

INTERMEDIATE EDITION Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

November 2008

Eagle Ridge Middle School
Candy Kuhlman, Counselor

Book Picks

■ *Millicent Min: Girl Genius*

Eleven-year-old Millie already goes to high school—something she doesn't want her new friend Emily to know. When the secret comes out, Emily is hurt and angry. What can Millie do to make things right again? A book about honesty and acceptance by Lisa Yee.

■ *Ice Drift*

Alika and his brother Sulu are hunting seals when an accident sets them adrift on a sheet of Arctic ice. Alika comforts his little brother as they struggle to survive. Based on a true story, Theodore Taylor's book offers a fascinating glimpse into Inuit life in the 19th century.

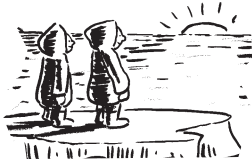
■ *Leonardo: Beautiful Dreamer*

Learn about the life and work of Leonardo da Vinci in this illustrated biography. Most famous for his paintings, da Vinci also was a sculptor, an inventor, and a writer. Robert Byrd's book includes reproductions of da Vinci's art and quotes from his journal. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *The Book of Dragons*

This collection of dragon tales, selected and illustrated by Michael Hague, will appeal to fantasy readers. It includes excerpts from J.R.R.

Tolkien and C.S. Lewis novels, as well as short stories and folktales. Colorful paintings bring the stories to life.



Magazines for everyone

Whether your child is a fashion fanatic, a sports buff, or a nature lover, there's a magazine for her.

Magazines offer a fun way to read about current events, history, science, and more. Plus, they'll expose your youngster to different types of reading—from nonfiction articles to opinion columns. Try these tips to turn your child into a magazine reader.

Take your pick

Together, browse through magazines at a library or bookstore. Help your youngster look for a title or cover photo related to her hobbies or favorite school subjects. A soccer player might grab *Soccer Jr.*, a budding writer or artist may enjoy *Creative Kids*, and a history buff can read about America's past in *Cobblestone*. Order a subscription to her favorite, or visit the library each month to read the latest issue.

Research a topic

Encourage your child to work on research skills. Have her choose a topic (animal rights, fitness trends) and look for articles in old magazines. Suggest



that she cut out headlines, stories, and pictures and make a collage poster for her room. Reading for specific topics will help her get comfortable searching for information when she has to write papers for school.

Do a project

Plan a monthly magazine project for the whole family. Ask your youngster to choose a craft from *Family Fun* or to design a science project based on an article in *Tracks*. She'll practice reading and following directions, along with cooperation and teamwork. ■

Which punctuation?

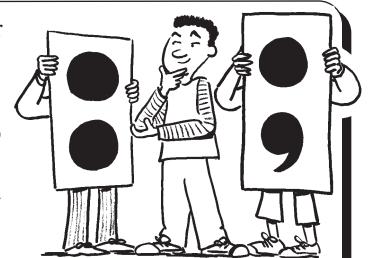
Colon or semicolon? Share these tips to help your youngster know when and how to use these two tricky punctuation marks.

Colons introduce. Use a colon to introduce a list or to make a piece of information stand out.

Examples: "Josh brought three things to the meeting: pen, paper, and his best ideas." "Marie had one thing on her mind: winning."

Semicolons connect. Use a semicolon to join two related sentences and show a strong connection between them. Semicolons can help a writer vary sentence length and structure.

Examples: "Travis is a fantastic dancer; Alicia is a talented pianist." "You like adventure stories; I prefer comedies." ■



Be a poet

Weather, friends, music ... anything can serve as inspiration for writing poetry. Help your youngster become a poet with these ideas:

- While he sits by a lake or listens to his favorite music, hand your child 8–10 sticky notes. On each one, have him write a word or phrase that comes to mind as he enjoys the sights or sounds. He'll build vocabulary skills and practice using descriptive words. Then, ask him to arrange his words and phrases in whatever order he chooses. It's a poem!



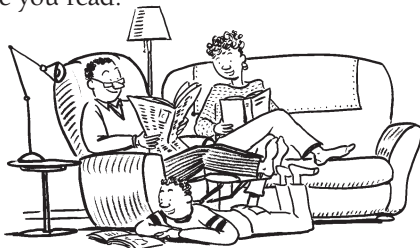
- Give your youngster a book of poems. He can choose one to use as a pattern for writing his own. For instance, he could turn Langston Hughes's "April Rain Song" into "December Snow Song" by substituting words related to snow: "Let the snow fall upon your hat with white crystal flakes ... The snow makes a soft quilt on the sidewalk." Encourage him to choose other topics and write more poems. ■



Q&A Reading models

Q I know it's important for our son to see us reading, but my husband and I can't seem to find time to read. What can we do?

A You probably read more than you think. Most daily tasks involve some reading. Be on the lookout for them, and take every opportunity to let your son see you read.



When preparing meals, read recipes and package directions aloud. During drives, point out road signs or billboards. Let your son see you both reading the newspaper, mail, or e-mail.

If you can, find a little time in your day for books. Instead of reading to your child every night, some nights you could each read a book silently. Seeing you read will motivate him to follow your example. ■

Other Picks

GAMES

■ Bananagrams

It looks like a banana, but it's really a word game. Race to turn letter tiles into words and arrange them crossword-style. The first player to use all his tiles shouts "Bananas!" and wins. Store the tiles in their yellow pouch until next time.



Bananagrams International

■ The T-Shirt Game

Match silly slogans to pictures in an imaginary t-shirt design contest. Players take turns being the judge or the contestant. Choose the winning slogan, and draw a "Hot or Not" card to receive your score.

Buffalo Games

WEB SITES

■ KidsKnowIt Network

Originally a teacher's Web page, this is actually 15 sites in 1. It's packed with information on astronomy, dinosaurs, geography, math, spelling, and more. Youngsters can sharpen memory skills with games and activities, enjoy educational movies and music, or browse an extensive animal database.

www.kidsknowit.com

■ The Fin, Fur, and Feather Bureau of Investigation

This site invites visitors to become FFFBI agents who explore the world to learn about places and cultures. Use problem-solving, reading, and research skills to complete missions. Don't forget to sign up for the monthly *Bureau Briefing* e-newsletter, with its puzzles, stories, and more. www.fffbi.com

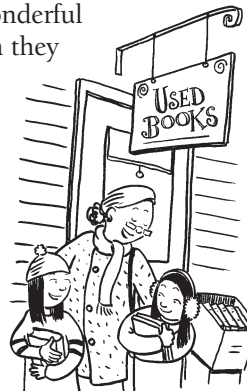


Parent 2 Parent

Used book adventures

Last year, my mother started a wonderful tradition for my girls. When they visited her, she took them to a local used bookstore. She gave Eleanor and Hannah each a couple of dollars and let them buy any books they wanted.

The idea was such a hit that the girls have started looking for used bookstores wherever



we go. When they buy a book, they write the name and address of the shop inside, along with a little note describing it ("Island Books has a section just for kids, with big chairs to sit in").

If we don't have trips planned, we look for second-hand books at garage sales. Now our daughters' book collection is growing—and so is their interest in reading! ■

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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