

# Escape Rooms 101

# What Are Escape Rooms?

- Solve puzzles/challenges to complete an objective
- Always have a time limit
- Set in fictional locations
- Backstory given by the host
- Puzzles follow the theme of the room

# DIY Escape Rooms

- Mimic the idea of paid events
- Pop culture themes work well
- General, overarching story
- Mix of puzzles and finding hidden items
- Adaptable to different age levels
- Attendees may need specific knowledge

# DIY Rooms: Getting Started

- Select targeted age group
- Select theme, scenario, and final goal
- Internet is your friend
  - Programming Librarian Facebook group
  - Crafting sites or fan pages
  - Breakout Edu

# DIY Rooms: Preparation

- “Borrow” or write the script
- Gather or create props
- Create the puzzles
- Test as you go
- Adjust as needed
- Time slots with registration required
  - Be firm on age limits

# DIY Rooms: Clues and Puzzles

- Hidden objects
- Altered objects
- Assemble objects
- Patterns
- Codes/ciphers
- Black/UV light
- Locks

# DIY Rooms: Room Set Up

- Set up the day before
- Fill with thematically appropriate “stuff”
- Follow the script
- Consider false trails
- Table to work on
- Cover windows



# DIY Rooms: Props

- Most time consuming part
- Think outside the box
- Papercrafts will go far
  - Boxes
  - Fake book covers
  - Wall art
- Don't have to be literal

# DIY Rooms: Props

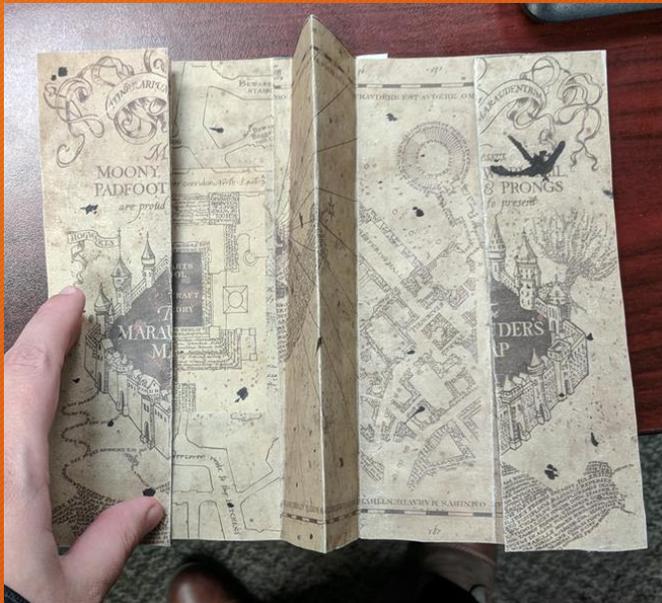


Group starts with this box



And eventually return to unlock the box.

And finds this hidden in the back of the 7<sup>th</sup> book

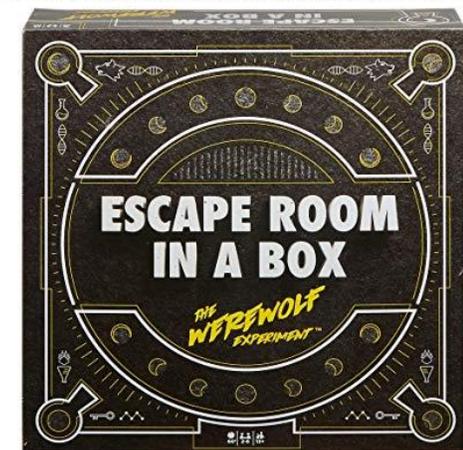
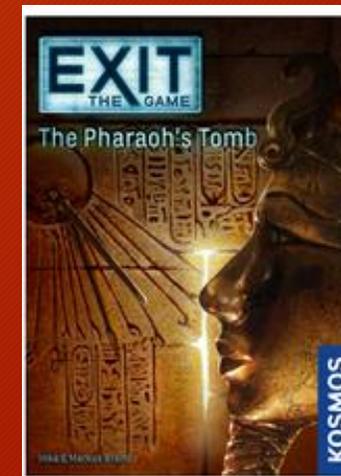
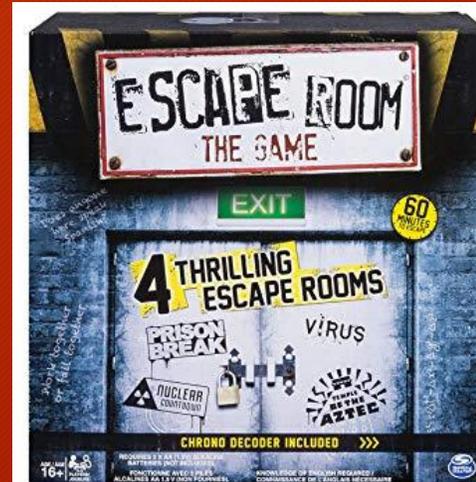


which tells them to search for a rat.



# Escape Room Kits

- Everything you need to do the room is in the box
- Price varies
  - Typically \$20-\$50
- Be careful about repeatability
  - Lots of paper/cardboard items
  - Make copies of single-use items
- Harder to control difficulty
- No specific knowledge needed



# Escape Room Kits

- Large table for completing puzzles
- Re-set is quick and easy
  - Gather pieces and replace one-time use items
- Keep an eye on small pieces
- Great for outreach programming

# Day of Event

- Buffer between time slots
- Have hints prepared
  - Kits may provide hints
- Stay in the room
- Visible timer

# Questions?

Sarah Warneke

[swarneke@cdln.info](mailto:swarneke@cdln.info)

701-667-5365