WAYS TO SHARE
Books

- Act out the story.
- Dress up like your favorite character.
- Prepare a Reader's Theater presentation.
- Make a cube depicting parts of the story.
- Make a diorama or a mobile.
- Write a letter to the author.
- Make a pop-up story book.
- Write a poem.
- Paint a scene from the story.
- Make a poster to "sell" the story.
- Write an advertisement for the book.
- Design a book jacket.
- Make a collage.
- Make a banner.
- Draw a mural.
- Create a TV scroll with scenes from the story.
- Write a letter to a character.
- Find appropriate music for the story, and tell why it was chosen.
- Find or make food appropriate to the story, and tell why.
- Put on a talk show, and interview characters from the book.
- Put on a puppet show.
- Write a new ending to the story.
- Write a sequel.
- Write a commercial about the book, and videotape it.
- Write an invitation for a friend to read the book.
- Make character masks.
- Watch the movie, and write a paragraph to compare/contrast.
- Read another book by the same author and compare/contrast.
- Write a play or a skit, and present it to other classes.
- Write and perform a song about the story or characters.
- Make buttons.
- Write the biography of a character.

Ways to Share Books *continued*

- Create a timeline of the events of the book.

- Create a poster with facts learned from the book and illustrations (nonfiction books).

- Create a bookmark with information about the story.

- Draw a picture of a favorite scene from the book.

- Design a trading card with information about the book (or about the individual if reading a biography), or design a set of trading cards for the characters in a book. Be sure to include a picture on the card!

- Create a scrapbook for a character. (This could be created on a computer using clip art, photos, or other artwork.)

- Write a profile about a character that includes odd facts about, or opinions of, the character, such as favorite quotes, favorite music, strangest thing that ever happened to him or her, best day, favorite or least favorite food, places travelled, most memorable event, etc.

- Draw a caricature of a character from the book.

- Prepare a box report using a tissue box, cracker box, or other box. Use the sides of the box to describe story elements such as plot, characters, setting, etc., or, for nonfiction books, write facts you learned. Be sure to include the author, title, and some illustrations.

- Assemble a paper bag report. Illustrate the outside of the bag with scenes from the book and the book title and author. Fill the inside of the bag with artifacts relating to the story or cards that describe the story elements.

- Sculpt a figure or figures that depict a scene from the story.

- Make a list of a character's top ten favorite songs, books, movies, or television shows.

- Draw a comic strip or anime based on the events in the book.

- Develop a board game based on the book.

- Write a top ten list of the most important things you learned from the book.

- Pretend that you are a reporter, and write a news story about something that happened in the book.

- Make a list of predictions for the main characters in the book. Predict where they will be in ten or twenty years.

- Draw a map of the places depicted in the book. Be sure to include a legend and key for the map.

Ideas and Resources for Integrating Technology into Book Club Projects

General Ideas for Incorporating Technology into Projects:

- Design flyers, book jackets, or other write-ups with word processing software such as Microsoft Word or desktop publishing software. Incorporate graphics and clip art as appropriate.

- Put together a multimedia presentation using PowerPoint slides or HyperStudio stacks. Multimedia can be used for book reviews, story maps, sequence chains or summaries, illustrations, character family trees, movie trailers, or advertisements. The students can add narration and/or music for more punch.

- Create podcasts of book reviews or book responses. Podcasts are typically audio files that can be downloaded to either an iPod or a computer. Some podcasts also utilize video. A user retrieves or subscribes to podcasts through iTunes or another host site and listens to or views the file contents. An iPod is not required; the iTunes software can be downloaded and used on both PCs and Macintosh computers. To create podcasts, the students and teachers must first work together to outline suggested criteria for content or other ideas for podcasts. Then the students create podcasts of book reviews or other audio/video files using one of several tools for creating podcasts. Several podcasting programs are available online; the latest version of HyperStudio, mentioned below, also contains tools for creating podcasts. The students could play the podcast as part of their presentation. If podcasting is completely new to you, don't worry. It's likely that your students will know how to create podcasts!

- Blog. If kids would prefer to write, create a class or even schoolwide blog with book recommendations. Kids can post their suggestions during technology class or during reading or writing class time. There are many blogging resources, including blogger.com, typepad.com, or wordpress.com.

- Post online. Many online booksellers offer patrons the opportunity to review books. Encourage your students to share their thoughts about books online.

Software Packages:

PowerPoint (Macintosh or PC) is available from Microsoft as part of Office Suite. PowerPoint enables students and teachers to put together slide shows for visual demonstrations and presentations. (http://office.microsoft.com/powerpoint)

HyperStudio (Macintosh or PC) is a multimedia software package that combines text, graphics, animation, sound clips, and more. HyperStudio also offers support for podcasting. (http://www.mackiev.com/hyperstudio/index.html)

KidPix 3D (Macintosh or PC) is another popular presentation and graphics software package geared toward school children. Kids can create a variety of files that can be printed or uploaded to an iPod or other MP3 player or presented on the computer. (https://www.mackiev.com/kidpix/index.html)

Kidspiration (Macintosh or PC) enable kids and teachers to create a variety of visual learning tools such as story maps, concept maps, flow charts, and diagrams. Inspiration is geared toward grades 6–12, and Kidspiration is designed for grades K–5. With both packages, students can combine pictures, text, and recorded audio to create visual pieces. See www.inspiration.com for product information, examples, and free trials. (www.inspiration.com/kidspiration)

Useful Links:

Create an interactive story map online at www.readwritethink.org. This website, produced by the International Reading Association (IRA) and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) in association with the Verizon Foundation, contains many resources for teachers and students, predominantly in the realm of language arts and reading.

iTunes enables you to access a variety of media online, including free podcasts. The iTunes software is available through a free download at www.apple.com/itunes/download. Download iTunes to get acquainted with the world of podcasts. Check out the Education section under Podcasts for a variety of educational resources, including podcasts by teachers, schools, publishers, and school districts. You can also find a wealth of book reviews, including student work, by searching for "book reviews" in the iTunes Store search box. Among the many book review podcasts you will find is one by the Horn Book, a noted resource for information about children's literature. Many radio stations worldwide also broadcast through iTunes Radio.

Learn more about podcasting and other technology tools for education on the Internet. For example, see https://itunes.apple.com/us/genre/podcasts-education/id1304?mt=2/ for a list of education podcasts.

Tip:

Google "book report alternatives" or "technology and book reports" or similar search terms to learn more ideas for Book Club. (Please note that the latter term will also introduce you to the unfortunate sites that supply reports and papers to students, which you may also want to be aware of. Therefore, don't instruct your students to search using that term!)