

THE BOOK WHISPERER

AWAKENING THE INNER READER IN EVERY CHILD

BY DONALYN MILLER

APPENDIX B
ULTIMATE LIBRARY LIST

I could use my diverse knowledge of books to create a list for you that would make a killer library. Lord knows a bibliophile like me could spend blissful hours composing it. (It would be an extreme version of the desert island-game!) But in keeping with my beliefs that my students run the reading show in every way possible, I have asked them to create a list for you of the books every teacher, grades five through eight, should have in their class library. I tried to set one hundred books as an arbitrary number for the list, but my students kept those titles coming! Because this list reflects the interests and tastes of real students today, you may not see your favorite authors or treasured books here. Remember item 10 in Pennac's *The Rights of the Reader*: the right not to defend your tastes.

These books are the books the children like to read, not those that a teacher chose for them. I made no attempt to balance reading levels, genres, or topics. The third column of the table indicates titles that have a sequel or are the first in a series. You could expand your library by adding the subsequent titles. Once your students are hooked on a series, they will want to read the rest.

Ultimate Library List (grouped by genre; alphabetical by author)

Title	Author	Sequel or Series?
<i>Realistic Fiction</i>		
Nothing But the Truth	Avi	
Hope Was Here	Bauer, Joan	
Rules of the Road	Bauer, Joan	Yes
Tangerine	Bloor, Edward	
Frindle	Clements, Andrew	
School Story	Clements, Andrew	
The Chocolate War	Cormier, Robert	Yes
Walk Two Moons	Creech, Sharon	
Chasing Redbird	Creech, Sharon	
Seedfolks	Fleischman, Paul	
The Clique	Harrison, Lisi	Yes
The View from Saturday	Konigsburg, E. L.	
The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place	Konigsburg, E. L.	
Silent to the Bone	Konigsburg, E. L.	
The Sixth Grade Nickname Game	Korman, Gordon	
Son of the Mob	Korman, Gordon	Yes
Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life	Mass, Wendy	
Tripping Over the Lunch Lady	Mercado, Nancy	
Hatchet	Paulsen, Gary	Yes

Title	Author	Sequel or Series?
The Boy Who Saved Baseball	Ritter, John	
The Schwa Was Here	Shusterman, Neal	
Peak	Smith, Roland	
Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie	Sonnenblick, Jordan	
Maniac Magee	Spinelli, Jerry	
Loser	Spinelli, Jerry	
Wringer	Spinelli, Jerry	
Stargirl	Spinelli, Jerry	Yes
Surviving the Applewhites	Tolan, Stephanie	
Each Little Bird That Sings	Wiles, Deborah	
Love, Ruby Lavender	Wiles, Deborah	
<i>Fantasy</i>		
The Word Eater	Amato, Mary	
The Underneath	Appelt, Kathi	
The Warrior Heir	Chima, Cinda Williams	Yes
Artemis Fowl	Colfer, Eoin	Yes
Gregor the Overlander	Collins, Suzanne	Yes
The Sea of Trolls	Farmer, Nancy	Yes
The Thief Lord	Funke, Cornelia	
Inkheart	Funke, Cornelia	Yes
Princess Academy	Hale, Shannon	

Title	Author	Sequel or Series?
Children of the Lamp	Kerr, P. B.	Yes
Guardians of Ga'Hoole: The Capture	Lasky, Kathryn	Yes
Ella Enchanted	Levine, Gail Carson	
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe	Lewis, C. S.	Yes
Twilight	Meyer, Stephanie	Yes
Eragon	Paolini, Christopher	Yes
The Lightning Thief	Riordan, Rick	Yes
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Rowling, J. K.	Yes
Midnighters	Westerfield, Scott	Yes
The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp	Yancy, Rick	Yes
<i>Historical Fiction</i>		
Fever 1793	Anderson, Laurie Halse	
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle	Avi	
Crispin: The Cross of Lead	Avi	Yes
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes	Coerr, Eleanor	
The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963	Curtis, Christopher Paul	
Bud, Not Buddy	Curtis, Christopher Paul	
Catherine, Called Birdy	Cushman, Karen	
Stone Fox	Gardiner, John Reynolds	
Number the Stars	Lowry, Lois	
A Boy at War	Mazer, Harry	Yes

Title	Author	Sequel or Series?
Kensuke's Kingdom	Morpurgo, Michael	
Private Peaceful	Morpurgo, Michael	
Soldier's Heart	Paulsen, Gary	
Where the Red Fern Grows	Rawls, Wilson	
Riding Freedom	Ryan, Pam Munoz	
Esperanza Rising	Ryan, Pam Munoz	
Under the Blood-Red Sun	Salisbury, Graham	
The Wednesday Wars	Schmidt, Gary	
Homeless Bird	Whelan, Gloria	
The Ravenmaster's Secret	Woodruff, Elvira	
Hiroshima	Yep, Laurence	
The Devil's Arithmetic	Yolen, Jane	
<i>Science Fiction</i>		
Things Not Seen	Clements, Andrew	
The Supernaturalist	Colfer, Eoin	
The Last Dog on Earth	Ehrenhaft, Daniel	
The House of the Scorpion	Farmer, Nancy	
The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm	Farmer, Nancy	
Among the Hidden	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Yes
Double Identity	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	
Stormbreaker	Horowitz, Anthony	Yes

Title	Author	Sequel or Series?
The Giver	Lowry, Lois	Yes
The Beasties	Sleator, William	
Cryptid Gunter	Smith, Roland	
Uglies	Westerfield, Scott	Yes
<i>Mystery</i>		
Chasing Vermeer	Balliet, Blue	Yes
Half-Moon Investigations	Colfer, Eoin	
The Face on the Milk Carton	Cooney, Caroline	Yes
Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery	Feinstein, John	
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler	Konigsburg, E. L.	
On the Run: Chasing the Falconers	Korman, Gordon	Yes
How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found	Nickerson, Sara	
Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief	Van Draanen, Wendelin	Yes
<i>Traditional Literature</i>		
D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths	D'Aulaire, Ingri	
D'Aulaire's Book of Norse Myths	D'Aulaire, Ingri	
Myths and Legends	Horowitz, Anthony	
The Rough-Face Girl	Martin, Rafe	
The Outlaws of Sherwood	McKinley, Robin	
Beast	Napoli, Donna Jo	

Title	Author	Sequel or Series?
Bound	Napoli, Donna Jo	
Favorite Greek Myths	Osborne, Mary Pope	
The Once and Future King	White, T. H.	
Greyling	Yolen, Jane	
Here There Be Dragons	Yolen, Jane	Yes
<i>Poetry</i>		
Love That Dog	Creech, Sharon	
If You're Not Here, Please Raise Your Hand	Dakos, Kalli	
Joyful Noise	Fleischman, Paul	
Toasting Marshmallows	George, Kristine O'Connell	
I Never Said I Wasn't Difficult	Holbrook, Sara	
Dirty Laundry Pile: Poems in Different Voices	Janeczko, Paul	
The Headless Horseman Rides Tonight	Prelutsky, Jack	
For Laughing Out Loud	Prelutsky, Jack	
Where the Sidewalk Ends	Silverstein, Shel	
A Light in the Attic	Silverstein, Shel	
One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies	Sones, Sonya	
What My Mother Doesn't Know	Sones, Sonya	
<i>Biographies, Autobiographies, and Memoirs</i>		
Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl	Frank, Anne	
Helen Keller: A Photographic Story of a Life	Garrett, Leslie	Yes

Title	Author	Sequel or Series?
The Tarantula in My Purse	George, Jean Craighead	
Water Buffalo Days: Growing Up in Vietnam	Huynh, Quang Nhuong and Tseng, Jean & Mou-sien	
Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio	Kehret, Peg	
Tree Shaker: The Story of Nelson Mandela	Keller, Bill	
How Angel Peterson Got His Name	Paulsen, Gary	
My Life in Dog Years	Paulsen, Gary	
Guts	Paulsen, Gary	
<i>Informational</i>		
Hitler Youth	Bartoletti, Susan	
World War II	DK Eyewitness Books	Yes
The Way Things Work	Macaulay, David	
Castle	Macaulay, David	Yes
Oh Rats! The Story of Rats and People	Marrin, Albert and Mordan, C. B.	
You Wouldn't Want to Be an Egyptian Mummy!	Stewart, David, Salariya, David, and Antram, David	Yes

APPENDIX C
STUDENT FORMS

READING INTEREST-A-LYZER[®]

Based on the Interest-A-Lyzer by Joseph S. Renzulli

Name _____ Grade _____ Age _____

1.) Are you currently reading a book for pleasure? YES NO

2.) Do you ever read a book for pleasure? YES NO

3.) When I read for pleasure, I pick the following (Check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Novels/chapter books | <input type="checkbox"/> History books | <input type="checkbox"/> Picture books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports books | <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry books | <input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy books | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiction books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cartoons/comic books | <input type="checkbox"/> Science books | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humorous books | <input type="checkbox"/> Scary books | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-fiction books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magazines | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry books | Other _____ |

4.) I am more likely to read a book for pleasure that:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a teacher suggests | <input type="checkbox"/> my friend suggests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a librarian suggests | <input type="checkbox"/> has won an award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> is by an author whose books I have read | <input type="checkbox"/> I just happened to see (hear about) in _____ |

5.) Three favorite books that I would take on a month-long trip are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

6.) In the past week, I have read for at least half an hour (30 minutes):

- No days 1-2 days 3-4 days 6-7 days

7.) In the past month, I have read _____ book(s) for pleasure:

- No books 1 book 2 books 3 books More than 3 books

8.) My favorite time to read for pleasure is:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never | <input type="checkbox"/> In the morning before school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> During school | <input type="checkbox"/> During the midmorning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunchtime | <input type="checkbox"/> After school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In the evening | <input type="checkbox"/> Before falling asleep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whenever I can | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

9.) When I read I like to: read one book read more than one book at a time

10.) I like to receive books as presents. YES NO

11.) I have a public library card. YES NO

12.) I borrow books from the public library:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once a week | <input type="checkbox"/> Twice a week | <input type="checkbox"/> A couple of times a month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Every few months | <input type="checkbox"/> A few times a year | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardly ever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never | | |

13.) I borrow books from the school library:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once a week | <input type="checkbox"/> Twice a week | <input type="checkbox"/> A couple of times a month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Every few months | <input type="checkbox"/> A few times a year | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardly ever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never | | |

14.) The number of books I have at home:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> 0-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10-19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30-50 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 50 |

15.) If I could meet any literary character (for example, Hermione from *Harry Potter* or the dog from *Because of Winn-Dixie*), I want to meet:

- _____
- _____

16.) The last three books that I have read are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

17.) I would like to read a book about:

Source: Reis et al., 2005. "Reading Interest-A-Lyzer." Copyright © 2005 by Sally M. Reis. Based on the *Interest-A-Lyzer* by Joseph S. Renzulli.

Characteristics of Genre

The word *genre* means type or kind. We use genres as a system to classify books by their common characteristics.

Poetry

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Traditional Literature

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Fantasy

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Science Fiction

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Realistic Fiction

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Historical Fiction

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Mystery

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Biography, Autobiography, Memoir

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Informational

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

End-of-Year Reading Evaluation

Directions: Please answer the following questions in as much detail as possible. I want to read your honest thoughts and opinions about reading and the design of this class.

1. What is your attitude toward reading? Has this class changed your opinion? If so, how?

2. Estimate how many books you read *independently* last school year.

3. How many books did you read independently this year?
(Include all of the books that you read, even if they did not meet genre requirements.)

4. How do you feel about the amount of reading you did this year?

5. Did you meet your genre requirements? If not, explain.

6. What was the best book you read this year? Why?

7. Which topics, authors, series, books, etc., do you plan to read in the future?

8. What do you wish you had learned about reading this year that you did not?

9. What advice can you give readers in this class next year?

10. In the next section, put a check mark next to the elements of this class that have helped you as a reader. Circle the factor that was most important to you.

Classroom library

Teacher who reads

School librarian/
library

Conversations with
classmates

Book commercials

Book club

Independent reading
time in class

Reading response
letters

Nightly reading time at
home

Read-alouds

Book reviews

Conferences

Other: _____

11. If you were designing the layout of the classroom library and the checkout system, what would you do to make it easier for students to use?

12. If you could tell other adults such as librarians, teachers, or parents one thing about reading and kids that they do not know, what would it be?

13. What obstacles do you see that might prevent you from reading in the future?

14. If you could design your own genre requirements, what would that look like? You must put at least two books in each category.

- _____ Poetry
- _____ Traditional literature
- _____ Realistic fiction
- _____ Biography, autobiography, memoir
- _____ Historical fiction
- _____ Informational
- _____ Science fiction
- _____ Fantasy
- _____ Mystery
- _____ Reader's Choice:
- _____ _____

15. What other changes or additions would you make to this class to help readers in the future?
