

Your Book of...

1. Choose a particular piece of writing that you are reading. Ideally, this would be a short story or something brief that contains plot elements, such as a poem that tells a tale or a song with lyrics that share a particular experience.
2. Consider the plot, the characters, and the themes present in the work. This can be done on your own by taking notes or through discussion in a group.
3. Now, knowing that you are going to adapt this piece, identify a possible individual audience for the work you are going to create. This could be a friend, a family member, or a colleague, but, ideally, it would be someone about whom you have a fair amount of knowledge.
4. Next, given what you know about this person, write down what you think they would most enjoy or identify with in the source text you are adapting. This could include certain characters, particular situations, feelings expressed in the piece, or feelings that it brings up in you.
5. Then, write down the parts that you think your audience would find most difficult to connect with. Again, this could include characters, situations, or feelings. It could also include the time period, the language used, etc.
6. Given the lists you made, and in order to most appeal to your audience, write down:
 - a) Five elements of the piece that you would keep and amplify. In other words, these should be things you believe your audience would like to experience more of in the writing.
 - b) Five elements of the piece that you would change to fit their tastes, interests, or feelings more fully.
 - c) One completely new element that you could add into the writing. For example, this could be a new character or a plot twist that changes the ending.

7. Now, write a new version of the piece for your audience. This should include amplification of the parts that align with their interests, changes that would increase the impact, and the new element listed above.

One suggestion: if you are struggling with writing, we often recommend that people write a first line and a last line. Then, all you have to do is fill in the middle and, as such, it does not feel as challenging!

8. Once the writing is complete, choose a title for this piece. This could even be a play on the original.
9. Create a cover page that includes the title. This could be just text-based, or it could be a drawing that captures something about the piece that would appeal to your audience.
10. Share your adaptation with your audience!