

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"Beginning Summer Reads"

With the Columbus Public Library's 2012 summer reading program, "Dream Big—Read," in full-swing, parents and their children are often coming to the library searching for various reading materials. Some students seek novels written by their favorite authors like Andrew Clements, Lemony Snicket, Rick Riordan, Gordan Korman, and Megan McDonald. Other individuals are on the hunt for the next book in the series that has them hooked like "39 Clues," "Dork Diaries" by Rachel Russell, "Warriors" by Erin Hunter, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" by Jeff Kinney, "Captain Underpants" by Dave Pilkey, and "My Weird School" by Dan Gutman.

Recently, however, I have noticed an increase in the number of patron requests for books that are suitable for those students just beginning to read chapter books. Luckily for them, the Columbus Public Library has a book division that is specifically geared for these young readers, the Intermediate Chapter Book Collection!

The texts found in the intermediate collection range in reading levels from 1.5 to 2.8 (levels typically coincide with the Accelerated Reader Program). Some students who select novels for this collection may require basic assistance pronouncing certain words, but overall, young readers should be able to sound out the words and read the texts will minimal effort.

As with all the collections found at the library, the intermediate collection includes many popular series that students will enjoy reading like "Mercy Watson" by Kate DiCamillo, a collection of texts about a pet pig detective named Mercy Watson, who has a snout for solving mysteries and hot buttered toast; "The Magic Tree House" series written by Mary Pope Osborne, a group of books that follows the adventures of Jack and Annie as the boldly go where their magic tree house will take them; "Junie B. Jones" by Barbara Park, a series that chronicles the life of elementary school student Juniper Beatrice Jones and the challenges she faces dealing with peers, parents, and life in general; "Henry and Mudge," a delightful collection of stories that takes readers on numerous adventures with a young boy named Henry and his faithful canine companion, Mudge; and finally "Young Cam Jansen" by David Adler, a collection of mysteries that follow the journeys had by Jennifer "Cam" Jansen, a fifth grade detective who has a photographic memory, which she uses to help her solve interesting crimes that take place throughout her community.

So if you are looking for great summer readings to entice the children in your life to keep reading during these hot summer months, stop by the Columbus Public Library. No matter what their interests are or what reading level they have, the collections found in the Children's Room are sure to have something for them. If you have any questions about the authors or series featured in this article, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 option 4.

Also remember it is not too late for students to sign up for the library's 2012 summer reading program. We have activities for children of all ages and offer weekly prizes designed to keep children reading!