Guiding Your gifted reader:
Suggestions and activities for parents

Bios

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Myths about gifted readers
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Myth #1: All gifted readers are the same.
Myth #2: Gifted readers will flourish if left to their own devices.
Myth #3: Gifted readers are experts when it comes to comprehending and analyzing texts.
Myth #4: Gifted readers know how to select appropriate reading materials.


Characteristics of Gifted Readers

• read at an early age (and may be self-taught); read two grade-levels or above their peers.
• read enthusiastically and widely (on to adulthood).
• Have an expansive vocabulary and able to use advanced terminology correctly.

Characteristics of Gifted Readers

- Understand language subtleties and use language for humor; Display this ability in self-expression.
- Write words and sentences early; write creatively.
- Display evidence of divergent thinking.
- Demonstrate flexibility of thought.
- See relationships that others miss; transfer past learning to new situations.

Source: [http://www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org)

Needs of gifted readers

Texts with nuanced…

- language (figurative language, playful wording, humor)
- structure (different points of view; non-linear texts; reoccurring motifs and themes; provocative plot twists, story problems).
- Provocative characters
- Novel Ideas (utopias, dystopias, Alternatives)

What Gifted Readers need

Texts that…
• Position the reader to think like an expert in a specific discipline.


What gifted readers need

Texts that help them…
• Establish an identity.
• Allow them to escape.
• Foster and maintain relationships with others.
• Learn how to use their abilities.


Ways to support your gifted reader
What is Reading?

- Duffy (2009) points out that “What they do is what they think it is.”
- Reading is constructing meaning from print in order:
  - To understand
  - To enjoy
  - To interpret
  - To apply their learning from reading to other areas


Transactional reading theory

- Louise Rosenblatt published Literature as Exploration in 1938

Transactional reading theory

• The role of stance
  – Efferent
  – Aesthetic


Text Complexity

• “Text complexity is the new black” — Fisher, Frey & Lapp (2012)


Text Complexity

• Quantitative = word length, frequency, sentence length, etc.
• Qualitative = figurative language, structure, theme.
• Reader = motivation, life experience
• Task = purpose of reading

Text Complexity

“Anyway, the fascinating thing was that I read in *National Geographic* that there are more people alive now than have died in all of human history. In other words, if everyone wanted to play Hamlet at once, they couldn’t because there aren’t enough skulls.” (Foer, 2005, p. 3)

Using Text complexity theory to Helping your child select Books

Factors to consider when selecting a text

- Quantitative/Qualitative aspects of Text
  - Reading level
  - Language
  - Structure
  - themes
- Cognitive capabilities/Readiness
- Interest/Motivation
- Prior knowledge/Experiences
- Purpose for reading (efferent or aesthetic)
Factors to consider when selecting a text

- Format
  - E-book
  - Audio book
  - Interactive
  - Graphic text
- Curriculum / CCSS

Factors to consider when selecting a text

- Issues related to giftedness:
  - Asynchronous development
  - Sensitivity and intensity
  - Awareness of moral issues
  - Isolation
  - Underachievement
  - Perfectionism

Source: http://www.hoagiesgifted.org

Text selection resources

School Library Journal

Hoagies' Gifted Education Page
discussing texts with your child

Discuss texts with your child!

- Open ended!
- Facilitate vs. Direct
- Try to help them recognize and build upon their response.
- It is okay if you haven't read the book!

Ask questions

- **Factual Questions** = What happened?
- **Interpretive questions** = Why did it happen?
- **Divergent questions** = what if something else happened? If..., then...
- **Evaluative questions** = what did you think about what happened? What would you have done?
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Bibliotherapy

• What is the main character’s biggest problem?
• How do you think s/he feels when…?
• Why is it...
• When do...

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Helping your child read closely

What is close reading?

"An intensive analysis of a text in order to come to terms with what it says, how it says it, and what it means."
~ Tim Shanahan ~

What is close reading?

"Close reading should suggest close attention to the text; close attention to the relevant experience, thought, and memory of the reader; close attention to the responses and interpretations of other readers; and close attention to the interactions among those elements."
~ Kylene Beers ~
Characteristics of close reading

• works best with a short passages
• Involves careful and purposeful re-reading.
• Involves asking questions and making connections to other parts of the text

Reading like a writer

“I really think that reading is just as important as writing when you are trying to be a writer, because it’s the only apprenticeship we have, it’s the only way of learning how to write a story.”

Author, John Green

Reading like a writer

• Texts as Mentors: Readers can note and emulate writers they like!
  – Language Patterns
  – Literary Elements
  – Dialogue
  – Imagery
  – Text Structures
  – Style
Inquiry reading

“Inquiry reading offers gifted and talented readers with the opportunity to conduct independent research into an area of particular interest to them.”

~ Patricia Wood ~

Inquiry reading

2. Develop questions they wish to pursue.
3. Collect information.
4. Create a product that illustrates their understanding of topic/solution to the problem.

Textual resources

[Image of book covers]
Online resources

School Library Journal: http://www.slj.com
Hoagie’s Gifted Reading Lists: http://www.hoagiesgifted.org

Works Cited