Reading Night activities are a fun way to get students and parents together to celebrate books. Remember, you don’t need a big crowd to have a successful Reading Night. You can have a meaningful program with a small group. Still, you want to attract as many people as you can.

Here’s how to plan a successful reading night:

- Work with teachers to select the right book or theme. Choose a book students have studied in school and one that has widespread appeal. For younger students, choose a theme and read several books along that theme. For example, “The Wonderful Work of Eric Carle” or “Stories About Friendship.”

- Plan activities. For younger children, plan a craft and a couple of games. For older students, enlist teachers to refer you to students who can read passages from the book. Teachers and parents may also read from the book. Work with the teacher to have students put on a dramatic performance of a scene in the book.

- Plan discussion. For older students, discussing the book will provide a great opportunity for dialog. Keep discussion groups small, about 10 participants each. Make sure each discussion group has a moderator who has read the book. Prepare questions in advance to get the discussion started.

- Offer incentives. Give away small prizes that will appeal to the target audience. For example, if the book has been adapted into a film, give away the DVD.

- Provide books: Send everyone home with a copy of the book you read or a book with a similar theme or by the same author.
HINTS FOR SPECIFIC READING NIGHT EVENTS

These Reading Night themes are just suggestions. Work with teachers to identify the best books and themes to focus on for Reading Night. The best books to celebrate are those magical books that appeal to students, parents and teachers.

For a monkey and ape Reading Night for younger children:
- Serve bananas and animal crackers. Fill celery sticks with peanut butter or cream cheese and stand the animal crackers up so they look like they’re grazing.
- Play Act Like Animals: A child draws an animal out of a hat and pretends to be that animal. The other students guess which animal.
- Play Which Animal Doesn’t Belong: Hold up pictures of four animals, three of whom live in the same habitat and one that does not. Students identify which animal does not belong.
- After reading several stories, have children act out one of the stories. The other children have to guess which story.
- Make monkey masks: Use paper plates, felt, glue and markers to make masks. Precut as many items as possible to make the craft quick and easy. Glue the mask to a wooden stick.

For a Charlotte’s Web Reading Night for older elementary children:
- Serve spider snacks made of Ritz crackers. Spread peanut butter or cream cheese between two crackers. Insert eight pretzel rods as legs. Make eyes out of raisins, M&Ms or chocolate chips, using peanut butter or cream cheese as glue. Students can make their own spider treats!
- Watch scenes from the movie, Charlotte’s Web. Talk about what happens before that scene and what happens in the next.
- Play Guess Who’s Talking. A teacher reads a passage of dialog out of the book. The student guesses the speaker.
- Talk about the theme of the story. Have students share what they think the theme of the story is.
HINTS FOR SPECIFIC READING NIGHT EVENTS (Continued)

For a Reading Night for middle school students celebrating *To Kill a Mockingbird*:

- Watch clips from the movie and discuss the scenes. Were the right actors cast to portray the characters? How is watching the movie different from reading the book? Is it better to watch the movie or read the book first?

- Play Guess Who’s Talking. A teacher reads a passage of dialog out of the book. The students guess the speaker.

- Play a trivia game. Students can compete individually or in teams. Call out a question about the book. Students take turns trying to answer, cumulating points for correct responses.

- Work with teachers to have students make brief presentations on other historical events from that time and on the life of author Harper Lee.

- During discussion groups, talk about why this book remains so popular. Have parents and teachers talk about the impact of the book on them when they read it in school. Have them talk about the impact the movie had on them.

For a Reading Night for high school students celebrating *The Book Thief*:

- Serve food related to the book, such as apple slices with caramel dipping sauce or other apple treat.

- Work with teachers to enlist students to give a presentation about the time period. Or enlist someone from the community to give a brief presentation on the Holocaust.

- During the discussion, talk about how this book compares to other books set during the Holocaust, such as *Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl*. How do students feel when they read these books?
FAMILY READING NIGHT...
COME READ WITH US!

Celebrate classic books featuring your favorite apes and monkeys!

- Goodnight, Gorilla
- Hug
- Curious George

For families of children in pre-K, K, 1st and 2nd grades.

Date: ________________________  Time: ________________________

Place: ________________________
FAMILY READING NIGHT

Celebrate Charlotte’s Web
A timeless classic for children and parents of all ages.

For families of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.

Date: ___________________________  Time: ___________________________

Place: ___________________________________________________________________
FAMILY READING NIGHT

Celebrate The Book Thief
A story of the Holocaust.

SNACKS!  STUDENT/COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS  GROUP DISCUSSION

For families of high school students.

Date: ___________________________  Time: ___________________________

Place: ____________________________________________________________

Brought to you by your Parent Resource Center
www.CISGA.org/ParentResourceCenter
FAMILY READING NIGHT

Come celebrate the great classic: To Kill a Mockingbird

For families of middle school students.

Date: ___________________________ Time: ___________________________

Place: ________________________________________________________