



It worked for me!

How I engage students in my library

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I made a list of books and their authors that I have read recently and entitled it Ask Me About... When senior students come in to choose books for their independent projects, this seems to help them because I am able to connect books with particular themes.

I also have New Book- Student Review sheets that I give to students (I choose the students carefully) when they take out new fiction. They read the books and fill in the student review sheets and this helps with keeping up with all the new fiction. The reviews are then displayed in the library. Students are able to see what the books are about, read whether the reviewer recommends them or not, and look at ratings for the books. Student reviewers are usually really honest and seem to enjoy writing the reviews. ■

What worked for you?

This is a fun place to share ideas that work for you. E-mail your idea or tip to *Teaching Librarian* editor, Roberta Henley <bhenley@bfree.on.ca>. ■

Ideas for working with kindergarten children

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Each afternoon, I do prep coverage for one of five JK and SK classes at my school. Book exchanges are exciting! The first week of school I make class sets of small bristol board cards in a different colour for each class. On each card I print the child's first and last name plus teacher code. Reading a name is often a whole lot easier than trying to understand a four-year-old! After the school photographer comes I get a roll of pictures like the ones that go in the OSR folders. A volunteer sticks them on the borrower cards for all the kids in our school, and that also helps with identification. I need all the memory aids I can find!

In the morning on exchange day, the JK or SK teacher puts all the returns in my drop box. Then I run a report showing which children still have books out. Since little ones often don't know whether or not their books have come back, before the class arrives, I divide their name cards into two piles. One group may take out new books and the other group sits in a circle reading from one of our bins of books (e.g. all the Robert Munsch titles). I set out a collection of pre-selected appropriate titles on a table. Name cards are given to all the students who have returned books, and they come to the circulation desk with cards and books. I scan their selections, keep the cards and they read their new books until all have completed checking out. This works for me! ■

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