

If I Had To Do It All Over Again

From: Nora Langan  
Subject: If I Had To Do It All Over Again  
To: Teacher-Librarians

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As I prepare to leave the world I love, libraries, and return to the classroom, I have been reflecting on what I would do differently in the school library.

I would:

- \* have more fun with silly books and less time with "good" books,
- \* include items that I considered "not good" and let the kids read them all,
- \* worry less about the condition of the shelves and more about the level of conversation,
- \* worry less about voice level and more about voice content,
- \* take time to read more and shelve less,
- \* be a better friend,
- \* connect more with you all,
- \* realize that perfection is not attainable and working toward it a fool's game,
- \* not rest my sense of self worth with administrators,
- \* laugh even more than I do,
- \* love even more than is proper,
- \* live more joyfully as the primary message of life for my students.

In the end, it does not really matter if we shelve a book by author or genre. It is the joy and true respect we show our students and each other that makes the journey worthy of the title teacher.

Good bye and blessing on you all in the most important job you could ever do, teacher-librarian.

Nora Langan