

Cover to Cover: Programs Inspired by Children's Books

AUTHOR(S):	Asya Gribov
SUMMARY:	In this session, participants will gain ideas for turning any book into an engaging and meaningful program as well as elevating existing camp programs through stories. By identifying the big questions and values children's books present, participants will experience, and practice creating, programs that bring those lessons to life.
ABC GOALS:	<p>Affective: Participants will feel....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inspired • creative • empowered <p>Behavior: Participants will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take home a "book shelf" of books and programs to use in camp • use stories and books to spark creative and meaningful programs • elevate existing programs with children's books <p>Cognitive: Participants will know...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to design a meaningful program around a children's book • a variety of books that could be used in camp • How to hold a meaningful conversation around a children's book
AUDIENCE:	Camp Staff, young campers
TIMING:	60-90 minutes
APPENDICES:	List of My Favorite Children's Books Making Mensches:A Periodic Table Quotes Printable
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Scratch art paper and scratchers Blacklight Flashlights Questions printout Middot Table Books: Night World, It Could be Worse, Wild, Castle on Hester Street, Du Iz Tak, Wacky Wednesday, On One Foot, The Wrong Book, Zoom, Where the Wild Things Are, The Shmutzy Family (any books desired to be used in camp) (Blackout Curtains, tape, flowers, insects, mudane curiosities)

<p>SET-UP DETAILS:</p>	<p>2 rooms connected by a hall that could be darkened. Flashlight Discovery Walk Space (see below)</p> <p>Comfortable room without tables and chairs</p>

SESSION TIMELINE

- 00-15 MIN – Introduction/Ice Breaker
- 15-30 MIN – Dark Discovery Walk
- 30-40 MIN – Read Aloud
- 40-55 MIN – Book Research and Planning
- 40-70 MIN – Presentations
- 70-75 MIN – Debrief and Takeaways

SESSION OUTLINE:

Introduction (15 minutes)

As participants enter, they receive a small paper with a question on it. When everyone arrives, participants walk around the room answering and asking others their question and then exchanging questions to receive a new one.

Questions:

- Have you ever woken up early to watch the sunrise?
- Have you stayed up all night until sunrise?
- Are you afraid of the dark? Where were you afraid of the dark as a child?
- Have you ever followed your curiosity? What happened?
- What was your favorite childhood book? Why?
- What is your favorite book now?
- Do you have a WOAAH (radical amazement) memory?
- Are you a good sleeper? What do you need to have a goodnight's sleep?
- What are you most curious about?
- How does your camp use storybooks for programming?

Flashlight Discovery Walk (15 minutes)

While the discussion is going on, in pairs, participants are invited to head to the next room by going through the Dark Discovery Hall. Participants share 1 flashlight and are instructed to explore and discover together as they move to the next room.

Once everyone has gathered together once again,

Reflect:

- How did it feel to walk in the dark in pairs?
- Were you curious about where you were going?

CORNERSTONE 2022 RESOURCE

- How did it feel to not see anything and then be able to focus on 1 thing at a time?
- How did it feel to work in pairs/ sharing the flashlight
- How did it feel to focus on only 1 thing at a time with the flashlight?
- What did you discover?

Story and Discussion (10 minutes)

Thinking about your experience, I want to share a book with you.

Read Aloud: *The Night World* by Mordicai Gerstein

Group Discussion:

- What are your first thoughts that come to mind?
- What are some Jewish ideas that this book might connect to?
(Modeh Ani/ morning prayer, wonder, awe, gratitude, curiosity, *Rosh Hashana*/ Creation of the World- Separation of Light and Darkness)
- How does the book relate to your experience through the dark hall?
- What if we just had that experience and nothing else? Does the book enrich that experience?
- How did that experience bring the book to life/ put the message into action?
- What themes does this book highlight?
- How can you make observations and awareness more part of your camp cultures- why would you? What would be the benefits?
- How might you increase your awareness of everyday wonders?
- Jewish Connections:
 - o Jewish Day starts at night
 - o When is it day? As light creeps in, when is it light enough to say morning blessings? The answer: When there's just enough light to recognize your friend coming toward you.
 - o Middot of Curiosity, Wonder, Gratitude

Using this book for inspiration, we will think about how we can use picture books to inspire camp programs as well as enrich already existing programs with Jewish ideas and values. Focusing on: How can we inspire campers to be continually curious and see ordinary things with amazement? (How can we inspire gratitude in campers? Why should we promote gratitude?)

Art Making (15 minutes)

Inspiring WONDER:

WONDER can mean both curiosity and awe

What ignites WONDER in you?

Use scratch art paper to represent.

Use 1 scratch art paper for each representation of wonder.

Hang up on wall to create a Museum of Wonder

Group Discussion:

- Name 5 pros to using storybooks at camp?
- Name 5 challenges to using storybooks at camp?

Having read a book, and brought the “message” to action, let’s see what else we can do...

Create Your Own Programs- The Perfect Pitch (30 minutes)

In small groups or pairs, participants will choose one book to read, design a program, and present this book to the rest of the group. The participants have to convince the rest of the group that their book and their program which brings the books message into action is the best.

Participants will then vote on the best book and program and the winners will get The Booker Trophy.

Participants choose a picture book they are curious about, (number of participants per book should be between 2-4 depending on group size and number of books).

Working in pairs or small groups, participants will

- Read the storybook
- Decide on the big picture/ message of the book
- Come up with a program or activity to bring the message to life

Suggested Books can be found on appendix

Presentations

Pitch Must Address

- What can this book teach? What is the message of this book?
- What kind of big picture questions does this book inspire?
- What can we do to bring this message into action?
- Why does it matter?
- What do we already do in camp that can be elevated with this book?

Voting – participants cannot vote for their own book

Best pitch for book inspired program wins bragging rights and other camps using the program in their camps.

BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP:

Additional Ideas and Activities

- story walk
- 'drive-in sleeping bag' story time with milk and cookies
- retell the story from a different character perspective
- retell the story from end to beginning using because...
- create an alternate ending
- Build a bunk bookshelf from recycled boxes
- Tape discussion questions at the end of the book to have them handy after read aloud

Flashlight Discovery Walk Set Up:

Note: This can be done outside at night with regular flashlights

In a dark room, hang up quotes, questions, and curiosities that would intrigue participants.

Ideas:

- Should be dark so that can only see 1 thing with a flashlight
- Capture a bug in a plastic see-through cup
- "Lift here to see something wonderful" tape mirror below paper
- "Smell this" coffee, flowers, etc.
- Flowers, rocks, bark, shells, natural curiosities
- Messages with invisible ink (if using blacklight)
- Something to take
- Frame a crack in the wall

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

List of Favorite Children's Books

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1e4BoO55ZybpDko9A8Z4Cvaheu2ggKOOcSWVXa_gqRvEA/edit?usp=sharing



Philosophy for Kids

<https://www.plato-philosophy.org/childrens-literature/>

Middot

<https://jewishcamp.org/making-mensches/>



CORNERSTONE 2022 RESOURCE