NYPL After School
Activity Guide
4th–6th Grade

COLLABORATE
In this packet you’ll find tips, books we love, and activities all about collaborating. Collaborating means sharing a common goal and working together with other people on projects, ideas, and tasks. Explore more at nypl.org/afterschool.

BOOKS WE LOVE
These books are some of our favorites titles that give us examples of collaboration in action. To check them out, place a hold online at nypl.org or call Ask NYPL (917-275-6975). If you are at a branch, ask a librarian how to place a hold. Books marked with a 📚 are available as e-books.

- Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson
- Revenge of the Red Club by Kim Harrington
- The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya
- The Inquisitor’s Tale by Adam Gidwitz, illus. by Hatem Aly
- Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly
- Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero by Kelly J. Baptist
- The Moon Within by Aida Salazar
- Illegal by Eoin Colfer & Andrew Donkin, illus. by Giovanni Rigano
- The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

QUICK TIPS
- So many books, movies, and TV shows rely on teams. Who are your favorite teams? The Avengers? Percy Jackson and his friends? Keep a list of all the teams you notice as you read and watch stuff this week and think about what makes them work well together.
- Play a game where you have to work together with someone. Try charades, 20 questions, or even just putting a puzzle together!

nypl.org/afterschool
WRITE A COMIC WITH A FRIEND OR SIBLING!

GRAB PAPER AND ART SUPPLIES AND MAKE ART WITH SOMEONE ELSE!

DID YOU KNOW THAT MANY PROFESSIONAL COMICS ARE MADE BY MORE THAN ONE PERSON?

AN AUTHOR WRITES WORDS CHARACTERS SAY

AN ILLUSTRATOR MAKES CHOICES ABOUT HOW CHARACTERS LOOK AND DRAWS THE ART.

YOU CAN TEAM UP WITH A FRIEND OR RELATIVE TO CREATE A COLLABORATIVE COMIC JUST LIKE COMIC PROFESSIONALS DO!

STEP ONE:

Find a friend at home or online to work with on your comic.

STEP THREE:

Your illustrator will sketch out how the page will look. Are the panels and speech bubbles right? Check with the author!

STEP TWO:

Before you draw your comic, write out what the characters say and what will happen in each panel. Are there sound effects? Make it clear! The author should check with the illustrator to see what they think.

STEP FOUR:

After you’re done, talk together about your comic. Be patient with each other.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT COMICS? CHECK OUT “MAKER COMICS: MAKE A COMIC” BY JP COOVERT ON NYPL.ORG’S CATALOG!
COLLABORATE WITH FAMOUS AUTHORS TO WRITE A STORY

Team up with the authors of this month’s Books We Love! Below are quotes from four of the books that we selected to spark your own writing. Create your own unique story using these quotes. Feel free to use one or all of them!

“The room is green and brown and yellow, Daddy's favorite colors...”

“Harbor Me”

“We were different, but most days we believed Ms. Laverne when she told us how special we were, how smart, how kind, how beautiful...”

“Ms. Laverne”

“We enter the world of drums, songs, and movement we all create and we're on point just like we rehearsed.”

“The Moon Within”

“The robot's head slowly spun around as she scanned the area.”

“The Wild Robot”

Hint: Start your story here, but grab another piece of paper to finish it!
COLLABORATIVELY DESIGN A GARDEN

Design a garden plot or a windowsill garden with the needs of your family and community in mind!

First, do some brainstorming about what your family and community might appreciate in a garden. Would people in your neighborhood appreciate brightly colored flowers? What kinds of vegetables does your family like to eat? What herbs do you use regularly in cooking?

Put your ideas for your garden in the box below. Then interview a family member or friend in your community and get their ideas for what they would put in a garden. Add those ideas below also!

Now sketch out your garden. Choose a plant for each square.

Recommended Window Garden Plants
- Herbs
- Lettuces
- Green onions
- Radishes
- Cherry tomatoes

Recommended Outdoor Garden Plants
- Everything above!
- Vegetables like tomatoes, eggplants, leafy greens, onions, peppers and more
- Flowers

This is just an imaginary garden, but if you’re interested in gardening, check out a book from the library or talk to someone you know who gardens. Maybe you can make your garden a reality!