# Idaho Family Reading Week –

# Sample Family Storytime:

**“Brilliant Boxes”**

## Opening: Mystery Box

Before storytime starts, prepare a box with an object in it – like an instrument, puppet, or something library-related. Close the box and make sure that no one can see what is in it AND that you can easily open it. During your opening routine, place a box in view of the families. Ask kids to guess what might be in the box. Shake the box so that they can hear what it sounds like. Let them use their senses and begin to make guesses. After a few guesses, start giving them clues. Let them use their reasoning skills to figure out what is in the box.

## Book 1: *What to Do With A Box* - by Jane Yolen and Chris Chabon

After the book, ask families if they have every played with a box? What did they make or play?

## Song: *The Dance Along Gong Song* - by Jim Gill

This song is fun for the whole family and is great for getting the wiggles out.

## Book: *Not a Box* - by Antionette Portis

Make this book interactive by asking kids about what they notice from the illustrations. After the book, talk about different things they will do with a box in the future.

## Activity: Tissue Box Banjo

Collect empty tissue boxes and rubber bands to pass out to families during storytime. Show them how wrap the rubber bands around the box so that they create “banjo strings” across the opening. Have fun making music with tissue box banjos.

## Book: *Birthday Box -* by Leslie Patricelli

After the book – talk about how much fun it is to unwrap a box, and how much fun you have with just a box.

## Closing: Bye Bye Boxes

Does your library accumulate boxes? Try passing them out at the end of this storytime to families that would like extra cardboard to take home for projects.

## Extension Activity: Cardboard Challenge

Let families design and build things with extra cardboard. Pass out scissors, tape, glue, markers and other craft items and let them create something together.