

## **Library programming and fandom: Ideas for programs**

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*Abstract: An overview of three customizable library programming ideas for teens, using fan art and fiction.*

### **Introduction:**

Fanfiction is very popular amongst teens, and the possibilities for programming are very exciting and fresh. The following three ideas give a basis for what is possible in teen fandom library programming. Although this article is directed towards librarians, all of the program ideas could be easily adapted to a classroom setting.

### Summer Art Camp:

#### **Overview:**

This program would run over the summer, and it would involve teens creating works of art inspired by popular fiction. At the end of the summer, a launch would be made, where the creators of the art would hold a gallery-style showing for their artwork. The artwork would also be digitized for online voting. The winners of the online voting would be made into a collector's card that could be used to reward readers in a winter reading program. Ideally, some of artwork would be of a book series that is just gaining traction, so that the trading cards stay current for longer. Volunteers would be needed to help spread the word, and the library could ask a local artist to drop in for a couple of the evenings to provide coaching to the teens.

#### **Materials and expenditures:**

- Art supplies:
  - Paints, marker, pastels, pencils, brushes, sponges
  - Art quality paper, including watercolour paper
  - Glue
  - Cardstock

- Magazines
- Good quality printer
- Snacks!!!
- Inexpensive frames with mat for gallery showing. Can be reused year to year
- Staffing time: set-up, administration, supervision, etc.

## Writers and Company: Fanfiction writing circle

### Overview:

This program could work any time of year, but it might be particularly suited to an afterschool program. Teens would need to sign up for the group, so that the group becomes a safe space for sharing. On the first night, the moderator would lay out ground rules regarding copyright infringement, as well as rules governing explicit and or violent content. It is important to note that there is a difference between censoring, and respect for other participants' comfort zones. No one should feel uncomfortable reading the works produced. Also, there should be some ground rules for feedback, with constructive feedback as a goal for everyone. To get the creative juices flowing, the moderator could begin with giving the participants writing cues, such as imagining that Katniss Everdeen and Ron Weasley are in a relationship and how a typical date would unfold, or what would happen if the *Pretty Little Liars* characters met Bella, Edward, and Jacob. The teens could also take turns suggesting situations and characters to write about: The possibilities are limited only by the group's imagination.

There could be an online component to this as well, and it can also lead organically to a battle of the literary titans, where stories are posted, and voted on. The library would need to recruit teen volunteers to help out, spread the word, and make people feel welcome.

### Materials and expenditures:

- Staff involvement, particularly as a group moderator, although teen volunteers would also be involved.
- Set up time is minimal.
- Prizes if contest is held.
- Snacks!

## Phat Phandom Photography Contest

### **Program Overview:**

This program could be held any time of the year. It could involve either Instagram or Facebook, where teens upload photographs of themselves recreating a scene from their favourite book. The photograph categories could also be for photographs inspired by literature, with categories such as action, still life and landscape. Viewers would vote for their favourites, and the winners could have their work printed and displayed in the library.

The program could either take the form of a simple library sponsored contest, or it could take the form of a photography class, where the library recruits a photographer to run a workshop on a volunteer basis. Teens would need to use their own equipment, but it would not matter if the camera were on a cellphone, or a specialized camera, as the image would be judged on its popularity with viewers rather than the quality of the camera or composition.

### **Materials and expenditures:**

- Staff time, particularly in recruitment, and advertising.
- Teen volunteer involvement would be crucial to get the word out.
- Prize for contest
- Snacks, if workshop is held.
- Frames for the winners' work