

Top Ten List of Weird,  
Wacky, You-gotta-be-  
kidding-me Ways to Get Kids  
Reading

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Hello!

Here at Page Turner Adventures, we love books. Seriously ... we're passionate about them!!! We *are* Storyologists after all, and our motto is ...

***When You Read, Every Day is an Adventure!***

We're dedicated to sharing that passion with kids. But sometimes, helping kids develop the skills they need to become life-long readers and book lovers can be a challenge. Fun, strange, and yes, even downright weird opportunities to practice reading skills can increase fluency, vocabulary and confidence, which go a long way to creating future book fanatics.

Below is our Top Ten List of Weird Ideas to get kids reading. This is by no means a complete list. If you have some unusual, odd (or dare we say, sneaky) ways to encourage reading, please let us know!!



You can visit our blog at [www.PageTurnerAdventures.com/blog](http://www.PageTurnerAdventures.com/blog) or email us at [info@PageTurnerAdventures.com](mailto:info@PageTurnerAdventures.com).

In fun,

*Page Turner*

Page Turner, Storyologist

**Page Turner's *Top Ten List of  
Weird, Wacky, You-gotta-be-kidding-me  
Ways to Get Kids Reading!***

**10. Crank Up the Karaoke**

Kids have so much fun doing karaoke; they don't even realize they're reading! Don't have a karaoke machine? No problem. You can download song lyrics, print them out, then sing along with the radio or mp3 player. And it doesn't have to be Barney! Kids love singing along to pop songs. Try [www.songlyric.com](http://www.songlyric.com).

\*Pop songs can also help increase kids' vocabularies, but you don't want to increase them TOO much! So make sure to check all lyrics for appropriateness before giving them to your kids.

Tip: Visit garage sales for inexpensive karaoke machines. You'll find them beside the fondue pots and bread makers.



**9. Reading Sponge Bob**

Does it seem to you that every restaurant has a TV these days? Fortunately, in most restaurants, the volume is usually turned down and the Closed Captioning is turned on. While a TV can be a bit annoying when you're trying to eat, it's actually a great way to get kids to read.

Many televisions have the Closed Captioning capability (try saying that 10 times fast!). Turn it on and watch your kids read their way through their favorite shows.

**8. Read and Release Program**



**bookcrossing.com**

Have you heard about Book Crossing? It's a Read and Release program for books! Kids can download a label to attach to their book, then leave the book somewhere for another person to find (after they've already read it, of course!). They can leave it on a park bench, in a library, at their school ... wherever.

Kids can then track the progress of the book as it makes its way around the world. They can also "find" books that others have left. Who wouldn't want to read a book that's already had its own adventure (or is about to embark on one!)?

P.S. It's not just for kids. Check them out at [www.bookcrossing.com](http://www.bookcrossing.com)

## 7. Go on Quest!

Meet Liarg Yloh, a Viking who sends kids on quests in search of stories. Kids can log onto Liarg's site, read part of a story, figure out the clues, then head outdoors for a real-world treasure hunt in search of the rest of the tale. Storyseekers can even write their own adventures that others can follow. Check them out at [www.Storyseeking.com](http://www.Storyseeking.com).



Seekers use smart phones, Google maps and GPS to locate the secret story cache. It's similar to Geocaching, which is another fun treasure hunting activity. Find out more at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

Letterboxing is a low tech version. It's where kids (and adults) follow clues to secret boxes containing rubber stamps and other small items. Treasure hunters stamp their special letterboxing book, and then follow clues to the next location. For more information about

this cool hobby, check out [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org).

Don't feel like going on an actual quest? Try making one in your own backyard or home. Leave pieces of a story along with a trail of clues, and watch kids read their way through the adventure.

Tip: Young kids can do a "word find" scavenger hunt. Write a list of words (or letters) that the kids have to find somewhere in the house: magazines, junk mail, cans of food, books, etc., are all possibilities. This is also a fun travel game to play in the car.

## 6. The Biggest Ball of Twine in Minnesota

Have you ever noticed the racks of brochures in hotel lobbies? You know the ones I'm talking about, they're filled with local attractions from the interesting to the downright bizarre.

Well, they make fascinating reading for kids!

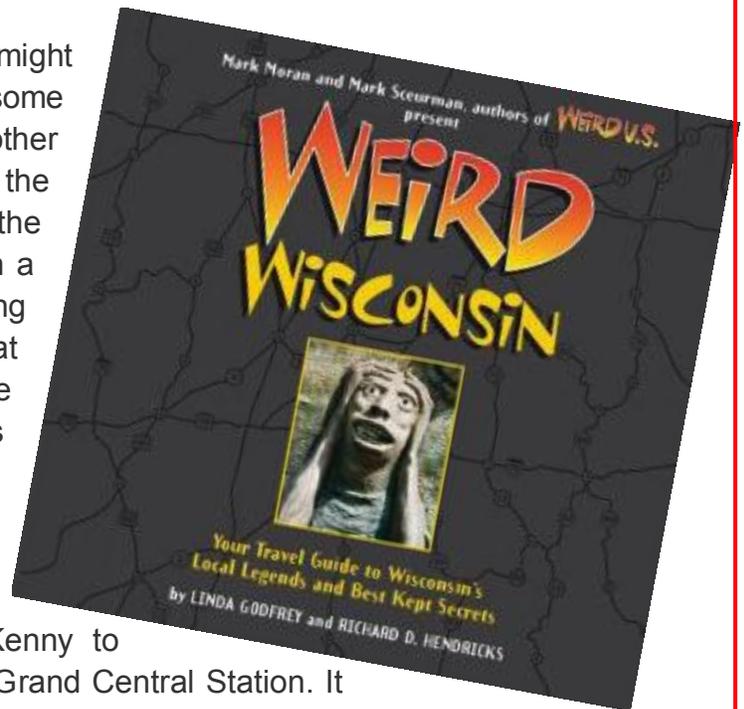
Plus, they're usually filled with descriptive language and great pictures. Kids will love learning about the Mustard Museum (Yes, it's an actual place. I've been there.), The

Coral Castle (Been there too!), the World's Most Mysterious Motorcycle (at Wheels through Time in North Carolina. Haven't been there ... yet!).

Bonus: Kids will also get a feel for local culture and flavor. But you don't have to be on the road to enjoy a brush with brochures. Stop by a local hotel, and check out the attractions in your own neck of the woods.

### **And we're walking ... we're walking ...**

After reading all those brochures, you might be inspired to actually take a tour of some interesting and/or odd locale. This is another great reading opportunity! Hand the guidebook to your kids and let them lead the way. Even if you're not actually going on a tour, guidebooks can make fascinating reading. Keep an eye out for them at garage sales (next to the karaoke machines). Guidebooks, such as Roadside America and Eccentric America, are filled with entries about the odd, strange and weird attractions that make this country great. Audio tours are also fun. Recently, while waiting for Kenny to arrive on a train, I took an audio tour of Grand Central Station. It was fascinating! Now I know where to find the whispering gallery and the secret staircase, which might come in very handy some day.



### **5. Pod People**

Speaking of audio ... I am addicted to audio books! I refuse to take a long journey without one. Listening to stories is a fun way for kids to experience books and improve their reading skills. Being able to visualize the events taking place on a page is important for comprehension, and listening to audio books can help develop this important skill. Many library systems now have audiobooks that you can download directly to your computer and mp3 player.

Podcasts are also fun ways to spark a love of stories, increase comprehension and develop vocabulary. That's why Kenny and I are working on a special podcast for kids called "Storyology." It is filled of legends, myths, folklore and original tales. Coming soon to a Page Turner Adventures website near you!

### **4. Read to a Dog**

Studies show that reading out loud to a dog can help improve their reading skills (um, the kid's skills, not the dog's!). This is probably because kids feel less nervous reading to a non-judgmental canine. Some titles to consider when reading to a dog: The Poky Little

Puppy, How Much is That Doggie in the Window. Doggone it, Marley and Me, and Harry Potter.

Kids can also read to cats, of course, but they tend to be much more judgmental.

### 3. Lights, Camera, Read



“Snakes, why did it have to be snakes?”-  
from Raider’s of the Lost Ark.

“Hello, My Name is Inigo Montoya. You  
killed my father. Prepare to die.”-from  
The Princess Bride

Everyone loves to repeat lines from their favorite movies, including kids! Movie scripts are a fun way to practice reading skills. Play scripts and reader’s theater are also excellent ways to get kid’s reading, but there’s just something special about seeing the characters you know and love printed out on the page. Many movie scripts can be found online (once again, check for appropriateness before downloading). You can find scripts from several of Disney movies on this web page [http://movies.lovetoknow.com/wiki/Free Disney Movie Scripts](http://movies.lovetoknow.com/wiki/Free_Disney_Movie_Scripts)

### 2. Ewwww ...

Did you know that your nose naturally produces about a quart of mucus every day? And, according to the Guinness World Records, the longest known ear hair was over 7 inches!

Oh, and don’t forget, the loudest burp ever recorded was 107.1 decibels louder than a chain saw.

Let’s face it, kids love facts, figures, and random bits of knowledge (the grosser the better). Leave some trivia books, Guinness World Record books, and Grossology books around the house, and watch what happens. Kids are drawn to them like magnets! Before you know it, they’ll be reading up a storm and you’ll know more about the digestion tract of the common earthworm than you ever thought possible.

*Bonus:* Kids will also learn science, history, and other subjects that can lead to more reading about the topic. “No, Jason, I didn’t know that penguins feed their babies by coughing up food from their own stomachs. Why don’t we don’t we do a little more research and see if there are other animals that feed their babies barf.”

Upper Elementary and Middle School kids will also love the book *Olivia Bean, Trivia Queen*, by Donna Gephart. This story about a Jeopardy Whiz Kid is filled with tons of fun facts and trivia.

### **Didjya hear the one about ...**

Q: Why are math books so unhappy?

A: Because they're filled with problems.

Q: What weighs six tons and wears glass slippers?

A: Cinder-elephant

Teacher: What is a synonym?

Kid: A word you use when you can't spell the other one. (Ba dum bump)

Groaners, I know, but I'm trying to make a point. Kids also love jokes. Leaving joke books lying around the house is another great way to get them reading!

### **1. Which Craft?**

Librarians have known it for years ... crafts, games, songs and recipes can help bring a book to life. That's why library summer reading programs are about so much more than just reading! Activities are a great way to expand the life of a book that a kid has already read, or spark an interest in a book they've *yet* to read.



Not sure what activity to do with what book? Don't worry. We've got you covered!! Along with this Top Ten List, we're including a bonus "how to" video from our Creative Literacy/Summer Reading Series. The bonus includes 65 videos of crafts, games, activities, recipes, and corresponding books to get kids reading! Go to [www.pageturneradventures.com/summerreading](http://www.pageturneradventures.com/summerreading) for more info about that series!

*Bonus:* In addition to getting kids excited about books and reading, creative literacy projects develop imaginations, creative problem solving skills, and direction-following skills. And since most of the activities in our Summer Reading program use materials that you already have around the house, kids will also learning about recycling!



Well, that's it for our Top Ten List of Wacky, Weird, *You gotta-be-kidding-* me Ideas to Get Kids Reading!

For more out-of-the-box ideas, please visit our blog at [www.pageturneradventures.com/blog](http://www.pageturneradventures.com/blog).

And remember ...When You Read, Every Day is an Adventure!

*About the Creators:*

Page Turner Adventures is an Emmy award winning company that creates hilarious videos, live shows and educational programs.



The company's primary mission is to:

- Excite Kids about Reading
- Encourage Positive Thinking
- Inspire Creativity
- Reduce Standardized Test Stress

Page Turner Adventures features Riley Roam as the World Famous Storyologist, Page Turner, and Ken Mikey, a former Ringling Bros. clown, as her bumbling assistant.

This comedic duo is on a quest to prove... *When You Read, Every Day is an Adventure!*

Their productions have aired on FOX Kids, PBS, The Travel Channel and at Scholastic Book Fairs throughout the United States and Canada.

For more creative literacy ideas, information about our live shows, videos, Summer Reading Programs, online programs, books and workshops visit

[www.PageTurnerAdventures.com](http://www.PageTurnerAdventures.com)