

General Fiction—J Priomos
General Fiction - J Soto
Humor - JPB Elliot
Humor - JPB Pinkwater
Sci-Fi/Fantasy - J Lubar
Sci-Fi/Fantasy—J Oppel

Series Books

Adventure - J Horowitz
Horror - J Shan
Humor - J Lawrence
Humor - J Scieszka
Humor - J Snicket
Mystery - J Lawrence
Sci-Fi/Fantasy - J Rowling
Serial - J Stine
Sports - J Christopher
Step Up Chapter - J Pilkey
Sci-Fi/Fantasy - JPB Abbott

Cowboy Boy
Pool Party
The Transmogrification of Roscoe Wizzle
Fat Men From Space
Wizards of the Game
Silverwing

Alex Rider Adventures
Cirque du Freak
Horace Splatly
Time Warp Trio
A Series of Unfortunate Events
Roman Mysteries
Harry Potter
Goosebumps
Sports
Captain Underpants
The Secrets of Droon

Young Adult - Ninth - Twelfth Grade

YA 621.483 Sil
YA 779.2092 Sch
YA 940.5459 Nel
YA Anderson
YA Crutcher
YA Deuker
YA Goin
YA Goodman
YA Korman
YA Lubar
YAPB Crowe
YAPB Soto
YAPB Tashjian
YAPB Trueman

Radioactive Boy Scout
Odd Jobs: Portraits of Unusual Occupations
Left For Dead
Feed
Ironman
Night Hoops
Fat Kid Rules the World
Singing the Dogstar Blues
Son of the Mob
Sleeping Freshman Never Lie
Mississippi Trial, 1955
Afterlife
The Gospel According to Larry
Stuck in Neutral

Series

YA Colfer
YA Jacques
YA Pullman

Artemis Fowl
Redwall
His Dark Materials

This is only a sampling of books that boys may enjoy. Please see the Children's Librarian for a longer list of selections.

Updated 04/07

Boys and Books

**How to help the boy in your life
to discover the joy of reading**



A Brochure developed by
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Children's Librarian
Southington Library & Museum

The Dilemma

One of the most common questions parents pose to me as a children's librarian is: "My son needs a book and he doesn't read a lot, well, actually, not at all, unless he has to. What would you suggest?" In this pamphlet I hope to provide some insight into why boys have problems with reading and offer some practical solutions to help the boy in your life experience the joys and advantages reading offers. You can learn more about this topic by reading *Connecting Boys with Books* by Michael Sullivan and *Boys and Girls Learn Differently* by Michael Gurian.

The Statistics

- ◆ Boys develop clear speech 1 and 1/2 years later than girls
 - ◆ Boys are more than twice as likely to have a learning disability that involves reading than girls
 - ◆ By school age, boys are 1 and 1/2 years behind girls in reading
 - ◆ 70% of children receiving remedial instruction are boys
 - ◆ 85% of special education students are male
 - ◆ The number of boys who say they like reading drops by a third between the ages 5 and 9
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Bibliographies by Age

Juvenile Easy - Preschool - Second Grade

JE 292 Oma	Mount Olympus Basketball
JE 378.2 Don (READ 2)	Titanic: Lost ...and Found
JE 567.9 Milton	Dinosaur Days
JE 599.7444 (READ 2)	Wild, Wild Wolves
JE 796.332 Kra	Football Stars
JE 932 Mil (READ 2)	Mummies
JE Arnold	Parts & More Parts
JE Brown	Flat Stanley
JE Buehner	Superdog: The Heart of a Hero
JE Cerasini (READ 2)	Star Wars Episode I: Anakin's Fate
JE Cronin	Diary of a Worm
JE Eastman (READ 1)	Go Dog Go
JE Lobel (READ 2)	Frog and Toad
JE McMullan	I Stink!
JE Pilkey	Kat Kong
JE Scieszka	The Stinky Cheese Man
JE Scieszka	The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs
JE Shannon	No David
JE Slobodkina	Caps for Sale
JE Steig	Sylvester and the Magic Pebble
JE Van Allsburg	Jumanji
JE Van Allsburg	Mysteries of Harris Burdick
JE Wiesner	Sector 7
JE Wiesner	The Three Pigs
JE Wiesner	Tuesday
JE Willems	Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus

Juvenile - Third - Eighth Grade

J 363.2 Jac	Bone Detective
J595.44 Mon	The Tarantula Scientist
J641.3 Sol	It's Disgusting - and We Ate It
Award - J & JPB Bruchac	Skeleton Man
Award - J Clements	Frindle
Award - JPB Curtis	Bud Not Buddy
Award- JPB Gutman	Million Dollar Shot
Award - J & JPB Paulsen	Hatchet
Award - J Ritter	The Boy Who Saved Baseball
Award - J & JPB Spinelli	Loser
Award - J & JPB Spinelli	Maniac McGee
Award - JPB Sachar	Holes

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- ◆ Choice gives boys ownership in their reading, making reading worthy of their time and interest
 - ◆ Encourage nonlinear reading - Magazines, comics, newspapers, graphic novels and even web pages
 - ◆ Lighten up - boys improve reading by the amount of time read, not by increasing the difficulty of what is read (not everything needs to be socially relevant - after all, what do you use more in your life, your sense of humor or your ability to use foreshadowing?)

Selection Tips - What Boys Are Looking For

- ◆ Strong storytelling placing action ahead of emotion
- ◆ Characters that match boys image of themselves
- ◆ A masculine voice and/or male author
- ◆ Accessible style of writing with believable dialogue
- ◆ Humor, fantasy, adventure, sports & nonfiction

A word about the classics - If you feel strongly about a classic book, try reading it aloud. The most important thing is not what has been read, but to instill in our boys the fact that they are readers. Remember, - -
a good book for a boy is one he wants to read.

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- ◆ Only 16.78% of boys in all age groups would prefer to read a book rather than watch TV
 - ◆ Boys rank lower in their High School class and score fewer honors than girls

Boys Learn Differently

- ◆ Boys brains are wired differently when it comes to language
- ◆ There appear to be observed anatomical and chemical differences in the brains of boys and girls. Boys lack an additional language processing center in the right frontal lobe which enhances the capability to process language.
- ◆ Boys need multiple stimuli in order to have both sides of their brains work at once (e.g. color, sound and motion)
- ◆ Sitting quietly, at a desk (no motion), reading a book without pictures (no color) to themselves (no sound) is the worst learning situation for boys
- ◆ Give boys as much choice in reading as possible (choice gives boys ownership in their reading thereby making reading worthy of their time and interest)



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- ◆ Movement in boys can stimulate imagination and learning because of increased blood-flow activity in the neocortex of the brain
 - ◆ Movement seems to help boys not only stimulate their brains, but also manage and relieve impulsive behavior
 - ◆ Stimulating a boy's mind via more than one sense leads to greater literacy
 - ◆ Engaging the whole boy (physically and mentally) in the task of emotional processing seems to enhance neurotransmission to the limbic (emotive) and left-brain (verbal) areas



Cultural Bias

- ◆ Many boys see literacy as feminized based on gender images as seen by themselves & others
- ◆ Something deep and cultural says boys need to be tough, strong and hard, not qualities we associate with readers
- ◆ Many boys are discouraged from responding emotionally to fictional texts by their families and experience with peer groups - lower comprehension scores may be the result

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- ◆ Boys know you can succeed without being a reader (they see evidence every day - professional basketball players are no longer required to finish high school)

Solutions

- ◆ Take boys to Storytime
 - ◆ Read to boys at home - it introduces them to structure, story line and other elements of reading and writing
 - ◆ Have books at home on the shelves and elsewhere
 - ◆ Create daily reading rituals
 - ◆ Let boys see parents (especially fathers) reading
 - ◆ Visit libraries and participate in library events
 - ◆ Talk about books
 - ◆ When giving presents, combine your child's interests with a book (e.g. giving a soccer ball and a book on soccer)
 - ◆ Create an environment to read rich in sound and motion
 - ◆ Connect reading with the things boys like, computers, card collections, hobbies
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