

# The Bodacious Book Show Approach

## How to Make Your READING Program Truly Bodacious

Our Goal= To make students want to read after the program is over.

- By steering them towards books that are so good they want to read more •
  - By making everything about reading exciting •

**Great Books Make Great Readers** - We focus on what kids read in addition to how many books they read. While you're developing the habit of reading you can also develop the joy of reading. Discovering you love a book and want to read it again, or that you like a certain author, can begin a lifelong relationship with books.

**We Bring Books to Life** - You can shake the dust off kids' perceptions of books with a little fun. Performing comic poems or acting out a fairytale reinforces the reading experience and we do it with student volunteers joining us onstage to bring a book or story to life. You might not remember every book you read in school, but seeing your friends onstage or being onstage yourself makes a story memorable.

**Books Are an Endless Resource** - Everything we do in our three shows either comes from a book, talks about a book or makes fun of a book. If you need an idea for a Reading program theme, you can look to a book, too. Use book characters for costumes if you're dressing up the teachers. Relate your theme to specific books. Use book images for decorations. Make books ubiquitous. It makes them cool.

**Remind the Parents of Their Own Joy of Reading** - In family night performances we make a point of reminding parents about the books they loved as a child, to help inspire the Parents to become Reading Partners with their kids. If they go home and share their favorite books with their child you've won.

*In our "Bodacious Book Shows" we:*

- *Help students feel good about the books they do know •*
- *Help them feel good about the books other kids know - and be interested •*
- *Use competition to get them all involved - a competition where all the kids win •*
- *Entice them to books by making everything about books fun and exciting •*

# The BODACIOUS Book Shows

*Teachers, PTAs and Students agree these shows really motivate kids to read!*



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## Getting Bodacious About Books -- The Bodacious Book Show

For more than fifteen years The Bodacious Book Shows have been an integral part of the reading programs at hundreds of Elementary schools. Educators and administrators have seen that the fun approach we bring to books is an effective tool for motivating reluctant readers. We use an arts-in-education approach in our assembly programs to make reading exciting, including getting the whole audience to participate in the “Have You READ IT?” Game Show and in bringing poetry and books to life.

**bodacious** |bō'dā sh əs|- adjective informal: blend of **bold** and **audacious**: Remarkable, courageous, spirited

The goal of a bodacious approach to books is to help students recall the fun they've had with the books they've read; help them feel good about their reading by sharing their experience with their fellow students; get them interested in the books the other students have read; and entice them to read more by making everything about books fun and exciting. Participatory performance and theater games can help achieve these goals with interactive competitions and challenges about popular books and by bringing books, poetry and folktales to life through performance and presentation.

Books are an endless resource for activities. With a little fun you can shake off a student's negative perceptions of books as dull and archaic. Performing a poem instead of just reading it out loud. Bringing book characters to life through costumes or skits. Staging a “battle of the books” quiz show competition or doing book reviews like a Siskel and Ebert TV show — all of these are theatrically based activities that are more fun, more memorable, less static and less time-consuming than a tri-board, for example. From years of experience in creating and performing the very popular and successful Bodacious Book Shows, we have observed the positive effects on students using some of these simple techniques. A keystone of the show, “The ‘Have You READ It?’ Game” — hosted by Bob Bookmark and Rita Digest — has the entire audience competing by answering questions about great books. We also use student volunteers to act out classic children's books with us on stage. You may not remember every book you read in school, but seeing your friends perform or being in a skit yourself makes a story memorable, and that is a powerful positive reinforcement of the reading experience.

Great books make great readers. Discovering that you love a book and want to read it again, or that you like a certain author, can begin a lifelong relationship with books. It's important to expand and reinforce a young reader's relationship with the books they've read through experiential activities that actualize the joy inherent in reading good books. What a kid reads is as important as how much, so in our assembly programs we focus on tried and true children's classics and exciting multicultural and adventure stories. Getting kids talking and thinking about the books they've read, making their reading experience an active part of their interaction with other students, goes a long way to generate a personal enthusiasm which will self-motivate them to continue the reading adventure on their own after the reading program is over.