

# LITERATURE FESTIVALS

March 11, 2013

Reference Sheet  
of All CLFs  
Referenced

Framingham  
State University  
CLF  
<http://www.framingham.edu/henry-whittemore-library/curriculum-library/childrens-literature-festival.html>

Humdinger!  
Children's Book  
Festival  
<http://www.humdingerbookfestival.com>

Cardiff  
Children's Lit  
Fest  
<http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/content.asp?nav=2%2C2869%2C6584>

Truman State  
University  
Literature  
Festival  
<http://library.truman.edu/Children'sLiteratureFestival.asp>

Frostburg State  
University  
Children's  
Literature  
Festival  
<http://www.frostburg.edu/clc/>



## Ideas for Future Years

The Children's Literature Festival, running in Pakistan for almost two years, already has been so successful in Pakistan. Venturing to multiple locations and offering a variety of activities and workshops, the organization clearly provides a significant amount of creative and educational stimulation for Pakistani youth.

Now that the Children's Literature Festival has been running in Pakistan successfully for the past several years, we can experiment with other possibilities. Upon researching other Children's Literature Festivals that take place, I was able to derive a few unique ideas that have been successfully implemented,

while coming up with some of my own.

### NEW ORKSHOPS

While the Children's Literature Festival in Pakistan offers an impressive and unique variety of workshops for young children, there are still several ideas that could address areas that are not covered.

One particular example is of the "What's New in Children's Literature" workshop offered at the Framingham State University ([Website](#)). Generally, the idea of children's literature is to expose young people to new ideas and encourage them to develop new experiences. So, with a workshop like this one, we would provide as many

opportunities as possible for children to do just that. There should be no limitations on children's imagination, and a workshop like this could stretch those boundaries. "What's New in Children's Literature" would also provide educators with useful knowledge for their classrooms, keep our own material current, and provide information about how literature develops.

Other workshop ideas that I found were directed towards the creative aspect of the program, such as a "Make Your Own Bookends" or a "Create Your Own Picture Book" workshop, as done by the Humdinger!

Children’s Book Festival ([Website](#)). Another example of this was utilized in the Cardiff Children’s Lit Fest ([Website](#)) in their “Comic Strip” workshop. These workshops would be especially beneficial in pushing children’s creativity even further and expanding their knowledge of what literature can entail. Children might cultivate a stronger interest in literature with the artistic connection.

The Cardiff Children’s Lit Fest also included a workshop on how to write critiques about books. Although the Pakistani CLFs have seminars on book reviews, I thought it might be interesting for children to consider what qualities make a book good and take their critical thinking skills to another level.

A unique aspect of the Pakistani Literature Festivals are the workshops set aside for the educators. One workshop that the Humdinger! Children’s Book Festival offers that is also directed towards adults is called “Writing for Children”. In this workshop, adults also gain a new perspective on what appeals to children in writing. The Literature Festivals can also work on further expanding the mental boundaries of educators by including this workshop.

### STORYTELLING INITIATIVES

A key portion to the entire idea of a Children’s Literature Festival is the storytelling. Every festival that I came

across had a segment where stories were read aloud to the audience, giving the event’s identity an authentic touch. While all these festivals had storytelling, they presented it in many different ways.

After the storytelling in the Truman State University Literature Festival ([Website](#)), they allow people to converse informally with the authors. Some of our audience members at future Children’s Literature Festivals in Pakistan might be familiar with the authors presenting, while others may have been personally moved or excited by the storytelling. Having people casually converse with the authors, we encourage personal connections to literature and increased interest.

For the same reason, the small group discussions after the storytelling offered at the Frostburg State University Children’s Literature Festival ([Website](#)) would be effective. Not only can children voice their opinions and personal connections to the literature presented, but they can verbalize their ideas and share them with others. This activity would require critical thinking and expand children’s mental boundaries.

### MY OWN THINKING

While looking through all of these Children’s Literature Festivals, I was inspired myself with certain ideas that were not explicitly stated on any of the sites I looked through.

One of my ideas was themed storytelling. When CLF Pakistan plans out their workshops and what times certain events take place, instead of just slotting out storytellings randomly, we could select a time slot where stories of a certain genre would be read. For instance, we could have a slot where several fairy tales would be read, or several horror stories, and many other types of storytellings. The idea behind this would be to make it clear what types of stories would be read during certain storytellings. This way, children and adults can pick out either genres that they particularly like or ones that are new to them.

Another idea that I had was about setting up writing workshops centered around certain prompts or themes. For instance, if a child enrolled in a workshop of this type that had a prompt on dreams, they would be asked to brainstorm about dreams and nightmares and things of the like, and to write a creative writing story off of their brainstorming. This could be done with a multitude of topics, such as humor, or the idea of utopia. The idea behind this would be to help stimulate children when in creative writing workshops and potentially introducing them to planning techniques.

Overall, while CLF Pakistan has a diverse array of workshops and ideas implemented, there are still some new things we can do!

