

## *Reading – Parent Guide*

### *Helping your student select the right book for their pleasure reading*

Determine your student’s reading interest:

-  Discuss the different book genres (see genre reference) to narrow your book selection to those of most interest.
-  Then search for books within the genre. You can further define your search by using keywords and reading levels. One of the best children’s and juvenile book search sites available is **Scholastic’s Book Wizard** (see the following).
-  The search results will likely provide various authors within this genre. Make your book selections based on the best fit for your reader’s interest and reading level. It is good to consider a few different authors to get a variety of storytelling (writing style). Books series are usually a safe choice if your reader enjoyed the first book of the series.

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**Scholastic** offers fantastic free resources to parents to ensure your student finds the right book for their interests and reading levels.

-  **Book Search** -- Scholastic’s Book Wizard is an excellent resource to find books based on specific search criteria such as: Reading Level, Author, Title, Keyword, or to find books similar to specific title. The results provided also indicate if the book has a Reading Counts quiz. If one is available, it is very likely the quiz is available for your student to take at Choices In Learning.
    - Scholastic’s Book Wizard <http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/homePage.do>
  -  **Book List** -- Another valuable feature is parents can register for a “free” account. One of the great benefits of having an account is to enable saving a book you found in Scholastic’s website to a book list(s) you create. The book list title can be the name of your student or something else. This is a wonderful way to plan ahead and store a list of books that will interest your student. The book list can be printed so the student can be better prepared for their next visit to the school library, public library, or book store.
  -  **Book Reviews** -- Scholastic also offers an on-line resource for students to write book reviews and read reviews written by other students. Reading book reviews written by their peers will likely provide valuable information to consider if the book is the right fit for them.  
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/swyar/>
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**Kidsreads.com** is another great free resource for kids reading. **Kidsreads.com** offers reviews and excerpts of titles appropriate for readers aged 6-12. Along with features like Books on Screen and Cool New Books are author interviews, polls, trivia and word scrambles. Content is updated monthly.

<http://www.kidsreads.com/>

 **Series** (button) provides an alphabetized list of book series with a brief description of the series content. This is a helpful resource if you want to know more about a specific book series and the intended ages of readers.

 **Authors** (button) provides details about the author which includes their biography, listing of books, and interviews.

 **Reviews** (button) provides book reviews

**Teenreads.com** offers readers aged 12-17 reviews and excerpts of YA books, as well as adult titles that are appropriate for a teen audience. Features include Cool New Books, Word of Mouth (a forum where teens talk about what they're reading), the Ultimate Teen Reading List with more than 400 suggestions, author interviews, biographies, contests and monthly polls. Content is updated twice a month.

<http://www.teenreads.com/>

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**Seminole County Public Library**     <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/libraries/index.aspx>

If you don't already have a library card, you should get one. Seminole County Public library is a great free resource to check out books for your students and you. The library's extensive book catalog can be accessed and searched online from the comfort of your home – even without using your library card. However, if you use your library card, you can place items on hold for the library to pull and hold. The card holder will get an email notification when the items are available for pickup. Isn't that great!

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**Goodreads.com** is a great "free" site for your (or your student's) personal reading library. This is a social media "book club" site so parents may want to review prior to establishing an account.

<https://www.goodreads.com/>

Goodreads is the world's largest site for readers and book recommendations. Our mission is to help people find and share books they love. Goodreads launched in January 2007. A Few Things You Can Do On Goodreads:

- Create custom book shelves for your books (based on genre, books read, currently reading, want to read, etc.)
- Check out your personalized book recommendations (Based on your book shelves). Our recommendation engine analyzes 20 billion data points to give suggestions tailored to your literary tastes.
- Find out if a book is a good fit for you from our community's book reviews.

## Genre at a Glance

Genre is a French word meaning type or kind. We use genres as a system to classify books by their common characteristics.

**Fiction** – is generally defined as a narrative that is imagined rather than real. Text may be a novel, short story, or play. The purpose of fiction is to entertain and involve the readers in stories of life. On occasion, the overriding purpose of fiction is to inform or persuade.

Code	Genre	Definition
TL	Traditional Literature	Traditional literature originated in the stories passed down orally throughout history. It includes folktales, (including fairy tales), myths, legends, and epics.
F	Fantasy	Fantasy is fiction that contains unrealistic or unworldly elements. It includes modern fantasy (which has a known author) and science fiction.
SF	Science Fiction	Science Fiction is a special division of fantasy that involves or is based on scientific principles.
RF	Realistic Fiction	Realistic fiction is drawn from the writer's imagination but is true to life. It often focuses on universal human problems.
HF	Historical Fiction	Historical fiction is drawn from the writer's imagination but is true to life in some period of the past.

**Nonfiction** – is intended to provide verifiable, factual information through text and visual images and focuses on a particular topic. Nonfiction text must be documented so the information is verifiable from other sources. Accuracy is supreme importance.

Code	Genre	Definition
I	Informational	Informational texts provide ideas, facts, and principles that are related to the physical, biological, or social world.
B	Biography	A biography is an account of the life of an individual.
AB	Autobiography	An autobiography is an account of the life an individual written by the subject.
M	Memoir	A memoir is the account of a personal or historical event.