

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"Helpful, Fun Summer Reads!"

With the Columbus Public Library's 2013 summer reading program in full swing, hundreds of families are flocking to the library on a daily basis! Children come to participate in the fun activities and events. Parents come in search of books suitable for their children's interests and reading levels.

I have three children of my own and know first-hand how difficult it can be for parents to find books that their students will enjoy reading. I also know that the Columbus Public Library (CPL) has a number of quality collections that can help parents find that perfect read for their little ones!

When it comes to selecting books for those children just learning to read, CPL has a collection entitled "ABC for Beginning Readers." This section contains texts with very basic vocabulary, sentence structure, and plot. The stories found in this area also cover a wide range of interests! With titles like "Too Many Cats" by Lori Haskins Houran, "Dragon Egg" by Mallory Loehr, "Snow Surprise" by Lisa Campbell Ernst, and "The Day the Dinosaurs Died" by Charlotte Lewis Brown; parents are sure to check out books their new little readers will love!

Once students are comfortable reading books from the "ABC for Beginning Readers" collection, they can then confidently move to the "Easy" (picture books) area. The texts found in this section typically contain a rich vocabulary, complex sentences, and a deeper, fuller plot; which are guaranteed to engage the imaginations of children of all ages!

After students have mastered the books found in both the "ABC for Beginning Readers" and the "Easy" sections, it is time for them to begin selecting materials from the "J FIC" (chapter books) collection. Because the books in this area typically range in reading levels from about 4th to 6th grade, new chapter book readers may find the collection a bit intimidating at first; however, a number of great series are available that can help make the transition a little less overwhelming. Series like "Big Nate" by Lincoln Peirce, "Cam Jansen" by David A. Adler, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" by Jeff Kinney, "Flat Stanly" by Jeff Brown, "Judy Moody" by Megan McDonald, "Magic Tree House" by Mary Pope Osborne, "Mercy Watson" by Kate DiCamillo, and "My Weird School" by Gan Gutman are sure to engage readers new to the chapter book world and keep them coming back for more!

So if you have a student just beginning to read and enjoy books on their own, make a beeline to the Columbus Public Library and check out the various collections we have to help make individuals life-long readers! I am sure not matter what reading level your children are or what they are interested in, they will walk out of the library with an arm full of great reads! If you have questions about the various collections and series mentioned, give me a call at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.