

# READING

INSTANT MEETING  
AGES: 7 - 8

**GOAL:** To support and discuss reading within the group while encouraging the children to create their own stories and ideas.

**PROGRAM AREAS COVERED:**  
Hurrah for Reading Badge, Reader Badge

**PREPARATION TIME:**  
10-15 minutes for gathering supplies  
Calling ahead to set up a Library Tour (optional)

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Pencil Crayons
- Markers
- Blank sheets of white paper
- Books of different genres that would be appropriate for children to flip through

## OPENING

(Optional) Arrange a short tour at your local library. Ask the librarian to show the children around while talking about why reading is important as well as introducing them to the section where they can find books appropriate for their age level.

Hold your usual meeting at the library (if allowed), or a nearby area outside etc., where you can continue to talk about reading with your group. Enjoy your usual Opening.

Afterwards have everyone sit in a circle and ask them what their favorite book is. Have each child tell the group the name of the book, what it was about, what they liked about it and if they learned anything after reading it.

Discuss what makes a good book and why reading is important. Let your group know that books help them visit places and people they can only meet and see in their imaginations.

## ACTIVITIES

## PARTS AND PIECES OF BOOKS

**1** Take out the collection of books you brought to the meeting and hand one to each child.

**2** Ask each child to flip through the book they were given.



**3** Ask if they can find the following parts of the book:

- Table of Contents
- Forward
- Chapters
- Glossary
- Index



## STORY TIME

### THE LION AND THE MOUSE - AESOP'S FABLES

(Source: [www.aesopsfables.org](http://www.aesopsfables.org))

**1** If at the library ask the librarian to find the storybook "Aesop's Fables" so that the children can see the photos that correspond with the story.

**2** Have the group sit down in a circle and read them the following short story:

Once when a Lion was asleep a little Mouse began running up and down upon him.

This soon wakened the Lion, who placed his huge paw upon him, and opened his big jaws to swallow him.

"Pardon, O King," cried the little Mouse. "Forgive me this time, I shall never forget it. Who knows but what I may be able to do you a turn some of these days?"

The Lion was so tickled at the idea of the Mouse being able to help him, that he lifted up his paw and let him go.

Some time after the Lion was caught in a trap, and the hunters who desired to carry him alive to the King, tied him to a tree while they went in search of a wagon to carry him on.

Just then the little Mouse happened to pass by, and seeing the sad plight in which the Lion was, went up to him and soon gnawed away the ropes that bound the King of the Beasts.

"Was I not right?" said the little Mouse.

**MORAL:** *Little friends may prove to be great friends.*



## DRAWING A BOOK COVER

**1** Ask everyone to close their eyes and picture a story they would like to tell. Ask them what the characters look like, what they are doing and what type of story it is. Maybe it is about the Lion and Mouse's future adventures or about the child's pet and what he/she does when its owners are not at home etc.

**2** Hand out the paper and markers/pencil crayons and ask each child to draw a picture of the cover of their book that they saw in their imagination. Let them know they can be as detailed as they want by drawing the characters or a scene from the book on the cover.

**3** Help each child come up with a title for their book and make sure they sign their name as the author on the cover as well.

## LETTER TAG

**1** Let the group know they'll be playing a different version of tag than they're used to. Regular rules of tag apply, one person is "it" and they have to tap another child in order for someone new to become "it."



**2** Explain that in Letter Tag if someone is about to be tagged they can avoid becoming "it" by shouting out a safe word. The first safe word will start with the letter A. The next safe word to be called out will start with the letter B, the next safe word with the letter C and so on and so forth. However, if a child can't think of a word or says a word that starts with the wrong letter then they become "it."

**3** Have the children play the game till they become tired, the alphabet is finished, or it's time for the meeting to end.

*To make the game more challenging play the entire game with only one letter and let the children know no repeat words are allowed.*

## CLOSING

Congratulate the group on the creative book covers they drew. Encourage everyone to keep reading and to try and read something different each time they go to the library. Also, suggest they write the story that goes along with their book cover in their spare time and bring it to a future meeting.

Enjoy your regular Closing.

