

HOW TO TEMPT RELUCTANT STUDENTS INTO THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

How do you bring a reluctant student through the doors of your library? These are some of the ideas that Roxanne Ciddor has discovered.

GET READING

A series of posters featuring the cover of a book and the first page are put on the backs of the toilet doors and above urinals.

GET ARTY

What to do with non-fiction titles that are past their use-by date? Run a 'books as art' competition and exhibition.

GET A CONSCIENCE

The Great Book Swap is a fundraiser for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. www.indigenouliteracyfoundation.org.au/the-great-book-swap.html.

Created by the Penguin Group and the Pearson Foundation, *We Give Books* provides access to a large range of high quality ebooks and for every book a student reads online, a book is donated to underprivileged children all over the world through charity partners. www.wegivebooks.org.

GET COMPETITIVE

Even the simplest idea can still be effective.

GUESS THE...

...**title**: show the cover illustration and have students give the most creative title to fit. ...**reader**: show a series of book covers and teachers and have students match them. ...**title and author**: show students wedges of book covers, arranged in a wheel. Have students name the title and author of each book.

USE YOUR BRAIN

\$100 word: each letter of the alphabet has a dollar value (A=\$1, B=\$2, etc.) have students try to find a word, or book title with the value closest to \$100. **Creative writing**: give students a stimulus, such as a book character, title or first chapter and have students write or finish writing the story. **Word find**: give students a long book title and ask them to find as many words from the title as possible. **Stacked stories**: using book spines, have students create stories by stacking books.

BE A STAR

Fundraise: run a readathon or a simultaneous read, with donations to a cause.

Go viral: run a competition to create a promotional video for the library or an aspect of your services.

For examples, see: www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/whyyineedmylibrary and www.brimbanklibraries.vic.gov.au/en/library-news/3-home-page-featured/723-fb-online-competition-results.

Go big: stage a literary flash mob or large-scale video, such as www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNpNfhpqDk4.

CREATE SOMETHING

Trolley fun: creatively decorate your library trolleys. The best examples can be seen here www.unshelved.com/pimpmybookcart.

This article is based on a presentation given at the SLAV conference, Friday 16 August 2013.

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