

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

“Unique Technique to Finding the Perfect Read”

People have asked me how I personally select books to read for pleasure. Most assume that it would be an easy task, since part of my responsibilities at the Columbus Public Library involve selecting quality reading materials for others. But frankly, I am a picky reader; however, I have devised a system that allows me to find that “perfect read.”

The first thing I do when finding a book is to stroll through the library stacks and pick up five books that pop out to me. Most everyone has heard the saying “Don’t judge a book by its cover”, but many readers do and those in marketing know it, so they strive to create book covers that are appealing to the eye.

As I made my way through the library shelves, I selected “Bewitched in Oz” by Laura J. Burns, “Duke” by Kirby Larson, “Frenzy” by Robert Lettrick, “Windblowne” by Stephen Messer, “Hero” by Sarah Lean, and “Rump” by Liesl Shurtliff. I was drawn to these books because they had covers that were colorful and action-packed.

The next step in my process is to read the first paragraph of each book. Seasoned authors know that every word counts when enticing readers. Those first couple of sentences are key to holding a reader’s attention. Larson’s “Duke,” Lettrick’s “Frenzy,” and Messer’s “Windblowne” made the cut because the first paragraphs left me wanting more.

I then take a five minute break from my mini collection. After clearing my head, I sit back down with the reduced pile and complete my process by rereading the first paragraphs and then continuing on through the first page. This final step leaves just one book sitting in front of me, “Frenzy” by Robert Lettrick. Lettrick’s novel had an action-packed cover, which included a crazy-eyed, rabid squirrel and a first sentence that read “Heath Lambert’s parents had been bitten and turned into zombies, and now it was up to him to decide the method by which to destroy them...” How could I not take this intriguing book home?

Again this process may seem a bit bizarre, but it works for me. I always leave the library with a great read in tow! So the next time you are in pursuit of a great read, venture to the Columbus Public Library and take a peek in the stacks. You never know what amazing texts will pop out at you. If you are interested in more suggestions on how to find that “perfect read” or would like more information on the books mentioned, contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR...

- March 9, Monday Night Book Adventures will take place at 6:30 PM.
- March 12, StoryART will take place at 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM.
- March 28, the library’s 5th Annual Canvas & Color-In event will take place!

Don’t forget that the library’s children’s department offers a monthly calendar highlighting the many events that take place in the Children’s Room. To have this agenda sent to your inbox, email me at bhruska@columbusne.us.