

Online Book Club

The Mystery at the Roman Colosseum

Bring It To Life!

1. Make a mask! You will need paper plates, glue, markers, scissors, and yarn. You might want some extras like feathers, sequins, or glitter—whatever goodies you can find to make your mask fantastic! Cut holes in your paper plate for your eyes, nose, and mouth. Punch small holes on each side for the strings, and tie a piece of string through each hole. Make sure your strings are long enough to tie in the back of your head. Decorate your mask and have a friend tie it on your head. Now it's time to party!
2. Bring geography to life! Ask a volunteer to draw a big map of Italy on a piece of poster board. Use a map of Italy from the encyclopedia to help you locate and label the cities you learned about in the book—Rome, Florence, and Venice. Trace Christina and Grant's journey across Italy. About how many miles did they travel? Draw in Italy's mountains so you can learn about the country's terrain.
3. Have an Italian feast! Ask your parents to help you make some authentic Italian food to share with book club members. Pizza, spaghetti, calzones, cheese, red grapes, olives...anything goes! You can get lots of ideas from the book. Be sure to bring napkins!
4. Bring in a guest speaker! Do you know anyone who has visited Italy? If so, ask him or her to come in and share their photographs and stories with your group. If they have some euros, ask your speaker to bring them, too. Be sure to listen closely and ask lots of questions! That's the best way to learn!
5. Create a "monumental" game! Assign an Italian tourist attraction to each book club member. Ask that person to find a picture of his or her attraction, and research three facts about it. Ask each member to present his picture and information to the group. At the end of the presentations, see who can remember the most about each attraction. Award two points for remembering the name of the attraction, and one point for remembering a fact. The person with the most points wins (of course!)

