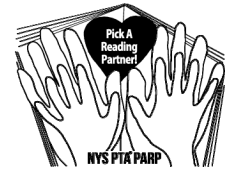


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## Mission Statement

*To provide PTA units, libraries, communities and other parent groups with a clear understanding of the PARP Program, including literacy resources, so that all children will have the tools to develop a life-long love of reading and learning.*

## History of Pick A Reading Partner – PARP

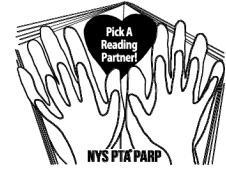
The Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) program, originally known as Parents As Reading Partners, began in the New York State Senate Education Committee through the efforts of Senator James H. Donovan, with the support of former New York State Governor Hugh Carey and Education Commissioner Gordon Ambach.

In the summer of 1978 Senator James H. Donovan learned of a fifteen-minute daily reading program, and asked his office staff to research what other states were doing to promote reading. The New York State Planning and Steering Committee decided to incorporate the best features found in other state programs. It was suggested that the local planning committee choose a theme and use national, state or local talent to promote the program. New York State drew on the talents and resources of twenty organizations in developing its own program.

PARP was officially launched through a mass-mailing effort in March of 1979. A conference followed in October with keynote speaker, the late Bob Keeshan, better known to some as television's Captain Kangaroo.

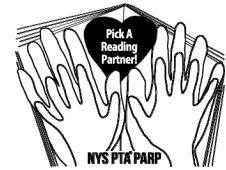
Since 1987, New York State PTA has sponsored and administered the PARP program. Each year the State PTA offers workshops at Summer Leadership Conference and NYS PTA Convention. These trainings involve educators and adults for the purpose of enhancing communication, sharing experiences and increasing adult involvement with children and the schools. Check with your local unit/council PTA president, e-mail [parp@nyspta.org](mailto:parp@nyspta.org), or contact the New York State PTA Office or website at [www.nyspta.org](http://www.nyspta.org) for dates and locations.

Pick A Reading Partner programs may be offered in schools, libraries, community centers and any other place where parent groups gather. The goal of this program is to increase family and community engagement in education and support literacy training. This can be easily met with the resources provided in this Toolkit.



## PARP Goals

- 📖 Encourages reading at home to supplement school and library reading programs
- 📖 Allows children to discover that reading can be fun as well as informative
- 📖 Fortifies children's reading habits
- 📖 Strengthens student and family reading habits, while focusing on the enjoyment of reading
- 📖 Develops and improves family relationships and communication
- 📖 Brings parents and children closer together by sharing the pleasurable experience of reading together
- 📖 Provides parents with information to help their children become better readers
- 📖 Improves children's creativity and well-being by limiting television viewing and increasing family closeness
- 📖 Strengthens the bond between home, school and community



## What is PARP and Why is it Important?

PARP is an acronym for Pick A Reading Partner. It is a program designed to engage and involve parents in the essential task of fostering the love of reading in children. Learning to read is the single most important activity in a child's education. Studies have shown that children who read at home are better prepared to succeed in formal education. The primary objective of PARP is to engage and involve parents in the essential task of helping their children become life-long readers. PARP encourages parents to participate in some type of reading experience with their children for at least fifteen minutes a day, thereby instilling strong reading habits.

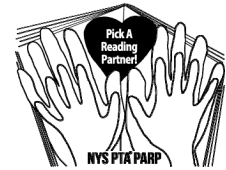
Children turn to their parents as role models and are likely to follow the example of a parent who reads. Reading at home further provides support to the excellent reading programs used in the nation's schools. PARP stresses the fact that reading can be fun as well as informative. The daily communication shared through PARP will also serve to strengthen the family.

PARP is a reading program in which parents, teachers and community organizations work together to encourage children to become better readers. The voluntary approach and the subsequent success that PARP programs have achieved is proof that it is truly a worthwhile project.

PARP is a successful volunteer effort that fortifies our children's reading habits. It is important because it has helped to cement the necessary bond between the home and the school to foster the education process. Together, this effort will make our children more successful and their education more fruitful.

When implementing the program the title should be "parents" not "people."

**REMEMBER:** PARP is an acronym for Pick A Reading Partner and no periods are used in the acronym "PARP".



## PARP Program

The PARP program's basic requirement is that a child reads with a parent for at least 15 minutes a day. This can mean that a parent reads to the child, or that the child reads to a parent. It should be noted that "parent" in Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) may be interpreted broadly to include all adults who play an important role in a child's family life, since other adults – grandparents, aunts, uncles, step-parents, guardians, older siblings – may carry the primary responsibility for a child's education, development and well-being.

The PARP committee should decide on the requirements it will set for its program, as there are no rigid guidelines for implementing a local PARP program. A program can be conducted in a single classroom, an entire school building, school district, at a public library, community center or anywhere parents gather. The duration of the program can vary from a week, a month, the summer or the entire school year. Successful programs have operated using each of these styles at all grade levels.

Reading experiences can be held from one to seven days a week. A calendar might be sent home to make it easy for parents to keep track of how often they read with their children. The calendars are then returned to school at the end of each week or the month. The teacher (or PARP committee parent volunteer) keeps a record of the time students and parents indicated they had spent reading, thus making it easy to determine which child and parent(s) are to receive incentives.

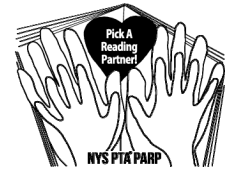
Calendars may be marked by placing an X in the calendar square for each day read, by filling in a time during which the family read, or by drawing a symbol in the box for each day read.

Most successful PARP programs use themes as a basis for the activities that are used to motivate the children to participate in the program. A list of suggested themes is given in this section.

One need not discontinue reading once the program is over. Many families continue to read for at least 15 minutes a day throughout the year. There may be summer PARP programs in conjunction with the local public library. Involving the local library with your PARP program is a good idea since parents can ask the librarian for new reading materials and guidance in selecting good children's books. This reinforces the concept of uniting the home, school and community in support of literacy.

Some PARP programs allow "free days" where reading is not required. This provides a means of participating without risk of losing recognition on days that the family is extremely busy. This may also be done by reading for 30 minutes one day.

Many PARP programs approach local businesses, villages or towns for financial support or donations.



Businesses, villages or towns have participated by:

- ☞ Underwriting the entire cost of the program
- ☞ Providing grant money for the purchase of books for the children
- ☞ Providing incentives, certificates, or assembly programs for the children and parents
- ☞ Providing a free dinner for each family that completed all the daily reading sessions with their children
- ☞ Lending their trademark products for themes for local programs
- ☞ Developing materials, films, videos, filmstrips, as resources for PARP programs
- ☞ Printing PARP logos on grocery bags

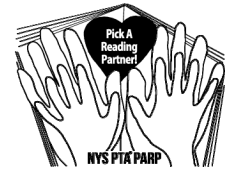
For additional information, consult the *NYS PTA Resource Guide*, Section 10, for information about PTA programs in general, and specifically to reference “Initiating a PARP Program.” The *Resource Guide* is available on the Members Only section of our website, at [www.nyspta.org](http://www.nyspta.org).

## **Parent/Teacher/Administrative/Community Involvement**

The key to a successful PARP program is to be sure that parents, teachers, administrators and the community are aware of the program and the role they are to play. This is accomplished through letters sent home to parents, posted on the bulletin board and/or web site explaining the program.

In today’s society, family patterns are constantly changing (e.g., single parent families, working parents). It is important to note that not only parents can be reading partners. If a parent is not available, then grandparents or other family members can serve as reading partners. Volunteers may come to share reading experiences with children during free time. In some schools, administrators are involved as guest readers. In some libraries and community centers, local heroes and community leaders are involved as guest readers. Involve volunteer senior citizens, they are a great resource and usually have more time. Older children should be encouraged to read to younger children.

Bibliographies and mini-workshops are helpful for parents, teachers, administrators and the community and encourage their involvement. The more support you have the better. Press and media coverage help spread the word.

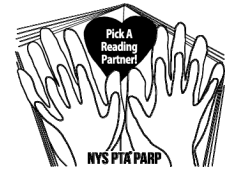


## Guidelines for the PARP Program

### In a School

The strength of the PARP program is its simplicity and flexibility. Adapt the following guidelines to suit the individual needs of your students, community, library and school.

1. Review all available materials.
2. Appoint a coordinator:
  - ☞ Library media specialist
  - ☞ Reading teacher
  - ☞ Classroom teacher
  - ☞ Other interested person
3. Recruit committee members:
  - ☞ Parents
  - ☞ Teachers
  - ☞ Administrators
  - ☞ Volunteers
4. Decide on the focus and scope of the program:
  - ☞ Students and/or grades that will participate
  - ☞ Length of program
  - ☞ Theme
  - ☞ Decide on final activities (assembly, party, awards, certificates, incentives)
5. Meet with teachers to explain the program. Ask for suggestions, ideas and assistance.
6. Gather materials: brochures, pamphlets, bibliographies, bookmarks and hints for parents.
7. Develop materials to explain the program to the parents (e.g., a letter and/or a packet of information).
8. Create in-house advertising, school newsletter, loudspeaker announcements, group presentations, posters, displays, bulletin boards.
9. Arrange publicity through television, radio, newspapers, public library, civic groups and parent/school organization.
10. Involve:
  - ☞ Principal, reading teacher, librarian, library media specialist, other school personnel
  - ☞ Local PTA
  - ☞ Public library
11. Coordinate special events:
  - ☞ An open house
  - ☞ PARP event
  - ☞ Children's Book Week
  - ☞ National Library Week
  - ☞ Book fair
  - ☞ Author's visit
12. Be sure to give special recognition to everyone who helped to make your program a success.



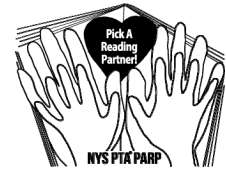
13. Evaluate program. Include suggestions for next year's program.

### **In a Public Library**

Public libraries do not see children on a regular basis, and usually emphasize books read together rather than time spent together. A library is invited to participate in this program in the manner best suited to the needs of the individual library and community.

1. Review available materials and resources, selecting and/or adapting the ideas and materials most appropriate for the individual library.
2. Determine the scope, focus and goals of the program:
  - ☞ Do you wish to co-sponsor the program with another organization or group such as PTA, schools or youth agencies?
  - ☞ What will be the time frame for the program? You might wish to tie it in with summer vacation, Children's Book Week, National Library Week, New York State Summer Reading Program or some other occasion.
  - ☞ Will there be any restrictions placed upon program participation? Consider age level, reading ability, and the library's ability to handle groups over a certain size.
  - ☞ What requirements will be established for program completion? Number of books read together, amount of time together, and the number of visits to the library are examples of quantitative requirements set by some libraries.
3. Publicize the program:
  - ☞ Create flyers and posters
  - ☞ Notify other organizations and groups about the activity
  - ☞ Prepare news releases for local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations and student school run radio and television studios
4. Conduct the program:
  - ☞ Plan programs related to reading for participants (story hours, parenting sessions, and book discussions, book clubs in middle and high school settings)
  - ☞ Create book lists and book displays
  - ☞ Maintain records of books read by parent-child teams *or* whatever aspect of the program you elect to emphasize
  - ☞ Prepare a concluding event
5. Evaluate the program in terms of the goals set for your library, including suggestions for next year's program.





## **Activities**

The scope of activities used in conjunction with your reading program is up to you. Keep in mind that it is always easier to start small and add to your program each year.

Supplemental programs, displays and materials can enhance a PARP program. Use a theme to tie them together so that the PARP program is easily recognized.

## **Materials**

Contact community businesses for materials and funds to defray expenses. Radio stations may donate albums; local fast food restaurants may donate free coupons; local grocery stores may donate bags to use to send packets home or may print the reading partner's symbol on their bags.

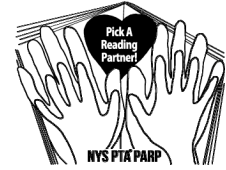
Ideas for giveaway items:

- ☞ Printed T-shirts and/or iron-on transfers
- ☞ Buttons
- ☞ Pencils/pens
- ☞ Bookmarks
- ☞ Gift certificates
- ☞ Paperbacks/books
- ☞ Donations/coupons from local merchants
- ☞ Balloons
- ☞ Refrigerator magnets

## **Displays**

Emphasize books appropriate to the theme and age group. Publishers may be willing to provide posters and display materials.

- ☞ Books for family sharing
- ☞ Children's classics for adults
- ☞ Adult classics for children
- ☞ Award-winning books
- ☞ Caldecott and Newbery Award winners

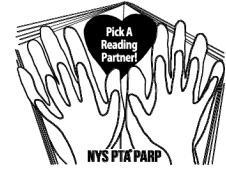


## Programs

Utilize local talent and interest to develop any of the following activities:

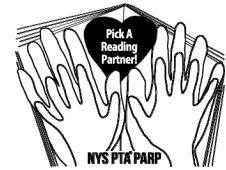
- ☞ Story hours and storytelling presentations
- ☞ Films based on children's book
- ☞ Parenting programs on book selections
- ☞ Read-ins, read-a-thons
- ☞ Book talks
- ☞ Logo contests, "identify the title" contests
- ☞ Book fairs
- ☞ Guest authors/illustrators
- ☞ Open house
- ☞ Television and video programs
- ☞ Mime
- ☞ Face painting
- ☞ Puppet shows or plays

Children and youth need to learn not only the *skills* of reading but also to discover the *joy* of reading. Helping children discover that joy while encouraging adult-child communication is the goal of PARP.



## PARP Checklist

- \_\_\_\_\_ Decide how long your PARP program will last
- \_\_\_\_\_ Block out dates on school/library/community calendar early
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decide on money to be budgeted for PARP
- \_\_\_\_\_ Form a PARP committee(s) e.g. registration, incentives, publicity, decorations, programs/activities, record keeping, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Choose a PARP theme
- \_\_\_\_\_ Arrange for PARP publicity
- \_\_\_\_\_ Decide on PARP decorations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gather reading materials for PARP packets
- \_\_\_\_\_ Order/collect incentives
- \_\_\_\_\_ Send parents/teachers letters
- \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule PARP programs/activities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan for a closing celebration
- \_\_\_\_\_ Give out incentives
- \_\_\_\_\_ Send thank you notes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have a follow-up meeting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review evaluations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Choose a meeting date to plan for next year
- \_\_\_\_\_ Write and submit your PARP program for the PARP Award (deadline June 15)



## Sample PARP Committee Responsibilities

### Chair's Role

1. Hold a planning meeting
2. Ensure that all meetings have advance notice, an agenda and notes taken and distributed to all committee members
3. Ensure that the PTA unit or council approves the committee's plan and budget
4. Work with principal and school librarian in all planning
5. Work with librarians to get book ideas
6. Assign someone to prepare notices for duplication and distribution such as a copier committee
7. Coordinate with presenters, guest speakers, authors, etc.
8. Coordinate any special reading programs
9. Coordinate hospitality for programs

Committee responsibilities can include:

### Fundraising Committee Functions

1. Arrange for fundraising activities, if necessary
2. Prepare notices for duplicating and distribution
3. Arrange for the custodian to set up
4. Turn over all money collected to the PTA unit treasurer (or designated representative if it is a public library function) immediately upon close of the activity
5. Keep careful records and forward a written financial report after each fundraising activity

### Kick-Off Rally

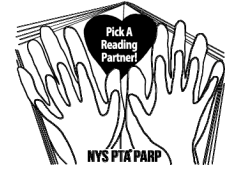
1. Prepare and work out a Kick-off program
2. Coordinate with the principal and staff

### Incentives

1. Choose
2. Obtain
3. Decide on distribution method
4. Coordinate with record keepers, staff and committee

### Record Keepers

1. Obtain class lists or list of children who would like to participate at your library or in your community
2. Design weekly record sheets
3. Collect contracts and weekly records
4. Coordinate information for final statistics



**Decorations (for hallways, bulletin boards, etc.)**

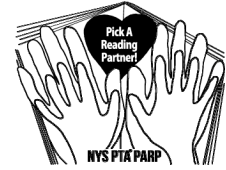
1. Design and produce
2. Coordinate with record keepers
3. Put names on walls
4. Remove names, etc. from walls after program is completed

**Parent Packet**

1. Update parent packet
2. Copy and assemble
3. Coordinate for distribution

**Copier**

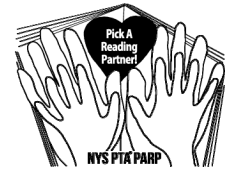
1. Copy notices, etc. for committee, except parent packet
2. Coordinate with principal for timely distribution



## Do's and Don'ts for Chairmen and Committee Members

- Give yourself and your committee plenty of time to plan your PARP program.
- Try to keep the program simple and appealing.
- Keep the written information for parents and teachers concise and simple.
- Enlist as many volunteers as you can to help with the program.
- Be creative! The ideas are endless!
- Include all children in all of your PARP programs and/or assemblies.
- Remember – there are no periods after each of the letters in PTA or PARP.
- Include the PARP logo on your letters home and on student activity sheets.
- Remember that PARP is an acronym for **Pick A Reading Partner**.
- Try to include the school principal and librarian, the public librarian and/or other community members in your PARP program.
- You should consult with the school principal, reading specialist, English chair and other relevant administrators, for assistance in planning your program, its theme and its timing. The principal should approve the incentives, fundraisers and other activities you wish to plan.
- The PTA logo and tagline, *everychild.onevoice.*<sup>®</sup> may be incorporated into your handouts as well as the PARP logo. Remember that these logos and taglines are registered trademarks of PTA.
- Remember that only the PTA president can sign contracts.
- Be sure that a building use form is submitted for all scheduled activities, and that the PTA unit certificate of insurance is on file at the school.

Don't forget to apply for the PARP Award and share with others all of your hard work and creativity. For further information see the PARP Award Application section.

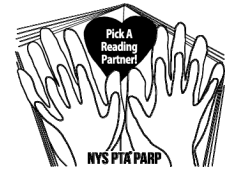


## PARP Theme Ideas

A Banquet of Books  
A Reading Rainbow  
Author, Author  
Be a Readerosaurus  
Be a Reading Sleuth  
Blast off with Reading  
Book a Trip  
Books are Bear-y Special  
Books: Your Ticket to the World  
Celebrate Reading  
Color Your World With Reading  
Come Join the Reading Circus  
Discover the Reading Rainforest  
Discover New Worlds  
Dive Into Reading  
Don't Bug Me, I'm Reading  
Elect to Read  
Exercise Your Mind...Read  
Expand Your World - Read!  
Explore New Worlds with Books  
Families That Read, Succeed  
Fly Away with Books  
Follow the Reader  
Follow the Reading Rainbow  
Gator - Get a Thrill Out of Reading  
Get Caught in the Reading Web  
Get in the Reading Moo-o-od  
Get the Scoop on Reading  
Get Wrapped Up in a Good Book  
Give Us Books - Give Us Wings  
Give Us a Gift - Read  
Go Wild For Books

Hooked on Books  
I Need to Read  
Journey Through the Jungle  
Journey to Distant Places  
Just Say Yes to Books  
Let's Get PARPular  
Lights - Camera - Read  
Make Reading a Career  
Make Your Own Magic...Read  
Marathon Reader  
New York State Loves Reading Together  
Oceans of Opportunity  
Once A PARP a Time...In History  
Passport to Adventure  
Pocket a Good Book  
Reach for the World, Read  
Read Across America  
Read Around the Clock  
Read Around the School  
Read Big Time  
Read for the Gold  
Read, Learn, Soar  
Read Up a Storm  
Read Write Away Month  
Readers Are Winners  
Reading Around the World  
Reading Electrifies the Mind  
Reading is Dino-Mite  
Reading is Fun in Any Language  
Reading is Magic  
Reading is the Best Gift  
Reading is the Main Ingredient  
Reading Jogs Your Mind  
Reading Rocks  
Reading Rodeo  
Reading Roundup

Reading Solves the Mysteries  
Readolympics  
Ride the Reading Railroad  
Ride the Reading Rocket  
Rock With Reading  
Sail the Seven Seas With Books  
See Ewe at the Library  
S.P.O.R.T. Special People Often Read Together  
Spring Into Books  
Stars Stick Together and Read  
Take Me Out to the Library  
Test Drive a Book  
The Sky's the Limit  
The Tale From the Enchanted Kingdom of "Read-a-lot"  
There's Magic in Books  
Transport Yourself With a Good Book  
Travel Through Time with Books  
Tune into Reading  
Uncover Hidden Treasures  
Welcome to Bookworld  
Welcome to Readabook Farm  
Westward Ho! Lasso a Good Book.  
Which Way to the Library?  
Wild About Reading  
Win with Reading



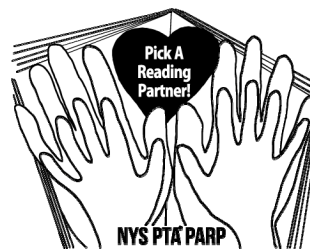
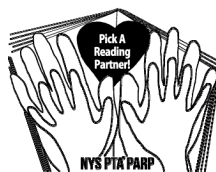
## PARP Logo, PTA Logo and Tagline

The PARP logo was selected by a state-wide competition in 2007, and was designed by a high school student. It is the property of NYS PTA and may be reproduced without alteration for use on all PARP materials.

Similarly, the official logo (**PTA**) and tagline (*everychild.onevoice.*<sup>®</sup>) of PTA may be used on all PARP materials. These logos are intended for use by participating PTA units and councils. A participating library may use the PARP logo, but can use the PTA logo and tagline only with the permission of a collaborating PTA unit or council. These guides will enable you to create your own PTA signature, logo and tagline:

- **Logo**—the logo consists of the slanted letters P, T, and A followed by a registered trademark symbol. (Note: all guidelines for PTA also apply to use of PTSA.)
- **Signature**—the official/legal name of your PTA. Just as you have an official way to sign your name and represent you on documents and checks, your PTA also has a “signature” or an official name that is used to identify your PTA. For consistency, your PTA name should always appear in the same typeface and size in relation to the logo on all the materials you publish.
- **Tagline**—PTA’s current tagline is *everychild.onevoice.*<sup>®</sup> In the tagline, “every child” suggests our national scope and that our mission is about all children, and “one voice” implies our advocacy role and collective strength.
- **Corporate Typeface/Font**—corporate typeface selected for use when showing the PTA signature is Arial Black (for PC users) or Helvetica Black (Macintosh users). This extra bold typeface was selected for PTA’s signatures to help balance the weight of PTA names centered above the bold letters of the logo. The font Times Roman (same for PC and Macintosh users) was selected as the corporate typeface for the tagline. This font was chosen for the tagline because of how it contrasts nicely with the bold style of the logo. See the section on the “Correct Use of Tagline” for additional guidelines.
- **Corporate Color**—the official color used when showing the PTA signature, logo and tagline is a dark, slate blue.

Here are some sample sizes of our PARP Logo for use on your PARP materials. Copy and paste and have fun!

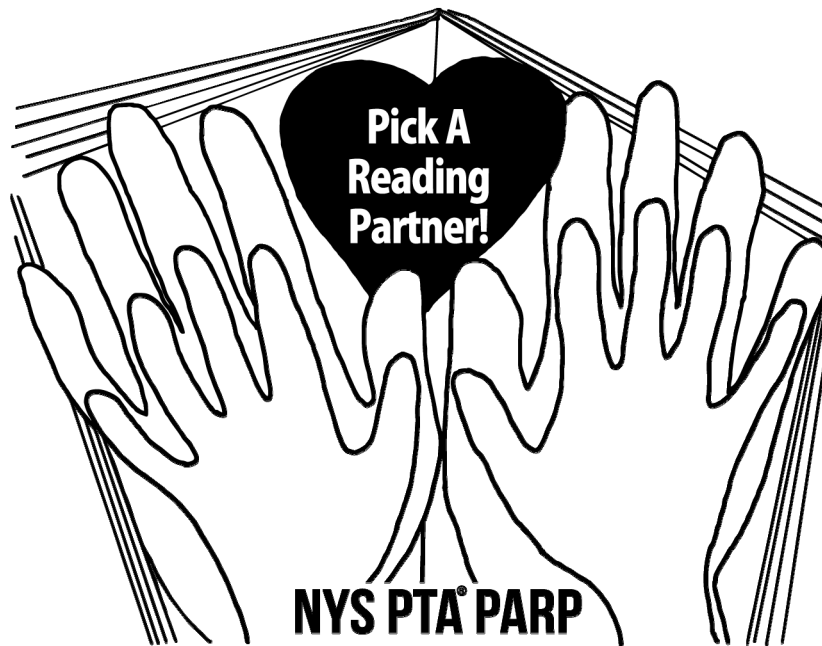
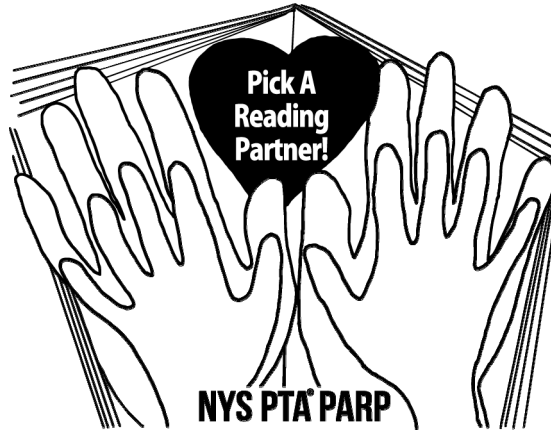
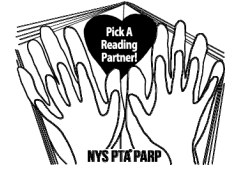




New York State

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

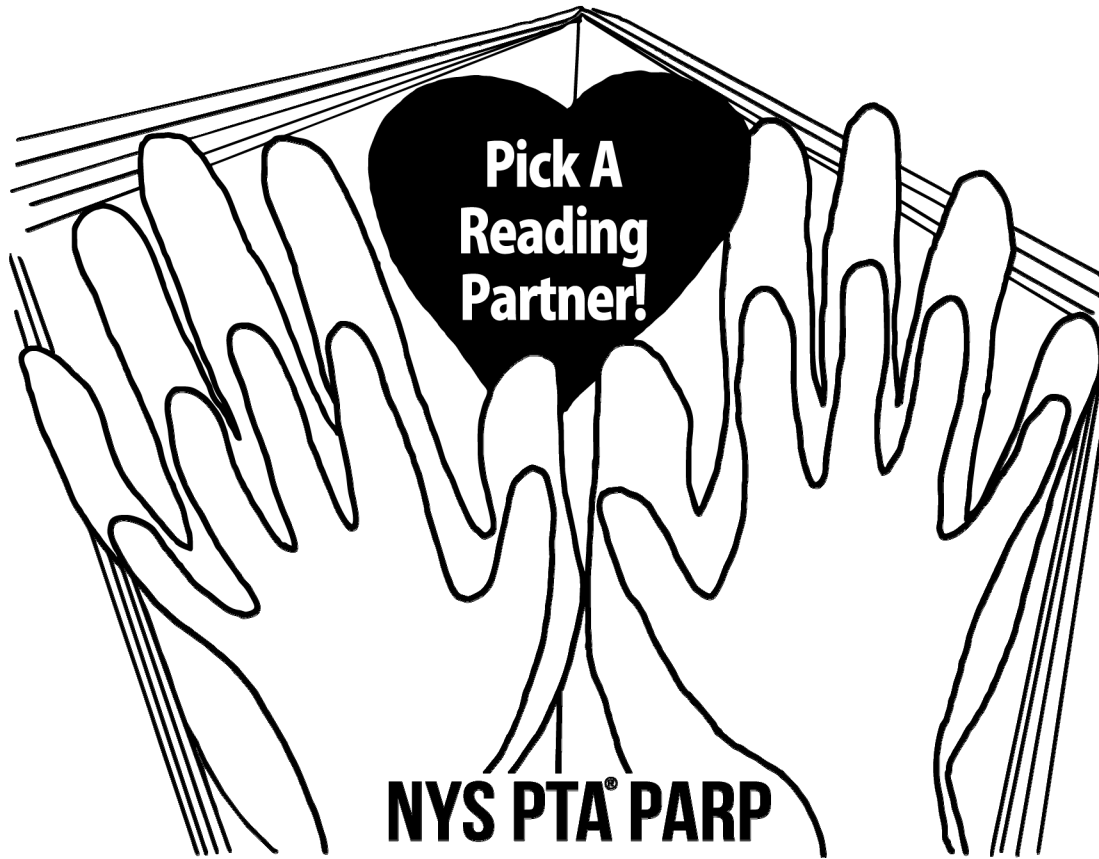
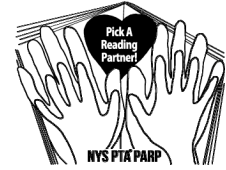
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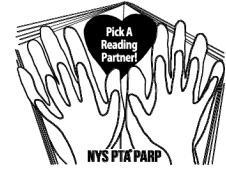


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## How to Adapt Your PARP Program at the Different Levels of Education

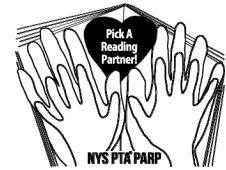
### **Sample PARP (Pick A Reading Partner) Program with activities from the pre-K level through the high school level, as well as suggested activities for a rural school vs. an urban school**

The basic framework of a PARP program would be a month-long (or could be condensed) program where families and students read together in some way for 15 minutes/day. This program is designed to encourage children to read and develop reading as a lifetime activity. Newspapers, magazines, books, poetry, etc. would all be acceptable reading materials.

Create a calendar for the weeks that you will be running the PARP program. On the calendar, note the theme of the PARP program and jot down some suggested reading activities for every day.

Notify your local newspaper and/or school newspaper with the PARP theme, dates, calendar and events.

As a suggestion for more participation, we recommend that a “grand prize” be rewarded at the end of the program for the class or student with the most points. Points would be earned through participation in activities (reading). The “grand prize” could be chosen by the PARP Committee or by the students suggesting the prize they would want if they win. They could be given free rein or choose from a list. This could be a classroom celebration or “prize” that a student could earn. A student could be the “teacher” for the day or assist the principal or earn additional time on the computer or earn a homework free pass, and so forth.



## PARP Program for Preschool Level 3 – 5 years old

**Sample PARP Program:** Pirates, Knights and Tourists

**Goals:** Instill a curiosity and love for reading

Increase reading opportunities for children














Expand children's knowledge of books and why they are important

**Suggested Committee Members:** PARP Chair, parents/grandparents, preschool teacher, librarian, community member (Note: You can use any or all of these people on your committee. Don't be discouraged if your committee is small. As long as you get these people to support your PARP program you will be ahead of the game).

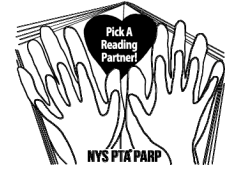
**Cost:** From \$0 to \$500. Try to use materials currently available at your facility. Cost depends on the activities you incorporate into the PARP program. An outside presenter could increase the cost.

**Timeline:** 2 weeks for preschool program

### Implementation/Activities:

-  A sample room theme could be "We Treasure Books" or "The Kingdom of Read-a-Lot"
-  Treasure chest in the room filled with books
-  Treasure map – chart out the room/school to the library with an x where the treasure of books are
-  Have a "dress like a pirate or knight or tourist" day
-  "Explore" the library
-  Use puppets to read stories to the children
-  Keep a reading log with coins for a treasure chest – build up coins by "reading" books
-  Guest reader day – use grandparents or other room volunteers to come and read stories with the children
-  Create and write their own stories – have children use their imagination and "tell" you a story where they are a pirate, knight or a tourist; put these stories into Kidspiration (or other computer program) and post up around the room/school
-  Activity like a "Where's Waldo" (but where's the pirate or knight...) game – send out a pirate/knight/tourist to different places, so that their picture can be taken with a book in various places, then compile a summary of all the places that the pirate/knight or tourist traveled with a book
-  Turn off the TV and read day
-  Earn points for going to visit the local library and have a form signed by a librarian
-  Have the room decorated like a pirate ship or a castle or various countries

**Results/Evaluation:** Children will "read" with a family member/guardian for 15 minutes every day.



## PARP Program for Elementary Level 5 – 10 years old

**Sample PARP Program:** Pirates, Knights and Tourists

**Goals:** Instill a curiosity and love for reading  
Increase reading opportunities for children  
Expand children's knowledge of books and why they are important

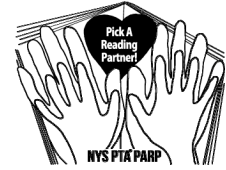
**Suggested Committee Members:** PARP Chair, parents/grandparents principal, teachers – reading teacher, art teacher, computer teacher, ESL director or teacher, librarian, community members (Note: You can use any or all of these people on your committee. Don't be discouraged if your committee is small. As long as you get these people to support your PARP program you will be ahead of the game).

**Cost:** From \$0 to \$1000. Try to use materials currently available at your facility. Cost depends on the activities you incorporate into the PARP program. An outside presenter could increase the cost.

**Timeline:** 2 - 4 weeks for elementary program

### Implementation/Activities:

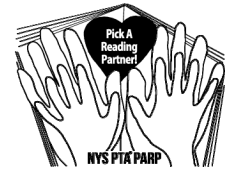
- ☞ A sample room theme could be "We Treasure Books" or "The Kingdom of Read-a-Lot" or "Travel with Books across America"
- ☞ Treasure chest in the room filled with books or a piece of luggage filled with books
- ☞ Treasure map – (chart out the room/school to the library with an x where the treasure of books are)
- ☞ Have a "dress like a pirate or knight or tourist" day
- ☞ "Explore" the library
- ☞ Keep track of books read with a reading log
- ☞ Use bookmarks in the shape of a ship or castle or create one with a country theme on it
- ☞ Keep a reading log with coins for a treasure chest – build up coins by "reading" books
- ☞ Have a book swap
- ☞ Tame your dragon by reading to him/her
- ☞ Adopt a dragon mascot for your room
- ☞ Color your castle/ship or country
- ☞ Knight/pirate/tourist madlibs
- ☞ Activity like a "Where's Waldo" (but where's the pirate or knight...) game
- ☞ Turn off the TV and read day
- ☞ Earn points for going to visit the local library and have a form signed by a librarian
- ☞ Guest reader day – use grandparents or other room volunteers to come and read stories with the children



Create a book – children can be both author and illustrator. Invite an author to the school to show children the excitement involved with the creation of books. When students view the magic of an illustrator creating pictures in front of them, they are inspired to put a crayon to paper. They carry the magic and wonder of writing and illustrating back to the classroom and into their own creations.

- 📖 Create and write their own stories – have children use their imagination and “share/create” a story where they are a pirate, knight or a tourist; put these stories into Kidspiration (or other computer program) and post up around the room/school
- 📖 Have the room decorated like a pirate ship or a castle or various countries
- 📖 If your school is involved in a reading program where the children get credit for the amount of books read, incorporate the school’s reading program into the PARP program

**Results/Evaluation:** Children will “read” with a family member/guardian for 15 minutes every day; track and monitor reading logs.



## PARP Program for Middle School Level 10 – 14 years old

**Sample PARP Program:** Pirates, Knights and Tourists

**Goals:** Ignite an enjoyment of reading  
Increase and expand reading opportunities for young people  
Expand children's knowledge of literature/genre types

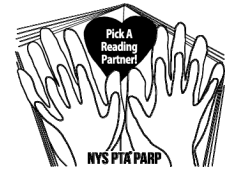
**Suggested Committee Members:** PARP Chair, parents, principal, assistant principal, teachers – English teacher, reading teacher, art teacher, music teacher, computer teacher, ESL director or teacher, librarian, students, community members (Note: You can use any or all of these people on your committee. Don't be discouraged if your committee is small. As long as you get these people to support your PARP program you will be ahead of the game).

**Cost:** From \$0 to \$1000. Try to use materials current available at your facility. Cost depends on the activities you incorporate into the PARP program. An outside presenter could increase the cost.

**Timeline:** 2 - 4 weeks for middle level program

### Implementation/Activities:

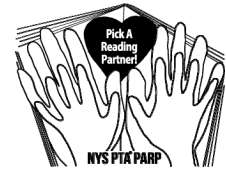
- 📖 Sample room theme – “Travel across America/Europe/...” or “The Magic of Books”, incorporate a “Harry Potter” castle-like theme and activities.
- 📖 Write a pirate theme related (or related to a book read by the student) poem, story, play, song or make a picture (any media), take a photo, choreograph a dance, etc. Their creation would earn points toward the grand prize.
- 📖 Have a scavenger hunt online. Give the student a list of pirate related information to find on the net. This could be geographical, biographical, historical, related to ships and design, Letters of Marque, local history during the U S colonial pirate period or contemporary pirates-Somalia, etc. Their report would earn points toward the grand prize.
- 📖 Have a community treasure hunt. Use map skills and historical knowledge (or facts from a book read by all) to follow “Treasure Maps”. The community can be involved and help to guide students during their search. If done in the community, permissions to access buildings, etc. might be needed.
- 📖 **Rural schools** could have an event in the downtown, park or on school grounds.
- 📖 **Urban schools** would probably have to have the treasure hunt inside the school unless they could find a safe place out of doors. There is an opportunity to read books describing period buildings and decorate areas of the school as specific historical places. Art works/photos could be used. Facts gathered in the scavenger hunt activity could be the basis for treasure hunt maps. Then, have the students draw “Treasure Maps” from information, or do both activities. Maps could earn points for the grand prize.
- 📖 Explore the library with a map quest – find and identify books by genre/type, while learning more about the library.



- 📖 Create book ratings for books within the school library – only rate the deserving books with a “1” for highly recommended.
- 📖 Keep track of books read with a reading log.
- 📖 Create a brochure about one of the books they have read.
- 📖 Have a book swap.
- 📖 Adopt a dragon mascot for the classroom.
- 📖 Knight/pirate/tourist madlibs.
- 📖 Guest reader day – use community members/volunteers to come and share their favorite book and why with the class.
- 📖 Have middle level students go to the elementary school and visit classrooms to share their favorite book when they were younger.
- 📖 Newspaper scavenger hunts (create an activity for students to peruse a newspaper looking for anything related to a modern day pirate or knight or information about another country).
- 📖 Create a book – middle level students can team up to include author and illustrator. Invite an author to the school to show about the excitement involved with the creation of books. Put these stories into Inspiration (or other computer program) and post up around the room/school.
- 📖 Have the theme around the school – pirate ship or a castle or various countries.
- 📖 Spot a reader – any student seen reading on their own will be awarded a coupon to be entered into a raffle for a very unique gift.
- 📖 If your school is involved in a reading program where the children get credit for the amount of books read, incorporate the school’s reading program into the PARP program.

**Results/Evaluation:** Children will "read" with a family member/guardian for 15 minutes every day; track and monitor reading logs.





## PARP Program for High School Level 14 – 21 years old

### Sample PARP Program: Pirates, Knights and Tourists

**Goals:** Further spark the enjoyment of reading  
Increase and expand reading opportunities for young people  
Expand knowledge of literature/genre types

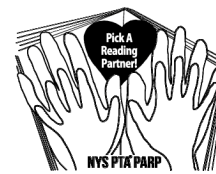
**Suggested Committee Members:** PARP Chair, parents, principal, assistant principal, guidance counselors, teachers – English teacher, reading teacher, art teacher, music teacher, computer teacher, ESL director or teacher, librarian, students, community members, student government (Note: You can use any or all of these people on your committee. Don't be discouraged if your committee is small. As long as you get these people to support your PARP program you will be ahead of the game).

**Cost:** From \$0 to \$1000. Try to use materials currently available at your facility. Cost depends on the activities you incorporate into the PARP program. An outside presenter could increase the cost.

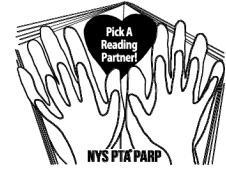
**Timeline:** 2 - 4 weeks for high school level program

### Implementation/Activities:

- ☞ Sample theme – “Travel across America/Europe/...” or *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*; or be a tourist in time; *Discworld-The Color of Magic*.
- ☞ Write a pirate/knight/tourist theme related (or related to a book read by the student) poem, story, play, song or make a picture (any media), take a photo, choreograph a dance, etc. Their creation would earn points toward the grand prize.
- ☞ Have a scavenger hunt online (a webquest). Give the student a list of pirate/tourist/knight related information to find on the Internet. This could be geographical, biographical, historical, related to ships and design, Letters of Marque, local history during the U.S. colonial pirate period or contemporary pirates-Somalia, etc. Their report would earn points toward the grand prize.
- ☞ Have a community treasure hunt. Use map skills and historical knowledge (or facts from a book read by all) to follow “Treasure Maps”. The community can be involved and help to guide students during their search. If done in the community, permissions to access buildings, etc. might be needed.
- ☞ **Rural schools** could have an event in the downtown, park or on school grounds.
- ☞ **Urban schools** would probably have to have the treasure hunt inside the school unless they could find a safe place out of doors. There is an opportunity to read books describing period buildings and decorate areas of the school as specific historical places. Art works/photos could be used. Facts gathered in the scavenger hunt activity could be the basis for treasure hunt maps. Then, have the students draw “Treasure Maps” from information, or do both activities. Maps could earn points for the grand prize.



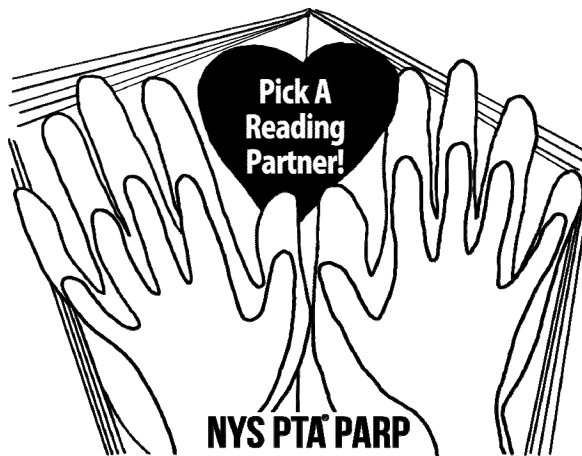
- 📖 Explore the library with a map quest – find and identify books by genre/type, while learning more in-depth information about the library (or have a contest – if you could redesign your library, how would you do it – what books would you put where, etc.)
- 📖 Keep track of books read with a reading log.
- 📖 Create a brochure about one of the books they have read.
- 📖 Have a book swap (bring in a gently used book to share – left over books can be donated to a local childcare program or local hospital pediatrics unit or a doctors office).
- 📖 Guest reader day – use community leaders to come and share their tourist experiences with the class and their favorite book and why.
- 📖 Have high school students go to the elementary school and visit classrooms to share their favorite book when they were younger.
- 📖 Create a book – high school level students can team up to include author and illustrator. Invite an author to the school to show children the excitement involved with the creation of books.
- 📖 Spot a reader – any student seen reading on their own will be awarded a coupon to be entered into a raffle for a very unique gift.
- 📖 Compare and contrast books with movies that fall into the PARP theme.
- 📖 Create a map of your tourist destination. This can be done in conjunction with math, science or social studies classes. Maps would earn points toward the grand prize.
- 📖 Make a video travelogue of your location; incorporate the map and poem, story, etc. into the video. Have an event where all videos are shown all day in the library for example. Have students vote on the best one. Points would be earned toward the grand prize by videos.
- 📖 Teach students how to use GPS. Have an orienteering event in town or on campus. Urban schools could use a school bus and a GPS to drive to “Tourist” destinations. Have students read about how GPS works as an online science lab?
- 📖 Use Google Earth to find tourist destinations. Look at photos if available. If space travel is chosen, look at Hubble photos. Use this info in your travelogue and blog tour book.
- 📖 Write a blog entry about what was found on Google Earth. Write an online tour book of the chosen destination. This would earn points toward the grand prize.
- 📖 As one travels, one encounters many different words – take a look at the origin of some of our English words to discover what country they came from.
- 📖 If your school is involved in a reading program where the children get credit for the amount of books read, incorporate the school’s reading program into the PARP program.
- 📖 Culmination Event: Dress Like a Tourist Dance – students must come in costume that reflects their destination. The admission fee is a book to share or swap. Have prizes for the best costume. Announce the grand prize winner at the dance.



## **Additional PARP Information for Rural/Urban Schools and Communities**

- ☞ Invite in guest readers to the school from the community
- ☞ Include the local library – put up posters there and have evening activities occurring at the local library that correspond with the school theme
- ☞ Have the whole community join in the PARP program for the week/month – have posters up in local stores and the library “We Treasure Books”
- ☞ Have a movie night – read the book, then watch the movie – compare and contrast the book to the movie
- ☞ Invite the Mayor or local business owners in to “read” to the students
- ☞ “Raffle” (with prizes from local businesses) – read so many books and your name is entered into the drawing
- ☞ Principal “Challenge”

**Results/Evaluation:** Children will "read" with or alongside a family member/guardian for 15 minutes every day; track and monitor reading logs – can use an electronic log or a paper one.



**Pick A Reading  
Partner (PARP)  
Award Application**  
is available on our  
website,  
[www.nyspta.org](http://www.nyspta.org)

*New Award Application will be posted on the website  
in January each year.*

We encourage you to share your successful program!  
Through this application process your PTA unit could be  
recognized for their creative ideas and hard work for conducting  
the most outstanding Pick A Reading Partner Program  
in your Region.

Each Region will submit their PARP award-winning application  
to NYS PTA to be considered for the  
Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) Award winner.  
The NYS PTA winner will be recognized at the  
NYS PTA Convention.

Applications must be received by your Region Director  
no later than June 15 each year.  
Please see application for further details.

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