



Program Planning

Library: Henrietta Public Library

Title of Program or Event: Open Mic Poetry Coffeehouse

Age level: 13 yrs.+

Description of Activity: Poetry reading and guitar music, along with coffee, cocoa, tea, and cookies.

Objectives / Goals:

- To promote reading and writing of poetry
- To promote teen visits to the library
- To have a social hour for teens
- To offer teens with developmental disabilities an interesting and fun program

Suggested setting: Library community room

Time required: 1 hr.

Materials and Staff needed: poetry books; beverages; cookies; guitar player (emcee); sound system and microphone for readers.

Advanced Preparation: scheduled guitar player; bought supplies; collected poetry books for display.

Procedure: The program was structured very informally, with one hour of poetry reading combined with the guitar playing and singing. Invited patrons visiting the library to come to listen.

Modifications: Modifications were not needed for this event. However, many teens may not want to or cannot read aloud. It is important that participants know they can have another person read their poetry or short story for them. Another modification would be to offer an overhead projector or laptop projector, enabling people, who may want to read but whose speech patterns may be difficult to understand, to also show what they are reading to the audience.

Evaluation: It was a small turnout, but three of the eight participants had developmental disabilities. Everyone seemed to have a great time and liked the program. The guitar music was great. We didn't promote the program enough outside of the library. We plan to hold the next coffeehouse during the school year and collaborate with the schools to give extra credit to the students who participate in the poetry reading (as well as advertise the above modifications). Hopefully this should bring in more teens.