

**7th Annual Just Read, Florida!
Leadership Conference
July 2008**

**Book Worms, Book Shelves &
Book Chats:**

*Implementing a Student-Centered Book
Club at Your School*

Presented by:

Rosemary W. Chambers, *Principal*

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Objectives:

- Participants will understand scientifically-based research to connect student achievement with out-of-school daily reading.
- Participants will learn how to get students actively involved in the Book Club and its process.

Research

17 percent of students would rather clean their rooms than read. There is reason for concern when children are so turned off by an activity as important as reading.

Reading Instruction that Works

Michael Pressley

Research

To have successful self-selected reading, it is crucial that students choose their own reading materials and have lots of materials from which to choose.

Classrooms that Work: They can all Read and Write

Patricia M. Cunningham

Richard L. Allington

Research

Children who read also enjoy talking to their classmates about what they have read.

Classrooms that Work: They can all Read and Write

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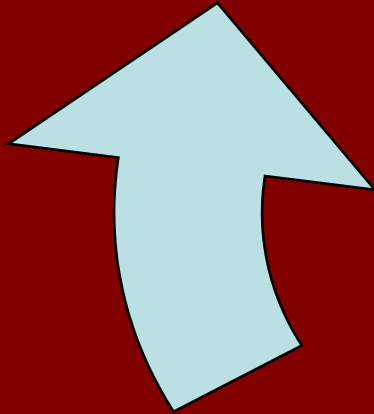
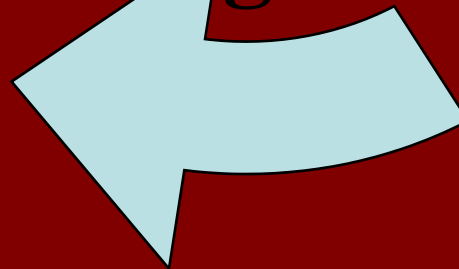
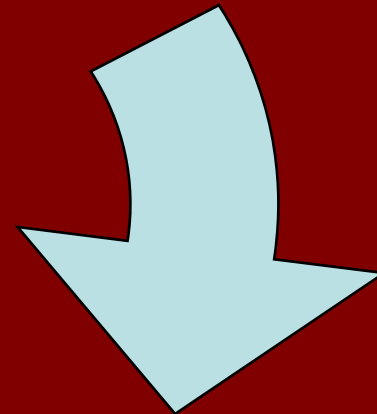
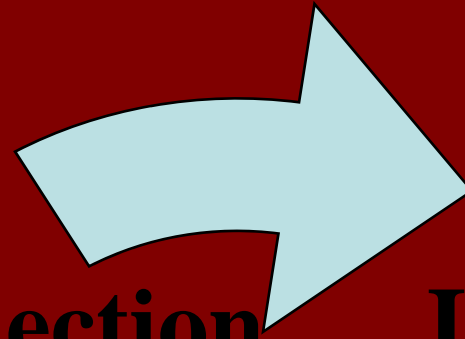
Literature Selection

Invitation

How do we engage
adolescents
in literature
conversations?

Tools and Modeling

Access



Research

The central philosophy behind a Book Club is to provide a learning context and opportunity for students to become fully engaged in authentic and “grand conversations”.

Research in Teaching English

M. Eeds

D. Wells

Buy-in from students, teachers and the community

- Start with a small group of students. Allow the students to share the value of joining a Book Chat.
- Advertise the monthly book via am/pm announcements, posters around the school.
- Have copies of the book for students to preview.
- Ask for volunteers from the staff to sponsor a monthly Book Chat.
- Each volunteer selects a book they would like to share with approximately 20 students.
- Ask teachers to encourage students to join the monthly Book Chats.
- Write letters to community organizations for support.

Selecting Books

- Encourage the Book Chat volunteers to pick books they are passionate about.
- Review the American Library Association (<http://ala.org>) for ideas.
- Ask your Media Specialist for titles that are frequently checked out.

Facilitating the book chats

- Read the book!
- Create questions to help the discussion flow.
- Meet with all of the students prior to the book chat.
- Remember to thank the students and sponsoring staff member for their participation.

Acquiring Books

- School Improvement Plan
- PTSA
- Local book store
- Partners in Education
- Fundraisers
- Grant(s)



References:

Cunningham, Patricia M. and Allington, Richard L. (2003). *Classrooms That Work*. Boston, Massachusetts: Pearson Education

Eeds, M. & Wells, D (1989). Grand Conversations: An exploration of meaning construction in literature study groups. *Research in the Teaching of English*, 23, 4-29

Pressley, Michael (2002). *Reading Instruction That Works*. New York, New York: Guilford Press