

Organising your library by genre

The aim of your library is to entice children into choosing books that they will enjoy and thus improve their reading skills and life chances. Rearranging your library can reinvigorate your collection, help you identify areas for improvement and be a catalyst for promoting reading.

Although traditionally library fiction is organized alphabetically by author surname, and in some schools by Accelerated Reader allocated book level, using genre as an organisational system can improve your library in many ways.

For some the number of books to choose from can be overwhelming. By first deciding what genre they would like to read the library collection has immediately become more manageable and finding a book that appeals easier.

Contrary to what you might expect genre sections encourage children to try something new, branching out into unfamiliar genre but confident that they know what to expect.

Returning books to the shelves is much quicker and can be easily managed by pupils, helping the library to remain tidy and appealing.

The pack contains:

10 A4 sheets of label templates, 65 labels for each genre.

4 options for guiding:

- A4 shelf guides
- A4 guides for using in baskets (smaller class collections)
- A set of shelf guides for double video boxes
- A set of shelf guides for single video boxes

Two sets of shelf-edge labels, plain and italic.

A genre poster, with genre descriptions.

Genre Reading Tracker, to encourage pupils to branch out.

To set up:

There are 10 genre including poetry and information books. Information books has been included for small format non-fiction such as Horrible Histories.

Each book should be examined in turn to determine its genre, using the

title, blurb etc. As most junior fiction are adventures try to avoid allocating books to 'adventure' in the first instance, could it be an animal story or is it also funny? Also consider where the book would be most appreciated, for example, there are not many scary, thriller type books for KS2 so consider 'spooky' as an option if it seems appropriate.

Labels

Once a genre has been decided upon, take the corresponding adhesive label and stick this inside the book in the bottom righthand corner of the first page. If it is a Devon SLS book it should be stuck on the bottom righthand corner of the stationery.

Do not cover any barcodes.

Placing it inside the book cover is tidier and will protect the ink from wearing away from the label.

Guiding

There is a choice of guiding and what you choose to use will depend on the available space and the guiding resources you have in school.

A4 shelf guides:

These are designed to be printed onto white A4 card and laminated.

They slide between 2 books to demarcate the sections. These are useful if you have limited shelving which is very full.

There is also a set to stand in boxes or baskets, the wording at the top will show above the books in the box.

Shelf guides for double or single video boxes:

These sets are designed to fit the video boxes which you may already have, in the past some schools have used double video boxes as non-fiction guiding and single video boxes for fiction. Video boxes are no longer available to purchase. The inserts need to be trimmed slightly and used to replace existing inserts, laminating is not necessary.

Shelf-edge labels:

These are designed to fit into 'shelf plates' that clip onto the shelves or can be laminated and stuck to a shelf edge. This type of guiding should always go below, not above the relevant books and can be used in conjunction with one of the above.

Poster

This can be printed for pupils to refer to. The sections are colour coded and link to the reading tracker.

Genre Reading Tracker

This can be used to keep track of each child's reading habits. Stuck inside a reading journal it can show at a quick glance what pupils are reading and in conjunction with small incentives can encourage pupils to broaden their reading repertoire.