

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"Chapter Books Here I Come!"

With the Columbus Public Library's summer reading program underway, children are seeking advice on finding that perfect read. A majority of those requests come from individuals just moving into chapter books, which can be intimidating because chapter books typically contain smaller font, less illustrations, and more words. There is, however, a treasure trove of series that are perfect for those students transitioning into reading great novels.

Mary Pope Osborne's "Magic Tree House" series is ideal for students just beginning to read chapter books because the text size is about 16, chapters are between 3 to 4 pages long, and the books are no more than 90 pages in length. In this series, readers are introduced to Annie and Jack, siblings who stumble upon a tree house. This tree house is special because it is filled with enchanted books that transport Jack and Annie to unique destinations like the Jurassic period, home of the dinosaurs!

One of the alluring things about Osborne's series is that each book has a complementary nonfiction text, so if students pick up "Midnight on the Moon" they can also check out "Space" from Osborne's "Fact Tracker" series to learn more about the solar system.

The Geronimo Stilton series began in Italy back in 2000; however, it has become a huge sensation here in the States. In this collection, readers meet Geronimo Stilton a talented mouse journalist for the Rodents' Gazette. Geronimo would like nothing more than to live a quiet life in New Mouse City; however, through his journalist connections and with a little help from his mischievous nephew, Benjamin, Geronimo becomes tangled up in various high speed adventures. With colorful illustrations and short chapters, this autobiographical series is ideal for students just being introduced to chapter books.

Little girls rave over Jane O'Connor's "Fancy Nancy" because of her keen fashion sense and love for adventure, so these same young ladies flock to O'Connor's "Nancy Clancy" series when they graduate to chapter books. In this series readers catch up with a third-grade Nancy Clancy, who with her best friend, Bree, set off on detective type adventures. The books in this collection are perfect for beginning chapter book readers because each text has chapters less than six pages, font size of about 16, and every other page contains the same wonderful illustrations that young ladies know and love.

If you have a young reader in your life who is looking for a great series that will help them transition to chapter books, stop by the Columbus Public Library and see what we have to offer. I am sure no matter their reading level or interests our great staff can help them find that perfect read. If you have questions about the series mentioned or would like a list of other beginning chapter books, feel free to contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.

And don't forget to sign up the entire family for the library's 2016 summer reading program. We have activities scheduled for everyone in the home!