



Bravo! Books!

Enjoying and Evaluating
Children's Books

When I was a child I read...

- What books did you read when you were in preschool, grade school and high school?
- What books did your parents, teachers or guardians introduce you to?
- How were books made available and accessible to you?
- BUZZ Group - facilitator, scribe, time keeper, reporter and devil's advocate

Bravo! Books!

- Choose three books from the pile.
- Answer the following questions:
- What books did you choose?
- Why did you choose them?

Write your answers on strips of cartolina.

Share your answers with your group.

Tape your strips of cartolina on the manila paper.

Get ready for big group sharing.

Bravo! Books! - Group Sharing

- Observe roles of each member in the “group sharing”.
- Questions may be asked after each group sharing
- BRAVO clap for every group after presentation :-)

Children's & YA Books

- Picture books
 - Story books
 - Chapter books
 - Novels for children
 - Novels for young adults
 - Non-fiction books
- :-) Let's classify your book choices

Selecting and Evaluating Children's Books

- Creativity
- Subject matter and treatment of it
- Design and illustration
- Over all impact

Creativity

- Has it been done before? (If it is the retelling of a familiar story-is it done in a new way?)
- Does it further ignite the imagination of the reader?
- Does it expand real possibilities or engage the reader? (There is a line between creative and just plain strange.)
- Is it thorough in its creativity-completing characters, setting, etc?

Subject Matter & Treatment

- While there are some great books that use simple words, the trend is toward language that is more complex and that paints a picture.
- Vocabulary in children's literature is particularly important because professionals like to see challenging vocabulary in pieces of literature.
- It paints a picture as opposed to simply telling a story.

Design & Illustration

- Use very creative mediums
- Illustrative work that is simply beautiful
- Illustrations agree with the narrative flow of the story
- Illustrations open up to possibilities and imaginative elements that further enrich the story

Teacher's Checklist

- Go back to your book choices and evaluate each following this checklist.

On Text and Illustration

- Are the illustrations accurate?
- Do the illustrations correspond to the text?
- Do the illustrations complement the setting, plot, mood and enhance the characterization?
- Do the illustrations leave room for the child's imagination?
- Can the illustrations hold the child's interest while the text is being read?

The Craft of Writing

- * Are the characters convincing? Are they consistent?
 - Is the conversation lively and credible?
 - Will the plot appeal to a child?
 - Is the plot realistic/fantastic, original in approach, well constructed?
 - Does the theme overpower the story or is it a natural part of the story?
 - Is the theme worthy of a child's attention?

The Child Reader

- What is important in the book to share with children?
- Is the writing style and language appropriate for the child's age and interests?
- How does the book compare with other children's materials in the field?
- Is it current, correct, and useful?
- How has it been reviewed by professional reviewers?
- What age level would be attracted to it?