# MIDD Reads: Putting a Spotlight on Beginning Chapter Books

Tricia Allen

Youth Services Librarian, Ilsley Public Library

Abby Adams

Librarian, Platt Memorial Library & Library Media Specialist, Shoreham Elementary School



Addison Central School District

# What are Beginning Chapter Books?

- 100 pages +/- 20
- Illustrations on many pages
- Large font size
- Often a series
- Reading Level:
  - o 2nd 3rd
  - L P (F&P)
  - o DRA 28 38











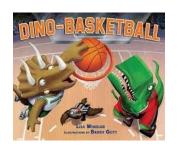
# Why are Beginning Chapter Books Important?

- Predictability
  - Build Confidence
  - Increases Stamina
  - Improves Working Memory
- Functional Bridges
  - Learning to Read ⇒ Fluent Reader
  - Picture Book ⇒ Easy Reader ⇒ Beginning Chapter
     Books ⇒ Middle Grade Chapter Books





### Why are Beginning Chapter Books Important?: Bridge





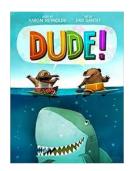








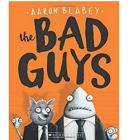














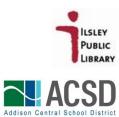






# What is the MIDD Reads list?

- 24 30 books
- Beginning / Transitional Chapter Books
- Collaboratively selected
- Advertised through public and school library



# Why MIDD Reads? - How it Began

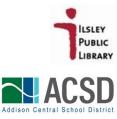
- Most common patron request: Short, easy chapter books
- Gap in state lists
- Reaching out: Public and School Library Collaboration

### Hi Julie!

There is a significant reading gap in the state-sponsored award lists - Red Clover picture books to Dorothy's List chapter books. I am putting together a list of transitional readers...Would you be interested in working with me to set up a local reading challenge?

### Hi Tricia,

I do find many 3rd and 4th graders feel too old for Red Clover but too young for DCF. I am interested!



### **How? - Nuts and Bolts**

### Initial Meeting: Ilsley Library and Mary Hogan Elementary (Tricia and Julie Altemose)

- Goal: Help 2nd and 3rd grade students make the jump to fluent, independent readers by suggesting high interest titles.
- Criteria: Books that target 2nd and 3rd grade readers with a wide range of reading levels
  - Recent titles and current series at least one book published in the previous school year/summer.
  - Variety of genres
  - At least 5 available as Overdrive Audio
  - High appeal prioritized over educational content
- Vote: by May 15th
  - Students must read or listen to at least 5 titles on the list during the 17-18 school year. Only one book per series
    is counted toward the total number of books!
  - Celebration in school for those that vote!
  - A prize if you read 20!



## **Year One - Mechanics**

25 Series/Books displayed at both Mary Hogan and Ilsley Public Library

### Mary Hogan:

- Kids self-report reading
- 5 books = vote (google forms)
- 10 books or more invited to ice cream party

Discussion of Program with Abby at VLC 2018...





### **Year Two**

3 people now coming up with a list

- Same Criteria
- Slightly different goals
- Books overlap, but lists are not the same

### Shoreham Elementary School:

 Allow 4th - 6th grade students who are not reading on grade level to participate in a reading list program and vote



# **Major Outcomes**

### School:

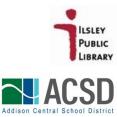
First, Second, Third self-selecting just-right books

### Public:

Collection for PreK read-aloud audience

### Both:

Accessible collections of curated books for all level readers (Red Clover, MIDD Reads, Dorothy's List)



# A New Collection - Changes at Ilsley

Popularity of MIDD Reads collection outstrips other chapter books

After Year One: 1-Day Massive Shift of Transitional Readers

• 2 chapter book collections: Transitional and Middle Grade

Patron response: HOORAY!

After Year Two: Addition of Purple MIDD Reads Bookcase

- Half the books checked out within the week
- Continued high rate of turn-over





# **Collections**



Mid-Grade Chapter Books



Transitional Chapter Books

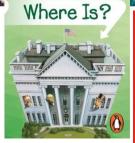




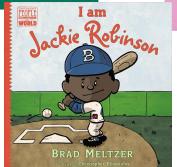
# **The Books - Year One Favorites**

₩ John Himmelman

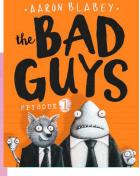
















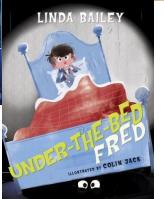
# **The Books - Year Two Favorites**

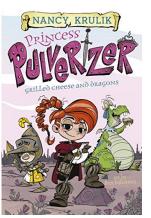














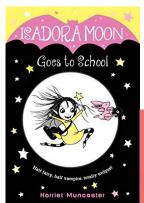




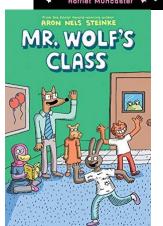
# The Books - Year Three!

Still working on final lists for 2019-2020!

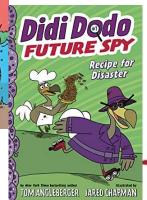




THE TRUTH ABOUT











# What about you?

What are the high-interest titles of this kind in YOUR collections?

# Thank you!

### Tricia Allen

Youth Services Librarian, Ilsley Public Library tricia.allen@ilsleypubliclibrary.org

### **Abby Adams**

Librarian, Platt Memorial Library & Library Media Specialist, Shoreham Elementary School aadams@acsdvt.org