

Books For Your Advanced Reader At Brockville Public Library

The struggling child reader as a top priority in early literacy support is important but more attention needs to be given to children who are advanced readers. There are five critical reading sub skills that all children, regardless of their reading proficiency, must develop and maintain, as reading levels move higher.

These five reading sub skills that parents need to keep in mind are: phonetic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension and fluency. In other words, your child must be able to hear, separate, then blend sounds together; match spoken sounds with written letter symbols; have a good bank of known words to draw on; be able to make meaning from what they read and finally be able to read smoothly, while understanding content without losing track.

Observe whether or not your child decodes words never encountered before; picks up new spoken vocabulary and recognize these words in print; knows the details of the story and main ideas; shows the ability to predict story conclusions and uses expression when reading out loud. The achievement of these skills will provide some guidance in selecting the appropriate books for your child, especially your advanced reader.

There are a few tips in book selection for all readers. The first step is to find a book that your child is interested in and then gently investigate the child's reading level. Providing a number of possible books to choose from, is fun and encourages the decision making process in reading selection.

If your child is reading above grade level, these tips for book selection still apply. It is easy to jump ahead and select books above grade level for your first grader from a third grade reading list, such as, *Freckle Juice*, by Judy Blume, *Eddie's Valuable Property*, by Carolyn Haywood, *Amber Brown Sees Red*, by Paula Danziger, *Knights Of The Kitchen Table*, by Jon Scieszka or Henry Huggins, by Beverly Cleary, because the content is still part of their world and isn't more than they are able to understand or handle.

Selecting books for the older group of advanced grades becomes more challenging. This is when the subject matter needs more consideration and must to be appropriate for the age of your child. As an example, a ten year reading about the life issues of a fifteen year old, just won't work. Parents mustn't despair though, because there are some good suggestions on how to choose books for your advanced reader. These suggestions come from reading specialists, librarians, teachers and experienced parents.

Series Books

These books work well, because advanced readers are voracious readers. If you find a novel that is part of a series and the content is appropriate, you can relax and let your child go to it. *Guardians of Ga'Hoole*, by Katherine Lasky, (R.L. Grs. 4-5), (I.L. Grs. 3-8), *Trixie Belden*, by Julie Campbell, (R.L. Grs. 5-6), (I.L. Grs. 3-7), *Warriors*, by Erin Hunter, (R.L. Gr. 6), (I.L. Grs.4-8), *The Screech Owl Series*, by Roy MacGregor, (R.L. 4-5), I.L. 4-8), *Joey Pigza*, by Jack Gantos , are a few suggestions that will appeal to a wide range of interests.

Exceptional people

Books about real-life geniuses or exceptional people, such as *Albert Einstein: A Life Of Genius*, by Elizabeth MacLeod, *Hatshepsut, His Majesty, Herself*, by Catherine M. Andronik, *Nelson Mandela: Father Of Freedom*, by Hakim Adi, *The Story Of Anne Frank*, by Brenda Ralph Lewis are for the older reader. There are also some excellent picture book biographies: *A Bird Or Two: A Story About Matisse*, by Bijou Le Tord, *Good-Bye, Charles Lindbergh: Based On A True Story*, by Louise Borden for young readers. Biography not only introduces children to a variety of subjects but also gives them a kind-of-book buddy, if they are feeling isolated or different from other children.

Award Winners

Award winners, such as Newbery Award books are great books for advanced readers. These books usually deal with major life situations and inspire the child to consider issues of class, race and identity. Because of the content and the language or plot complexity, they are best suited for children, ten years and up. *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry, *Maniac Magee*, by Jerry Spinelli, *The True Confessions Of Charlotte Doyle*, by Avi, *Holes*, by Louis Sachar, *The Slave Dancer*, by Paula Fox and *In The Beginning: Creation Stories From Around The World*, by Virginia Hamilton, are a few of over a hundred of these award books that can be found in the library. Canadian award books, such as, Silver Birch and Red Maple have both fiction and nonfiction titles. This award is unusual because children from all over Ontario vote for their favorite titles, from a list chosen by over a hundred professionals from the province.

Poetry

Poetry can be fun, while showing the child different ways that language can be used. Poems are rich with unusual words and metaphors. Titles such as, *Never Take A Pig To Lunch: And Other Poems About The Fun Of Eating*, by Nadine Bernard Westcote, *There's A Mouse In My House*, by Sheree Fitch, *The Frogs Wore Red Suspenders*, by Jack Prelutsky are examples that would engage any advanced reader.

Classics And Your Childhood Favorites

Books that have passed the test of time or hold special memories for parents are sure winners for advanced readers. *The Swiss Family Robinson*, by Johann David Wyss, *The Adventures Of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain, *The Wizard Of Oz*, by L. Frank Baum or *The Trumpet Of The Swan*, by E. B. White represent a few oldies that are still enjoyed by parents and children alike.

We want to foster a love of reading that will be with the child for a lifetime. These reading suggestions are just a small sampling of titles for advanced readers that are available at the library. Remember to pay attention to your child's subjects of interest and help them explore their world through reading. You are invited to visit the library for more reading suggestions for your child or visit our website at www.brockvillelibrary.ca.

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