

***Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Pérez** **Passive Programs**

General Introduction to Passive Program

These passive programs are intended to be used by teachers and librarians to reach out to teens who may not attend a traditional scheduled library program. Passive programs can be left in a central location for a predetermined amount of time so anyone passing by can interact with or experience the activity.

Notes for Our Future

In this passive activity teens will write letters of advice to those in the future to be included in a time capsule.

Books to Display or Book Talk

Call Me By My Name by John Ed Bradley

Time Capsules: A Cultural History by William Jarvis

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

The Time Capsule by Lurlene McDaniel

We Were Here: A Short History of Time Capsules by Patricia Seibert

Activity Supply List

Pencils

Acid Free Paper

Watertight container to serve as time capsule (preferably made of polyethylene, aluminum, or stainless steel)

Shovel (optional)

Access to printer

Detailed Description of Activity

There are many important things that we can learn from our history. In this activity teens are invited to write to other teens in the future to give them advice.

Start by selecting a retrieval date for your capsule. The longer the duration, the more challenging the retrieval will be.

Provide the teens with acid free paper and pencils (ink will stain and change over time) to write their notes to the future. The paper and pens can be left out in any easily accessible area so teens can write their letters when it is convenient for them. Near the paper put out a sign

explaining the activity (see example). It may also be helpful to provide teens with some writing prompts (examples included).

Once you have collected all of the letters that you wish to include put them all in your time capsule container. The time capsule can be buried, or it can be sealed and left somewhere in your library or school with instructions about when to open it.

It is not recommended to bury your time capsule, but if you are burying your time capsule be sure to note its location so it can be found in the future. Seal your time capsule with two part epoxy before burying. The Minnesota Historical Society recommends that the capsule also be sealed inside a 6-mil polyethylene bag or wrapping to provide further protection. They also recommend burying the capsule at least three feet deep to protect against wide temperature fluctuation. Time capsule packages can be purchased from Future Packaging and Preservation (www.futurepkg.com) starting at around \$180.00.

Register your capsule with the International Time Capsule Society so there is an external record of your capsule. To register your capsule visit, <http://crypt.oglethorpe.edu/international-time-capsule-society/register-your-time-capsule/>.

Activity Resources

Time Capsule Instruction Sheet
Time Capsule Writing Prompts

Activity Resources for Teens, Teachers & Librarians

Future Packaging and Preservation: <http://www.futurepkg.com/>
International Time Capsule Society: <http://crypt.oglethorpe.edu/international-time-capsule-society/>
Minnesota Historical Society, Building a Time Capsule: <http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/conservation/reports/timecapsule.pdf>
Library of Congress, Making a Family Time Capsule: <http://www.loc.gov/preservation/family/timecap.html>
Teaching With Time
Capsules: http://www.si.edu/MCI/downloads/REACT/time_capsule_read.pdf

Book Cover Design Contest

In this activity teens will make a new book cover for *Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Pérez. Teens can then turn in their designs to be entered into a contest.

Books to Display or Book Talk

By Its Cover: Modern American Book Cover Design by Ned Drew and Paul Sternberge

Activity Supply List

Paper
Pencils
Markers
Colored Pencils
Crayons
Discarded magazines
Glue
Access for teens to computer

Detailed Description of Activity

How often have you heard, “don’t judge a book by its cover?” While it is definitely impossible to judge a book by its cover, the cover can heavily influence whether or not we read a book. In this activity teens will be given a chance to redesign the cover of *Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Pérez.

There are several ways that teens can design their book covers by illustrating with coloring materials, creating a collage from discarded magazines or creating the cover digitally. All three methods can be used, or you can single out certain media to use.

Canva is a website that has templates to make book cover designs that can be downloaded or printed. It is very easy to use. There are images that the site charges to use, so the teens will need to be sure that they choose the images labeled as free in their designs.

The contest portion of the activity can be hosted digitally via Facebook, a website, or another online platform such as Flickr where you can share images of the entries. If you are using Facebook the number of likes an entry receives could be the method of voting and choosing a winner. Entries can also be displayed in a public place for the contest. Place a number by each entry and provide slips of paper and a ballot box to collect the ballots.

While it isn’t necessary to have a prize for winners, a nice set of colored pencils, a gift card to a bookstore, or something similar would be a nice prize for the winning design(s).

Incentives

Book store gift card

Nice set of colored pencils

Activity Resources

Contest guidelines example

Book cover design entry form

Activity Resources for Teens, Teachers & Librarians

Canva: Free Online Book Cover Maker: <https://www.canva.com/create/book-covers/>

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