

## **“Read It Forward” Teen Collaboration Idea**

**Description:** a summer program where teens (approximately grades 6-12) read a featured title and pass the book to their peers who continue the cycle of reading and sharing.

**Deadline to indicate interest in participating:** March 1

**Purpose:** foster teen reading and communication about books, promote collaboration with schools, call attention to quality teen literature, encourage parents to read and discuss books with teens.

**Number of participating libraries:** no limit

**Process:**

1. Interested libraries send one representative to meeting where group chooses a title or titles. (Done for 2016. Title: I Have A Bad Feeling About This by Jeff Strand.)
2. Buy as many copies of the title(s) as you see fit, at a group discount price. This year: approximately \$6. None of the RIF copies are cataloged. Books do not get checked out to teens. No due dates, fines, or lost fees – just teens reading a great book and passing it on to more teens to read. Purchase with the expectation that the print copies will NOT return to the library.
3. Systems will create and attach a label similar to this in front of book:  
“No due dates, no late fees, just  
Read It Forward!  
Teens: RIF! Read this book, then pass it along to a friend! Want to share what you thought of it?  
Fill out a quick survey for a chance to win a prize: [\(survey link\)](#).  
Visit your public library and share your comments with the librarian or in the comment box in the teen area.  
ENJOY THE BOOK!  
A collaborative project of Upper Hudson Library System and Mohawk Valley Library System”

System will add this note written in back of book: “So? What did you think? Write it here!”

System will add a small sticker on the front of the cover of the book thus: “No due dates, no late fees, just READ IT FORWARD! See inside for details!”

Individual libraries will stamp their library name or attach a sticker on bottom of title page of book. No other labels will go on books.

- There will be one URL where readers go to take the survey, and also to see where their book has been (and note where it was with them), similar to the book crossing concept. The inside cover label will point them to this URL.
- There will be one prize offered per library, assembled by each library on its own. Mary and Sue will choose the winner for each library from among the survey respondents. A

suggested prize is a copy of the book Deadly Perils and How to Avoid Them plus whatever else we each find for a survival kit (vendor giveaways we've received that fit the theme such as water bottles, flashlights, etc.) Clever and funny ideas for the survival kit prizes will be posted to the RIF Facebook Group.

4. Pass the books out to teens at the library, at programs, at school visits, etc. Expect that not all books will find their way back to the library. This is part of the cost of the program!
5. Promotion: a website, with information about the program and how to participate more prominent on the page. Book trailers or other resources will also be linked.
6. Gather statistics by counting comments, and/or by estimating: X number of copies x Y number of weeks of program x Z average number of checkouts per week.
7. Encourage greater participation through:
  - Activities/programs related to book
  - Book discussion for parents only to familiarize them with the book and train them in talking to their kids about books and the sensitive issues they provide openings to discuss. Post tips on library website.
  - Collaboration with schools.

#### "Rules" for teen readers:

- Read the book.
- Optional: comment (through means provided)
- Give your book to a friend to read, telling him/her what you thought of it.
- Tell your friend that when she/he is through reading to pass it on to another friend to read. Keep Read It Forward going!

#### **Funding:**

- Books: each library funds its own paperbacks. Think budget, Friends, community sponsorships.
- Author visits:
  - Skype visits with the author might be possible.
  - Public libraries that want an author visit will fund the author's fee through collaboration with schools or other community agencies, Friends groups, business sponsorships, or budget.

#### **Questions?**

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