MIDD Reads:
Putting a Spotlight on Beginning Chapter Books

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What are Beginning Chapter Books?

- 100 pages +/- 20
- Illustrations on many pages
- Large font size
- Often a series
- Reading Level:
  - 2nd - 3rd
  - L - P (F&P)
  - DRA 28 - 38
Why are Beginning Chapter Books Important?

● Predictability
  ○ Build Confidence
  ○ Increases Stamina
  ○ Improves Working Memory

● Functional Bridges
  ○ Learning to Read ⇦ Fluent Reader
  ○ Picture Book ⇦ Easy Reader ⇦ Beginning Chapter Books ⇦ Middle Grade Chapter Books
Why are Beginning Chapter Books Important?: Bridge
What is the MIDD Reads list?

- 24 - 30 books
- Beginning / Transitional Chapter Books
- Collaboratively selected
- Advertised through public and school library
Why MIDD Reads? - How it Began

- Most common patron request: Short, easy chapter books
- Gap in state lists
- Reaching out: Public and School Library Collaboration

Hi Julie!
There is a significant reading gap in the state-sponsored award lists - Red Clover picture books to Dorothy’s List chapter books. I am putting together a list of transitional readers...Would you be interested in working with me to set up a local reading challenge?

Hi Tricia,
I do find many 3rd and 4th graders feel too old for Red Clover but too young for DCF. I am interested!
How? - Nuts and Bolts

Initial Meeting: Ilsley Library and Mary Hogan Elementary (Tricia and Julie Altemose)

- **Goal:** Help 2nd and 3rd grade students make the jump to fluent, independent readers by suggesting high interest titles.

- **Criteria:** Books that target 2nd and 3rd grade readers with a wide range of reading levels
  - Recent titles and current series - at least one book published in the previous school year/summer.
  - Variety of genres
  - At least 5 available as Overdrive Audio
  - High appeal prioritized over educational content

- **Vote:** by May 15th
  - Students must read or listen to at least 5 titles on the list during the 17-18 school year. Only one book per series is counted toward the total number of books!
  - Celebration in school for those that vote!
  - A prize if you read 20!
Year One - Mechanics

25 Series/Books displayed at both Mary Hogan and Ilsley Public Library

Mary Hogan:

- Kids self-report reading
- 5 books = vote (google forms)
- 10 books or more invited to ice cream party

Discussion of Program with Abby at VLC 2018...
Year Two

3 people now coming up with a list

- Same Criteria
- Slightly different goals
- Books overlap, but lists are not the same

Shoreham Elementary School:

- Allow 4th - 6th grade students who are not reading on grade level to participate in a reading list program and vote
Major Outcomes

School:
First, Second, Third self-selecting just-right books

Public:
Collection for PreK read-aloud audience

Both:
Accessible collections of curated books for all level readers (Red Clover, MIDD Reads, Dorothy’s List)
A New Collection - Changes at Ilsley

Popularity of MIDD Reads collection outstrips other chapter books

After Year One: 1-Day Massive Shift of Transitional Readers

- 2 chapter book collections: Transitional and Middle Grade

Patron response: HOORAY!

After Year Two: Addition of Purple MIDD Reads Bookcase

- Half the books checked out within the week
- Continued high rate of turn-over
Collections

Mid-Grade Chapter Books

MIIDD Reads Display

Transitional Chapter Books
The Books - Year One Favorites

- Who Was?
- What Was?
- Where Is?
- Dog Man
- Tales of Bunjitsu Bunny
- Dragon Masters
- Phoebe and Her Unicorn
- The Bad Guys
- I am Jackie Robinson
The Books - Year Two Favorites

1. **BIG FOOT and LITTLE FOOT**
2. **SURVIVOR DIARIES AVALANCHE!**
3. **THE UNICORN RESCUE SOCIETY**
4. **ZOEE SASSAFRAS DRAGONS AND MARSHMALLOWS**
5. **NANCY, KRULIK PRINCESS PULVERIZER**
6. **REMY SNEAKERS VS. THE ROBO-RATS**
7. **UNDER-THE-BED FRED**
The Books - Year Three!

Still working on final lists for 2019-2020!
What about you?

What are the high-interest titles of this kind in YOUR collections?
Thank you!

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