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Division of Information. 7/1/1939-1943

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PACK HORSE
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RESOURCE PACKET

THE BOOK WOMEN

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www.yourstagepartners.com



Book Swap

Imagine hosting a book swap over the weekend of your performances! Do you have a large lobby? A schoolyard? Engage with your audience and community with a book swap!

How To:

- Select a date and location for your swap. Make sure there is plenty of room for your guests to spread out. You'll also want to check with your facilities manager to make sure you can be there.
 - Have a plan for where the leftover books will go. Will your local library take them? Will a thrift store take them? How will they get there?
 - Schedule your volunteers! Will this be your cast or does your theatre have eager interns? Perhaps you have a strong volunteer corp. Determine how many people you will need and book them now.
 - Get your invitations out there! Make sure to let participants know what to bring (bags, boxes, books): Time, location, where to park and, of course, information about your production of *The Book Women*!
 - Will you accept donations at the book swap? Sell tickets to the show?
 - Be sure to invite your local library. Maybe they would like to set up a table with info of their events or a library card registration!
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Performance Events



- Host a library card sign-up at your theatre!
- Invite your local librarians to the show and include them in a post-performance talkback.
- Pre-show story time for young audience members.



Photograph of Pack Horse Librarian Record Group 69,
Records of the WPA 1922-1944



Scrap Book

As The Book Women travel from home to home delivering books, they also collect items for a community scrap book. These will be shared with members of the community and stand as an artifact for how the people lived. Take the time with your cast to create your very own scrap book! Share the book digitally or have it be a physical time capsule.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

As a group, decide if this will be a digital scrap book or a physical scrap book. Where will it live when it is done?

WHAT TO COLLECT

The Book Women collected all sorts of helpful items for their community like recipes and cures for ailments. What special how-to's or delicious recipes or inside jokes do you want to share in your scrap book?

EXTRAS

This scrap book is unique to your cast. Be sure to include rehearsal tips or what not to do's. Snap photos of your process and look back at all of the progress you are sure to make while rehearsing.



Reading with *The Book Women*

Many titles that *The Book Women* would have distributed are still widely read today. Explore this list of reading material that the characters discuss in the play.

BOOKS

- *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- *The Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

PERIODICALS

- *National Geographic*
- *The New York Times*
- *Popular Mechanics*

POETRY

- "The Bee" by Emily Dickinson
- "Preparation" by Effie Waller Smith

Discussion Question:

What themes do these books, periodicals, and poems have in common with the themes of the play?



Share Reading in Your Community

READ OUT LOUD

The Book Women read out loud to people as a way to share books in a group, and also to reach people of different levels of literacy and ability.

- Host a read-aloud circle for young audience members before the show.
- Have members of your cast volunteer to read aloud at local libraries, elementary schools, or retirement communities.

INTRODUCE YOUR AUDIENCE TO BOOKS

- Create a lobby display, poster, or program insert about one of the titles that the Book Women share (see list on previous page).
- Is there an artistic or visually interesting way you could present an excerpt? Could you find interesting facts about an author, or the time in which the piece was published? After the show, see if you can donate your display to a classroom or library.

MAKE NEWS YOU CAN USE

- In *The Book Women*, reporter Leo Burnett travels the country writing about the women employed by the WPA, like workers at the floating library and Hallie Flanagan of the Federal Theater Project. Research the women of the WPA and create your own newspaper to share your findings.