

PROGRAM TITLE: Graveyards & Epitaphs

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Take a field trip to a cemetery and create your own epitaphs

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Rolls of newsprint (free from local newspaper office)

Large peeled crayons

Old magazines

Poster board cut out in the shape of a gravestone

Markers

Glue sticks

Scissors

COST: Less than \$20 for the supplies listed above. We had a lot of these items already.

PROGRAM PROCEDURE:

Get permission to visit a nearby cemetery with the teens. I did this by contacting the cemetery trustees. Head to the cemetery with the teens, precut newsprint, and crayons. Have the teens make note of interesting inscriptions and create a rubbing with the newsprint by rubbing with the peeled crayon. You can bring a little whist broom to dust off the stones, but we didn't really find this necessary. We spent about 30 minutes doing this part. Back at the library we talked about the inscriptions. I also had some famous ones to hand out for kids to look at. For their own tombstones they used magazines to cut up words and images they thought best described them and glued them on the poster board I had cut in the shape of a tombstone. They decorated them with markers. They were so creative! They had a great time imagining that they were famous or had died a tragic death.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MARKETING THIS PROGRAM:

Library website, school flyers, newspaper, posters, facebook, twitter

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

(Include duration of program, suggested number of participants)

This was a 90 minute program, but if I do it again I'd allow 2 hours. The teens like to take their time writing the epitaphs and decorating the stones. I would allow up to 20 participants. I suggest working in pairs in the cemetery. It's very helpful having someone hold your paper while you do the rubbing.

CONTACT INFORMATION OF LIBRARIAN SUBMITTING PROGRAM:

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