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Blind date with a book ideas

Get ready to spice up your book club or personal reading experience with a Blind Date With a Book! Our free printable templates are available for download, and they'll help you create a fun and mysterious way to discover new books. Whether you're planning a party, gifting someone a surprise, or treating yourself, these templates will get you started. We've got some tips to make your teasers irresistible, so be sure to check out our guide on writing them. You can also see how we create our teasers by browsing through our picks in different genres. And if you want us to choose the book for you, just browse through our Blind Date picks! In addition to blind dating with books, why not try Chronoodle, a daily game that puts your historical knowledge to the test? See how much you know and challenge yourself before the clock runs out. A blind date with a book is always a good idea because it's stress-free and fun! And who knows, if you find a great match, you might just get a new favorite book (or two). So go ahead, give it a try, and thank us later! This whole phenomenon started in 2012 at Elizabeth's Bookshops in Australia and has since become super popular around the world. Now, librarians and bookstore owners everywhere are adopting their own versions of this literary matchmaking game. And I'm here to join in on the fun with my own take on it! All you need to do is read through the "profiles," choose a book that catches your eye, download its "directory," and then decide if you want to meet for a virtual date (or in person at your local library or bookstore). It's that easy! So go ahead, pick a contender, and see where it takes you. Let me introduce you to some of our Blind Date Book contenders. * Debut Novel & GMA Book Club Pick: A story about a woman's family and country dealing with the consequences of her past choices. * Read with Jenna Book Club Pick: A book about a lonely widow whose son mysteriously vanished over 30 years ago, featuring magical realism set in the Pacific Northwest. * Goodreads Choice Awards Nominee for Best Historical Fiction: A historical fiction novel based on one of the country's lesser-known stories. So what are you waiting for? Let's get started with our Blind Date With a Book! Most notorious scandals, poor children, and wealthy adults entwined in broken families conceal long hidden family stories, leading to heartbreaking discoveries that may inspire hopeful choices. This debut novel, nominated for Goodreads Choice Awards Best Fiction 2021, tells the story of a lonely grandfather and an anxious teenager brought together by books, forging unexpected connections and community amidst everyday struggles and grief. An extraordinary friendship blossoms between a terminally ill teenager and an 83-year-old woman, sharing a lifetime of stories that are both heartbreaking and heart-affirming. This Glasgow-set novel was inspired by a magazine article in a doctor's waiting room and is a GMA Book Club Pick. In 18th century Maine, a brutal winter unfolds with murder, rape, and greed, as one woman embarks on a determined quest for justice. Based on the remarkable true story of a little-known woman who changed the course of history for women in medicine, this novel was nominated for Goodreads Choice Awards Best Fiction 2023. A young orphaned boy finds love and support from a single teacher's aide with a world of heart, while a reclusive children's book author creates a life-changing contest that could bring them together as a family. This tale blends fantasy, mystery, and romance, and is a Blind Date Book #8 selection. In London, a well-known online personality becomes the subject of her own true crime podcast, leaving readers wondering what she has done. This psychological thriller is the latest release from a popular author and was selected by Zibby's Book Club, Indie Next, and the Washington Post. A young widowed mother devoted to her child navigates deep grief, raw emotion, tears, and laughter in this witty and insightful romcom set against the backdrop of aurora lights and a house full of notes. This Australian novel is a heartwarming tale of love and family. These nine novels offer a range of genres and styles for a cozy date night with a book. Whether you're looking for mystery, thriller, romance, or fantasy, there's something for everyone. Happy reading! I began my blind date books on January 24th and they will continue until the end of February. This gives students time to read the book before our school year ends, and they can get excited about it. With the help of my student workers, we were able to wrap all the books in just two days - it would take me around 4-5 days to do it myself because I'm usually busy teaching and answering lots of questions every day. We pulled out between 50 to 60 books for our display area since students tend to swarm in immediately after entering the library, which is a big space. To be safe, we always pull more than what we think we'll need so that we have some backup copies when popular titles fly off the shelves. Students also help wrap those extra books, so all we have to do is grab them from my storage area and put them on the shelf. To keep track of the wrapped books, I make a list in our Destiny system and mark their new location as "display." This way, if a student asks for a book that's already been pulled, we can easily check if there's an available copy without spending too much time searching for it. When choosing blind date books, I have students pick titles they enjoyed or think their classmates would like. We also make sure to grab the first book of a series so that students aren't surprised by a prior book in the series, especially if it has a cliffhanger ending. Plus, when they return the book, we can suggest the next one in the series! For blind date books, I prefer popular titles that might not get checked out often because students tend to judge books by their covers. If the cover looks unappealing or old-fashioned, they're less likely to pick it up. However, if a book has an amazing first line, like "This is how I kill someone" from Mindy McGinnis' The Female of the Species, students are immediately intrigued and want to check it out just for that reason alone. To find great first lines, I simply Google them or look at lists like these. I use various materials for wrapping books, including magazine pages, butcher paper, brown paper bags, red mailer envelopes, and even newspaper this year! I look for things that are free or cheap. Sometimes, I put the wrapped books in brown paper bags and seal them with a hole puncher and ribbon. You can find inexpensive wrapping paper at any dollar store. When I wrap the books myself, I decorate them like birthday gifts using different materials. I even add some extra flair by tying ribbons around them or adding bows, especially if I'm using brown paper or newspaper. On the front of each book, I include either the activity instructions (which I did this year), a first line from the book, or clues about what type of book it is, like "if you like adventure and strong female characters." A piece of advice I learned the hard way - before wrapping the books, make sure to double-check everything. Get barcode info from books so students can unwrap them at their leisure. This year, I printed barcodes on labels and glued them to book covers. Previously, I wrote numbers on front covers. To set up Blind Date with a Book, first find a prominent display area in your library. I use the vestibule, where you can showcase around 46 books. Wrap books, add instructions, and place them in the display. As students read their books, they fill out Rate Your Date slips. When they return books, they're entered to win prizes or receive candy. I change up the display each year to keep it interesting. Students enjoy the activity, but it's challenging to keep books on shelves. Want to add some excitement to your book club meetings? Try the Blind Date With a Book: Book Club Edition! It's like speed dating for readers, minus the awkward silences. Participants get a wrapped book with treats and a bookmark, and sometimes even a soy wax candle. The seller might even take a look at your Goodreads profile to find the perfect match. Each package includes a surprise read in a chosen genre, plus sweet goodies. You can pick from various genres or themes, making it a unique gift for any reader on your list. Plus, you'll be supporting small businesses and book lovers alike. So why not give it a try? It's like matchmaking, but without the risk of awkward dates. Just grab a cuppa, mingle, and let the bookish fun begin! Blind Book Dates Bring Fun and Insights. At your evening gathering, members share what made them laugh out loud or a fictional character they'd want as dinner companions. Everyone discovers each other's reading preferences, making it easier to choose the most appealing literary "dates." This event starts with a fun mystery! Members bring a creatively wrapped book from their collection that they enjoyed but are willing to part with. The wrapping can symbolize the book or giver but shouldn't give away anything about the title or author. Arrange the books in a central location and let the mingling begin! After everyone selects a book based on the wrapping, the person who brought each book gives a few clues about it, like genre, themes, or cover design. The recipients try to guess the title, adding an exciting element of surprise and discussion. Before the meeting, draw names for each member. Each matchmaker explains why they picked that particular title. Later, after everyone has had time to read their books, members discuss them and discover just how well they know (or don't know!) their friends' reading tastes. Get ready for an evening of literary courting with a fast-paced night of Book Club Speed Dating! Preparation: Choose a diverse array of books that would interest your members. If you have enough to spare, select them yourself or ask members to bring wrapped books. Encourage each person to choose something different so there's variety for everyone. Book Introductions: Create separate spaces around the room where members can introduce their book with enticing snippets about genre, synopsis, and why it's worth reading without revealing the title or author. Rotation Rules: As members arrive, provide them with a scorecard or checklist to keep track of potential literary matches. Set a timer for 2-3 minutes at each table. When the timer rings, switch tables and meet new "dates." After each rotation, members jot notes about that "date" - is it a no, maybe, or perfect match? Decision Time: Once the speed dating rounds conclude, allow everyone to reveal their chosen books and share what intrigued them. In subsequent meetings, encourage members to share their experiences with the books they selected during your book club's Blind Date with a Book event. Did they enjoy their blind date? Were there any surprises or unexpected twists? Are they willing to see this author again on another date? Since readers are about sharing book love, perhaps pass the book along to another member who'd like to read it! Blind Date with a Book introduces readers to new stories and fosters a sense of community among book lovers. The fun continues with Blind Date Book Club Bingo, where members complete book-related challenges, such as trying a new genre or swapping recommendations, and mark off squares on their bingo cards. As they finish each challenge, they share a photo with the group, and the first to complete "Bingo!" wins a special prize. This activity is perfect for librarians, who can create a display with wrapped books and have students pick one to read without judging it by its cover. The goal is to get students interested in reading and trying new books, and it's done by pulling 50-60 books, wrapping them, and having students help with the process. The activity runs from late January to the end of February, giving kids time to read their chosen book. To keep track of the books, a list is created in Destiny, and students are encouraged to pull books they've enjoyed or think their classmates would like, including the first book of a series. Students often enjoy discovering sequels to books they've recently read, especially if the first book has a significant event that leaves them eager for more. By letting students know about the sequel, I can encourage them to check it out and continue their reading journey! To make blind date book suggestions more appealing, I focus on popular titles that might not be frequently checked out or ones with incredible first lines that grab readers' attention. For instance, a first line like "This is how I kill someone" from Mindy McGinnis' The Female of the Species can spark curiosity and inspire students to read further. To create visually appealing book displays, I explore free or affordable materials such as magazine pages, butcher paper, wrapping paper, large brown paper bags, red mailer envelopes, and newspaper. I use these materials to cover books with unique covers that showcase their genres or themes. To add an extra touch, I wrap the books like birthday gifts, using ribbon, bows, or other embellishments to make them stand out. On each wrapped book, I include directions for the activity, the first line of the book, or clues about its genre, such as matching it with a favorite author or theme. A crucial step is to remove the barcode information from the book before wrapping it, allowing students to discover the title and author as they unwrap their selection. To display these wrapped books, I utilize a highly visible area in our library, which I've dubbed the "vestibule." This space can hold up to 46 books and serves as a focal point for students entering the larger library. By using bright colors and creative displays, I draw attention to the wrapped books and encourage students to explore their contents. The final piece of this activity is the contest component. After students finish reading their book, they fill out a rating sheet, sharing their thoughts on the story, characters, and overall enjoyment. This feedback helps me refine my book recommendations for future events and ensures that our library remains an engaging and enjoyable space for readers. Blind Date with a Book: A Fun and Thoughtful Gift Idea for Students To spark interest in reading, I use review slips that contain feedback on a book's title, favorite aspects, rating out of 5 stars, and whether they'd recommend it to a friend. I like to mix up the design each year, using either stickers or bookmarks with these reviews attached when students return their books. As an added incentive, I enter those who bring back their review slips into a Valentine's Day prize basket filled with treats. When students check out new books, they receive a small piece of candy as a bonus. It keeps the shelves tidy and the atmosphere engaging. Setting up Blind Date with a Book for Students The key to this activity is creating an experience that combines surprise with enjoyment. Wrap a book in paper, add handwritten clues about the story, and include some personalized extras like treats or self-care items. This unique gift idea excels at Galentines Day, Valentine's Day, Christmas, and birthdays, making it perfect for any occasion. Benefits of Blind Date with a Book This DIY project offers several advantages. Surprise factor: The recipient won't know the book title until they open it, adding mystery and excitement. Personal touch: Customize packaging to their interests and add thoughtful extras tailored to their preferences. Unique gift ideas include pens, face masks, thrifted books, and decorations made from materials you already have, like Kraft Paper, Scrapbook Paper, and decorative stickers. This gift is perfect for Galentines Day, Valentine's Day, Christmas, birthdays, or as a thank-you gift. To create this "Blind Date with a Book" gift, choose a book that aligns with the recipient's tastes, such as a romance novel for Valentine's Day or a cozy mystery for Christmas. Wrap the book in Kraft Paper and add layers of Scrapbook Paper for color and texture. Use decorative stickers to personalize the package and add-on goodies like Haribo gummy bears or mini candles. Don't forget to include a handwritten gift tag for a personal touch. Choose a book and match it with corresponding paper. Step 4: Embellish Each Package Use stickers, flowers, or pearl accents to make each package unique. Add clues about the book on the front, like "A magical world filled with danger" or "Enemies-to-lovers romance." Step 5: Include Surprises Add small items that complement the book's theme or recipient's interests, such as bookmarks, face masks, candies, or nail polish. Step 6: Finish with a Personal Touch End with a handwritten note to make the gift feel personal. For instance, "Wishing you a cozy Valentine's Day."

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