Ideas for Children’s Book Week Australia 2013 by Susan Stephenson

www.thebookchook.com
www.susanstephenson.com.au
Take me to your readers!

Read Across the Universe
In 2013, I was asked by the Children’s Book Council Australia Committee to give a PPT presentation to librarians about online resources they could use for Children’s Book Week, with the theme, *Read Across the Universe*. Because the presentation was to be a Pecha Kucha - 30 slides in 3 minutes - I resolved to create a booklet to accompany my presentation. That way, I knew that people who attended would have a back-up if they couldn’t read fast enough! If you missed the original presentation, I hope this booklet might provide you too with ideas you can use to celebrate Children’s Book Week, or use anytime when you want to have kids create, communicate and engage with literature.

NASA Goddard Photo and Video, [on Flickr](https://www.flickr.com/), has favourably licensed images you might like to use for backgrounds, poster-making, digital image projects. We’re permitted to copy and share images with attribution. At right is the NASA image I used at the start of my PPT presentation.

“Lord! when you sell a man a book you don't sell just twelve ounces of paper and ink and glue - you sell him a whole new life. Love and friendship and humour and ships at sea by night - there's all heaven and earth in a book, a real book.” ~Christopher Morley

Try speed-dating with books. Set new books out, one in front of each child. They have 2 minutes to get to know a book, according to criteria you determine. When 2 minutes is up, bell rings, or use an online timer, then kids must switch books. Kids can keep a tally of books they want to see more of! (Image from Clker clipart.)

Engage kids with books by having them predict short-listed titles and defend their choices. Battle of the books!

Book Battles!
Another photo competition is Extreme Reading, where kids try to have pictures of themselves reading in unusual ways, spaces and costumes. Remind kids to take a book wherever they go, because you never know when a photo op arises!

Challenge students to use some of the snaps they’ve taken of themselves reading to make a collage, or add to Comic Life software. Seuss-like rhyming couplets can be added in captions to make a creative presentation. Here’s mine:

I can read them on the rocks
I can read them without socks
I can read them up a tree
Even read when eyes watch me
I read books everywhere!

Student challenge: Take one giant step outside your comfort zone and read in a different genre or format. Image credit, NASA Goddard on Flickr

Senior kids could create a poll or questionnaire to assess younger children’s interests. They could pair off with a child from a junior class to try to match them with a book that might suit them.
When looking for display ideas, don’t forget web apps, and apps for tablets as a way to generate images. Comic editors in particular are a great way to come up with words and images that suit a theme. Photo booths can be really popular if you have time to gather props and make a backdrop. For some library display tips, check out DETWA, and SchoolLibraryDisplays.

Why not try a space pirate theme for a photo booth that meshes with Read Across the Universe? Make a rocket ship from cardboard, with a window for waving. Kids will love posing with their favourite books wearing wigs, funky hats, patches, and steam punk gear.

Have kids create a Google Doodle with a space theme. See much better examples online.

Create a poster at PosterMyWall.

Create a pulp magazine cover at Pulp-o-mizer.
Design a logo at CoolText Graphics Generator.

Create a comic. This one was made in Comics Head, an iPad app. If you’d like a list of other comic editors I like with ideas for using them, I have a free PDF available at my website called Using Comic Editors with Kids.

Create an avatar. This one was generated via Minimizer 3.0.

Interview a friend, or create and interview a character. Try Voki, Blabberize or Xtranormal.

Collaboratively create a newspaper. This one started as a template from Google docs. Search for “Elementary Student Newspaper Template Page 1”.
Create a digital story at Storybird, Storyjumper or Kerpoof.

Create a writing prompt or generate a character with an image editor. Pictured is from The Discovery Channel’s Shark Yourself.

Make a presentation at Powtoon.

Make a presentation via iPad app, Haiku Deck.

Write a poem or play with words at Pic-Lits.
Ideas for Children's Book Week Australia 2013 by Susan Stephenson is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia License. This license means you are free to download and share this booklet with others as long as you credit me, but you can't change it in any way or use it commercially. Contact me via www.thebookchook.com with comments or questions.

Create an information text with ThingLink. I generated an image by creating a document in Pages (Mac), and taking a screen grab, then embedded further content (video, audio, images, text etc) via ThingLink.

Have kids create their own ads to persuade people to read, or read specific books. Add captions to photos via free online photo editors like Ribbet.

Create book-related jokes. Find public domain images like this one at Wikimedia Commons and add speech bubbles and text via an image editor like Ribbet.
For many more Book Week ideas, check out Activities for Children’s Book Week 2013, Activities for Children’s Book Week 2012 and How to Celebrate Book Week at The Book Chook. If you want more information about most of the ideas in this booklet, google “The Book Chook (name of tool)” to see if I can help. Or search The Book Chook blog via the sidebar buttons of Free PDFs, Reviews, Creating, Learning, Reading, Writing and Celebrating. You’ll also find lots of ideas to support children’s literacy at the Fun with Learning blog on my website.