



PASSIVE PROGRAMMING

For the School Library, Classroom, and Other Community Spaces

SLIDES INFO

<https://canva.link/passiveprogramming>



ABOUT ME

Learning Media Center Director at McHenry Middle School
(School Librarian + Teacher + Event Planner)

Past Work Lives (18th year in ed):

- Parks & Rec
- substitute teacher
- pre-k associate
- kindergarten mono & dual
- 2nd /3rd split monolingual
- 3rd dual language
- 5th dual language
- 6-8 video production
- Chicago, Woodstock, Harvard, McHenry

Outside of Work:

- Coach color guard at WNHS
- Sing in Woodstock Community Choir
- Love to cross stitch snarky and nerdy things



Stacy Heiliger



WHAT IS PASSIVE PROGRAMMING?

“Passive programming—more dynamically known as self-directed or lightly guided programming—involves activities that patrons can pursue on their own terms, on a come-and-go basis, without supervision from library staff.”

Bubert, Lisa. “DIY to the Rescue: 10 Librarian-Tested Passive Programs.” School Library Journal, Aug 29, 2024, <https://www.slj.com/story/DIY-to-the-rescue-10-librarian-tested-passive-programs>



WHY SHOULD I DO IT?

Activities are:

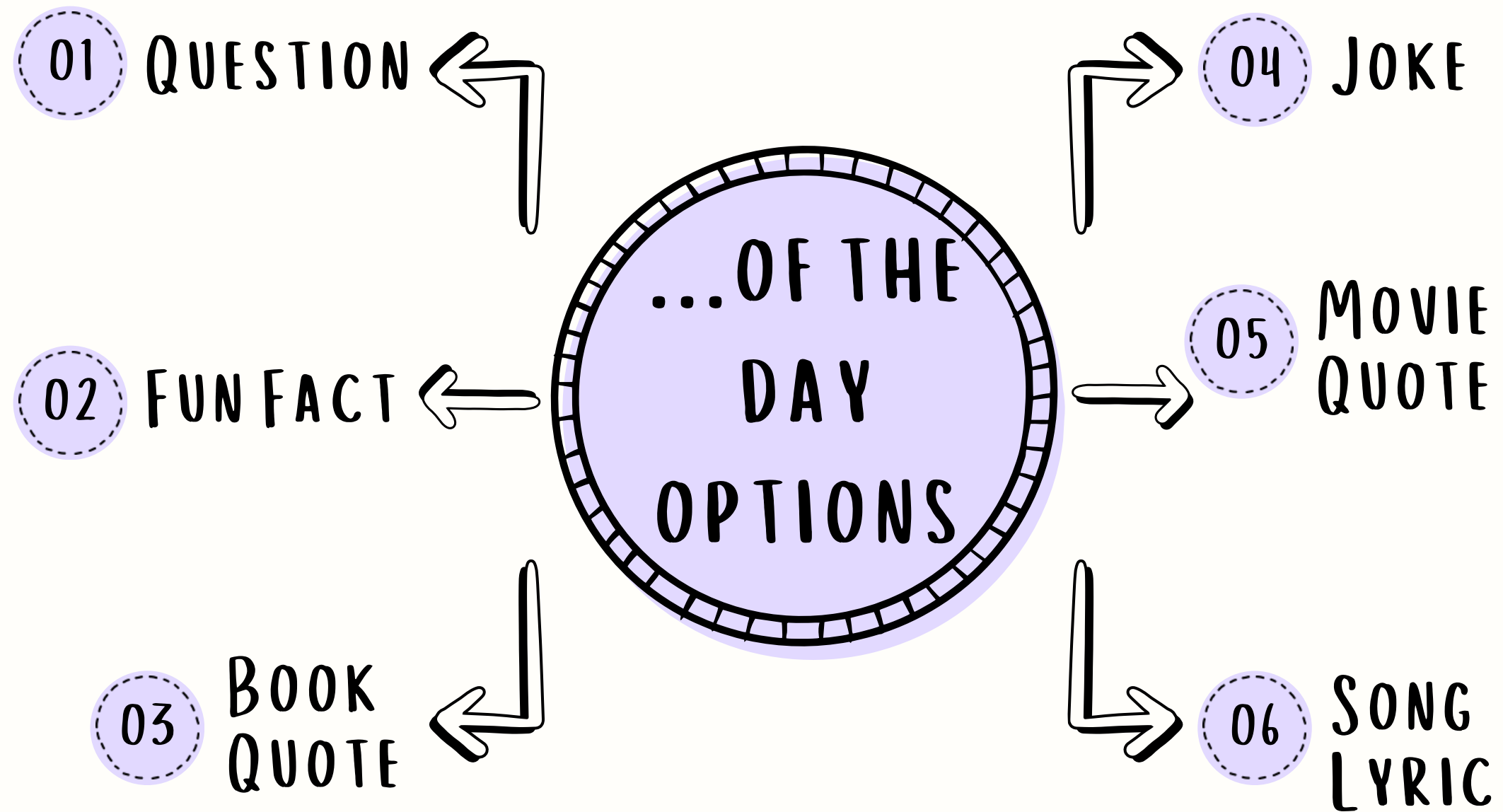
- self-directed and self-paced for patrons
- require minimal supervision from staff
- can be as simple or as complicated as you want



30 IDEAS!

The following slides include ideas, explanations, and photo examples of passive programming that you can add to your space!

01...OF THE DAY



02. MONTHLY CELEBRATIONS

AUGUST: Back to School, International Pirate Month

SEPTEMBER: Hispanic Heritage Month, National Library Card Sign-Up Month

OCTOBER: Halloween, LGBTQ+ History Month

NOVEMBER: DINOvember, Native American Heritage Month

DECEMBER: Winter Holidays, Learn a Foreign Language Month

JANUARY: National Hobby Month

FEBRUARY: Black History Month, National Snack Food Month

MARCH: Women's History Month, Music in Our Schools Month

APRIL: National School Library Month, National Volunteer Month

MAY: End of the Year, Yearbook Display

03. BULLETIN BOARD GAMES

AUGUST: Match the Teacher to His/Her Favorite Book

SEPTEMBER: Match the Country Name to the Map

OCTOBER: Name the Pumpkin Book Character

NOVEMBER: Match the Dinosaur Name to the Meaning

DECEMBER: Match the Holiday to the Tradition

JANUARY: Match the Tool to the Hobby

FEBRUARY: "Literature or Love Song" Game

MARCH: Match the Instrument Photo to the Name

APRIL: Library and/or Librarian Trivia

MAY: Yearbook Scavenger Hunt for Teacher Photos



04. MOSAIC STICKER POSTER

- Encourage reading, behavior, or anything you want!
- Students put sticker on poster for meeting whatever goal you set.
- Available at Demco, Amazon, or direct from StickTogether



05. GUESSING JARS

AUGUST: Mini-erasers (double-use: give away as prizes throughout year)

SEPTEMBER: Leaves

OCTOBER: M&Ms

NOVEMBER: Acorns

DECEMBER: Mini-ornaments

JANUARY: Perler beads

FEBRUARY: Conversation hearts

MARCH: Cotton balls (to look like clouds for spring)

APRIL: How many pages in the book

MAY: Seashells



06. VOTING JARS

HOW TO VOTE

Pom poms in jars
Stickers on paper
Post-it notes on the white board
Dry erase board tally marks
Paper clips in bowls
Anything you may have laying around
in larger quantities

WHAT TO VOTE ON

“This or That” question
Favorite book genre
Fiction vs Nonfiction
Dogs vs Cats
Could be about literally anything!

07. CRAFT CORNER

- Themed drop-in craft: set out supplies needed for project, restock as needed, should be simple enough that written directions are clear and easy to follow
- Ongoing craft opportunities: tackle box or Caboodle with various craft supplies, let students decide what they're going to make



08. GAME CORNER

- Themed drop-in games: set out pieces needed for game, should be simple enough that written directions are clear and easy to follow, best if game is limited to 1-4 people to avoid disruptions
- Ongoing game opportunities: shelf with various games, let students decide what they're going to play



09. COLLABORATIVE ARTS

- Supply coloring books and crayons/markers/colored pencils
- Cover a table with butcher paper and let students draw/color on it
- Purchase large coloring poster to put on wall or table – lots of options on TPT, Amazon, etc.



10. COMMUNITY SHOW & TELL

- Decide who will have turns to display items (for example, each class is assigned one week, students of the month are allowed, etc)
- Allow students (and/or staff!) to display one item for Show & Tell in a community space safe from theft or destruction
- Displayed items can include a notecard with information about the item, why it is special, etc.
- Takes a little prep work to communicate with teachers and students

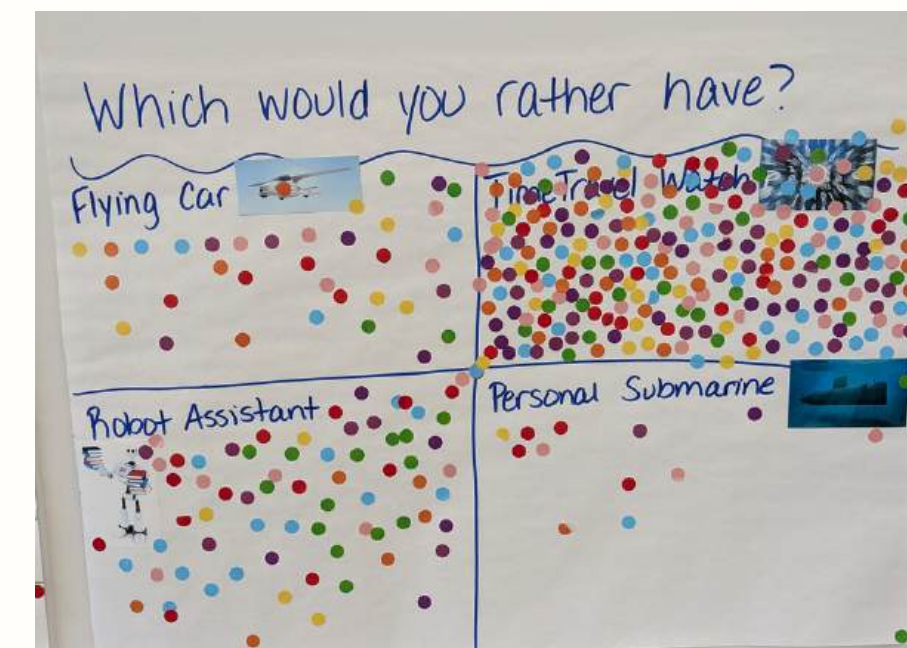
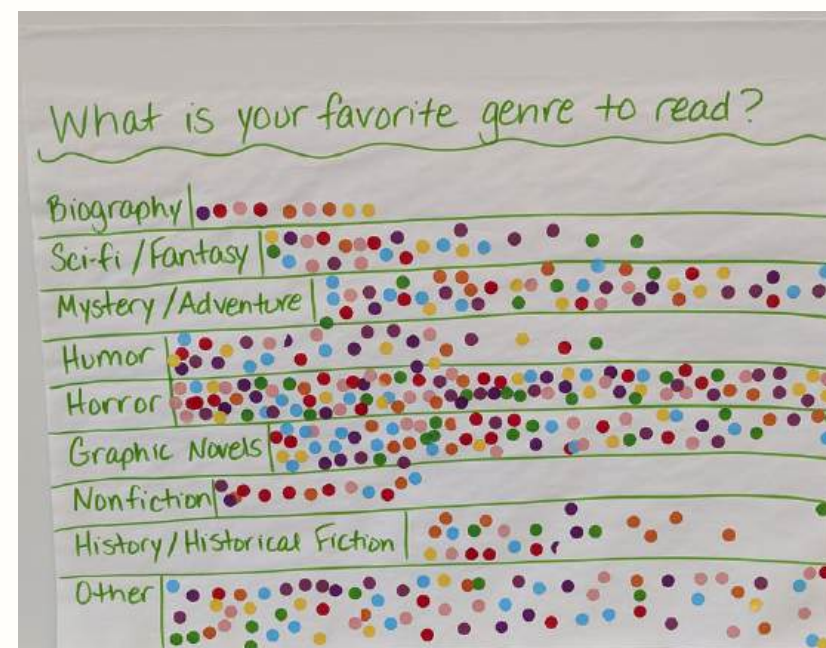
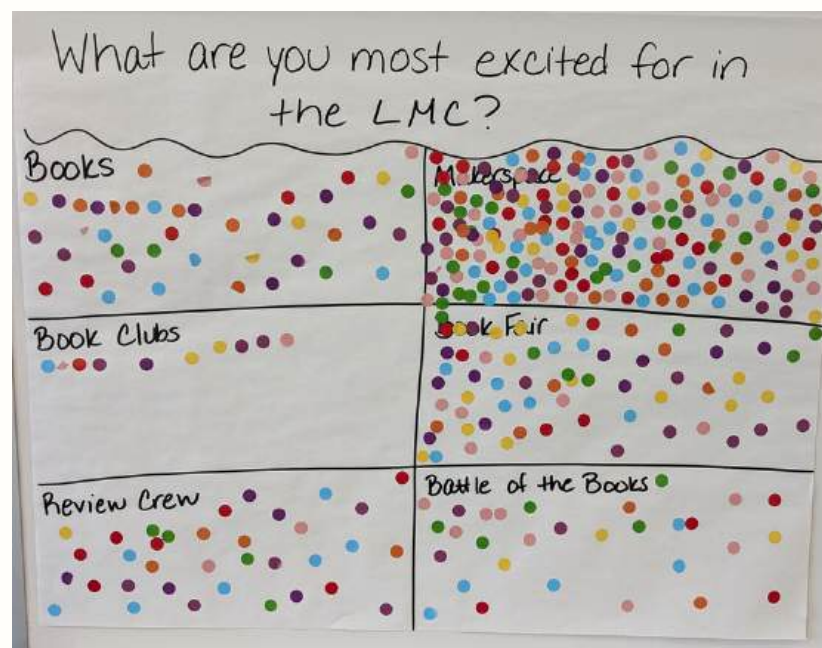
11. PHOTO BOOTHS

- Use one wall or corner for photo booth backdrop (tablecloth, fabric, or maybe your district has something you can use already) – could be holiday/celebration-themed, school spirit, etc
- Offer silly props to use in photos (mustache on a stick, glasses, etc)
- Since phones are not usually allowed, have a Polaroid camera or Chromebook set up to take photos
- Takes a little prep work to set up



12. CONSENSOGRAMS

- Use easel paper to ask a question
- Invite students and staff to answer each question by placing a sticker on the paper



13. GENRE BUCKET

- Prep slips of paper with book titles for each genre on a different colored paper
- Put papers in small bucket, jar, or other container
- Display genre key next to it
- Helps students find a new book independently by genre

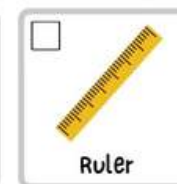


14. REVIEW CREW

- Optional program for students and staff to write book reviews about Advance Reader Copies for publishing companies
 - My library is sent copies each summer from Hachette Book Group. I introduce it to all students and share the link with Hachette's feedback form in a Google Classroom.
 - There are probably other companies that do the same!

15. SCAVENGER HUNTS

- Create a bingo card with different items or types of books to find in the library or around school
- Could be themed around monthly holidays or special events happening at school or in the community
- Completed bingo card could be turned in for a monthly prize drawing or for an immediate prize (mini-eraser, candy if allowed, etc)



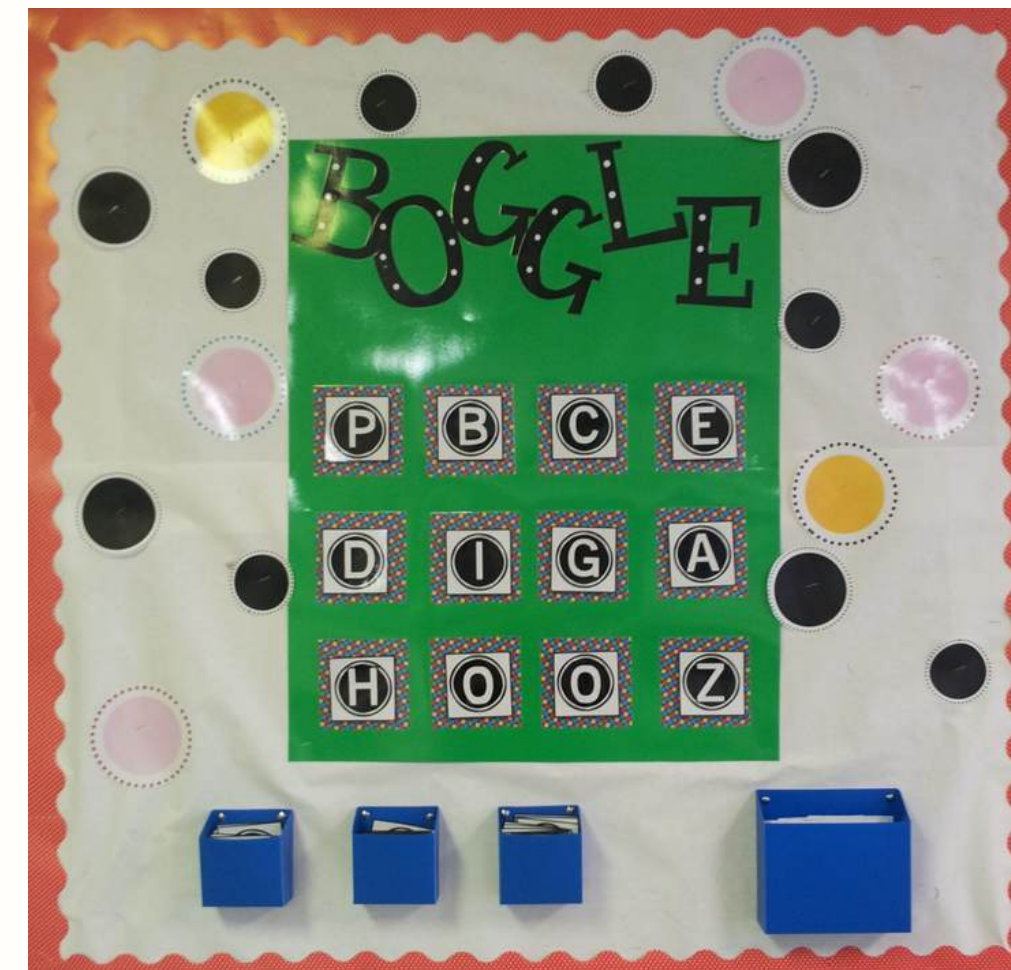
16. COMMUNITY PUZZLE

- Reserve a table for a puzzle
- Use appropriately-sized puzzle for your age group
- Run the risk of pieces “walking off” or being hidden around your space

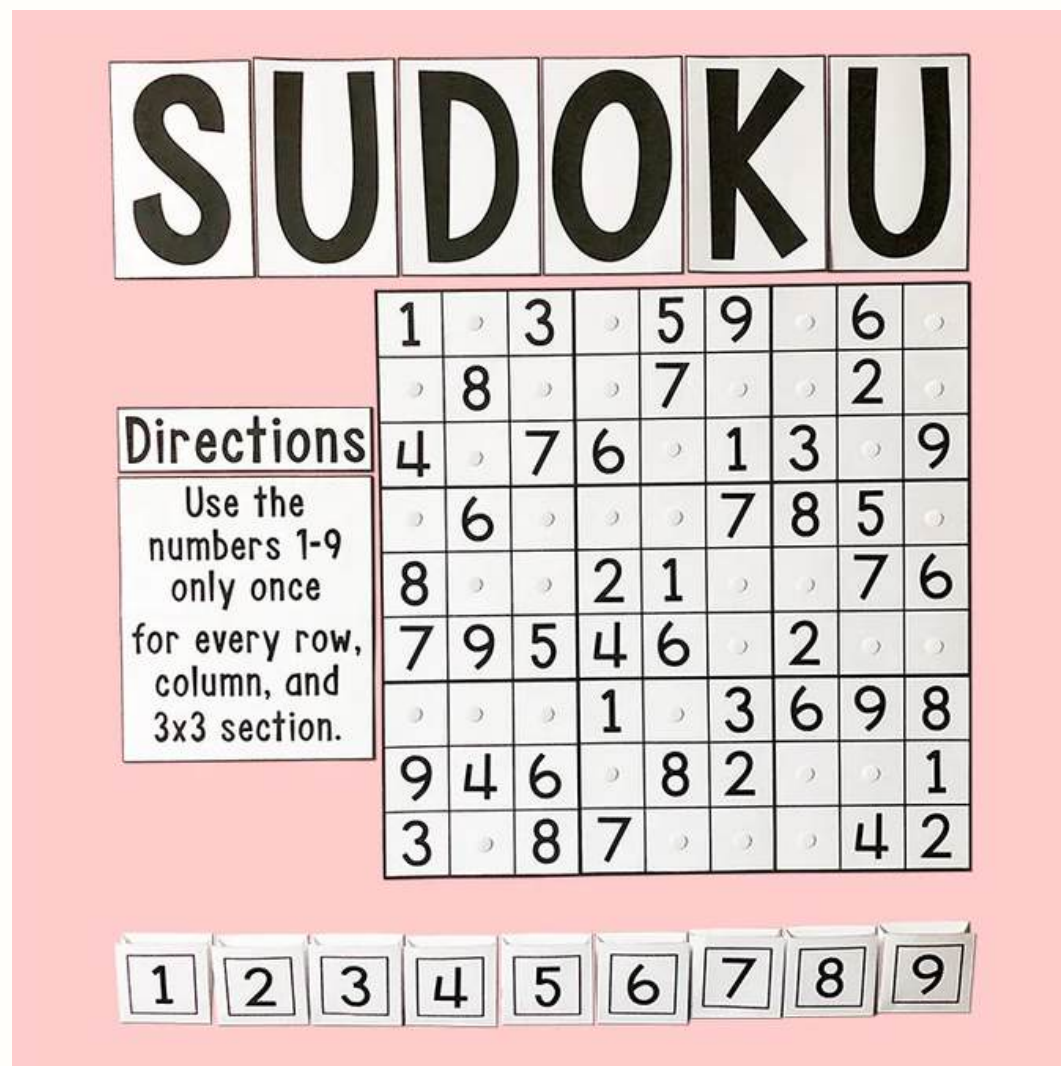


17. BOGGLE BOARD

- Use wall or bulletin board space to create oversized Boggle board
- Provide slips of paper for patrons to write down as many words as they can find following the Boggle rules (may want to post the basics next to the board)
- Answers can be kept by patron, recycled, or turned in for a prize
- Could keep track of the record for most words and post next to board



18. SUDOKU BOARD



- Use wall or bulletin board space to create oversized Sudoku board
- Can use Velcro in each space so numbers are movable
- Create pockets to organize and store numbers

19. GOLDEN BOOKS

- Wrap a weeded book in yellow or gold paper, write a message explaining what to do with it and what the “finder” will receive
- Place on book shelves



- Wait for someone to find it, return it, and receive a prize
- Could also do with yellow or gold bookmarks placed in shelved books

20. BOOK REVIEW DISPLAYS

- Offer students and/or staff opportunity to review and recommend books – display on bulletin board or on shelf talkers
- Could also review and recommend cafeteria food, PE activities, anything from around school
- Many templates for review forms on TPT and Canva



Favorite

21. YEARBOOK ARCHIVE

- Have yearbooks from school's history on display or available for browsing within the library/classroom/office
- Students have loved looking at athletic uniforms, hairstyles, club offerings, and teachers who were once students there
- Would suggest posting signage to remind students that they are historical artifacts and should be handled gently



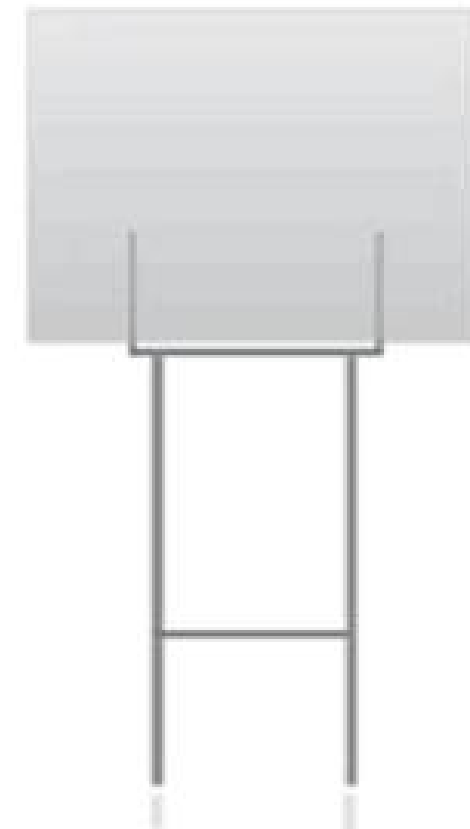
22. SUGGESTION BOX

- Could use cardboard box, old coffee tin, small bucket, or any other container you already have laying around
- Leave scraps of paper and a few pencils next to it
- Invite students and staff to make suggestions
 - books to purchase for library or classroom
 - ideas for activities
 - opinions about current offerings
 - ask questions to be addressed during next lesson

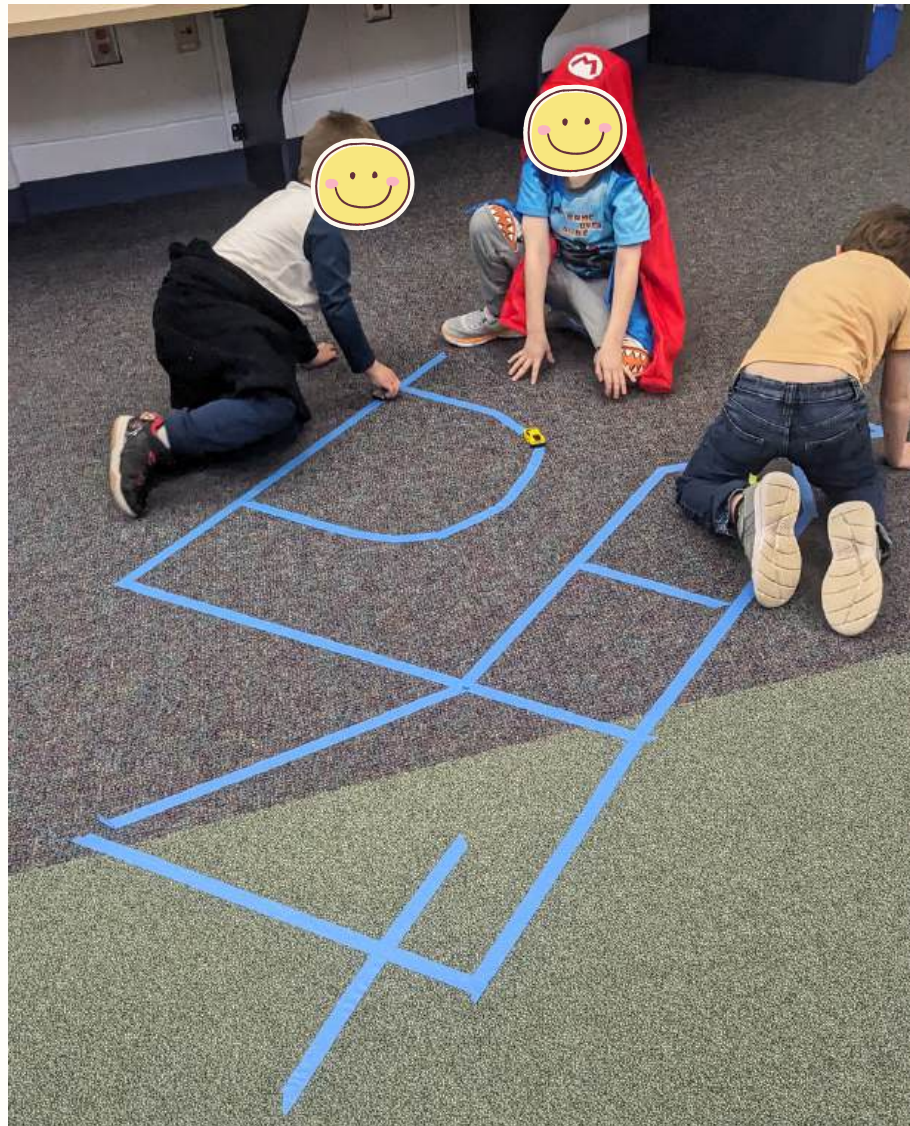


23. STORY WALK

- Deconstruct a picture book to display along path, hallway, or throughout library
- Requires some set-up ahead of time



24. FLOOR PATHS

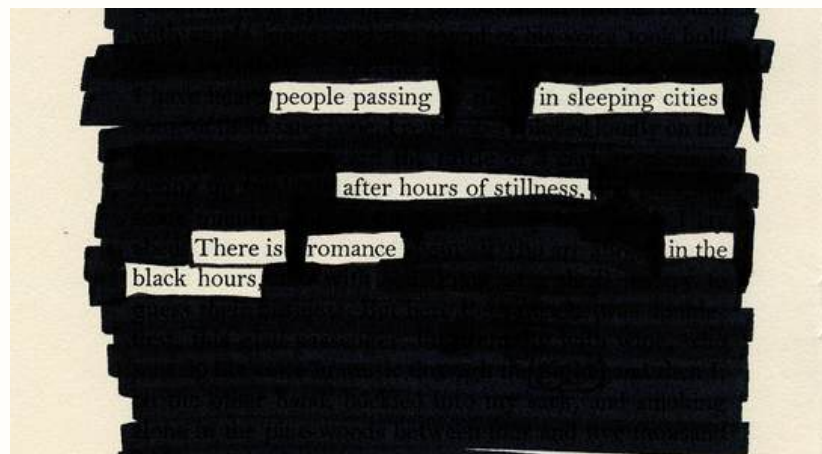


- Use painters tape, velcro dots, or other removable markings to create paths on the floor
- Large motor: walking, hopping, balancing, hopscotch
- Small motor: streets for toy cars, stickers on top of tape

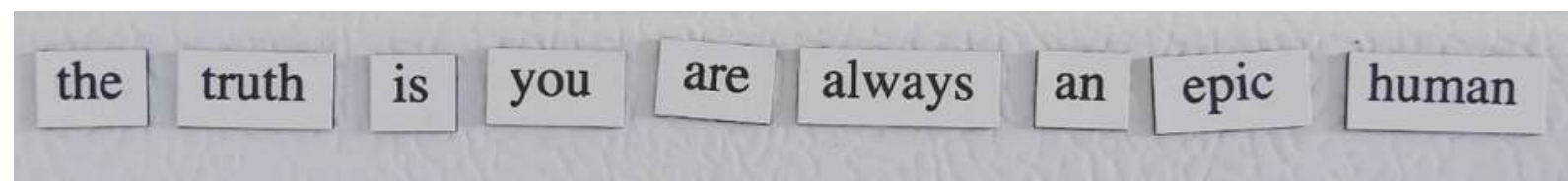


25. POETRY STATION

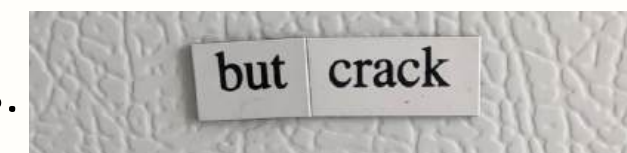
April is #PoetryMonth! Stop in the @SouthEastJHIC library to create your own poem!



- Magnetic poetry
- Magazine poetry
- Blackout poetry with pages from weeded books
- Poetry prompts



WARNING: YOU MAY GET POEMS LIKE THIS.



26. BOOK SWAP SHELF

- Put weeded books in a designated area - free for the taking
- Allow students and/or staff to put unwanted personal books there, too



27. SILLY CELEBRATIONS

- Lots of resources online, but my favorite is National Today.
- Offer themed worksheets
 - word searches
 - seek and find
 - crossword puzzles
 - coloring sheets



28. BOOKMARK CONTEST

- Requires some prep, but not much
 - blank bookmarks - cardstock, construction paper, etc
 - coloring supplies
- Put out materials and instruction signage, collect completed bookmarks
- Display all at designated time, invite students and/or staff to vote for their favorites
- Award prize to winners, possibly make color copies of winners to have available at circulation desk

29. KINDNESS QUOTES

- Hide post-it notes with handwritten kindness quotes in library books, throughout classroom, or around school
- Could also hide kindness-themed bookmarks instead of handwriting notes
- Could also be a craft station - have students decorate or write and hide



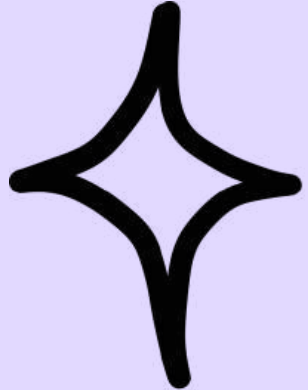
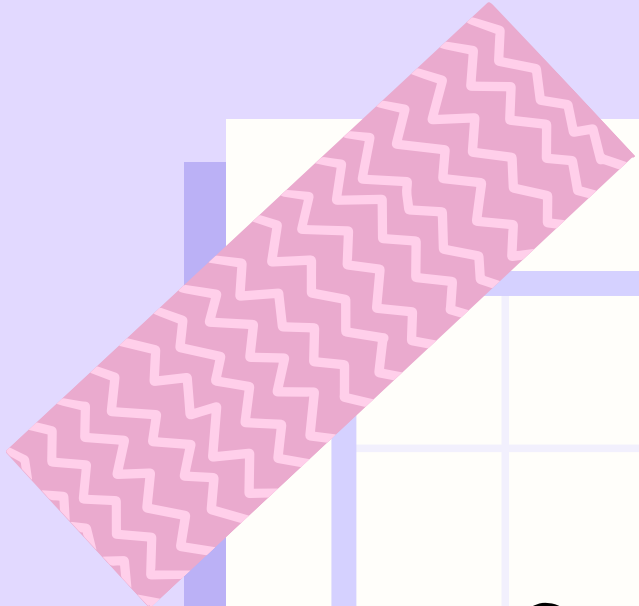
30. TEACHER COLLABORATIONS

My FAVORITE

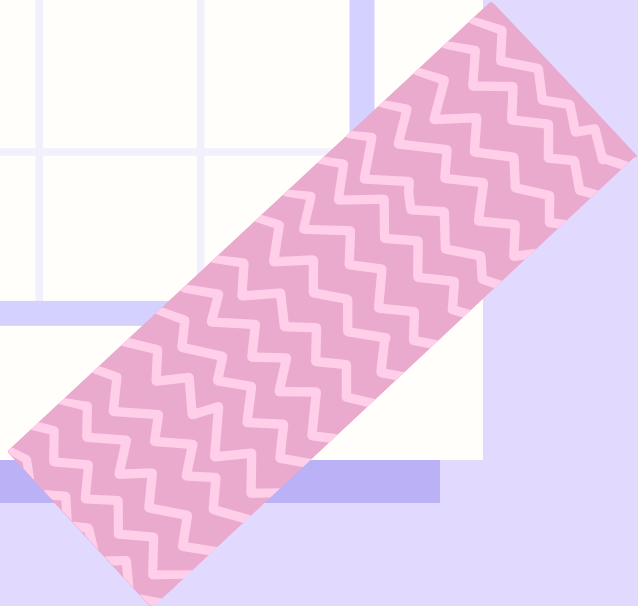
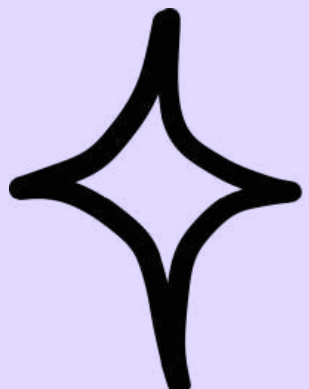


- Let teachers know that you'd love to display student work - temporarily or permanently
- Encourage all staff to visit your space often to see what is new
- Communicate - ask for help, offer services, etc





WHAT IDEAS DO
YOU HAVE???





THANKS

Let's Connect!

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