

Session idea

Don't Judge a Book by its Cover

What it is

A range of activities exploring book jackets and what they reveal about the story inside.

How it works

- ☞ **Talk about** can you judge a book by its cover? What does the jacket tell us about what's inside the book? What are some of your favourite book covers? Are there any book covers you dislike or think don't suit their story?
- ☞ **Read together** opening paragraphs or first lines of well-known books and see if you can match them with their book.
- ☞ **Have fun** and vote for your favourite covers – or your least favourite! Design your own cover, inspired by a favourite book or poem.
- ☞ **Look at** any pictures e.g. from internet picture and gallery websites, or cut out from magazines. If each of these was a book cover what title would you give to the book?
- ☞ **Think about** a book you picked up because you liked the cover. Did you enjoy the story? Are there any books you really enjoyed as a child? Can you remember their covers?

How did it go?

- Take photos or write down quotes to capture the session and (with permissions) share them on social media.
- Get feedback about the session.
- Think about what worked well, and anything you would change.
- Keep each session plan plus feedback notes for future use and for sharing with other Reading Friends projects.



This session can be adapted for group or one-to-one sessions

✓ Tips

Make the pictures as clear as possible for people to see – maybe scan them to A4 or A3 size. You could make several copies so that people each have one to look at.

Likewise, make copies of poems and stories etc. so that the text is clear and good-sized.

✓ Resources

See our Don't Judge a Book by its Cover resource pack for discussion ideas, book suggestions and a selection of book cover images.

Use your local library and archives centre for books, pictures, and reminiscence resources. Many libraries have online digital offerings, even though they are currently closed.

Useful websites:

www.readingagency.org.uk/books/
www.pexels.com
www.tate.org.uk
www.goodreads.com