



Connected Library

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Need to know health resources @ your library



Not long ago, a brave young girl who I knew for her spirit, her mischief and her smile, shyly approached my desk as the day wound down in the library.

“Do you have any books on wingy worms?” She asked. She mumbled something about worms, which I didn’t quite catch.

Wingy worms?? I had NO idea what she was asking and I couldn’t think, for the life of me, how to help her. Was this a new mass-marketed, slimy, winged, plastic bracelet available in 29 different colours?

I’m sorry to say that after a few cursory attempts, I gave up and closed up and away she went. Just as I turned out the lights, however, the light went on — she had ringworm and she needed to know if there were worms inside her body! The best teaching opportunities happen when kids need to know.

The next morning, I prowled the halls until I found her

and she and I returned to the library to dig for the truth about ringworm. Our library has a subscription to Rosen Publishing’s Teen Health and Wellness database (<http://teenhealthandwellness.com>) where we began our search. It’s a great database with all the topics you’d expect — lots of words and a few analogies to help students connect to the content — did you know your heart weighs about as much as a tennis shoe? However, there’s not much visual appeal and the search for ringworm was frustrating — Excema, Rashes and Irritations — was this what she needed to know? Probably, but the word ringworm appeared once at the end of a long sentence. She didn’t read much and this was doing nothing for her.

So began the search to find the web resources that offer the most to kids who need to know: the search for resources that are organized to appeal to these young minds and, most importantly, the resources that performed the best on the “Ringworm Test”.

continued on page 22

