



Top five things I like about the contest:

1. It is widely accessible. This is a naturally differentiated activity. Students can do as much or as little as they'd like for their entries, and the choices of hobby books embody a wide variety of skill sets.
2. It is widely appealing. Boys and girls of varying backgrounds equally enjoy creating something new, and they are free to choose a project based on their own interests.
3. It doesn't involve screen time. Technology has many fantastic uses, but it's refreshing in this day and age to see kids creatively engage in digital-free pursuits.
4. It motivates kids. This is an opportunity for kids to create without the pressure of assessment. It is especially rewarding when students who struggle in school put forth a tremendous effort for the contest. I will always remember one student who went above and beyond to create an entire book detailing her hobby experience. With tears in her eyes, her mother said that she had never seen her daughter be so motivated about a project before.
5. It creates a sense of community. It really is wonderful to see the photos of the students at home with their creations. Students and teachers alike pause to peruse and comment on our display of pictures. ■

Looking for some hobby book suggestions to add to your collection? Here are a few of our favourites:

Bucholz, Dinah. *The Unofficial Harry Potter Cookbook: from Cauldron Cakes to Butterbeer—More than 150 Magical Recipes for Wizards and Non-Wizards Alike*. Adams Media, 2018.

Davis, Robin, and Frankie Frankeny. *The Star Wars Cookbook: Wookie Cookies and Other Galactic Recipes*. Chronicle Books, 1998.

McGraw, Sheila. *Papier-mâché for Kids*. Firefly Books, 1991.

Reid, Barbara. *Playing with Plasticine*. Kids Can Press, 1988.

Check out these book-themed cookbooks:

Brennan, Georgeanne, and Frankie Frankeny. *Green Eggs and Ham Cookbook: Recipes Inspired by Dr. Seuss!* Random House, 2006.

Odell, Carol, and Anna Pignataro. *Once Upon a Time in the Kitchen: Recipes and Tales from Classic Childrens Stories*. Sleeping Bear Press, 2010.

Walker, Barbara M., and Garth Williams. *The Little House Cook Book*. Harper Collins, 2018.