

Mensa for Kids Elevate Your Reading Activities

You've read the book, now go the extra mile to show what you've learned!



Post-reading activities can help readers of all ages understand the books they've read, improve their literacy skills, and build a lifelong love of reading. Here are some activities your reader can do while working through the Mensa Foundation's Excellence in Reading list.

Feel free to mix and match activities based on your reader's skill level and unique interests. Happy reading!

K-3

- Illustrate a scene from the story
- Become an actor! Choose a scene from your story and act it out
- Brainstorm what might happen to the characters after the story ends
- Cause and effect – Pick 5 things that happen in the story and try to identify the resulting actions. Brainstorm ways the story could have gone differently!
- Make personal connections – Choose a character from the book and think about their emotions. Write about a time when you felt the same way
- Make connections with another book. What are some similarities and differences?

4-6

- Create a movie poster – Think about the important elements to include in a movie poster and design your own based on the book
- Identify literary elements (characters, protagonist, antagonist, conflict, setting, themes, foreshadowing, irony). Find examples in the book to show how they are used
- Watch a movie adaptation of your book (or a movie inspired by your book) and compare it to the book
- Create a comic or graphic novel based on the book
- Write a series of letters from one character to another
- Write about how it would change the story if a character had made a different decision

Mensa for Kids Elevate Your Reading Activities

7-8

- Pick a character and write a diary from their perspective
- Write a dramatic monologue for a character in the book. You can even take it one step further and act it out!
- Create a newspaper for the book – Include news articles, classified ads, personal ads, letters to the editor, sports, and more based on the world your book is in
- Pick a side character from the book and retell the story from their perspective
- Find a hole in the story where a character disappears. Write about what they're doing while they're gone
- Make a playlist for the book, paying close attention to how the characters in the book feel and how music can represent their emotions

9-12

- Research your book's author. Write about what parts of their life (time period, hometown, current events, gender, race, politics, religion, personal beliefs) influenced their writing
- Research key elements of your book's genre and write about how those elements are expressed in your book
- Evaluate the cover art for your book – Think about what a good book cover should convey and design your own
- Think critically about your book and write a book review! Be sure to evaluate the story, characters, quality of writing, the audience, and how your book fits in its genre. What did the author do right? Where could they improve? Do you think the book belongs on the EIR list? Why or why not?

We love to see our readers in action. Please share your creations with the Mensa Foundation by emailing reading@mensafoundation.org!

