

“One Book, One Community, One Family” How-to Guide

By Monica Romig

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Form an Intergenerational “IG” Leadership Team

- Working together with other organizations means involving more people in your vision and getting support from others as you realize your program.
 - Connect the senior center, library, community center, schools, recreation department, places of worship, scout troops, other organizations. Have one person from each organization join your intergenerational leadership team.
 - Plan to meet together three times.
1. At the first meeting
 - Choose a book—see BridgesTogether.org for a list of intergenerational books.
 - Decide a timeframe of when you will read the book.
 - Figure out who will do PR.
 - Brainstorm the types of events you could hold. Each organization should plan to host one or more events connected to the book. Consider using the “Smarts” Theory to plan your events.
 2. At the second meeting
 - Review and schedule activities
 - Go over any logistics
 - Plan to go to each other's events
 3. After the events, hold a wrap-up & review meeting:
 - Discuss what went well
 - Reflect on what you will do differently next time

2

Publicity

- 1) Have one person on the team work on public relations – This is a great opportunity for a high school or college student
- 2) Put together a booklet with all of the information about the program—event times, dates, and locations. Include corporate sponsor advertising pages and acknowledgments.
- 3) Design a banner that each organization displays at their events. Have participants sign the banner, and showcase all of the signed banners at the end of the program.

3

Funding

You will need funding for speakers and supplies for your programs and events.

Consider working with

- Local foundations
- Friends' groups
- Parent-teacher organizations
- Individual donors
- Local businesses and corporate sponsors

Recognize these funding partners at each of the events, and include them in your program of events booklet.

Multiple Intelligences

“Smarts” Theory

- Event ideas on the following pages are organized by Gardner's Multiple Intelligences “Smarts” Theory.
- Dr. Howard Gardner suggested that people are smart in more ways than one. Not everyone is the same—each person has unique intelligences or “smarts.” These event ideas correspond to the 8 intelligences described by Gardner: people, logic, word, body, picture, nature, music, and self.
- By providing programs and events that call upon different “smarts,” everyone in the community can benefit and participate!

For more resources, check out
<http://www.ala.org/programming/onebook>

Event Ideas for The Fourteenth Goldfish: Believe in the ~~Impossible~~ Possible

by Jennifer L. Holm

People Smart

All of the activities listed on these pages are People Smart, because they involve interacting with others. The following ideas specifically speak to People Smart strengths.

Have people host book groups in their own homes with their friends.

p. 88 – Have students interview a grandparent or grand-friend and compile a “favorite recipes” list.

p. 100 – Encourage individuals to meet the people who moved into their previous home, or the family that used to live in the home they now occupy. Alternatively, they could ask neighbors about what the neighborhood was like before they moved in.

p. 121 – As a town, raise awareness for a cause. Host a rally in the town with booths, posters, and opportunities to volunteer or raise money. Provide roles for kids, teens, adults and seniors to participate – Perhaps the children and the seniors work together to create the posters. The teens and the seniors share the responsibility of running an information booth.

p. 130 – Organize a Generations Dance for the community, and encourage residents of all ages to attend. Play music and lead line dances from different decades of history.

Logic Smart

p. 1 – Have a cooking class that meets a number of times or a one-time event that features meals from the book, ex. Flax cookies, burritos, coq au vin.

p. 5 – Host a jigsaw puzzle day or tournament. Set up tables in the library or community center with puzzles and encourage younger and older people to work together to solve them. OR have a community jigsaw puzzle open during the whole month at a community building, and have people sign a guestbook as they place pieces together.

p. 17 – Work with the local school science departments to host an “Open Lab” event where the community can tour the science lab at a school and work on an experiment themselves. OR have a science teacher/ research scientist give a presentation about experiments mentioned in the book and other related information.

p. 153 – Host a town-wide Nobel Prize ceremony that recognizes achievements by residents, either in categories from the actual Nobel Prize or categories specific to your town. Ask individuals to interview the winners and submit the write-ups to the local paper or to an online publication.

Word Smart

Make acrostic poems with “impossible” or “possible” words.

p. 75 – Start a writing club. Write epilogues to famous stories and fairy tales to continue after the “happily ever after.” Compile the epilogues into a literary magazine.

p. 153 – Have a “Historical Science Fair” where people research famous scientific discoveries and present them as the historical figures at a special event. Hold it in the high school gym and invite the public to tour the science experiments and ask the “historic scientists” questions.

p. 176 – Stage readings of excerpts from *Catcher in the Rye*, *Our Town*, and other plays and books mentioned in the book.

Body Smart

p. 34 – Hold a community-wide volleyball tournament. Give prizes for different ages, and recognize intergenerational teams!

p. 82 – Teach people how to write their name in hieroglyphics.

p. 130 – Have a community dance where all generations are invited to show off their dance moves. Play the music from different eras and have everyone dress from their favorite time period.

p. 176 – Put on a community production of *Our Town*.

Music Smart

p. 100 – Play music at the fashion show that connects to each style of clothing and era represented.

p. 130 – At the Generations Dance, play music from different generations. Have someone teach the dance moves that go with each style of music.

-Organize a community band or chorus that rehearses and then performs.

-Make a playlist of songs about themes from the book, aging, science, etc. OR create a playlist from different decades with top 10 songs from each decade.

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Picture Smart

Draw pictures of what you would invent or discover if you could. OR draw someone in your life that has a huge impact on you on a beaker-shaped piece of paper.

– Fashion and clothing is a theme throughout the book. Have residents design or style clothing and put on a fashion show. Use the characters from the book as inspiration. OR make it themed by era and watch the styles change over time. Have individuals from the community be the runway models, with models wearing the style of clothing from the era when they were teenagers.

p. 9 – Decorate a wall with handprints from people in the community. Have people sign their handprints. Recognize the different size hands from children, teens, adults, seniors etc. Have individuals color code their hands by age, or the neighborhood they live in. OR use multicultural markers.

p. 82 – Host an exhibit about hieroglyphics (using library books, drawings created by an art class, a presenter who is interested in Egyptian history and communication). OR plan a museum trip.

p. 66 – Make simple slippers out of felt as an activity for someone in a different generation. Then give them the slippers as a gift the way Melvin gave slippers to Ellie. OR donate them to a shelter.

p. 186 – Hold a “Classic Horror Movie” viewing to watch an Alfred Hitchcock film or another movie that appeals to multiple generations.

Nature Smart

p. 3 – Have a special service to remember pets that have passed away. Individuals can bring photos of their pets or create art pieces that are displayed at a local funeral home or community center.

p. 26 – Plan a trip to the aquarium to see the jellyfish (or to a beach if your town is near the ocean). OR have an animal expert give a presentation on sea creatures.

p. 52 – Hold an apple festival, plant apple trees, learn about grafting and different varieties of apples. Have an apple tasting event.

p. 100 – At the senior center, a school, or another community location plant flowers like lavender and other perennials that will return year after year.

p. 136 – Ask science teachers to donate microscopes with interesting slides to an event where people can see bacteria and other specimens firsthand.

–Grow mold as a science experiment and look at it under a microscope. Give an award for “best mold.”

Self Smart

Keep in mind:

- Society's view on aging has become increasingly negative. We can see this in the way people associate the word “old” with almost exclusively negative meanings.
- Aging is something that everyone has in common. Aging well, with an understanding of the challenges as well as the benefits, is something that must be fostered. One way we can influence how people think about aging is through self reflection, especially with intergenerationally themed books like *The Fourteenth Goldfish*.
- Self reflection is a skill that many children today are missing.

Incorporate quiet time into any of these events and play some gentle music so people can reflect on the experience by drawing or writing. Provide quiet spaces and calm music to create ambience for journaling. Set up a time for groups to meet together to share about their reflections.

–Create journals—first, create the paper and then bind the pages together.

– Encourage journaling that connects to the book. Think about questions like:

- Have you ever had a friend that drifted away?
- Have you been the one who has drifted because of a changing interest?
- How would you feel if your grandparent was suddenly a teenager again?
- If you could be any age, what age would you be and why?
- If you could invent anything, what would it be and why?
- What did you think was impossible for you but was actually possible?
- Remember a positive experience with a grandparent.
- Ellie decided the world was not ready for a “fountain of youth.” Do you agree with her? Why or why not?