

VIRTUAL SNACK ATTACK: FRIENDSHIP MIX

AGES

Children 5+

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Who needs a snack? Demonstrate mixing ingredients to make friendship trail mix: Each ingredient represents an ideal quality in a friend, which the children can assign as you add each one. Divide the trail mix into individual containers that children can decorate while you read stories or poems about friendship. Encourage children to write their own friendship poems to attach to their snack containers, then share their snack with a friend! You could also partner with local Girl Scouts looking to complete a cooking badge. Suggested runtime: 45 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials for trail mix:

- A large mixing bowl and spoon
- Your choice of ingredients (check for allergies)
- Individual containers with lids
- Markers or stickers for decorating
- Blank paper for writing poems or messages

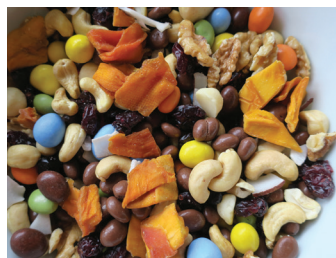


Image source: Shutterstock

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly. In-person programs may require a microwave (for Rice Krispy treats).

RESOURCES

Web

Free visual recipe (Friendship Treats) on *Teachers Pay Teachers*: <https://bit.ly/3xpA0Ui>

Middle Grade Cookbooks

The Big, Fun Kids Cookbook (2020) by Food Network Magazine and Maile Carpenter

The Complete Baking Book for Young Chefs (2019) by America's Test Kitchen

The Complete Cookbook for Young Chefs (2018) by America's Test Kitchen

The Delish Kids (Super Awesome, Crazy-fun, Best-ever) Cookbook (2021) by Joanna Saltz

Kid Chef Junior Every Day (2021) by Yaffi Lvova

The No-Cook Cookbook (2021) by Rebecca Woollard

The Ultimate Kids' Baking Book (2019) by Tiffany Dahle

TIP:

For all food-based programs, be sure to check for peanut (or other) allergies before you start.

ADAPTATION:

For tweens, walk them through how to make snacks at home (virtually or in person). You could also demonstrate more complex recipes (such as modified Rice Krispy treats with Lucky Charm marshmallows as the special ingredients). See Lafayette Public Library on YouTube for recipe ideas: <https://bit.ly/3O9o2oC>

TIP:

For middle grade cooking fiction, see STAR Net & CSLP: Recipes for a Region on page 119.

TIP:

For picture books (children 5+) and early reader friendship fiction, see the Friendship Fiction Book List on page 44..

DONUTS AND ART: A PERFECT PAIR

AGES

Tweens 9–12

Teens 13–18

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Donuts and art make a perfect pair! This art project mashes the works of Vassily Kandinsky (specifically *Color Study, Squares with Concentric Circles*) and Wayne Theibauld (specifically *Cakes*) to create an artfully arranged wall of donuts. Every participant paints their own donut on canvas or paper; when arranged together, the pieces become a work of friendship and collaboration. To emphasize friendship, pair up participants and ask them to make two donut paintings that complement each other in some way (color, form, layout, style, etc.). Registration recommended. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Canvas (one per participant)
- Acrylic paints and paint brushes
- Tablecloths, paper towels, cups, and water
- Donuts for snacking (optional)

Before painting, give a brief art history lesson on the works of Vassily Kandinsky and Wayne Theibauld. Guide the discussion by asking questions: What colors do you see? How do the paintings make you feel? Do you think these paintings could be paired together? Do they represent a theme?

Explain that you will be working together to create a giant wall of donuts. After the paintings have dried, hang them up. Be sure to share examples for those who would rather copy a donut design than come up with their own.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly. In-person programs may require a microwave (for Rice Krispy treats).

ADAPTATION:

For a passive program that can be aged down, provide donut coloring sheets. Turn the finished pages into a donut wall quilt that grows over the summer.

TIP:

For more famous artist-inspired projects, see ideas from the Art with Jenny K. blog here: <https://bit.ly/3NN79QX>

TIP:

You can also include a lesson on color mixing! Consider reaching out to local artists to help run this program.



Image source: Shutterstock

RESOURCES

Web

“Wassily Kandinsky” from *The Art Story*: <https://bit.ly/3MD1nQt>

“Wayne Thiebaud” from *The Art Story*: <https://bit.ly/3ttBVq0>

Books

Donut Fiction

Donut the Destroyer (2020) by Sarah Graley and Stef Purenins (middle grade)

Donuts and Other Proclamations of Love (2021) by Jared Reck (YA)

The Doughnut Fix (2018) by Jessie Janowitz (middle grade)

The Doughnut King (2019) by Jessie Janowitz (middle grade)

Nonfiction

The Art of Graphic Communication (2019) by W.L. Kitts (YA)

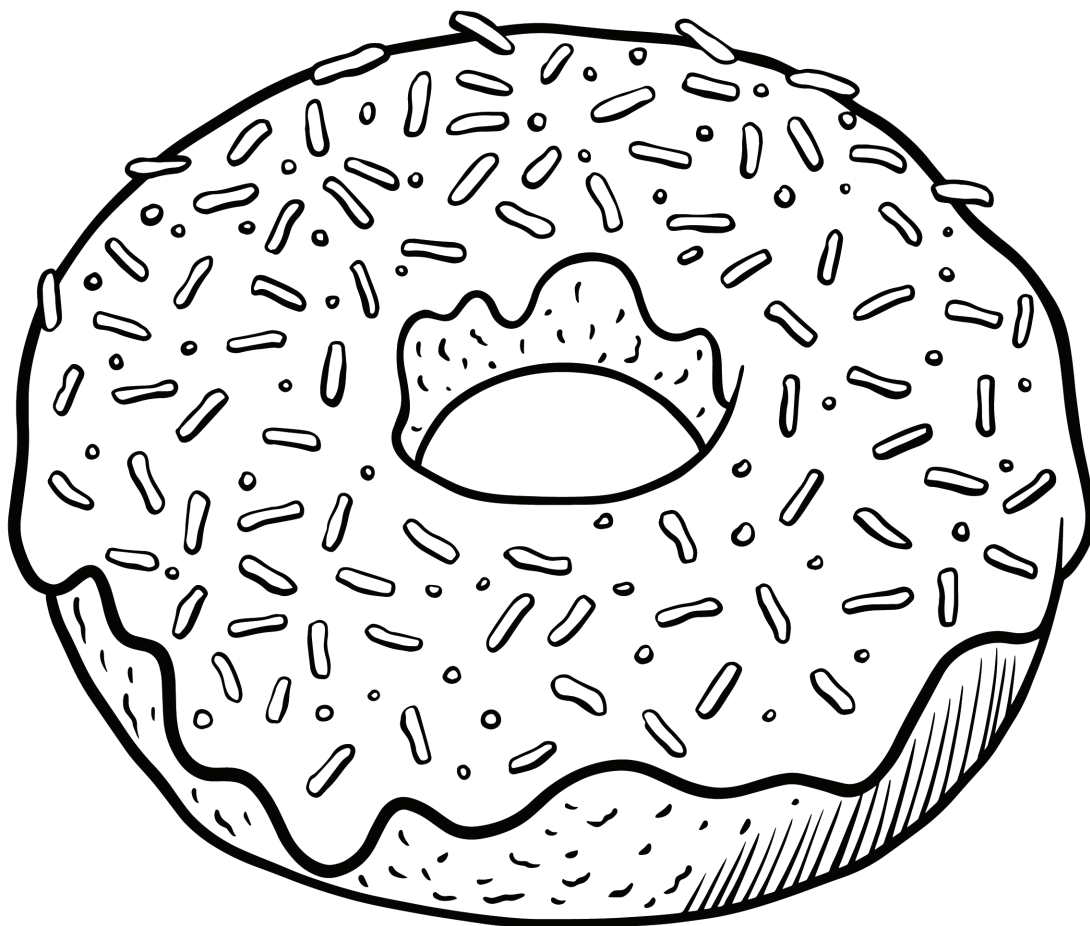
Art Matters (2018) by Neil Gaiman (YA)

Delicious Metropolis: The Desserts and Urban Scenes of Wayne Thiebaud (2019) by Wayne Thiebaud (adult)

The Life and Art of Wassily Kandinsky (2016) by Adam Simpson (YA)

Printables

Donut Coloring Page



GAME ON: COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION

AGES

Tweens 9–12

Teens 13–18

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

We have all heard the saying “Teamwork makes dreams work,” but how can we effectively illustrate this concept for tweens or teens? With games! This program challenges teens and teens to work together, build on each other’s strengths, and communicate effectively to win *Survivor*-style challenges. Run the games below, or come up with your own. Registration is helpful for knowing how many materials to have on hand. Suggested runtime: 45 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Helium Stick

Materials:

- PVC pipe (one per team)

To play: Teams must lower a PVC pipe to the ground using only their fingers. The pipe must lie on top of the players’ fingers and remain touching the entire time. Teams must start over if any player’s finger is not touching the pipe. The first team to lower the pipe wins.

Tennis Ball Transfer

Materials:

- Tennis balls (one per team)
- Cups big enough to fit a tennis ball (one per team)
- Washers (one per team)
- String (one piece tied to the washer for each team member)

To play: Teams race to the location of the tennis balls and washers. Once all team members arrive, they transport their tennis ball on top of the washer using the strings attached to the washer. If the ball drops, they must start over. The first team to transport the tennis ball into the cup wins.

TIP:

Not everyone needs to participate in each game; as long as everyone gets to play at least one, teams can swap out players based on their skill sets.

TIP:

Divide teams by having them draw colors.

TIP:

For a similar activity that can be run as an icebreaker, see the Team Machine program on page 97.

TIP:

More about the helium stick game on *Teampedia*: <https://bit.ly/3QdTcx2>

Blindfolded Puzzle

Materials:

- Blindfolds (one per team)
- Colored bags
- Puzzle pieces for a whole puzzle (one per team)

To play: One player from each team is blindfolded and another directs the blindfolded player to gather the correct colored pages. Once all bags have been collected, the whole team opens the bags, pulls out the pieces, and solves the puzzle. The first team to solve the puzzle wins.

Tower of Balloons

Materials:

- A bag of balloons
- Masking tape
- Measuring tape

To play: Teams have 15 minutes to build the tallest tower of balloons. The balloons can be taped to one another but not to the ground. The team with the tallest tower wins.

Listen Well

Materials:

- White board and dry-erase markers
- Picture books, nursery rhymes, or short stories

To play: Players listen to a story. Afterwards, they answer multiple choice questions about that story. The team with the most correct answers wins.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly. Large space required. An additional staff member or volunteer for set-up or judging would be helpful.

TIP:

Buy latex-free balloons, or be sure to provide a latex allergy warning.

TIP:

For friendship fiction, see the Friendship Fiction Book List on page 44.



Image source: Shutterstock

GAME/ACTIVITY

TRIVIA NIGHT: FRIENDS

AGES

Teens 13–18

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

What do your teens know about friends in books, movies, and television shows? Challenge teens to a friends-themed trivia night! If you hold this virtually, require registration. If you hold it in person, divide participants into teams and name someone to read the questions. Consider asking teens to make up trivia for each other! They are more up on the current memes and TV shows than adults will ever be. Suggested runtime: 45 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For Virtual Programs

Materials:

- Online platform to host the event, such as Zoom, Google Hangouts, etc.
- Online platform to host the quiz, such as Kahoot, Sli.do, Jeopardy Labs, PowerPoint, Google Slides, etc.
- Virtual prizes, such as gift certificates (optional)

For In-Person Programs

Materials:

- An online platform to host the quiz, or printed questions
- Buzzers and prizes (optional)

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

Tips for remote trivia on Zoom from Springworks: <https://bit.ly/3O6Sq2X>

Tips for trivia nights [27 min] from Rob Phelan on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3QajQah>

Printables

Friends Trivia Challenge



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

When gathering quiz questions, be sure to consider your audience. Many trivia questions are based on white American pop culture from the past 10–50 years; they may not be inclusive of teens who are New Americans. Pop culture from the past 0–5 years is slightly more inclusive.

TIP:

Remember a display of buddy books and movies!

TIP:

For fans of the show *Friends*, consider the book *Generation Friends* (2019) by Saul Austerlitz.

TIP:

For accessibility, be sure to provide captioning for virtual events (this is a free option on all Zoom accounts).

TIP:

Read questions slowly and leave plenty of time for teens to think about their responses.

TIP:

For friendship fiction, see the Friendship Fiction Book List on page 44.

FRIENDS TRIVIA CHALLENGE

CATEGORY ONE: FRIENDS IN LITERATURE

This bestie yells to his friend, "I can't carry it for you, but I can carry you and it as well."

Samwise Gamgee

Because of her extensive vocabulary and knowledge of the written word, this clever friend saves the life of another numerous times. **Charlotte**

The last we ever see of this comedic dynamic duo is sledding down a snowy hill. **Calvin and Hobbes**

How can one pair of secondhand pants fit Lena, Tibby, Carmen, and Bridget? Read about these magical pants in... **The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants**

When this trio sticks together anything is possible, including taking down the Dark Lord. **Harry, Ron, Hermione**

Nick Carraway is completely enamored with this enigmatic neighbor and friend. **Jay Gatsby**

What?! There's a YA love triangle in this book about games and hunger. **The Hunger Games**

Is it friendship or is it something more? Bella has a hard time answering this question whenever she was around this werewolf. **Jacob**

"Silly old bear, I won't ever forget about you," said Christopher Robin" to this best friend.

Winnie the Pooh

In this childhood classic, a golden ticket seals the relationship between grandfather and grandson.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

CATEGORY ONE: FRIENDS IN LITERATURE

This show centers around the lives of six friends in New York City. **Friends**

Blanche, Dorothy, Rose, and Sophia are living their golden years together as friends. **Golden Girls**

This television series featuring six high school students was originally called When the Bell Rings.

Saved by the Bell

How is it possible that a bunch of toddlers can go on so many adventures without their parents' knowledge? **Rugrats**

Put on your thinking cap if you want to hang out with the brilliant friends. **The Big Bang Theory**

Don't forget your jellyfish net when hanging out with these two. **Spongebob and Patrick**

Shawn and Gus co-own a detective agency where "psychic powers" come in handy. **Psych**

Where would a boy be without his heroic dog in this television show? **Lassie**

Though you may get into trouble with Principal Skinner, these two friends will always be by your side.

Bart and Milhouse

This television show features one of the main characters turning himself into a pickle. **Rick and Morty**

So no one told you life was gonna be this way

CATEGORY THREE: FINISH THE LYRICS

Your job's a joke, you're broke

Your love life's DOA

It's like you're always stuck in second gear

When it hasn't been your day, your week, your month

Or even your year, but

I'll be there for you

"I'll be There for You" by The Rembrandts

When the road looks rough ahead

And you're miles and miles

From your nice warm bed

You just remember what your old pal said

Boy, you've got a friend in me

Yeah, you've got a friend in me

"You've Got a Friend in Me" by Randy Newman

What would you think if I sang out of tune

Would you stand up and walk out on me?

Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song

And I'll try not to sing out of key

Oh I get by with a little help from my friends

"With a Little Help from My Friends" by The Beatles

Lean on me

When you're not strong

And I'll be your friend

I'll help you carry on...

"Lean on Me" by Bill Withers

Oh, you're the best friend that I ever had

I've been with you such a long time

You're my sunshine and I want you to know

That my feelings are true

I really love you

Oh, you're my best friend

"You're My Best Friend" by Queen

As we go on, we remember

All the times we had together

And as our lives change, come whatever

We will still be friends forever

"Graduation (Friends Forever)" by Vitamin C

You just call out my name

And you know, wherever I am

I'll come runnin', runnin', yeah, yeah

To see you again

Winter, spring, summer or fall

All you have to do is call

And I'll be there, yes, I will

You've got a friend

"You've Got a Friend" by Carole King

You can count on me like one, two, three

I'll be there

And I know when I need it, I can count on you like four, three, two

And you'll be there

'Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh, yeah

"Count on Me" by Bruno Mars

One day when this cheer dies down, stay hey

Stay by my side

For eternity, keep staying here hey

Like your tiny pinky

Longer than seven summers and cold winters

Longer than numerous promises and memories...

"Friends" by BTS

CATEGORY FOUR: NAME THE MOVIE BESTIES

Could play an audio excerpt to help identify.

“hakuna matata” **Timon and Pumbaa**

“Excellent!” **Bill and Ted**

“Don’t everybody thank me at once.” **Han Solo and Chewbacca**

“Do you think people will vote for me?” **Napoleon Dynamite and Pedro Sánchez**

“Wait a minute, Doc. Are you telling me you built a time machine...out of a DeLorean?” **Doc Brown and Marty McFly**

“To infinity and beyond!” **Buzz and Woody**

“Just keep swimming. Just keep swimming, swimming, swimming. What do we do? We swim, swim.”
Dory and Marlin

“Just a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down in the most delightful way!” **Mary Poppins and Bert**

“That dude there. I need his prosthetic leg.” **Rocket and Groot**

“Anyway, like I was sayin’, shrimp is the fruit of the sea. You can barbecue it, boil it, broil it, bake it, sauté it.” **Forrest Gump and Benjamin Buford ‘Bubba’ Blue**

ADVOCACY ACTIVATED: TEEN ADVOCACY GROUPS

AGES

Teens 13–18

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

If your library already has a teen advisory board, consider turning it into a teen advocacy group! In an advocacy group, teens meet to identify and discuss issues faced by their communities (or themselves, their families, or their specific neighborhoods), then work together to raise awareness and/or make positive change. Your teen advocacy group could pair with an organization or assist with a library program, such as running a summer food drive, or coordinating and assembling homeless care kits. Be sure to hold a celebration for teen advocates at the end of the summer! Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes per meeting.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Snacks are highly recommended.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly. You will need a meeting room with chairs for in-person meetings.

RESOURCES

Web

“Teen-Led Community Dialogues” from STAR Net: <https://bit.ly/3mAgIXu>

YA Nonfiction

How to Change Everything: The Young Human's Guide to Protecting the Planet and Each Other (2021) by Naomi Klein

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People (2019) by Roxane Dunbar-Ortiz and adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese

The Other F Word: A Celebration of Fat and Fierce (2021) by Angie Manfredi

Stamped: El racismo, el antirracismo y tú / Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You (2021) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi (separate Spanish and English editions)

Teen Guide to Volunteering (2020) by Stuart A. Kallen

TIP:

Collaborate with teachers and teacher-librarians to recruit local high schoolers.

TIP:

Consider inviting spokespeople from community organizations to speak to your teen advocates.

TIP:

STAR Net has a wonderful resource entitled “Teen-Led Community Dialogues” (see Resources).

ADAPTATION:

For a virtual advocacy group, great a Discord server for your library. Discord allows you to create your own server and rules, and it is super popular with teens. It is also great for hosting virtual or passive teen programs, and promoting discussion.

TIP:

Connect with local homeless shelters and local chapters of groups such as Kiwanis, Lions Clubs, and Rotary.

GAME/ACTIVITY | OUTREACH

Books on Homelessness

Abundance (2021) by Jakob Guanzon (adult F)

The Bridge Home (2019) by Padma Venkatraman (middle grade F)

Dear Librarian (2021) by Lydia M. Sigwarth (picture book F)

Just Under the Clouds (2018) by Melissa Sarno (middle grade F)

Learning to Breathe (2018) by Janice Lynn Mather (YA F)

Little Family (2020) by Ishmael Beah (adult F)

No Fixed Address (2018) by Susin Nielsen (middle grade F)

On the Come Up (2019) by Angie Thomas (YA F)

Parked (2020) by Danielle Svetcov (middle grade/YA F)

Searching for Sam (2020) by Sophie Bienvenu (YA F)

Shelter (2021) by Christie Matheson (middle grade F)

Shelter: Homelessness in Our Community (2021) by Lois Peterson and illustrated by Taryn Gee (middle grade NF)

Still a Family: A Story about Homelessness (2017) by Brenda Reeves Sturgis and Jo-Shin Lee (picture book F)

TIP:

Stand Up for Kids has 10 outreach centers across the U.S. See if one exists in your area! <https://www.standupforkids.org/>

READ & DEEDS BOOK CLUB

AGES

Adults

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Books can inspire us to action! Participants read and discuss books about current topics, then take part in group service projects to make friends, benefit their community, and spread kindness. You can also be a guest host for existing book clubs and put them in touch with community organizations. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Preparation:

- Identify or gather your book club, whether virtual or in person
- Choose and order books at least three months in advance
- Arrange service opportunities with community partners

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly as an adult program. Add volunteers to chaperone activities for children/teens.

RESOURCES

Web

“Introducing the Action Book Club” from *Little Free Library*: <https://bit.ly/3O6TMuz>

“Book to Action Toolkit” from *California Center for the Book*: <https://bit.ly/3Ocy5cN>

Organ donation info from *Donate Life*: <https://www.donatelife.net/>

Books

The Bright Hour: A Memoir of Living and Dying (2017) by Nina Riggs (Activity: Volunteer at or donate art to a local hospice)

Mutual Rescue: How Adopting a Homeless Animal Can Save You, Too (2019) by Carol Novello and Jenny Graves

(Activity: Volunteer at a local animal shelter, or adopt a pet)

Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting (2021) by Lisa Genova

(Activity: Join an Alzheimer’s Walk)

Tragedy to Triumph: The Story of Tom’s Heart (2021) by Janet Mauk and Pete Radigan

(Activity: Sign up to be an organ donor)

Printables

Reads and Deeds Book Club (in English and Spanish)

TIP:

Search social media to identify existing book clubs. Partnering with the library means they can access multiple copies of the chosen titles in all formats!

ADAPTATION:

Book clubs are very well suited to virtual adaptations.

ADAPTATION:

For children and teens, consider partnering with schools that require community service credits.

READS & DEEDS BOOK CLUB

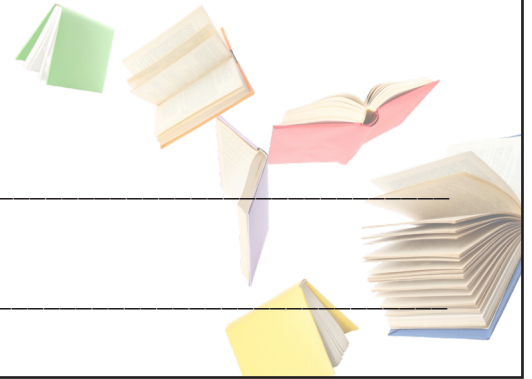
Books can inspire us to action! Read and discuss these books, then take part in a group service project that benefits your community and spreads kindness.

**READS
& DEEDS**
BOOK CLUB

Date: _____

Book: _____

Service Project: _____



**READS
& DEEDS**
BOOK CLUB

Date: _____

Book: _____

Service Project: _____



**READS
& DEEDS**
BOOK CLUB

Date: _____

Book: _____

Service Project: _____



CLUB DE LECTURA DE READS & DEEDS

Los libros nos pueden inspirar a tomar medidas. Lea y discuta estos libros y luego forme parte de un proyecto de servicio en grupo. ¡Haga amigos, ayude a su comunidad y difunda la bondad!

CLUB DE LECTURA DE

READS & DEEDS

Fecha: _____

Libro: _____

Proyecto de servicio: _____



CLUB DE LECTURA DE

READS & DEEDS

Fecha: _____

Libro: _____

Proyecto de servicio: _____



CLUB DE LECTURA DE

READS & DEEDS

Fecha: _____

Libro: _____

Proyecto de servicio: _____



CAPTURING KINDNESS: TEEN VIDEO CHALLENGE

AGES

Teens 13–18

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Teens love making short-form videos, so why not harness their passion and creativity by challenging them to a video contest on the theme of friendship and kindness? Teens can make videos during an in-person program or on their own time. The more comedic and innovative their entries, the better. Judge the entries, or ask the library's social media followers to vote on the best ones. Provide cash prizes or other teen-motivating awards. Screen videos at an end-of-summer event, and post winning videos on your library's social media accounts. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes for an in-person program.

Challenge ideas:

- Make videos about helping others or catching kindness in action.
- Work together to create videos related to any theme.
- Create and record a skit, or record yourself doing something kind to edit later.
- Make a Zoomie in the library (a film created using Zoom footage).
- Add categories for animation or stop-motion.
- For large groups, divide teens into teams that include screenwriters, actors, editors, and marketers.
- Combine with a TikTok Dance Challenge on page 93.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For a virtual program

- Zoom or Discord for a virtual meeting
- Free screenwriting and video-editing software (or teens can use the editing software built in to their social media platforms).
- Google Drive, Dropbox, or flash drives for transferring videos
- Examples skits and videos

For a screening event

- Projector/screen and speakers
- Audience chairs
- Incentives for winners



Image source: CSLP

NOTE:

CSLP's Teen Video Challenge will no longer be coordinated nationally, but you can still run the program at your local library!

ADAPTATION:

Start a film club for teens to share their process and learn from each other. Invite local filmmakers to share tips, or invite a coder to help teens apply basic Javascript. Club members submit their videos to the challenge at the end of the summer!

TIP:

Be sure to include captions for the videos. While some platforms auto-generate captions, be sure to read through them beforehand to ensure accuracy.

TIP:

Set up a recording studio for teens who need a quiet place to do voice-overs.



Image source: Shutterstock

PASSIVE | STEM

Preparation:

- Make sure to account for teens who do not have devices. Let them use library devices or have groups of teens work together (with at least one device per group).
- Confirm your institution's social media policy and photo release policy. Do you need permission to post photos or videos of teens? Does your library "own" the content once posted?
- Decide how you will check to ensure that teens make appropriate content.
- Decide how long the program or contest will last. Will it be a two-hour program in which teens hang out, share ideas, and make quick videos to share with each other? Or a longer contest that allows for more polished content that can be used to promote your library and programming?
- Make a funny, cringey video, and challenge them to do better!

Suggested rules. Videos must

- Be no longer than 60 seconds.
- Promote public libraries and reading.
- Be appropriate for viewing by audiences of all ages (rated G)
- Adhere to copyright laws.
- Interpret the theme of friendship and kindness, and include the slogan "All Together Now! ¡¡Todos juntos ahora!"

Free video-editing apps to consider

- Splice (for iPhone and iPad)
- Stop Motion Studio (for animations)
- iMovie (free software in the Mac suite)
- Windows 10 Photo App (basic software for PC users)
- OpenShot (free and open source)
- VidCode (teaches Javascript for modifying videos [advanced])

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly. For an in-person program, extra staff or volunteers are helpful to assist with tech troubleshooting and ensure that the video content is appropriate.

RESOURCES**Web**

Previous CSLP Teen Video Challenge winners: <https://bit.ly/3zrz7dB>
 Writer Duet (software) for budding screenwriters: <https://www.writerduet.com/>

Fiction About YouTubers/Social Media

Fame, Fate, and the First Kiss (2019) by Kasie West

TIP:

Encourage teens to make use of current trends and memes. Ask them to make what they would want to see on the home pages of their favorite apps.

TIP:

Require participants to submit model release forms for each person who appears in their video (see Resources).

TIP:

Judging metrics to consider: Most creative, best cinematography, clearest message, most inspirational, funniest, best overall impact, best dialogue, etc.

TIP:

To stay on top of current trends, search for "YA booktubers" to find creators on YouTube and "YA booktok" for creators on TikTok before the program. Francina Simone is one a popular longstanding YA booktuber: <https://bit.ly/39wVZRn>.

TIP:

See also TikTok Dance Class on page 93.

PASSIVE | STEM

From Twinkle, with Love (2018) by Sandhya Menon
The Gravity of Us (2020) by Phil Stamper
Going Off Script (2019) by Jen Wilde
Nothing More to Tell (2022) by K.M. McManus
Now a Major Motion Picture (2018) by Cori McCarthy
One of the Good Ones (2021) by Maika Moulite and Maritza Molulite

Filmmaking Nonfiction

Gofers: On the Front Lines of Film and Television (2020) by Daniel Scarpatti (adult NF)
My Life as a YouTuber (2020) by Janet Tashjian and Jake Tashjian (middle grade NF)
TikTok for Dummies (2021) by Jesse Stay (YA NF)

Printables

Teen Video Challenge Model Release Form

MODEL RELEASE FORM FOR PUBLICATION AND VIDEO PURPOSES FOR THE TEEN VIDEO CHALLENGE

Each person who submits a video or appears in a video must sign a release.

This release is between the undersigned _____ and binds both parties' heirs, successors, representatives and assigns.

Subject of Release. "Material" refers to all video, images, photographs, mixed media, music, text and other forms of copyrighted material that I supply to _____.

License. I grant _____ a perpetual, royalty-free license to use, reproduce, edit, distribute, publish, prepare derivative works, display, and perform the Material in any media form to fulfill the library's mission.

Name and Likeness. I grant _____ a perpetual, royalty-free license to use my name and likeness, image, voice in the Material as well as my biographical information for advertising, publicity, trade or any other lawful purpose related to fulfilling the library's mission.

No 3rd Party Copyrighted Material. I agree that the Material I submit does not include any copyrighted material belonging to someone else unless it is in the public domain.

No Obligation to Use and No Right to Review. I understand that _____ is under no obligation to use the Material. I understand that I do not have a right to inspect and approve the finished product or such written or spoken copy used in connection with the finished product.

Consideration. I understand and agree that the sole consideration offered by _____ is the evaluation of the Material for its potential use, and acknowledge the receipt and adequacy of this consideration.

I understand and agree:

Your Name (printed or typed) _____

Your Address _____

Your Email _____ Your Age _____

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Your Telephone No. _____

Parent or Guardian's Consent is also required, if the person appearing in the Material is under eighteen (18) years of age. I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor named above. I, on behalf of the minor, agree to all provisions of the Release.

Signed _____ Date _____

Name (printed or typed) _____

Telephone No. _____ E-mail _____

TRANSLATION: BOOKMARKS FOR ALL

AGES

Children 5+

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program is about brightening others' days in multiple languages! What languages are spoken in your community? Translate some common words and phrases related to friendship and kindness into each of those languages. Print them onto bookmarks, and let patrons decorate them. Bookmarks can be part of a take one/give one project, or you can place them in books at checkout. Suggested runtime: 45 minutes for an in-person program.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Bookmark templates with quotes about friendship or reading (consider making black and white designs in Canva)
- Plain cardstock in light colors
- Scissors or paper cutter
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc.
- Hole punch and ribbon/string (optional)
- Laminator (optional)

Preparation: Be sure to make a few examples so children can visualize the project before putting their own spin on it. If using Canva, choose a letter-sized template and divide the page into four equal sections with the outline tool. Type out some short friendship quotes (with their attributions), and print out your designs. Be sure to also provide blank bookmarks for those who want creative freedom.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Printables

Friendship Quotes

TIP:

Set out both blank bookmarks and preprinted designs so patrons of all ages can decorate according to their ability.

TIP:

Accompany this passive program with a book and movie display that features positive friend relationships (or friends from different cultural backgrounds).

ADAPTATION:

For maximum simplicity, provide bookmarks in English and Spanish.

ADAPTATION:

For teens, provide a list of phrases in different languages and let them choose which ones to use into their designs. They hide finished bookmarks in their favorite books. This is also a great program for directing teens to your library's language-learning resources.

FRIENDSHIP QUOTES

“The only way to have a friend is to be one.” -**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

“I would rather walk with a friend in the dark than alone in the light.” -**Helen Keller**

“No person is your friend who demands your silence or denies your right to grow.” -**Alice Walker**

“I don’t need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better.” -**Plutarch**

“There is nothing I would not do for those who are really my friends. I have no notion of loving people by halves, it is not my nature.” -**Jane Austen**

“Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.” -**Anaïs Nin**

“The best mirror is an old friend.” -**George Herbert**

“Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: “What! You too? I thought I was the only one.” -**C.S. Lewis**

“Don’t walk behind me; I may not lead. Don’t walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.” -**Albert Camus**

“You can’t stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.” -**A.A. Milne**

“A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you.” -**Elbert Hubbard**

WORDS THAT CONNECT

AGES

Tweens 9–12

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Where do words come from? Create a wall display about the origin of different words (etymology) to let patrons visualize similar words in different languages. To make a language tree, underline words' roots and use arrows to show the links between languages. Make sure to post the definition of the English word to make clear which definition you are going for. This can be done with many words, but two are provided as examples (see Printables). You can also provide quizzes or make cards for a passive matching game, or turn finding the root words into a library-wide scavenger hunt. Suggested runtime: 30 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials for the display:

- Printer and colored paper
- Scissors and tape
- Dictionaries for various languages
- Worksheets and take-home games (optional)

Some facts:

- English is primarily a Germanic language, but it also includes a good number of Latin words through Old French.
- The closest languages to English are Frisian and Scottish.
- Frisian is spoken in the Netherlands and northern Germany.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

Online game from *Fun Brain* (grades 4–8): <https://bit.ly/3OiAByi>

Etymology quizzes and games on *Sporcle*: <https://bit.ly/3tzJoDQ>

Vocabulary games on *Free Rice*: <https://bit.ly/3NUHA0v>

Etymology worksheets on *Twinkle* (account required): <https://bit.ly/3OcFQ2j>

“How to Teach Latin Root Words with a Word Tree” [1 min] from All About Learning Press on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3NR1ERq>

Germanic language tree from *Brittanica*: <https://bit.ly/3mJv4F8>

Picture Book Nonfiction for Children 5+

ICEBREAKER:

Play a game of telephone using words from Spanish (or another language). This is a fun way for children to practice language and communication skills.

ADAPTATION:

The display could also be about the same word in different languages without analyzing etymology. Set out dictionaries and let patrons look up the same word in a variety of languages to make their own connections.

ADAPTATION:

Invite a linguist to talk about variations between languages and word origins. This program could be as basic or in-depth as required to suit audience age and interest.

ADAPTATION:

Highlight only the languages spoken in your community. Invite one speaker from each; children learn how to say a phrase in each of the languages.

GAME/ACTIVITY | PASSIVE | DECORATION/DISPLAY

Literally: Amazing Words and Where They Come From (2020) by Patrick Skipworth

Noah Webster's Fighting Words (2017) by Tracy Maurer

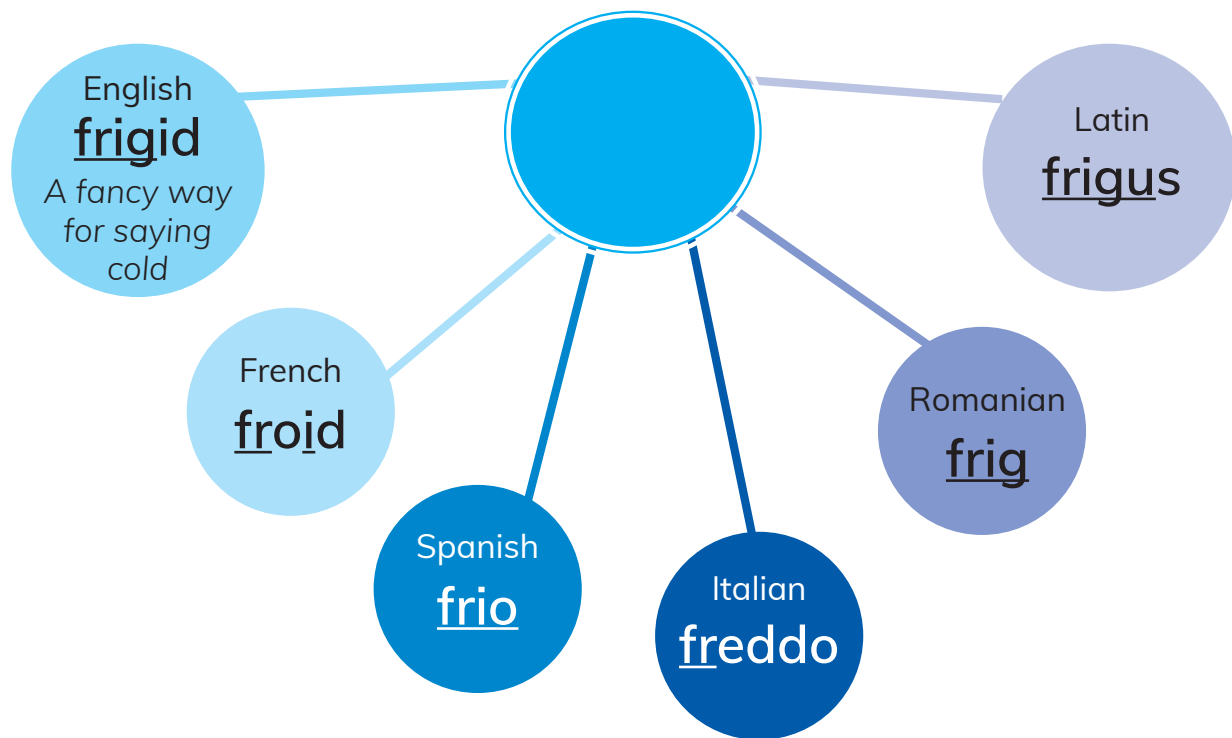
Once Upon a Word: A Word-Origin Dictionary for Kids: Building Vocabulary Through Etymology, Definitions and Stories (2020) by Jess Zafarris

What a Wonderful Word (2018) by Nicola Edwards

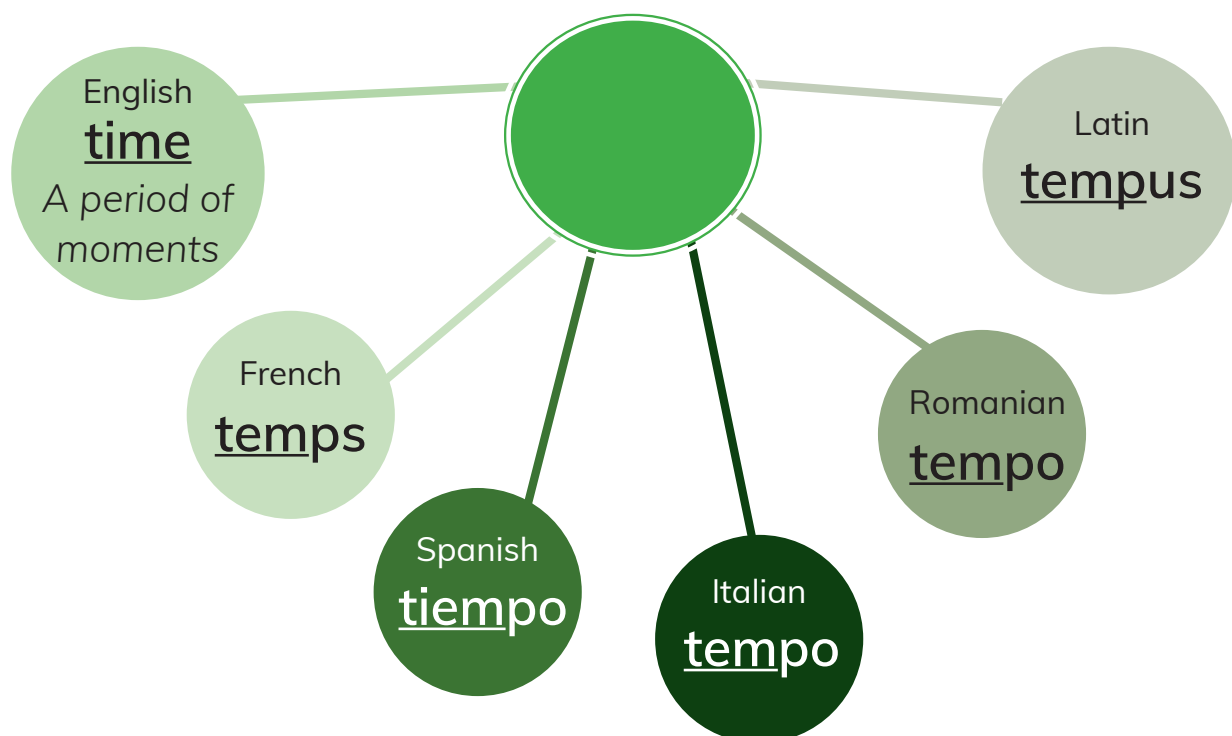
Printables

Language Trees for "Cold" and "Time"

LANGUAGE TREE FOR “COLD”



LANGUAGE TREE FOR “TIME”



NO-SEW BLANKETS

AGES

Tweens 9–12

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Work together to make no-sew blankets to donate to a local charity or organization. You can use this as a way to address the problem of homelessness, and talk about different organizations dedicated to helping homeless youth and teens. Pair up participants, especially if you are running this program with younger children. This easy program can also help tweens earn volunteer hours for their National Junior Honor Society. Make it more fun by supplying pizza and/or snacks to keep them motivated. Buy the fleece or purchase kits from places like Joann Fabrics and Crafts. Suggested runtime: 45–60 minutes.



Image source: Stephanie Burr of Los Lunas Public Library, Los Lunas, NM

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Fleece (60 x 60 inches—two pieces per blanket)
- Scissors



Image source: Anna Foote of Northeast Kansas Library System, Lawrence, KS

Assembly:

- If you are buying the fleece yourself, make sure it is cut to 60 x 60 inches.
- Line up the fabric pieces with the right (fuzzy) sides out, and trim as needed to ensure they are the same size.
- Cut a 5-inch square in each corner
- Cut the fringe along all four sides. Fringe pieces should be a little wider than the width of your finger; cut them 5 inches from the edge. Make sure you are cutting through both fleece fabrics at the same time.
- With fringe pieces lined up, begin tying the knots.
- Continue all around the edges until the blanket until finished.

TIP:

You can also make this a multigenerational program by pairing tweens with senior citizens, or holding a family event.

TIP:

If you make this a family program, you will not need as many volunteers.

TIP:

To distribute blankets, pair up with local nonprofits that serve homeless populations. They could also be distributed to youth mental health groups or facilities.

ADAPTATION:

For younger children, precut everything so all they have to do is tie the fleece together.

TIP:

Buy fleece in at least two different colors. Pair a light color with a dark color, or a print with a solid, for maximum contrast.

TIP:

For accessibility, project slides of visuals that change with every step.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly for tweens and above; you will need volunteers to assist younger children. Make sure you have enough table space for multiple blankets to be made at once. If space is an issue, limit the number of participants and pair them up two to a blanket.

RESOURCES

Web

“No Sew Fleece Blanket” by bunycraft on *Instructables*: <https://bit.ly/3zzG0wJ>

Donate blankets to children in need with *Project Linus*: <https://www.projectlinus.org/>



Image source: Anna Foote of Northeast Kansas Library System, Lawrence, KS

GROW, EVOLVE, TRANSFORM: COLLABORATIVE ORIGAMI DISPLAY

AGES

Adults

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This is an ideal passive program for adults! Folding origami is relaxing and a great conversation starter for those waiting for children participating in other library programs. The butterfly pattern is easy to master; once learned, butterflies can be made in under three minutes. Patrons attach their finished butterflies to a wall or bulletin board to make a beautiful collaborative display. The butterflies can be the focus of the display or an embellishment. Use the inspirational phrase “Grow. Evolve. Transform.” or select another phrase with meaning in your community. Suggested runtime for an in-person program: Passive.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- 6 x 6-inch origami paper in rainbow colors (on both sides)
- Glue dots, tape, or staples to hang butterflies
- Printed instructions that links to a YouTube video
- Bulletin board or wall space, decorated as desired

Preparation: Prepare your bulletin board or wall space. Consider covering your bulletin board with a color that complements the color of the origami paper. Add an inspirational slogan and whatever images will enhance the display (such as an open book from which paper butterflies can emerge). Alternatively, reach out to a community organization to which you can donate the completed butterflies. Stock a station with origami paper, instructions, and a bin for participants to leave their completed butterflies (or tape or glue dots for them to hang their own).

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly. If running an in-person program for all ages, additional staff members or volunteers could help teach

ADAPTATION:

Include origami paper and instructions in take-and-make kits, with a link to a YouTube video for those who need visual instructions. Remember the due date if you want patrons to return their butterflies for a collaborative display!

ADAPTATION:

Also consider outreach to a community organization or facility to which you can donate the butterflies.

ADAPTATION:

Enlist tween/teen volunteers to cut pages out of old books for use as origami paper.

TIP:

For more ideas, see the Community Art Projects Brainstorm on page 76.

TIP:

Provide different sizes of origami paper. The smaller the paper, the more difficult it will be to fold.

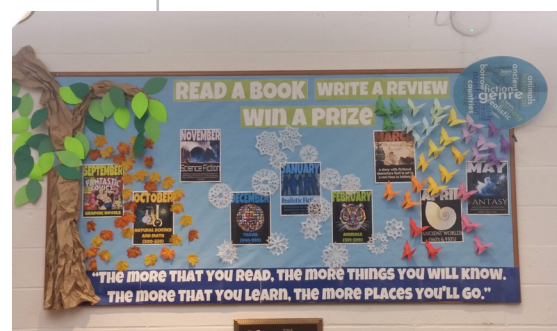


Image source: Marcia Literati, Tenafly Public Library, Tenafly, NJ.

ARTS & CRAFTS | PASSIVE | DECORATION/DISPLAY | LOW COST

the origami pattern (or show a video using a laptop/projector).

RESOURCES

Web

“How to Make an Easy Origami Butterfly” [3 min] from PPO on YouTube:

<https://bit.ly/3mSD5r6>

“History of Origami” from Georgia Tech: <https://b.gatech.edu/3xRRpq8>

“Step by Step Origami Instructions and Diagrams” from Origami.me: <https://bit.ly/3zCHoOV>

“Origami Master Robert J. Lang” [5 min] from ChristopherHelkey on YouTube: <https://langorigami.com/>

The Peace Crane Project: <https://peacecraneproject.org/>

Origami Books

The Complete Story of Sadako Sasaki and the Thousand Paper Cranes (2020) by Masahiro Sasaki and Sue DiCicco (middle grade NF)

First Art Kit (2021) by Boo Paterson (adult NF)

Origami Classic Paper Folding (2019) by Rachel Thomas (middle grade NF)

Paper Joy for Every Room (2020) by Laure Farion (adult NF)

Realistic Origami Animals (2021) by Fumiaki Kawahata (adult NF)

Tomoko Fuse’s Origami Art (2020) by David Brill (adult NF)

Printables

Easy Origami Butterfly (in English and Spanish)

TIP:

Encourage participants to make another butterfly every time they visit the library, or to make a butterfly for every book they read.

TIP:

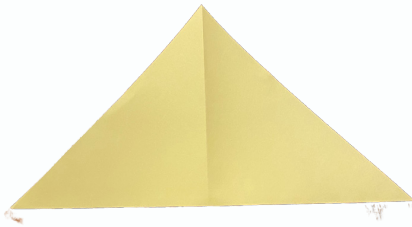
Search “butterfly bulletin boards” on Pinterest for design inspiration.

Easy Origami Butterfly instructions courtesy of Marcia Literati of Tenafly Public Library in Tenafly, NJ.

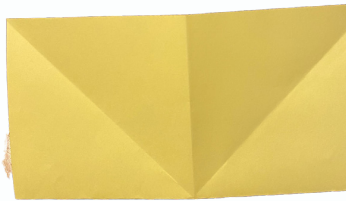


EASY ORIGAMI BUTTERFLY

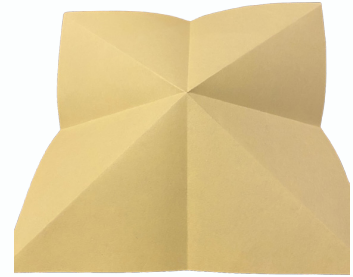
Start with a 6 x 6" piece of origami paper, or cut any paper to size.



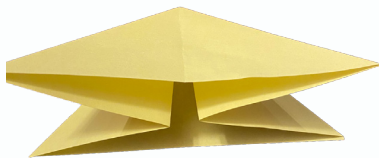
1 Fold diagonally. Open. Fold diagonally in the opposite direction. Open.



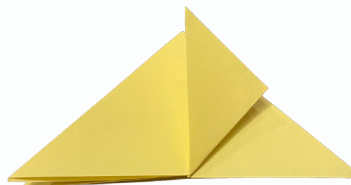
2 Flip paper over. Fold it in half. Open. Fold in half the other way. Open.



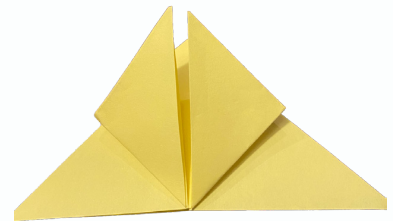
3 You will have diagonal "mountain" folds in the corners and "valley" folds in the center of each side.



4 Push against the valley folds until you have a flat triangle



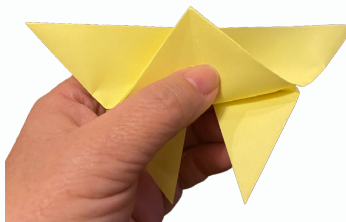
5 Fold one side point of the triangle to the center point.



6 Fold the second side point to the center point.



7 Flip paper over.



8 Curl the center point over the long edge.

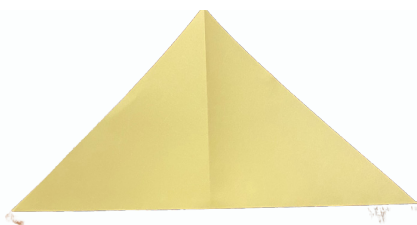


9 Fold the tip over the long edge. Pinch the wings together.



MARIPOSA DE ORIGAMI FÁCIL

Comience con un pedazo de papel de origami de 6 x 6" o corte cualquier papel a esa medida.



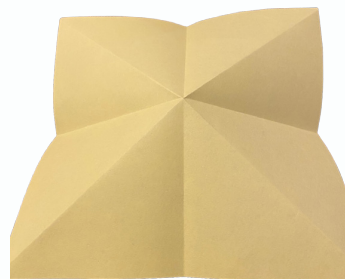
1

Doble en diagonal. Doble en diagonal en la dirección opuesta.



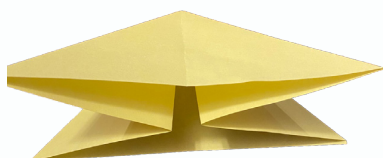
2

Voltee el papel. Doble por la mitad. Ábralo. Doble por la mitad en la dirección contraria.



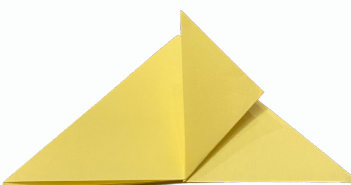
3

Usted va a tener pliegues de "montañas" diagonales en las esquinas y pliegues de "valles" en el centro de cada lado.



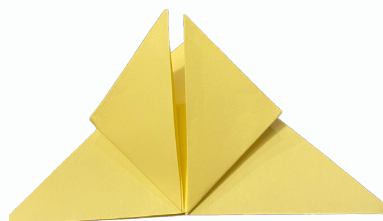
4

Empuje en contra de los pliegues de valles hasta que tenga un triángulo plano.



5

Doble un lado de punta del triángulo al punto del centro.



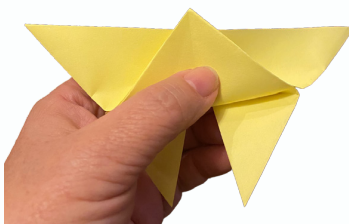
6

Doble el segundo lado de punta al punto del centro.



7

Voltee el papel.



8

Enrosque el punto del centro sobre el borde largo.



9

Doble la punta por encima del borde largo. Pellizque las alas para juntarlas.

GAME/ACTIVITY

PUZZLE PANDEMONIUM

AGES

Adults
Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Families or small groups of adults (three–five) compete to see who can assemble the same 200- or 250-piece puzzle the fastest. Most groups can complete a puzzle this size in about one hour. Puzzles are relaxing and facilitate great conversations for all ages. Add extra challenges to increase difficulty, such as requiring groups to switch to another group's puzzle halfway through. Give prizes to the winning teams/families. Use packing tape to save unfinished puzzles, which patrons can finish later if they wish. Suggested runtime: 2–3 hours for 500-piece puzzles; 4–5 hours for 1,000-piece puzzles.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Copies of the same puzzle (one per group)
- Table with chairs (one per group)
- Scales or packing tape (optional)
- Small prizes (optional)
- Music (optional)

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

“Piecing Together the History of Jigsaw Puzzles” [4 min] from CBS News: <https://cbsn.ws/3xS1ZNS>

Virtual puzzles from *TheJigsawPuzzles.com*: <https://thejigsawpuzzles.com/>
Puzzle exchange groups from *USA Jigsaw Puzzle Association*: <http://usajigsaw.org/puzzle-swaps/>

Printable infinity puzzle template from *babbledabbledo.com*: <https://bit.ly/3MMjGTj>

TIP:

Providing the same puzzle to each group is important to prevent perceptions of unfairness. However, if you place less emphasis on competition (and do not give out prizes), different puzzle designs could add to the fun.

TIP:

If no group finishes, weigh the completed portions or count leftover pieces.

ADAPTATION:

For children, provide puzzles with fewer pieces. For seniors, provide puzzles with large pieces.

ADAPTATION:

Provide blank puzzle templates (and cardstock of the same size). Participants make their own puzzles by gluing their drawings onto cardstock and cutting out the pieces.

TIP:

Program registration is essential for knowing how many puzzles to purchase.

TIP:

If you solicit donated puzzles, count the pieces to ensure none are missing.

GAME/ACTIVITY

Puzzle Books for Adults

The 125 Best Brain Teasers of all Time (2018) by Marcel Danesi

The Brain Fitness Book (2021) by Rita Carter

The Master Theorem (2019) by M

Murder Most Puzzling (2020) by Stephanie von Reiswitz

There's More to Jigsaw Puzzles Than Pieces (2020) by Linda Richard

Tricky Logic Puzzles for Adults (2020) by Stephen Clontz

Printables

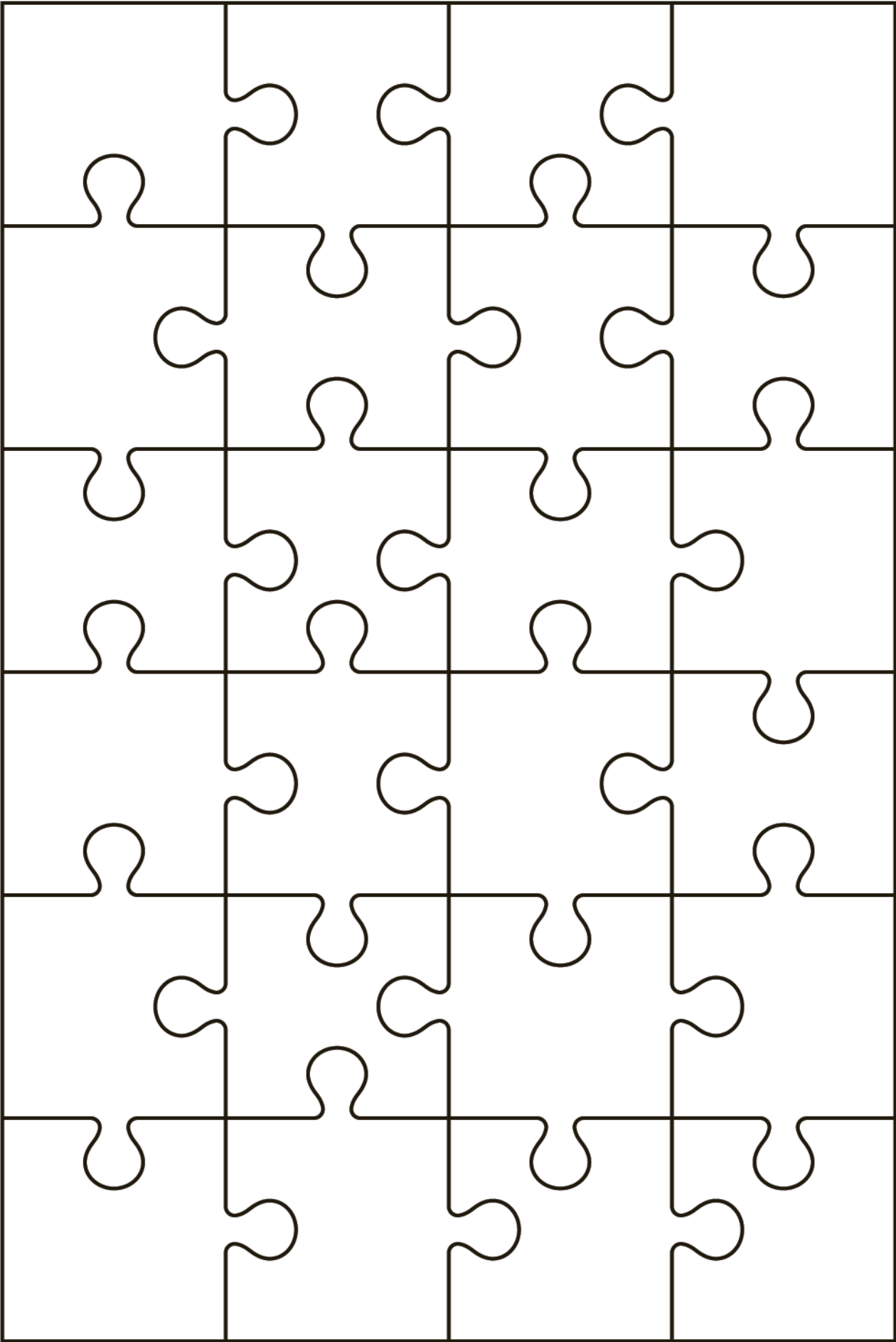
Blank Puzzle Template

TIP:

To set a fun atmosphere, find some background music on Hoopla, or project ambient music and pictures. This encourages participants to talk while they work.

TIP:

For adults, consider recommending the 2018 film *Puzzle* [103 minutes], rated R.



LOVE BUG CLIPS CRAFT

AGES

Children 5–8

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Who can we show more kindness to? These love bug clips are a simple craft that children personalize and modify however they wish. Encourage them to clip their love bugs on a person of their choosing after they leave the library. You can begin this program with an age-appropriate picture book about kindness and a discussion about ways to be kind to each other, or use this craft as a filler. For a passive program, print instructions and set materials on a craft table (or create take-and-make bags with enough materials for one–two clips). Suggested runtime: 20–30 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Paper and a 2-inch heart punch or
- a heart template and scissors (see Printables)
- Pompoms, pipe cleaners cut into thirds, and googly eyes
- Clothespins
- White glue
- Markers, colored pencils, or crayons

Assembly:

- Cut out a paper heart (using a punch or template).
- Write a kind note on the heart.
- Wrap a pipe cleaner through the hole in the front of a clothespin, twisting it on top. This will be the bug's antennae.
- Glue two eyes on a large pompom for the bug's head.
- Glue the large pompom to the front end of the clothespin.
- Glue the small pompom behind the antennae to form the body.
- Glue the heart to the back of the clothespin to form the wings
- When the glue is dry, clip your love bug to someone you care about!

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

ADAPTATION:

For younger children, use only one pompom for the head, no pipe cleaners, and provide glue dots. You could also prewrite the messages on the hearts for them, or allow them to draw on or color the hearts instead of a writing a message.

TIP:

Encourage children to have fun with the materials and come up with different looks for their love bug! As long as the bug expresses kind words to share with someone, the craft is a success.

TIP:

For kindness books, see the Kindness Book List on page 186.



Image source: Debbie Barr of Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon, IN

ARTS & CRAFTS | PASSIVE | LOW COST

Web

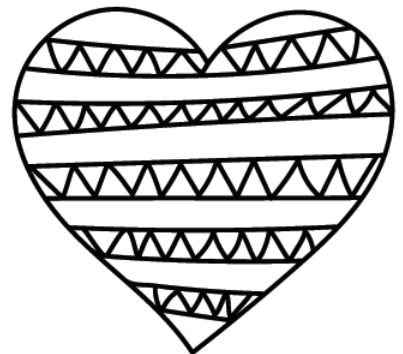
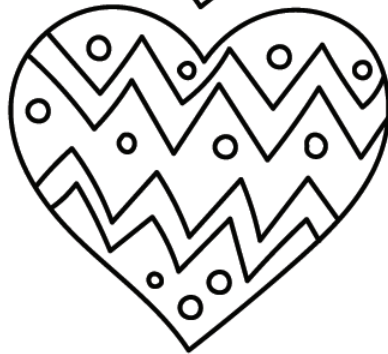
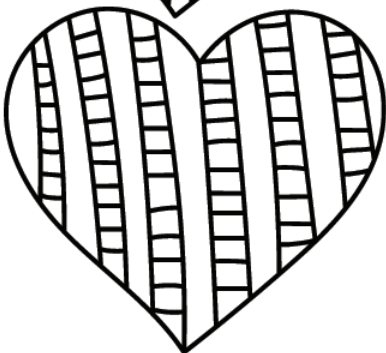
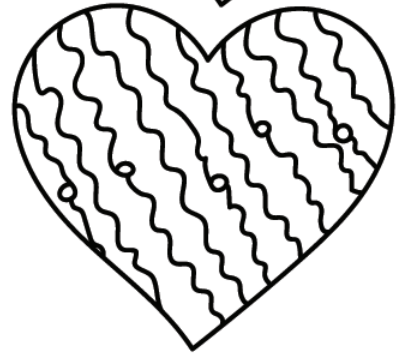
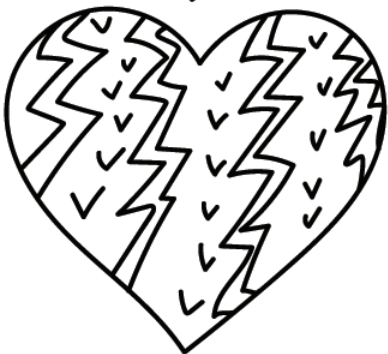
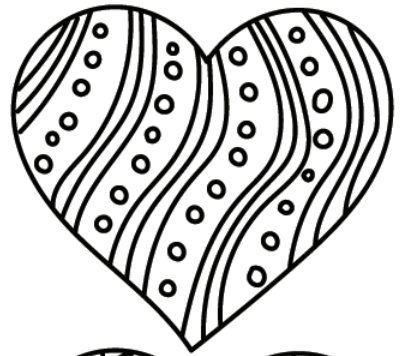
“The Power of Words” [3 min] from Common Sense Education on YouTube:

<https://bit.ly/3HCWN45>

“Dragon Fly Clothespins” from Crafty Morning: <https://bit.ly/3b4anBi>

Printables

Heart Template



KINDNESS TREES AND PAPER CHAINS

AGES

Children 5–8

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program describes two different crafts—paper chains and kindness trees—that remind children to do acts of kindness. Either craft can be run in-person, as a passive program, or as a take-and-make kit. As library decorations, paper chains and kindness trees can keep growing all summer long! For a take-home kit, the acts of kindness could be chores that children do at home, such as washing the car, or they could be compliments for family members, such as “I love that you help you with my homework.” Suggested runtime: 45 minutes for in-person programs.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials for paper chains (passive):

- Colored paper cut into strips
- Markers or crayons
- A sign with instructions
- A basket for completed strips

Preparation: Cut 1.5 x 8.5-inch strips of colored paper before starting the program. Leave out strips with markers or crayons, and create a sign with instructions. Provide a basket in which children can leave their completed strips. To get the chain started, create a few examples.

Materials for kindness trees (in person)

- Brown kraft paper (for an in-person program)
- Construction paper cut into leaf shapes
- Markers and tape

Materials for kindness trees (take-and-make)

- Printed tree silhouette (see Printables)
- Printed leaf silhouettes (see Printables)
- Pencils and glue sticks

For a passive program, affix a large tree silhouette to the wall (or simply a long rectangle for the trunk and smaller rectangles for a few branches). Provide pens, tape, and leaf-shaped pieces of construction paper. Children write kindness messages—or choose from a preprinted selection—and tape



Image source: Debbie Barr of Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon, IN

ADAPTATION:

Pair children up and ask them to write nice things about each other. Display the paper chains in the library!

ADAPTATION:

Run kindness challenges for older patrons using ideas from Random Acts of Kindness Foundation: <https://bit.ly/3HnjR6q>

ADAPTATION:

For take-and-make kits, provide 5–10 slips of paper for children to make their own kindness chain at home. You could also add a virtual component by reading a book about kindness and demonstrating how to make the paper chain.

TIP:

Remember books about kindness for a book display!

TIP:

Check the table daily to refill supplies and add new paper strips to the library's chain.

ARTS & CRAFTS | PASSIVE | DECORATION/DISPLAY | LOW COST

their leaves to the tree. Be sure to make a few kindness leaves for examples.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

“Create a Kindness Tree” from PBS: <https://to.pbs.org/3xQOYEs>

Picture of a finished tree from *First Palette*: <https://bit.ly/3zDyr80>

“Printable 100 Acts of Kindness” from *Coffee Cups and Crayons*: <https://bit.ly/3NUeu10>

101 more acts of kindness ideas from *Care.com*: <https://bit.ly/3xl6vTO>

Printables

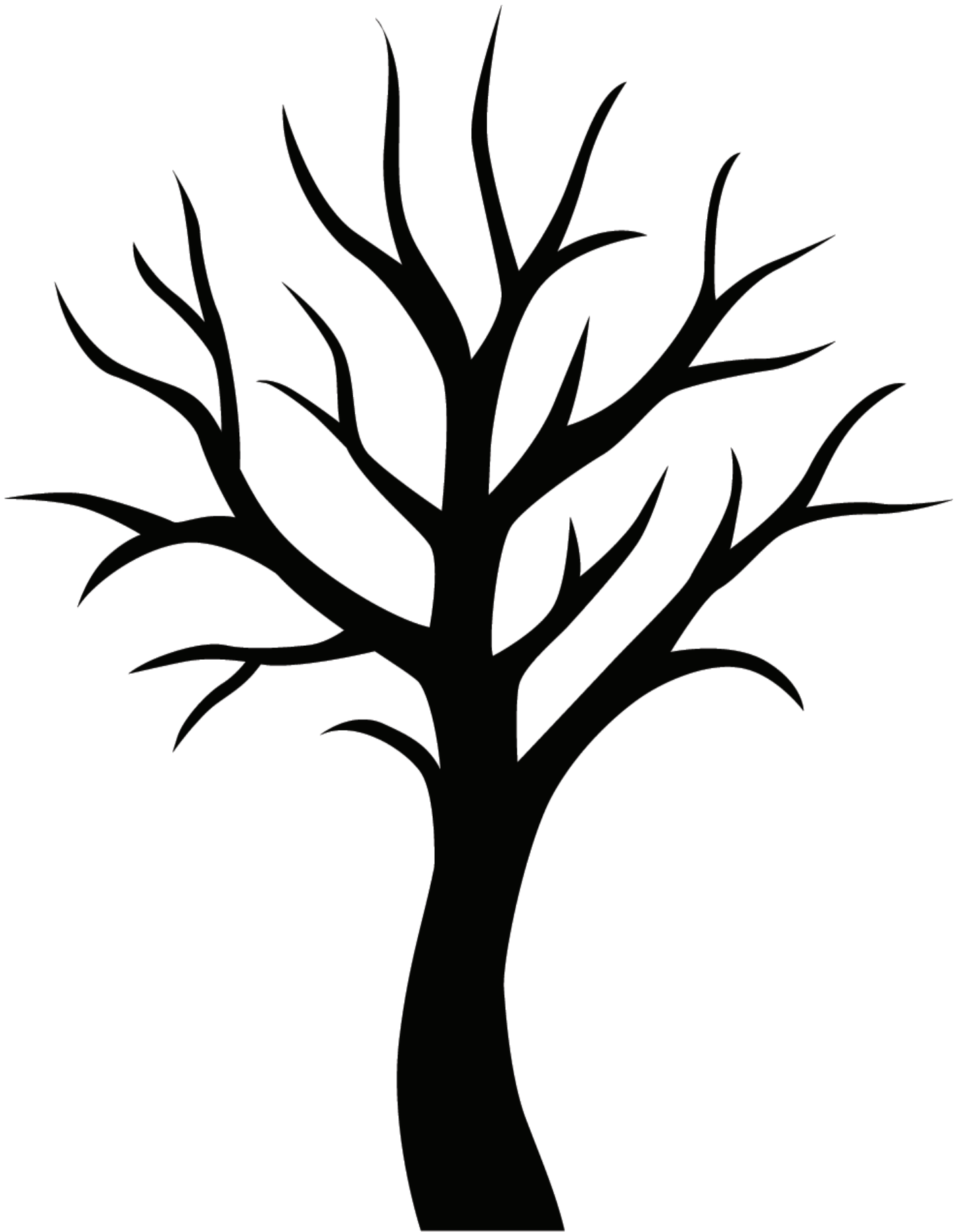
Kindness Tree Silhouette

Leaf Silhouettes

TIP:

For kindness books, see the Kindness Book List on page 186.





TWEEN SELF-AFFIRMATIONS JARS

AGES

Tweens 9–12

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Discuss why it is important to love and be kind to ourselves, even though it can be difficult. Explain what affirmations are: Phrases we repeat to ourselves to help our brains think more positively about who we are. They are exercise for our minds and for our self-esteem. Choose a few affirmations to repeat as a group (be sure to include some silly ones to break the ice!). Optionally, pass out small hand mirrors so tweens can look at themselves as they say the phrases. Provide a list of affirmations to get them started, and encourage them to create their own! Tweens cut their affirmations into strips and put them in their mason jars to be pulled out whenever they need a self-esteem boost. Suggested runtime: 30–45 minutes.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Mason jars or small boxes (one per tween)
- Paper strips with printed affirmations
- Blank paper strips and pens
- Art supplies of your choosing: Washi tape, paint markers, puff paint, stickers, etc.
- Hand mirrors (optional)

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

“Cute DIY Mason Jar Crafts” from *DIY Projects for Teens*: <https://bit.ly/3zK-TI58>

67 positive affirmations for teens from *Happier Human*: <https://bit.ly/3tDktiN>

“Positive Post-it Day” from *Cyberbullying Research Center*: <https://bit.ly/3H-qoH2N>

Printable calendars from the *Random Acts of Kindness Foundation*: <https://bit.ly/3Hmg9Kt>

Mental health resources from *Mental Health Literacy*: <https://mentalhealthliteracy.org/>

TIP:

If tweens are uncomfortable saying affirmations out loud, amp up the silliness factor, but avoid pressuring them to join in.

ADAPTATION:

For a virtual program, make jars into take-and-make kits, or email participants a PDF of affirmations to print or copy at home. Lead the discussion over Zoom while tweens decorate their jars.

TIP:

To lower costs, ask tweens to bring their own jars, boxes, and/or favorite art supplies from home.



Image source: Debbie Barr of Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon, IN

Printables

List of Affirmations for Tweens (in English and Spanish)



Image source: Melissa Causey of Bartow
Public Library, Bartow, FL

TIP:

For kindness books,
see the Kindness
Book List on page
186.

LIST OF AFFIRMATIONS FOR TWEENS

“You look great today. Is that a new haircut?”
“I am strong for listening to my heart.”
“I am wearing the most amazing t-shirt I’ve ever seen.”
“I am lovable exactly the way I am.”
“I am perfectly imperfect.”
“More people love me than I can even think of.”
“There is only one me in the entire world.”
“I look very huggable today.”
“I deserve to do something extra fun today.”
“There’s no such thing as a mistake if I learn from it.”
“Is it time to reread my favorite book?”
“Today is a good day to give myself a break.”
“I deserve to spend time with people I have fun with.”
“I can change the world.”
“Asking for help when I need it makes me strong.”

LISTA DE AFIRMACIONES PARA PRE- ADOLESCENTES

“Te ves increíble hoy. ¿Te hiciste un nuevo corte de pelo?”
“Soy fuerte porque escucho a mi corazón”.
“¡Estás usando la camiseta más increíble que he visto!”
“Yo soy digno de amor exactamente de la manera que soy”.
“Yo soy perfectamente imperfecto”.
“Me aman más personas de lo que puedo pensar”.
“Sólo hay un yo en el mundo entero”.
“Me veo muy abrazable el día de hoy”.
“Me merezco hacer algo extra divertido el día de hoy”.
“No existe tal cosa como un error si aprendo de él”.
“Creo que es tiempo de volver a leer mi libro favorito”. “Hoy es un buen día para darme un descanso”.
“Me merezco pasar tiempo con las personas con las que me divierto”. “Yo puedo cambiar el mundo”.
“Pedir ayuda cuando la necesito me hace fuerte”.

CHALK THE BLOCK WITH KINDNESS

AGES

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Over the course of one day (or several days), invite families to create sidewalk chalk with messages encouraging kindness. Stick to a small area or expand throughout your town or neighborhood. When possible, aim for tie-ins with other community and/or school events and festivals. Distribute kits containing sidewalk chalk, ideas, and a map, and follow up by photographing the sidewalk chalk art and sharing it on social media or in library displays. This also works great with rainbow chalk for Pride in June! See below for a recipe to make chalk yourself (or turn this into a two-part program by making the chalk together). Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials for the day of the event:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Templates/stencils (optional)
- Maps of preapproved areas for chalk art
- Handouts with message ideas and tips

Preparation:

- Contact local businesses and organizations to get approval for chalk art in front of their buildings.
- Put approved sidewalk chalk locations on a map.
- Print maps and handouts for participants.
- Source lots of chalk (or let participants make it).

Materials for making sidewalk chalk:

- Warm water
- Plaster of Paris
- Tempura paint or food coloring
- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls, or silicon molds
- Disposable masks

TIP:

Be sure to monitor the weather and reschedule as necessary. Be sure to check in with local business owners before the program to approve messages that might appear in front of their place of business.

TIP:

Consider partnering with schools, local chamber of commerce, parks department, daycares, or Spanish-language organizations.

TIP:

For a virtual program, participants brainstorm messages to write on Post-it notes, then stick them all over town.

ADAPTATION:

Make this a two-part program: Before hitting the streets, participants make their own chalk using plaster of Paris and toilet paper rolls.

TIP:

Make the library the ending location, and gather everyone for treats!

TIP:

If your map has participants cross busy streets, enlist volunteer crossing guards to help families across.

GAME/ACTIVITY | DECORATION/DISPLAY | OUTDOORS | LOW COST

- Paper towels (for cleanup)
- Plastic bags for covering tables (optional)

Assembly:

- Mix 3 cups plaster of Paris with 1.5 cups warm water, and stir.
- Add tempura paint or food coloring, and stir.
- Spoon mixture into toilet paper rolls, wiping off any drips.
- Let chalk dry for 24 hours before peeling off paper rolls.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly if the event is held in a contained area with little-to-no traffic. Volunteers would be helpful to photograph chalk art and to monitor safety during larger events.

RESOURCES

Web

Sidewalk chalk tutorial from Craft Warehouse: <https://bit.ly/3xQrY8v>

Tips for chalk art festival from Lasso the Moon: <https://bit.ly/3NQR1Od>

Chalk art (grid method) from Chalk Artists Guild: <https://bit.ly/3mO3g2w>

Tips for neighborhood chalk art from Learn with Mochi: <https://bit.ly/3MP-JYeb>

“Sidewalk Chalk Art Tutorial: Elephant” [2 min] from STL ZooTube on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3aXGCBU>

“Chalk the Walk” from the ALSC Blog: <https://bit.ly/3OgYwy4>

Books

The Case of the Missing Chalk Drawings (2018) by Richard Byrne (picture book F)

The Chalk Art Handbook (2021) by David Zinn (middle grade NF)

The Chalk Giraffe (2020) by Kirsty Paxton and illustrated by Megan Lotter (picture book F)

Printables

Kind Message Ideas (in English and Spanish)

TIP:

During the program, be sure to have staff members or volunteers document the art, which you can then share on social media or in the library!

TIP:

Remember disposable masks! Plaster of Paris is non-toxic, but the dust can irritate lungs.

TIP:

Work quickly. Plaster starts to dry in 20–30 minutes.

TIP:

For kindness books, see the Kindness Book List on page 186.

KIND MESSAGE IDEAS / IDEAS DE MENSAJES AMABLES

ENGLISH	SPANISH
Dream big!	¡Sueña en grande!
Shine bright.	Brilla.
Believe in yourself.	Cree en ti.
Be the change	Sé tú el cambio.
You've got this.	Puedes hacerlo.
Never stop learning	Nunca dejes de aprender.
It gets better.	Se pone cada vez mejor.
Aspire to inspire.	Aspira a inspirar.
You rock!	¡Eres lo máximo!
Follow your dreams.	Sigue tus sueños.
Make today amazing	Haz de hoy un día especial.
Stay true to you.	Sé fiel a ti.
Never give up	Nunca te rindas.
Never stop learning	Nunca dejes de aprender.
It's cool to be kind.	Es genial ser amable.
You make the world a better place.	Haces del mundo un lugar mejor.
We're all in this together.	Estamos todos juntos en esto.
Be a rainbow to someone's cloud.	Sé el arcoíris de las nubes grises de
Every day is another chance.	Cada día es otra oportunidad.