

TL It worked for me!

Going straight to the source

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In an elementary library I want to go straight to the source! I have a wish box. The students can make wishes for additions to our collection. I use a little decorated box with blank papers and a few pencils. Students are asked to write their suggestions and include names and classes. Student suggestions keep me up to date with what the "real readers" are reading and with what might interest the "reluctant readers." I try to respond to the requests as quickly as possible to keep the interest high. I have a concrete wad of requests to take to parent council and the powers-that-be who control funding. ■

Supplementing library funding

BRENDA DILLON
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I never have enough budget money to meet curriculum support needs, so finding funds for fiction is a real challenge! That's why I review books for *Resource Links* and *Professionally Speaking*. My pay as a reviewer is the review copy of the book. I also have established—and continue to coordinate—the Dufferin-Peel Secondary Fiction Review Committee. We review young adult fiction from NBS and keep the books as payment. While reviewing does take time (also in short supply) it's worth the effort because it is a good way to supplement library funding. ■



At-a-glance identification

BRENDA DILLON
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I'd wanted a way to mark easy reading materials so students could identify them at a glance. But I didn't like any of the labels available from our suppliers—they all looked too juvenile for high school students. So I used Microsoft Publisher to create my own labels based on ones I'd seen at the Peel Literacy Guild (but couldn't find in catalogues). I print the labels on full-page label paper, in colour (which means I print them at home), and cut them apart as needed. These labels are used to mark both fiction and non-fiction easy reading materials so they're easy to find. "Easy reading materials" and "Easy reading materials-Fiction" are also used as subject headings so I can easily search the catalogue and create lists of recommended titles. ■



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, Brenda Dillon brenann@sympatico.ca.