



Variations and Extended Learning Literacy Adventure:

“Holy Reading, Batman!”

Make your own comic, and read some too!

Aventura de alfabetización: ¡Sea un superhéroe en la biblioteca con novelas gráficas y cómics!

Age Range: K + up

Group Size: flexible

Time Range: 45-90 min



In this Variations and Extended Learning guide you will find a wide variety of research-supported tips for engaging participants of various ages, cultures, languages and abilities in the Literacy Adventure “Holy Reading, Batman!”

Tips include: Ways to shorten or extend the program; ways to work with pairs and with groups of different sizes, ages, and language mixes; additional activities; discussion ideas and sentence prompts; DIY stations and other passive program ideas; vocabulary extension activities; what to do if participants finish early; ideas for K-3 storytimes; and suggestions for family engagement.



Key Elements and Strategies for Any K-3 Literacy Adventure

Every literacy adventure should include these fundamental, research-based elements and strategies to foster literacy development. See Key Elements and Key Strategies for more detailed information.

Key Elements:

- Read aloud
- Book browsing and choice
- Nurture diversity
- Draw connections
- Have fun!

Key Strategies

- Read aloud interactively
- Ask the three VTS questions
- Make time for discussion in pairs
- Extend language
- Nurture diversity in languages

Hook: My Favorite Character!

Short on Time?

- Skip the final group share. Start by introducing your favorite character; have participants think about theirs; and then have them pair up and talk before continuing.
- Keep things moving by setting a time limit and using a bell or a call-and-response hand clap to prompt prompting pairs to switch who is talking with a bell or call and response hand clap.

Extended Learning:

- Invite participants to come dressed as their favorite character or bring a prop that represents their character. You could also provide costume/prop items for participants to use. Provide some time before participants pair up for them to really get into character.
- Set up a photo booth! Take photos of participants/families dressed-up and ask them to write a caption for their photo. Share photos and captions on a bulletin board, website, or on social media. Note: Make sure to get appropriate permission and/or photo releases from families before taking or sharing any photos.

Book Browsing Time: Talking Comics

Short on Time?

- Skip the booktalks, but do make sure to model how to look for mentor texts. This can be as simple as showing one panel from a comic/graphic novel and modeling what parts you would use in your own comic.

Variation:

- Consider including a laptop or tablet with access to your library's ebook collection for participants to browse. Highlight an ebook during your booktalk and give participants some quick tips on how to open and navigate electronic books.
- Consider including a laptop or tablet with access to a select list of freely available [webcomics](#) for participants to browse. Highlight a webcomic during your booktalk and give participants some quick tips on how to navigate the web comic site(s) you selected.

Adventure: Creating Comics

Brainstorm:

Short on Time?

Write up the story elements ahead of time and focus on brainstorming ideas for each element.

Say: *You may have noticed that the stories we read today shared some of the same elements. They all had characters, settings, action/ a problem to solve, and a solution or resolution. Keep these elements in mind as you are writing your comics! Let's brainstorm some ideas for each element.*

Extended Learning:

Extend the brainstorming session by creating a short comic story together as a group. If you have participants who are eager to draw in front of the group, invite them to help with drawing the panels. Or, you can be the artist and solicit ideas from the group as to how each panel should look. Focus on modeling how to incorporate story elements as well as elements specific to comics/graphic novels, like balloons, emanata, and panels.

Write:

Variation: Online Comic Creators

Consider offering access to a free online comic creation tool for participants to use on a laptop or tablet. These tools allow young writers to create a comic story by choosing pre-drawn elements like characters and backgrounds, and then adding their own dialog with type written speech bubbles. These tools offer another entry point into comic creation for participants who may have barriers to writing and/or drawing. Many have options for printing finished work and/or sharing through email or social media.

Online Comic Creation Resources:

- readwritethink.org: Comic Creator
- Makebeliefscomix.com
- Toondoo.com

Vocabulary Extension Activities

Introducing new vocabulary provides many opportunities for extension activities. Here are a few you might try:

- Write the word on an index card or small poster so children see the word as well as hear the word.
- Say and use the word as many times as possible and reasonable during your introduction to the word and throughout the activity.
- Ask the children to say the word aloud. Ask them to turn to a partner and say the word. It's important that they get used to pronouncing the word.

- Playful interactions with words help reinforce comprehension. Ask children to make a face that looks like the word, act it out, draw it in the air, etc. If there is a antonym (word with opposite meaning) ask the children to act/draw this out as well.
- Using the word in context is the single best way for new word learning to solidify. Try to use the word throughout your activity. Encourage the students to try out using the word as well. Celebrate students' attempts as a whole group.
- Invite the children and families to try using these words throughout the rest of their day when possible.