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Chapter 1 BOOKS & DISCUSSION



Programs:

1. Online Book Discussion Chat with Rochelle Krich
2. Read-Aloud Sessions
3. Seniors Book Review
4. Stories by Word Weavers
5. Women: a Series of Discussions

Other Program Ideas:

1. Audiobooks
2. Banned Books
3. Book of the Month Club
4. Books into Movies
5. Favorite Children's Stories

Sources:

Jon, Lauren. *Running Book Discussion Groups: a How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians*. Neal-Schuman, 2006.

Loevy, Diana. *Book Club Companion: a Comprehensive Guide to the Reading Group Experience*. Penguin Group, 2006.

Niebuhr, Gary Warren. *Read 'Em Their Writes: A Handbook for Mystery Book Discussions*. Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

<http://www.bookspot.com/discussion/>

<http://www.readinggroupguides.com/content/index.asp>



Books and Discussion

Program Title:

Online Book Discussion Chat with Author Rochelle Krich

Description/Summary:

Award-winning mystery writer, Rochelle Krich, is willing to talk online about her Molly Blume books to interested groups. To set up a time and date, just e-mail her at rochellekrich@aol.com.

Study guides are available for all four of her Molly Blume books:

"Blues in the Night"

"Dream House"

"Grave Endings"

"Now You See Me"

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

Computer and screen

High speed Internet connection

MS Messenger 7 (free download) and MS account

Speakers

Helpful Hints:

Test the connection with Mrs. Krich before the program begins to make sure everything is working correctly.



Books and Discussion

Program Title:

Read-Aloud Sessions with Older Adults

Description/Summary:

A read-aloud session in a nursing home is not a novel idea, but the materials chosen may be. Residents respond well to Adult New Reader or Literacy books. Stories selected for the literacy program are short, action packed, and about adults. These lend themselves well to reading to small groups or older adults who like a complete story but prefer something short.

Groups of fewer than 15 seem to work out best, and the program should last no longer than 45 minutes.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

Examples of Adult New Reader titles include:

Bill Waite's Will by Allan Moore
The Intruder by Richard Laymon
The Animals by Earle Rice, Jr.

Books and Discussion

Program Title:

Seniors' Book Review: "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor"

Description/Summary:

The social program coordinator at a senior apartment residence was contacted for topics or titles of special interest to the residents. For this discussion, stories of American immigrants were chosen. The program begins with an introduction and a short, 10 minute presentation/book review by the librarian, followed by a question/answer period. The program usually runs about 40 minutes.

This book review program is provided on a regular basis with various topics or themes followed in each session. Residents who are especially well read are encouraged to participate as fully as possible and are often instrumental in interesting others in reading.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

For this review, the books used were: *Leah's Journey* by Gloria Goldreich and *Russian Journal* by Andrea Lee.

Other authors for this topic could be: Shalom Asch, Howard Fast, Joel Gross, Elia Kazan, Claire Rayner, or Fred Mustard among others.

Helpful Hints:

Make use of the residence or nursing home newsletter to publicize your program. For those who wish to read what you have just advertised, have plenty of copies on hand of the titles reviewed.

Use large visual aids when possible to enhance your program. Use a microphone for the benefit of some patrons with limited hearing.



Books and Discussion

Program Title:

Stories by the Word Weavers

Description/Summary:

An hour of stories (folk, fairy, literary, contemporary, original) told for adults by a troupe of storytellers from the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Older adults especially appreciate stories, many of which they fondly remember experiencing as children. Some also will then wish to tell their own stories.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

A table in front of the room contains hats, shawls, shirts, etc. used by the two-to-nine members of the troupe to help capture the flavor of various stories. A candle on the table is lighted to introduce the program and set the mood. A stool near the table is used by some of the storytellers. Articles in local media and the library newsletter are used to promote the event.

Books and Discussion

Program Title:

Women: A Series of Group Discussions

Description/Summary:

At the first session, the presenter gave a quick, general review of women's roles in the past and up to the present. She explained that the group would be using excerpts from books to go more in depth at following sessions. Each person was asked to write down her ideas of what kind of a person a modern woman should be. Each participant read her paper aloud and the group commented. They did the same thing at the last session to see if ideas had changed. Program length: 12 half hour sessions. Preliminary research: three hours. Research time depends on person's previous knowledge of the subject. Preparation prior to each session: 15 minutes.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

Chairs in a circle

Paper and pencils

Copies of handouts

Taped classical music for background

Typical books: *The Feminine Mystique*, *The Kitchen Sink Papers*, encyclopedias, etc.

Publicity: Senior Center newsletter, local paper, etc.

Held at Senior Center Branch Library. Group had met previously and requested these sessions.

Helpful Hints:

Have everyone sign an attendance sheet each time. Librarian should actively participate with her feelings and ideas; otherwise others will feel she may be passing judgment on their remarks. Draw out those who are hesitant, and don't let others dominate all sessions. Limit group size to 10 members. If more than 10, have two groups. Assure anyone who must miss that you are looking forward to seeing them next time.