

Story Time Capsule

This is a really great project to do in response to a book your family has read together!

Supplies

- story or chapter book
- container (plastic storage bin, for example)
- other items dependent on chosen book

A wonderful activity that synthesizes the reading of a story with a real-life project is the creation of a time capsule. Children will be enthralled with the possibility of opening up their assembled collection of items in the future.

After reading your selected story, choose a container to be your time capsule. In it, you are going to store the items you choose to represent the story, so its size will be dependent upon your story. Some ideas for containers are a plastic storage bin with a lid, a sturdy box, a wooden crate, or a bucket with a lid.

Decorate your container to match the story. Images and illustrations from the book can be drawn or pasted to the outside of the box. Words and descriptions can also be used. The title of the book and the date of the time capsule's creation can be displayed prominently on the inside or outside of the container.

Next comes the fun part. Discuss the story with your child or family. Focus on the characters and their characteristics, the setting or places where the story took place, and the main events that happened throughout the story. It's helpful to have a family member be a "secretary" and write down the main parts of your discussion. Then begin to think about items that might represent the characters (things they liked/disliked, how they behaved/reacted, what they looked like, etc.), the setting, and the events. If a character liked to garden, you might include a packet of seeds or a trowel. If another character loved chocolate cake, you might draw a picture of her eating a piece of chocolate cake. If the story took place in Vermont, you may want to include a map of that area. If an event in the story was a picnic, a checkered blanket may be something you'd add to your story time capsule. Of course, you'll want to include a copy of the book! Your imagination is the limit, so really enjoy this process!

As you agree upon the items you will be including in the time capsule, keep in mind the size of the container that you selected. Limit the number of items to ten, so that you don't go overboard. Limiting the number of items also will challenge your children to focus on the most important aspects of the story. Lastly, decide where the container will be stored, and for how long.

Before the storage of your time capsule, retell the story to friends and family using the selected items as props. Your audience might become motivated to read the same book, and create a story time capsule of their own!