is known as the girl who:
4. What is the first sponsor gift that Katniss receives?
5. What training score does Katniss get?
6. What training score does Peeta get?
7. What does Katniss get from the Cornucopia?
8. Name at least one thing the backpack had inside of it.
9. What do the Gamemakers send at the end of the games to bring the tributes together?
10. What do Katniss and Peeta do that brings an end to the games?
11. Bonus: What are the berries called?
12. Who gave Katniss the Mockingjay pin?
13. Who repeatedly calls Katniss “Sweetheart?”
14. What year is the Hunger Games celebrating?
15. What is the name of the mutant killer wasps in the Hunger Games?
16. How did Katniss’s father die?
17. What are the names of Primrose’s cat and goat?
18. Who was the last Tribute to die in the arena?
19. What does Katniss call the girl from District 5?
Hunger Games Trivia Answers:

1. Catnip
2. 12
3. Is on fire
4. Burn ointment
5. 11
6. 8
7. A backpack filled with supplies
8. The backpack had food, a water container, matches, iodine, wire, and night vision glasses.
9. Giant wolves
10. Put poisonous berries in their mouths
11. Nightlock
12. Madge
13. Haymitch
14. 74
15. Tracker Jackers
16. Coal mining accident
17. Buttercup and Lady
18. Cato
19. Foxface
**Book Discussions**


**ANNOTATION:**
The summer following her father’s death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at the ragtag Wish Catering business where she meets Wes, a tattooed artist who makes her feel surprisingly at ease and with whom she can let down her guard and face her grief.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Why do you think Macy likes Jason? Why does she like Wes?
2. What is the importance of Wes's sculptures?
3. Which character do you like the most? Which do you dislike the most?
4. Why do you think Macy stopped running after her father’s death?
5. What does Delia believe about bad things happening in her life? How is this different from what Macy believes?
6. Why does Macy want to work at Wish Catering? Do you think she would have liked the job so much if it had come six months earlier?
7. Why is it so hard for Macy and her mother to communicate? Why doesn't her mother like Macy's new friends?
8. Do you think Jason or Wes is a better boyfriend for Macy? Why?
Get more from eating chocolate!

Cocoa beans drying in the sun.

Become a chocolate tasting expert.

Light, Medium, Dark

SOURCES:
http://www.bhg.com/recipes/entertaining/party-ideas/a-chocolate-tasting-party/

Mark Stibich, Ph. D. “Health Benefits of Chocolate.”
http://longevity.about.com/od/lifelongnutrition/p/chocolate.htm

Winfield Public Library
0S291 Winfield Rd. Winfield, IL 60190
(630) 653-7599 www.winfieldya.wordpress.com
Some chocolate bars will say what percent of cocoa is in the bar. The higher the number, the less sweet and the more bitter and intense the chocolate.

- **Milk chocolate**'s cocoa percentage ranges from about 30 to 40%
- **Semisweet chocolate**'s percentage ranges from 50 to 60%
- **Bittersweet** is above 60 percent cocoa and generally ranges from 65 to 80%
- **Unsweetened chocolate** is 99 percent cocoa

**Did you know?** White chocolate isn’t really chocolate at all! It contains no cocoa, just cocoa butter, milk solids, sugar, and vanilla.

**Is it true dark chocolate is healthier than other kinds of chocolate?**

Yes! Dark chocolate contains a large number of antioxidants (nearly 8 times the number found in strawberries) which help protect the body. Dark chocolate is also good for your heart. A small amount everyday can help keep your heart and cardiovascular system running well. Dark chocolate has far more antioxidants than milk or white chocolate. These other two chocolates cannot make any health claims.

Find more information about chocolate at [The Chocolate Life/La Vida Cocoa](http://www.thechocolatelife.com)

**But remember!** Chocolate is still a high-calorie, high-fat food that you should eat only in moderation. If you eat dark chocolate every day, balance those calories by eating less of other snacks or sweets.

**Now that you’ve chosen your chocolate, it’s time to taste.**

---

**Taste Chocolate with All Your Senses**

**Aroma:**
Break off a small piece and rub gently until the chocolate begins to soften. Then take tiny sniffs; in addition to chocolate, you’ll discover such scents as flowers, caramel, citrus, berries, grass, and cedar.

**Flavor:**
Pop the piece in your mouth, but don’t chew! Let it melt on your tongue for 20 seconds. Some of the flavors you’ll encounter include vanilla, fruit, and nuts. Other words that might come to mind: fudgy, smoky, earthy, and tart. Be sure to savor the balance of nuttiness, acidity, sweetness, and bitterness.

**Texture:**
The texture is a result of the manufacturing process. The longer it is processed the smoother the resulting chocolate will be. There is a very clear description of how chocolate is processed on Michael Ruhlman’s blog. Ruhlman is a journalist and chef who writes very clearly about food and cooking. Check out his entry about XOCO, a restaurant in Chicago that roasts and processes its own chocolate: [www.ruhlman/2011/10/chicago-xoco-chocolate/](http://www.ruhlman/2011/10/chicago-xoco-chocolate/).

Is it smooth, velvety, creamy, soft? Or is it a little gritty? All these textures can be wonderful in chocolate because of the way they interact with the flavors. Some people think that smooth chocolates emphasize the fruity, flowery flavors, while gritty chocolates bring out the earthy and nutty tastes.

**Now that you know how to get more out of eating chocolate, all that’s left to do is enjoy!**
Test your chocolate knowledge!

1. The first 3 Musketeers Bar sold for how much?
   A. 10 cents
   B. 5 cents
   C. 3 cents
   D. A penny

2. In Hershey, PA, the street lights on the main street are all shaped like Hershey’s Kisses.
   A. True
   B. False

3. Which continent produces the most chocolate?
   A. Africa
   B. South America
   C. Europe
   D. Asia

4. Early Mexican history states that:
   A. Cocoa was a gift from the gods and forbidden to eat
   B. Women were not allowed to eat cocoa, only men
   C. Cocoa beans were used as money

5. Which country consumes the most chocolate per person per year?
   A. Belgium
   B. The United States
   C. Switzerland
   D. France

6. The cocoa pod comes from the tree’s:
   A. Seeds
   B. Flowers
   C. Leaves

7. There are how many seeds in a cocoa pod?
   A. 25-40
   B. 40-60
   C. 60-100

8. In 1657 the first chocolate shop opened in:
   A. London
   B. Vienna
   C. Amsterdam
   D. Rome

9. In 1615 which country discovers the delight of drinking hot chocolate?
   A. Spain
   B. Italy
   C. Greece
   D. Germany

10. The Hershey bar was first made in:
    A. 1891
    B. 1900
    C. 1916
    D. 1929

11. “Nestle makes the very best chocolate” is their slogan. What did Nestle do in 1875 to make their chocolate so good?
    A. Added powdered sugar
    B. Fermented the cocoa beans longer
    C. Added sweetened condensed milk
    D. Nothing. It’s just a gimmick.

12. Only one chocolate bar is eaten in China for every 1,000 eaten where?
    A. The United States
    B. Britain
    C. Germany
    D. Brazil

Cocoa fruit hanging in a cocoa tree.

Cocoa fruit and beans.
Test your chocolate knowledge!

Answers

1. The first 3 Musketeers Bar sold for how much?
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Decorations and Displays

Decorations and displays to draw in the teen set.
Marketing Your “Reading Is So Delicious!” Program

You have a full schedule of fun events for teens planned, but how can you get their attention? Here are a few ideas:

Book Café
Decorate your service desk and teen area like a café or restaurant counter. Create a “menu” of books, specials of the day, and book “tasting” suggestions for teens to choose from and post on the wall, or create paper menus for them to take home.

CreaTEEN Displays
Decorating a teen area of the library or display area is best left to the teens! Offer a program where teens will be provided with art supplies to make banners (felt is good for that too), posters and more advertising summer reading. Invite teens to feature their favorite books and media while decorating.

Design Your Dream Display
Offer a contest before summer reading starts to design the teen area or a particular display area. Invite teen artists to submit designs and have teen volunteers set up the winning design. Offer an unveiling as a kickoff to summer reading. Post photos or a short movie on a Web site or other social networking media.

Wall o’ Food
Provide old magazines and recipe books that teens can cut up to create a “wall of food” featuring all of their favorite food. Have them collage pictures over a slatwall, and then use this as a background for your book displays. Or, use the wall as summer décor and invite teens to add their own food pictures and “graffiti” to the wall as the summer continues.

Book Pairings
Just as certain types of food go well together, there are books that go well with each other too! Pair great readalikes together and create a display of great book pairings. Invite teens to suggest their own favorite pairings as well.

Cook Up a Great Summer
Use your great non-fiction/recipe books to create a display and accessorize it with cooking utensils, pots, pans, etc. Then ask teens to bring in favorite recipes. For program ideas invite a local chef or restaurant owner to come in and do a food program. [from http://bit.ly/rsFbFZ]
Games and Contests

Challenging and thoughtful ideas for engaging teens at your library.
GAMES

Chocolate Game
This can be a bit messy, but it’s very easy to set up and clean up. Play outside, or lay a tarp or blanket under the players.

MATERIALS:
• Chocolate bar (more than one if playing as a team game)
• Dice
• Various clothing items

Playing as one group:
Everyone sits in a circle and takes turns to roll a die. If the die shows six, the player who rolled it should race to the pile of clothing and put everything on as quickly as possible. Once they’ve done this, they should run to the bar of chocolate and start eating it—but with a knife and fork! While all this is going on, the other players should continue trying to roll six themselves, so that they can take over from the person currently scoffing the choc.

The game finishes when the entire chocolate bar is eaten. If you are playing the team version of the game, you’ll have to buy chocolate bars for each team—and the team that eats their bar first wins the game.

This is a funny, enjoyable game which is likely to allow most, if not all, of the kids a chance to eat some of the chocolate, even if they don’t win the game. If, however, it’s proving a little difficult for some of the kids to get to the chocolate before the next six is thrown, you can subtract steps from the process to make it easier.

The Toaster Game
This is a much calmer game, but it still has the potential to get rather messy, if desired. It’s one of the games where kids can learn about each other through play. Very simply, the group should sit in a circle around a toaster. The leader should provide this, along with plenty of bread. A piece of bread should be put in the toaster and cooked. While the toast is cooking, each player has to state an interesting fact about themselves in turn.

Whoever is speaking when the toaster pops up has to eat the toast with whatever topping the leader chooses. This can start off very simple—jam, peanut butter, etc.—but can progress to more messy and unusual ones, like mashed potato or ice cream!
**What’s Cooking?**

If your group is large, divide into smaller groups of 4–5 people.

In this simulation game, the group just inherited a successful restaurant from Chef Harold, a long lost relative. The only problem: Harold was very disorganized. The only recipes you have found are on torn strips of paper. You have to make sense of it all and quickly! The restaurant is opening tonight, and you have to have the food ready.

Each member of the group will be given part of recipe (an ingredient, instruction, etc.). Your job is to put yourselves in order as quickly as possible. Your recipe must make sense.

When your group is done, loudly announce “bon appetite” to signal the end of the game.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Several Small Prizes for the Winning Team
- Cut Recipes (Separate the Title, Ingredients, Instructions, Etc.)

**TIME:**

Allow ten to twelve minutes for the game. Once a team calls “bon appetite,” have them introduce themselves and read their recipe in order.

**VARIATIONS:**

For an added challenge, this game can be made considerably more difficult if groups are not pre-designated before the recipe pieces are distributed. Participants must then not only find the correct order but the correct recipe as well.
CONTESTS
Contests are a great way to gain teen interest with a small time investment! Many talent contests could be judged by teens, or by a panel of teens and adults. When you have entry slips for a contest, consider including a check box and line for mail or email addresses if the teen would like further information on library programs to grow your marketing. Here are some ideas on contests for this summer’s theme:

Edible Books Contest
Invite your teens to show off their creative cooking skills by hosting an edible books contest. Entries can look like a book or be based on a book; the only real rule is that their entry be edible. For inspiration, visit: http://www.colum.edu/Book_and_Paper/Lectures_and_Events/Edible_Books.php

Food Photography Contest
Which teen can make the food they photograph look the most appetizing? Run a workshop on food styling and photography, and then invite teens to submit their best photographs. Display the winners on the library’s Web or social media site, or have an art opening and reception featuring the photographs. Visit www.learnfood-photography.com or www.foodportfolio.com/blog for hints on how to get started with food photography techniques

Guess the Number
Get a clear container and fill it with gumballs, M&Ms, mini candy bars, or other theme related objects and have teens guess the number. Always popular with younger kids, but older teens and even adults like this one too.

How Well Do You Know Your Food? Contest
Take close-up photos of different foods and ask teens to guess what they are just from looking at the picture. You can post this on your Web site and make it an interactive quiz, or hand out printed sheets to participants when they are in the library. Have a drawing of those who successfully identify the foods and give out a food-related prize such as a restaurant gift certificate.

Recipes to Remember
Have a recipe contest, and invite teens to test the recipes at home and vote for their favorite. Instruct teens to make sure their recipe is original and not taken from a cookbook. The best recipe wins a prize, and all recipes can be compiled into a great cookbook for teens.
Fun, tasty, and captivating, these craft ideas are sure to spark the creativity of your teen readers.
**Bottle Cap Magnets**
Make great keepsakes by using leftover bottle caps. Collect bottle caps ahead of time, or have teens who attend drink sodas at the program collect their own. Using clear resin, small pictures can be inset into the bottle caps and they can be made into magnets or thumbtacks. For instructions on how to create these, visit: http://www.marthastewart.com:80/article/bottle-cap-magnets-and-thumbtacks

**Garden in a Jar**
Teach teens how to create mini-gardens in a jar that they can keep for themselves or give away as gifts. Herbs are easy to sprout in jars; moss also grows well in this environment.

**SUPPLIES:**
- mason jars
- soil
- small rocks
- water spray-bottle
- seed packets for various herbs

For detailed instructions and more ideas:
http://www.bhg.com/gardening/houseplants/care/terrarium-gardens/?page=3

**Haunted Gingerbread Houses**
Take the classic gingerbread house and make it spooky! This is a simple way to take the fun of gingerbread houses outside of the winter holidays.

Use the same supplies as you would for gingerbread houses:
- Plates or cardboard for bases
- Boxes or milk cartons for houses (from Pop-tart sized, or small cracker/cookie cardboard boxes)
- Graham cracker or gingerbread planks
- Frosting
- Candy
- Frosting gel
- Cotton candy for webs

**INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Attach box to base.
2. Attach Graham cracker or gingerbread planks to box with frosting
3. Attach candy to cracker or gingerbread planks
4. Take home, or smash/eat (Make sure to film any smashing for YouTube videos or your Web site.)
Junk Food Sculptures

 Invite teens to play with their food, and make some artistic—and fun—food sculptures.

 SUPPLIES:

• A variety of treats including Starburst, Fruit by the Foot, Tootsie Rolls, marshmallows, Twinkies, Skittles, and Rice Krispie treats; try peanut butter or marshmallow fluff for “glue”
• Plates (or other work surface)
• Knives (plastic will work fine)
• Hand sanitizer or plastic gloves

In addition to making sculptures, there are many directions you could take this program. Tie this into a book discussion by asking teens to create scenes and characters from a book they have read. Teens can vote on their favorite creations after they are made. Investigate food science by looking into the candies’ ingredients and pairing the activity with a fun science project or even a TV show that investigates how foods are made. Combine with healthy food by adding veggies to the sculpture and using books such as Play with Your Food by Joost Elffers (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1997) for inspiration.

No Bake Chokladboll Recipe

 A Swedish treat that’s easy to make with no baking and fun to eat!

 SUPPLIES:

• 3 ¼ cup oats
• 1 ¼ cup sugar
• 6 Tablespoons cocoa
• 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
• 2/3 cup butter or margarine
• 6 Tablespoons cold coffee
• Flaked coconut or pearl sugar

 DIRECTIONS:

1. Mix oats, sugar, vanilla, and cocoa in a large bowl.
2. Using your hands, a potato masher, or a pastry blender, incorporate the butter into the dry ingredients until the dough has an even consistency.
3. Add the coffee and mix until incorporated.
4. Fill a small bowl with flaked coconut or sugar.
5. Roll the dough into 1-inch diameter balls with your hands.
6. Coat with coconut or sugar, and place on a tray.
7. Chill for at least one hour before serving.
**Sugar Skulls**
Here’s a simple, sweet craft for your teens this summer—have them decorate sugar skulls. Then give out awards to the best, scariest, most unique, etc. Molds for the skulls can be purchased online for a minimum price. Make the skulls ahead of the program (they are just sugar and cream of tartar). Provide the teens with frosting (with bags & tips), glitter, and metallic paper foils, and then let their imaginations run wild. Specific recipes and decorating ideas can also be found online.

**Sushi Crafts**
Sushi is not just fish anymore! Realistic sushi rolls and nigiri can be made from candy, felt, paper, or more. Visit these sites for great sushi-themed ideas.
Felt sushi: http://www.craftycrafty.tv/2007/07/food_craft_felt_sushi_almost_g.html
Candy sushi: http://candy.about.com/od/specialoccasions/r/candysushi.htm
Other ideas: http://www.cutoutandkeep.net/projects/tag/sushi

**Worm Farm Compost Containers**
Using plastic Rubbermaid bins, newspaper, and soil, teens can make their own compost container and start turning food scrap into rich soil with worms! This is a fun easy program, but may be messy, and probably best to work on outside if weather permits. For more details on how to compost with worms, visit: http://www.savvygardener.com/Features/worm_composting.html

**Book Suggestions for Craft Ideas:**
Quick and simple knitting projects to make knitted pizza, pita pocket, or even cupcakes.
Making Mini-Comics

The following four pages are reprinted from the Web site of the International Cartoonist Conspiracy (http://www.cartoonistconspiracy.com/pageresources.php). Copy the pages back-to-back, cut them apart, and staple them together to make a Mini-Comic called How to Make Mini-Comics to give out to your teen readers.

Your teen readers can make their own 16-page comic. If you have access to a copier, they can make multiple copies to share. The PDF is included on your CD-ROM.
The International Cartoonist Conspiracy is a group of amateur and professional cartoonists organized around the common goal of drawing more comics, more often and more better. Membership is open to all cartoonists regardless of gender, race, age, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, attractiveness, wit, or talent. Only the desire to produce comics is necessary.

Get more information at www.cartoonistconspiracy.com

THE CARTOONIST CONSPIRACY LI’L LIBRARY VOLUME 1: HOW TO MAKE MINI-COMICS is copyright 2007 by the International Cartoonist Conspiracy and is published under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 2.5 License. It may be reproduced and distributed freely.

STEP 7: CUT YOUR PAGES

Once you have all your copies, you may need to cut your books in half (like this example) or smaller. Most copy shops offer a self-serve cutting board. Most cutting boards won’t give you very satisfying results cutting more than 5 or so sheets at a time... the more sheets you jam in the more your cuts are going to miss the mark on some of the sheets. Patience with this pays off. It’s also a good way to keep all of your fingers.

MAKING A MINI-COMIC

Tools: Scissors, Tape, Rubber Cement, White Out, Copier, Cutting Board, Stapler

STEP 1: PLAN YOUR COMIC

Plan out your page layout, and how you want the format to come together. Do you want to do an 8 page xeroxed comic? A 16 page silkscreened booklet? A 200 page epic the size of a postage stamp? It’s good to figure out how you’re going to put it together before you get started.

You’ll probably want to lay out a template of the pages before you draw... and one way to work is drawing directly on a template. Keep in mind that if you do this, artwork will not appear as crisp as it would if you worked at a larger size and then reduced it. However, this is the fastest way to work.

You’ll want to number your pages to keep track of the order... if you don’t want numbers on the final comic, you can use a non photo blue pencil, which will not reproduce when copied. Fortunately, there is no compelling evidence that these pencils interfere with human reproduction.
AN INTRODUCTION

Mini-comics are small, hand-made booklets of cartoons. Along with zines, their birth was fueled initially by the popularization of the photocopier in the 70’s and 80’s. Mini-comics are commonly considered to be a good starting point for new cartoonists trying to break into the cartooning field... their hand-made nature makes it easy for anyone to produce one on a limited budget. Many seasoned cartoonists continue to produce mini-comics as well... once you’ve experienced the rush of holding a cool little comic book you just created yourself, it’s a hard habit to give up.

WHY WOULD I WANT TO MAKE A MINI-COMIC?

1) It’s fun, fast and easy.
2) It’s a relatively inexpensive way to get your work out to an audience.
3) You have complete creative control over content and format.
4) Mini-comics have a rich tradition of artistic experimentation both with content and format that the artistically adventurous find appealing.
5) With a little luck, you can buy a cup of coffee with the profits.

Page numbering can get confusing, especially with longer comics, since the page layout is not sequential until it is made into a booklet. For example, here is the page layout of an 8-page mini-comic.

Here is the page layout of a 16-page mini-comic.

A simple way to figure out page layouts is to number them from the beginning and end at the same time. Number the first page, and then number the last page opposite it. Then number the second page on the back of the first, and the second from last page on the back of the last, and continue this process through however many pages your comic is going to be. Your page count must be divisible by four, since each folded sheet will make four pages.

STEP 6: MAKE YOUR COPIES

OK... you’re ready... time to make your copies. Try to get your head around the quirks of the particular copier you are using... make sure the scanning bed is clean and your copies don’t have streaking or other marks from the machine. Play with the brightness settings to get the look you want.

You’ll especially want to learn how to feed the pages so the correct pages appear right-side up on the backs of each other. Use the 1:2 (double-sided) option on the copier to print on the back and front of your output. You’ll want to run one copy through before doing the whole stack to make sure you have it right, and you aren’t printing anything upside-down.

Pay attention while copying to see if the machine’s toner is getting low... if your book has a lot of black in it, toner can get eaten up faster than popcorn in a coop full of movie-loving chickens. It’s a good thing this comic isn’t called How to Make Metaphors, isn’t it?

STEP 10: DISTRIBUTING YOUR MINI-COMICS

If you’re proud of your work, you’ll want to share it. If you have good local comic stores, they should carry your comics... talk to the person behind the counter to learn their policies are. As far as getting your work seen in other communities goes, here are some of the better-known mini-comics distributors you could send it to:

- Bodega Distribution bodegadistribution.com
- Cold Cut coldcut.com
- Global Hobo www.slowwave.com/globalhobo
- Poopsheet Foundation poopsheetfoundation.com
- USS Catastrophe usscatastrophe.com

Also, make sure to check out the Mini Comix Co-op at minicomixcoop.com. If you send them 10 copies of your mini-comic and a large SASE, you’ll receive 10 different mini-comics in return.
STEP 2: FORMAT YOUR ARTWORK

Draw your comic, using whatever materials you choose. Make sure your artwork is the appropriate proportion for your pages. For example, a typical sheet of printer paper is 8.5"x11". A typical mini-comic page is a fourth of that size, 4.25"x5.5". However, the proportions of the pages are the same, so you can work at 8.5"x11" and it will reduce nicely down and fit on your 4.25"x5.5" pages.

One thing you’ll probably want to keep in mind when drawing your pages is to leave a gutter (empty space) around the artwork on the pages of at least a quarter inch. Copiers don’t generally print on the edges of pages, and hand trimming pages doesn’t always produce a perfectly consistent cut line, so you will appreciate the “wiggle room” of some empty space.

If you want to have your artwork go right to the edge of the pages (“bleed”), you can do so by cutting the finished books to the edge of the gutter with a cutting board... keep in mind this is very labor intensive, though! In fact, it’s just the sort of obsessive-compulsive task that many mini-comics artists adore!

STEP 5: MAKE A DUMMY COPY

When you are satisfied with how your pages look, you’ll want to start printing your books. Before you print ALL of your books, print ONE of them... a “dummy” copy. Many copiers offer a “sample” button for this purpose. Print one, cut it, fold it and staple it. Pick it up in your hot, excited hands and take a look through it... are all the pages in the right order? Is anything upside-down? Is there an ugly blotch on the copier that is showing up on all of your copies? Better to notice this stuff before you print 100 copies with that ugly blotch, or you, my friend, will be the “dummy.”

BUT IS IT ART?

Don’t you hate that clueless question?

Mini-comic artists embrace experimentation, and mini-comics come in all sizes and shapes. Many have been far smaller than this one, and many have been larger. The most common format is probably twice this size (5.5”x8.5”). This mini-comic is printed in a typical and traditional mini-comics format (two sheets of paper xeroxed on both sides and folded and stapled into 16 4.25”x5.5” pages).

Although the typical mini-comic is a booklet xeroxed on printer paper, cut, folded and stapled, there really isn’t a typical mini-comic. There have been mini-comic scrolls, accordions, and posters... there have been mini-comics silkscreened, rubber stamped, mimeographed, hand-drawn, and printed in invisible ink. The fetishistic hand-made nature of the mini-comic object is often more important than the contents of the mini-comic itself. That said, the contents also cover anything you can imagine... autobiography, humor, mystery, action, dog grooming... dog grooming, mostly.

STEP 9: STAPLING, FOLDING, AND FINISHING

Collating is often done at the same time as stapling and folding... this stuff is a lot faster if you do it with a group of people. Get your friends to make some mini-comics too, and you can all have a collating party, which is more fun than it sounds, even though drinking and collating is not at all recommended.

It’s easier and more accurate if you staple your pages before folding them. Long staplers work best for stapling. You can get a tight and accurate fold by running the back of your fingernail over a loose fold.

Add any finishing touches like hand-coloring, perfume, or glitter-glue and you’re done! Congratulations, you’re now a published cartoonist! Fame and fortune awaits! Where it awaits I have no idea, but nice work on that there cute l’il booklet, pardner.
MAKING COMICS

It is beyond the scope of this booklet to provide a lesson on the art of writing and drawing comics. At a basic level, it is very easy though. Whatever tools you are comfortable with for making marks on paper will do the trick. At the bare minimum, you’ll want a pencil and paper. A pen, eraser and whiteout is nice.

For learning more about the art of making comics, we highly recommend these books:

Making Comics by Scott McCloud
Comics and Sequential Art by Will Eisner

Don’t get intimidated if you don’t think you are a particularly good writer or a good artist. Comics combine writing and art, and a bad writer or bad artist can still be a good cartoonist. One of the most popular and prolific mini-comics artists of all time, Matt Feazell, uses stick men in all his comics. The only way to get good at something is to practice... writing, drawing and cartooning are all learned skills that anyone can do.

The rule of thumb for drawing comics (or making any kind of art) is USE WHAT WORKS.

STEP 3: LAY OUT YOUR PAGES

Lay out the artwork on your page template. Laying out on a computer is great if you know how, but the typical mini-comic is pretty low-tech. Usually, mini-comics are laid out at the copy shop.

To lay out your comic, reduce the artwork to the size you want on your pages (assuming you didn’t draw directly on a template) and cut the artwork out and adhere it to the appropriate numbered page on the template using a glue stick or rubber cement. Rubber cement can also be used to simulate a realistic booger, only one that bounces really well.

STEP 4: CLEAN UP YOUR PAGES

Once you get your pages laid out, you’ll probably want to copy them again and clean them up before making your final copies. This way you can touch up any lines that show up in the copying that you may not want there... often the cut edges of artwork will show up and you can cover these on the copies with whiteout.

Keep in mind, however, that each generation you copy, the artwork loses resolution... a copy of a copy of a copy gets muddier and muddier and muddier, so the fewer times you have to make copies between your original artwork and the final publication, the better. Unless, of course, you like muddy, in which case copy and copy and copy away!

STEP 8: COLLABORATE YOUR MINI-COMICS

Next, you’ll want to put the pages of your booklets in the correct order (this is called “collating”). To collate, put each page set in a stack next to that, and the next page set by that stack, and so on. Once you have your stacks of pages, put your books together by grabbing one page set off of each pile and putting them together in order, repeating until your piles disappear. And you thought that would take Preparation H!
Teen Volunteering

Tips for integrating teen volunteers into your summer reading program.
Teen Volunteers
Updated Tips for a Successful Summer
by Amy Alessio, Teen Coordinator, Schaumburg Township District Library

Teen input is the lifeblood of successful teen services, and the physical help they provide can be invaluable in putting on summer events for younger children. Volunteering is beneficial to teens, too, as they develop skills for future work. Find ways to harness teen energy while offering them a rewarding experience and teen services at every library will only improve.

These tips, which have been published in previous issues of the iREAD Resource Guide, are updated for this year.

1. Match Teen Talents to Their Work
Consider an application process for teens who want to be summer volunteers. Teens often have many skills or talents that could be used on various projects. An application should be short and positive, including questions such as: Why do you want to help the library? What do you like best about the library? Where could the library improve services to teens? Please list special skills you may have. Is there a particular project you would like to work on in the library?

In addition to helping you pinpoint how best to utilize that teen’s efforts, an application will force teens to think about why they want to come in and volunteer, beyond required service hours, or an overzealous parent.

Match the job to the teen. Does your teen volunteer have the energy and people skills to work with younger children? How about having teens design a scavenger hunt? Or working on behind the scenes displays or even Web site design? Other teens may be creative with puppets, or have craft skills that staff does not. Other teens may design art or posters for the department.

2. Volunteers Help Everyone
Often the person who coordinates the volunteers is expected to have all responsibility for the volunteers. This means, finding all the jobs for them, keeping them busy, dealing with any wrinkles in scheduling or personalities. Encourage administration to remind staff that volunteers help everyone in the department. All people who work a shift with volunteers should have some responsibility with them and for them. It should be seen as an important part of the work of the library during this time. The skills matching from #1 will help with this. Do you have a teen in a band and a staff member whose son is also in a rock band? Finding common ground among staff and volunteers may help everyone’s comfort levels.

3. Tasks with Meaning
Not all jobs for volunteers will be fun, but some should be. Ask everyone in the department to compile a list of projects the teens could work on. These could include:

- Decorating young adult or children’s area for summer reading festivities
- Help at library-wide or large scale events, including handing out brochures, serving refreshments, and serving as information points and helpers
- Designing bulletin boards or artistic displays
- Checking donated items against the collection to help find new additions. If the library owns some already, consider letting the teen have a few of those items if he/she wants to read/view them.
- Making book lists of teen favorites for books, games, movies and more
- Searching awards lists to see which the library owns to help with collection development
Teen Volunteering

- Collecting and totaling statistics—teens are often doing higher level math in school than adults do in life!
- Weeding: removing old magazines or books from a circulation printout for staff to evaluate later. Teens could also give opinion if some books should stay or go, if their topics are of interest, etc.
- Helping with story time or craft programs
- Organizing materials for book sales
- Coming up with ideas for future teen bookmarks, displays, marketing, programs or services

It can be hard on staff and teens to have a super fast volunteer who finishes every task quickly and has nothing to do. Encourage teens to read books if they finish everything else they need to do!

4. Rotate Tasks
Teens may have a shift at the summer registration table, but they should also have other projects during their scheduled time. It is hard for people of any age to stay focused on one task only for a lengthy period of time.

5. Be Realistic, and encourage other staff to be the same
Teens are going to be learning new skills and will likely make mistakes, just like adult employees do! Some teens may struggle with new skills and tasks. Teens with special needs may have few opportunities like this to learn job skills and volunteering in the library may be a great experience for both them and staff. Keep positive vocal and written reinforcement coming, to both staff and volunteers. Thank staff for working with them, and thank teens frequently and remind them of how valuable their service is.

6. Ask Their Opinion
Help teens feel invested in their library work. Do they know a better way to register young children and/or hand out prizes? Encourage them to make suggestions and try to act on as many as you can in a timely manner. Consider hosting a wiki that teen volunteers would be invited to participate in. They could list ideas on a future project, or discuss their reactions online to a particular program or event.

7. Rewards
What do the teens get out of volunteering for the library? Community Service is important, but it is also important to show teens you honor and value their work for your library. Some libraries have end of summer pizza parties or outings for volunteers. A special after hours event just for volunteers is another way to honor them. Other ideas include coupons for $ off of fines, book prizes, lists of names sent to schools and more. Take plenty of pictures of volunteers and invite them to keep them at the end of the summer in addition to using them for library publicity, displays and scrapbooks.

8. Consistency
Provide a simple contract at the beginning of the program. Consider hosting an official Orientation night for new volunteers or simply spend time with each teen as they begin volunteering, showing them around and explaining the rules. The contract should be signed by teens and staff in either case, and it should include the agreed schedule and rules about who to call if a teen cannot make it on a certain evening. It is important to list expectations in a positive yet firm manner. For example:

The library appreciates the hard work of our volunteers, and depends on their help. Because of this relationship, it is expected that volunteers be responsible and courteous about their work. If you cannot come in for your shift, it is important to let the library know as soon as possible at the following numbers:
Also list any dress requirements (including name tags) and other reasonable library guidelines, such as “respectful attitude.” Then indicate what will happen if any of these guidelines are not followed, clearly but not in a threatening manner! For example:
I understand that if I do not follow these guidelines the library may terminate my volunteer participation. Signed………..

Once the contract is in place, abide by it as consistently as possible with all volunteers.

9. Evaluate: Invite teens to fill out evaluations of their volunteer experience, either online or in print. Provide space for them to make suggestions of tasks and to list tasks they did not enjoy or that they found difficult.

10. Keep the Momentum Going: If you have a core group of enthusiastic teens, consider continuing the program throughout the year. Ask them how they want to be involved, and let an advisory board, virtual volunteer team or other ways grow naturally from their input. Some libraries utilize student trustees on their adult library boards to keep the library relevant to their interests.

An ongoing and changing effort to work with and for teen volunteers will improve many aspects of library service.

Teen Volunteering Book Suggestions:
Special Teen Volunteer Projects
Here are some additional summer projects you may want to work with your teen volunteers on:

Book Reviewers
Have your teen volunteers write book reviews of the books they’re reading or have read. Then let them create a bulletin board or a book display using the reviews they’ve written.

Book Buddies
Book Buddies is a great mentoring program where early and intermediate readers practice reading to a volunteer. For more information on how to start this program at your library, see the book *Book Buddies* by Francine Johnston (Guilford Press, 2009).

Community Activism
As a group, ask your teen volunteers to decide upon an agency or charity that they would like to support during the summer. Once they have decided on one, help them create a goal that is obtainable. For example, collect 200 old bath towels and 100 lbs. of newspapers, for the local animal shelter to use in their cages. Once they’ve defined their goal, help them create and implement a strategic plan that will help lead them to success. To relate it to this summer’s theme, consider volunteering as a group at a local soup kitchen or food depository.

Garden Club
Let your teen volunteers donate their time by sprucing up the outside of the library. They could plant new flowers, lay down mulch, water the plants, or maybe even design a new garden. If you have no green spaces outside your facility, consider starting a small container garden inside the library that they could grow and maintain.
Bibliography

Delicious recommendations for teens hungry for a good book.
DELECTABLE BOOKS: Great Titles for Reading Is So Delicious!

Fiction:


**Bibliography**


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**Non-Fiction:**


**Graphic Novels:**


