

STEAL THESE IDEAS



TEEN SERVICES DIVISION

STEAL THESE DISPLAYS

Book Awards — Create displays to encourage Teens to vote in the Teen Top Ten or Buckeye Book Awards.

Back to School — Show off all those alternative school (magic school, spy schools, etc) books and add school supply props or donations.

TAB Display— With the help of your Teen Advisory Board or teen volunteers, create a display showing off their picks!

I Love Brainy People — Highlight your non-fiction with a zombie theme

The Blank Slate— Leave a display empty with some simple instructions for it to be filled by the teen readers at your library.

BookTok—Tap into trends by searching for popular BookTok books

Floral Prints—Teen books with flowers are everywhere! Show them off with some floral props and add an easy flower craft or coloring pages.



STEAL THESE BOOKS

Some of our favorite titles of the last couple years! Don't *actually* steal them!

FICTION

***Run Away with Me* by Brain Selznick**

Danny is spending his sixteenth summer in Rome. He mysterious Angelo. Friendship grows into love—amid secrets, fear, and self-discovery.

***The Bad Ones* by Melissa Albert**

When her estranged best friend, Becca, goes missing, along with three other people, Nora follows coded messages Becca left for her to unravel, leading Nora to a legendary goddess who played a role in their own childhood games.

***When We Ride* by Rex Ogle**

Diego doesn't mind giving his best friend Lawson a ride when he is only selling weed, but when Lawson begins to sell more dangerous drugs it puts both boys in danger.

***Not Like Other Girls* by Meredith Adamo**

A great debut novel about how girls are treated. It has suspense and mystery, as Jo is determined to find out why her ex-best friend has disappeared.

***When Devils Sing* by Xan Kaur**

Four unlikely allies in a small Southern town investigate the disappearance of a local teen, uncovering a dark and ancient evil rooted in their community.

***And They Were Roommates* by Page Powers**

A hilarious, second-chance-romance about the most unlikely, gay roommate mishap.

***How to Survive a Slasher* by Justine Pucella Winans**

Few people can say they faced the infamous Satterville Wolf Man and lived. But CJ Smith can.

***The Glass Girl* by Kathleen Glasgow**

When fifteen-year-old Bella's latest blackout lands her in the hospital, she enters rehab to confront her addiction to alcohol.

NONFICTION

***Death in the Jungle: Murder, Betrayal, and the Lost Dream of Jonestown* by Candace Fleming**

From a master of narrative nonfiction comes a chilling chronicle of one of the most notorious cults in American history.

***Rising from the Ashes: Los Angeles, 1992 : Edward Jae Song Lee, Latasha Harlins, Rodney King, and A City on Fire* by Paula Yoo**

A compelling, nuanced account of Los Angeles's 1992 uprising and its impact on its Korean and Black American communities.

GRAPHICS (F & NF)

***Dan in Green Gables* by Rey Terciero**

Dan is abandoned by his free-spirited mother with his estranged grandparents in rural Tennessee. Here, he is forced to adjust to farm life, a new school, and hardest yet--reckoning with his queerness in a severe Southern Baptist community.

***Lunar New Year Love Story* by Gene Luen Yang**

A heartwarming rom-com about fate, family, and falling in love.

***Ash's Cabin* by Jen Wang**

Grandpa talked about building a secret cabin, deep in the California wilderness. Did he ever build it? What if it's still there, waiting for him to come back ... or for Ash to find it?

STEAL THESE PARTNERSHIPS

Libraries across Ohio are partnering with organizations in their area to provide much needed diverse and inclusive programs and services.

- Free Period Products from Aunt Flow. Some libraries have partnered with local non-profit organizations to provide free one-month supplies of period products to menstruators — no questions asked!
- Partnerships with the Rape Crisis Center to provide sexual health programming and information about consent
- Partnerships with LGBTQ+ organizations to provide programming for LGBTQ+ teens, their families, and friends and solidify the library as a safe place for all
- Financial Literacy programming for tweens and teens through a local bank. Third Federal Bank specifically seeks opportunities to offer this service in the community.
- Opportunities to help teens communicate and find their voice with local theatre education groups such as Columbus Children's Theatre
- Help youth under 18 get immediate help and safety by helping your library become a Safe Place location
- Contact your county's Board of Developmental Disabilities to develop programming and make sure your library is accessible to all.
- Partner with United Way. Many do afterschool programming for kids and are happy to work with the library.
- Contact your school district's Pupil Services office which serves students with developmental disabilities. They may want you to visit or to arrange for their students to visit the library.



STEAL THESE PASSIVES

Passives are great to leave out for teens. They can help alleviate boredom.

Add small prizes for participants or completers.

- Have paper/adult coloring books out, along with a bulletin board where they can display their finished creations.
- During exams, put out fidgets and pre-made tear-off to-do lists for them to use.
- Order a sticker mosaic poster from letssticktogether.com and leave it up in the teen space for them to work on.
- Leave out board and card games for them to play, including individual brain games like Kanoodle.
- Have a teen scavenger hunt based on a display theme. Our green book display led to a scavenger hunt about good luck charms from around the world.
- Got an empty wall space? Display a question of the week and let them add sticky notes with their answers.



STEAL THESE PROGRAMS

Slime-a-Geddon: Take our basic slime recipe and mix in other ingredients to make it unique!

Chopped: Use three secret ingredients to make an appetizer, a main dish, and a dessert.

Felt Plushies: Learn how to sew your own creatures.

Cocoa & Canvas: staff-led painting program that requires no artistic ability, just search YouTube for simple painting tutorials that you can lead the teens through (YouTuber Arter is a good place to start).

Tri-C Ghost Hunters: With chapters in Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati, this group will do a free presentation about some of the spooky paranormal activity they have investigated.

Booktroverts: monthly book club, teens read whatever book they want and we discuss the books using a variety of fun games or discussions, drinks are available and they each get a notebook to keep for notetaking that we decorate on their first day.

Artventure: A monthly art program! We did mini canvases, anime character creation, painting new art into/onto classic paintings, etc. Can do any type of librarian led artwork.

Fright Fridays: 4 week program in October that will focus on various elements of horror. We talk about that genre (example: alien invasion) and then watch a movie to go along with it. Books in that genre are available/on display for check out.

Origami: Yasu Ishida did an origami program over the summer – it was great for older elementary through teen.

Creative Correspondence: Write a letter, decorate the envelope, and use a wax seal...very fancy!

SciStarter: If you have a science-loving teen group, use citizen science to record data together.



Don't forget to visit the Programming Librarian site through ALA—lots of great ideas!



SciStarter—
citizen science
activities

STEAL THESE PROGRAMS

Summer Edition

If you follow a summer reading program like CSLP or iREAD—check these out!

DNA & Dinos: Invite a paleontologist or biology grad student to bust myths. Then, teens debate “Should we bring dinosaurs back?” in a mini mock trial or debate club format. Build a DNA strand with candy or beads.

Jurassic Park Interactive Scripts: Search online and enjoy the movie

Dino Dig After Dark: Create a mock “dig site” with sand bins or plaster and tools (no little kids allowed). Teens work in teams to excavate “fossils” and solve a mystery.

Mooncake Makers: Read Mooncakes by Suzanne Walker and Wendy Xu. Make a potion using natural ingredients. Teens can describe what their potion does. End with a mug cake take-and-make or cake tasting.

More Resources: You thought we were done? Heck no! Check out these too!



Do Something! -
Find a service project your volunteers will love!



Teen Services Underground has a very active Facebook group



AG in the classroom has fun lessons like make your own cheese! It's perfect if your library is using iRead's program in 2026.

DON'T STEAL US!

Teen Services Division, 2025

Liz Strauss
Dover Public Library

Rachel Rausch
Delaware County District Library

Julie Gannon
Greene County Public Library

Kelli Freed
Lakewood Public Library

Claire Ehmann
Delaware County District Library

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