



## Literacy Night Activities Grades 6-8

### Book Tasting from Around the World

**THEME:** Oh, the Places You Will Go!

**LEARNING GOAL:** Exposure to complex texts, develop independent and proficient reading skills.

**LENGTH OF ACTIVITY:** 20-30 minutes

**MATERIALS:** Middle-grade novels centered around traveling and exploring different countries

#### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Place several middle-grade books on a table(s).
- Allow participants to choose one book.
- Set a timer for five-10 minutes and encourage participants to preview and begin reading the book they have chosen.
- Repeat the process three or four more times.
- If possible, allow participants to take the book that interests them the most!

#### PARENT FOLLOW-UP:

- Read novels with your child and look up pictures and information about the actual place of the book's setting.
- Make connections to the story by sharing the similarities and differences to places where you have lived and visited.

#### RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *Clean Getaway* by Nic Stone
- *The Vanderbeekers on the Road* by Karina Yan Glaser
- *Orange for the Sunsets* by Tina Athaide
- *Nowhere Boy* by Katherine Marsh
- *Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring* by Angela Cervantes

## Take Me There!

**THEME:** Oh, the Places You Will Go!

**LEARNING GOAL:** Use general academic vocabulary as well as vocabulary specific to particular subject areas; demonstrate appropriate speaking and listening skills.

**LENGTH OF ACTIVITY:** 10-15 minutes

**MATERIALS:** 100+ printed word strips/cards (traveling and vacation words)

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Spread the word strips/cards randomly across the table.
- Have students choose 10-15 word cards/strips randomly.
- Students should organize the word cards/strips to create an oral story about a place they would like to visit using the words on the card/strip.

### PARENT FOLLOW-UP:

- Take turns creating a story using specific words and phrases.
- Encourage students to describe places using imagery and vivid words.
- Research places around the world and discuss the similarities and differences.

### RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- *The Travel Book: A Journey Through Every Country in the World* by Lonely Planet
  - *Lonely Planet's Where To Go When* by Lonely Planet, Sarah Baxter and Paul Bloomfield
  - *Destinations of a Lifetime: 225 of the World's Most Amazing Places* by National Geographic
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## Wish You Were Here!

**THEME:** Oh, the Places You Will Go!

**LEARNING GOAL:** Write frequently to different audiences and for different purposes, read independently, writing is in response to and centered on the text.

**LENGTH OF ACTIVITY:** 15-20 minutes

**MATERIALS:** Postcards from all over the world, pens, text and articles from various places around the world

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Participants will choose one postcard.
- Read about the place on the card.
- Write a message on the back as if you are visiting that place.
- Address the post card, and place it in the "mailbox."

### PARENT FOLLOW-UP:

- Plan a trip to a place the family would like to visit. Include children in researching and planning an agenda for the trip.
- Talk to children about where they would like to visit, and ask them to give specific reasons why.
- Encourage students to research the places they would like to visit.

### RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- *The Travel Book: A Journey Through Every Country in the World* by Lonely Planet
- *Lonely Planet's Where To Go When* by Lonely Planet, Sarah Baxter and Paul Bloomfield
- *Destinations of a Lifetime: 225 of the World's Most Amazing Places* by National Geographic