



County of Los Angeles Public Library Teen Services



10 Ways to Journal with Meg Cabot!

Join the festivities as teens from America to Genovia celebrate the December release of Meg Cabot's latest *Princess Diaries* book, *Princess Mia* (volume IX in the *Princess Diaries* series)!

Now don't think, "I'm already committed to a program in January"; the real focus is to have a program related to journals and journal writing, so be creative--there are LOTS of options:



Give teens blank journals and artsy decorations and have them create their own journals! They could even create secret journals using disappearing ink, a fake book cover (think paper bag cover with "Algebra" written on the front), or use boring-looking covers of donated books to disguise their journal. At the end of the program you can raffle off a signed copy of *Princess Mia*!



Host your own journal writing workshop! Provide teens with a list of journal "starters" (topics and open-ended sentences to get them started) and let them write. At the end, give them all a "Meg Cabot's Journal Writing Tips" bookmark and then raffle off a signed copy of *Princess Mia*!



Short on time? Contact your local writer's group to see if an author would be willing to conduct the program for you.



Use this opportunity to connect with your local schools. Visit a class (or classes) and booktalk titles that are written in journal format or have to do with journals in some way. You can give every teen a "Meg Cabot's Journal Writing Tips" bookmark and then raffle off a signed copy of *Princess Mia*!



Tie it in to a New Year's Resolution program. Use "Meg Cabot's Journal Writing Tips" and play music while the teens write their first entry. If you kept a journal when you were a teen, you could bring it and read the teens a page. End by raffling off a signed copy of *Princess Mia*!



Host a *Princess Diaries* movie marathon. Serve snacks and read aloud classic excerpts from some of the *Princess Diaries* books. Hand out bookmarks of "Meg Cabot's Journal Writing Tips" and raffle off a signed copy of *Princess Mia*!



Have your teens write an imaginary journal entry--i.e. "A Day in the Life of SpongeBob SquarePants"--and submit it to a Teen Literary magazine or publish entries on your website. (As we've learned from "Meg Cabot's Journal Writing Tips," you don't want your own journal to be published). Or, use the creative entries to hold a contest. Let teens vote on funniest entry, most creative, most original, etc. At the end of the program you can raffle off a signed copy of *Princess Mia*!



Tie your program in to blogging, MySpace, etc. Show teens how to create an online journal and sneak in safe blogging tips. Booktalk titles that are written in weblog format or have to do with weblogging in some way. You can give every teen a "Meg Cabot's Journal Writing Tips" bookmark and then raffle off a signed copy of *Princess Mia*!



Host a pajama party. Teens bring their sleeping bags and jimmies. You provide the pizza, journals and pens. Review Meg Cabot's journal writing tips, the journal the night away!



Hold a scrapbooking program to demonstrate that journaling can take many forms.