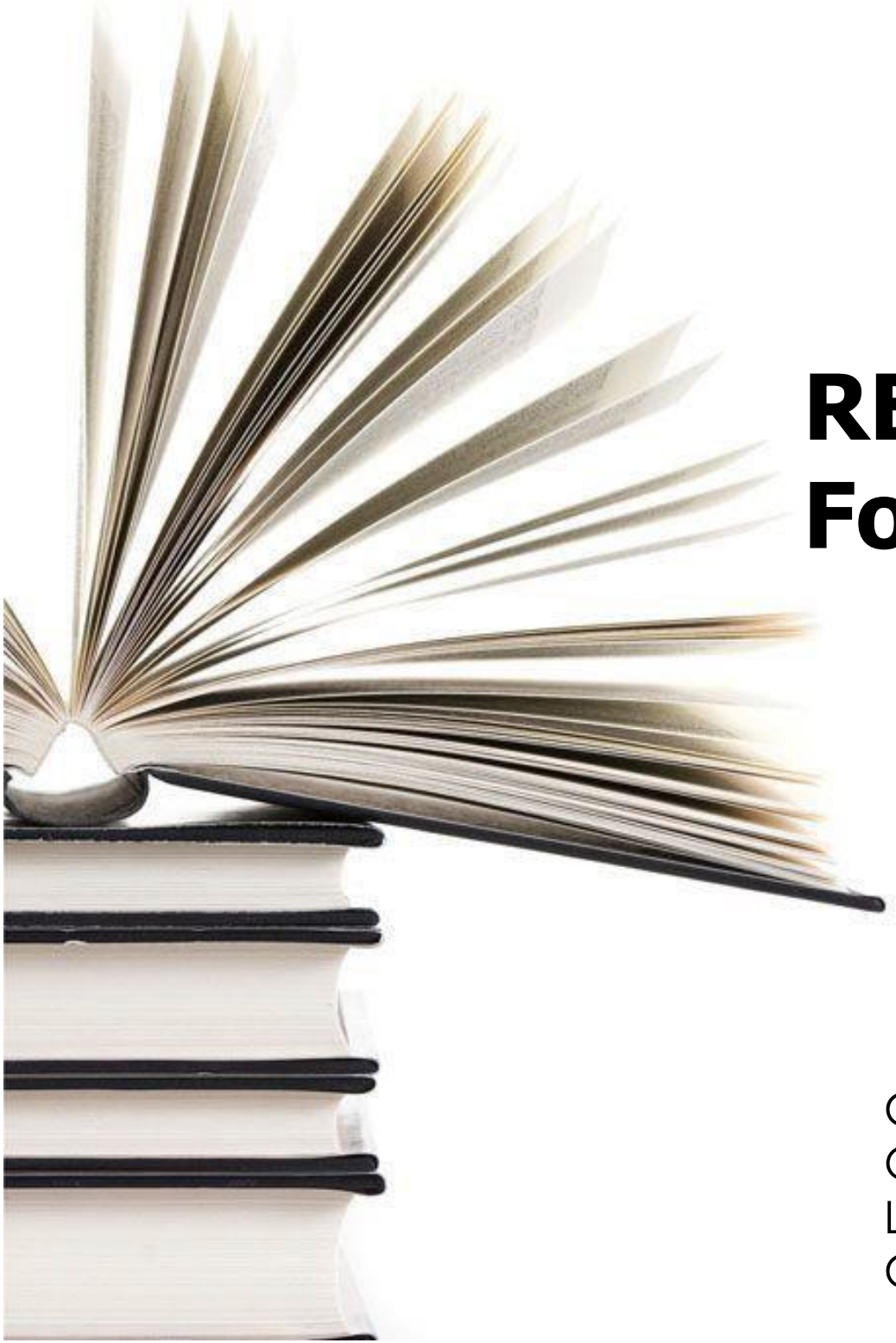
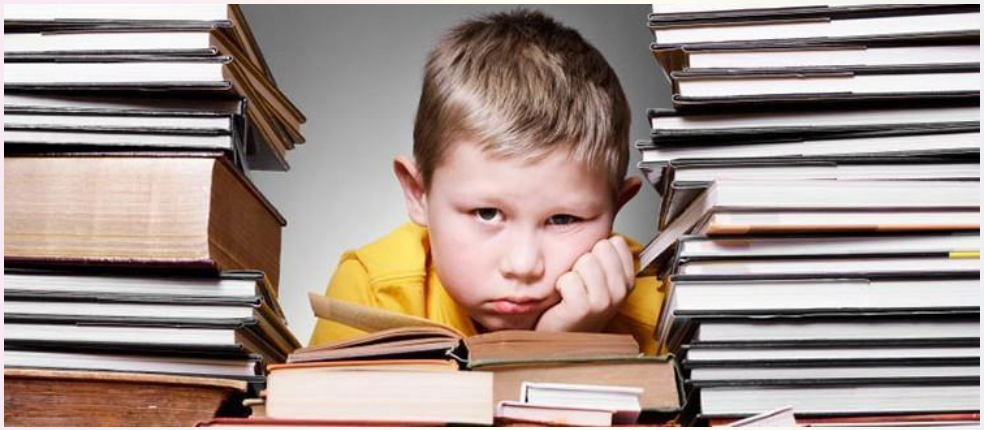


READ is not a Four-Letter Word

Cynthia Oser, MLIS, LPC
Outreach and Reference Librarian
Licensed Professional Counselor
Central Texas College

What Causes Reluctant Readers?



Lack of Interest and Motivation

Isn't fun

Becomes a "has to"

Nothing of interest

Not modeled

Emotions are Negatively Attached to Books

Tense power struggles

Many Reluctant Readers are Struggling Readers

Missed basic reading tools

Some Reluctant Readers have Deeper Issues

Have unresolved learning disabilities

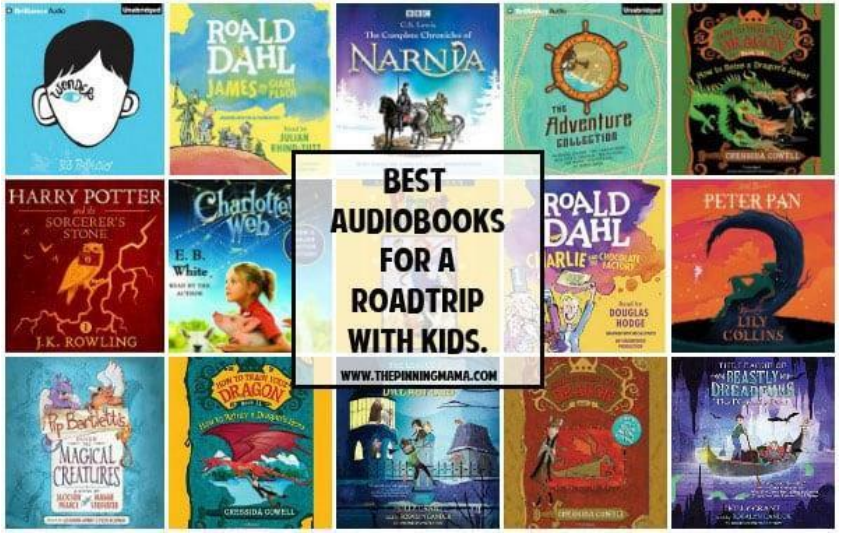
So where does a parent start to create “fun?”

- **Children need to experience pleasure from books before they can see value in reading**
- **Listening for pleasure comes before reading for pleasure**
- **Let them enjoy looking at the pictures while they also enjoy listening to you read to them**
- **A child’s listening level is much higher than the independent reading level http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/**

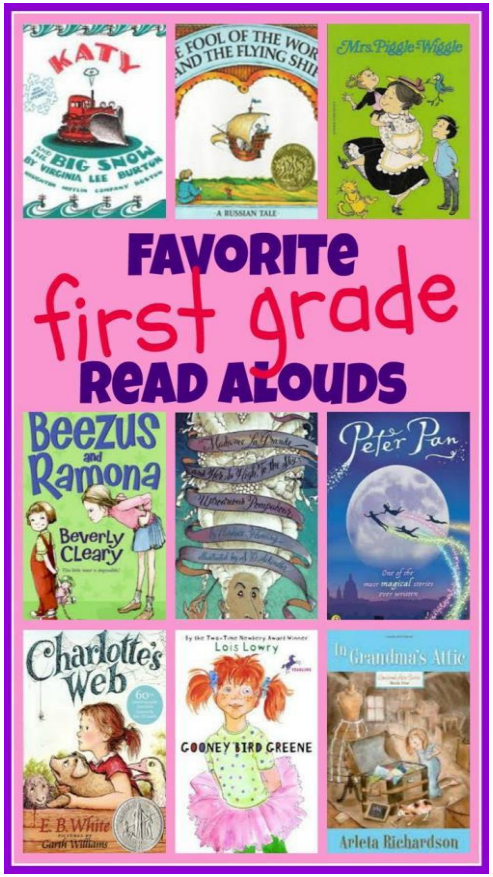
So read to them and make it interactive and fun with lots of pictures

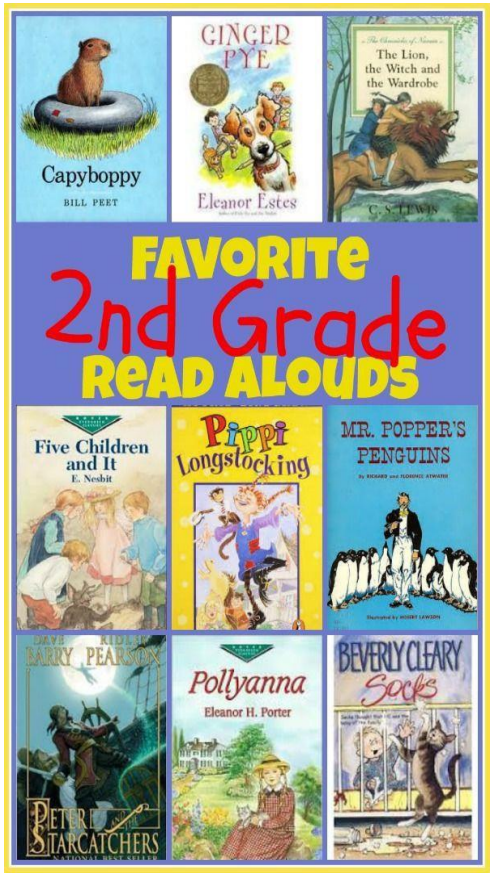
Reading to your child

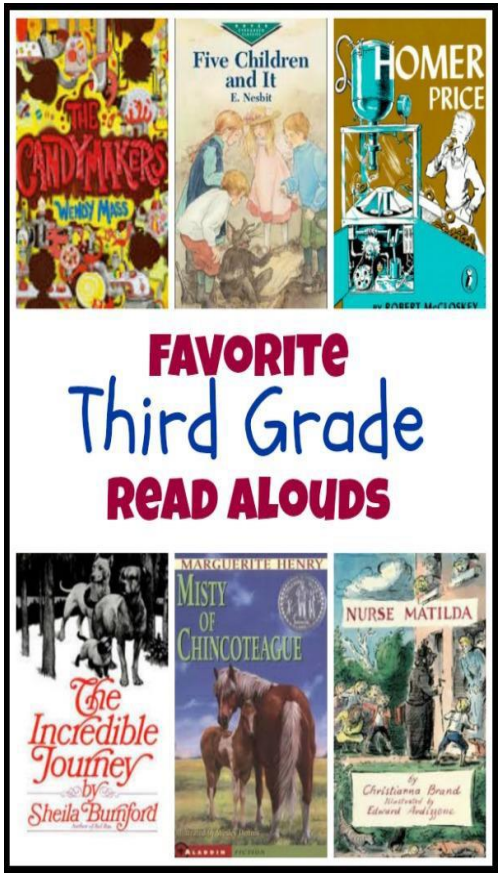
- Let them choose the book when they get old enough to choose
- Let them interact with the book by holding it
- Let them mimic actions like flying, sneezing, and laughing along with the characters
- As they get older, ask them about the characters such as, “What do you think he will do next?”
- Look at the It’s Elementary workshop, *Who is Your Child,* for more fun ideas http://www.bcslibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/Who_is_your_child.pdf

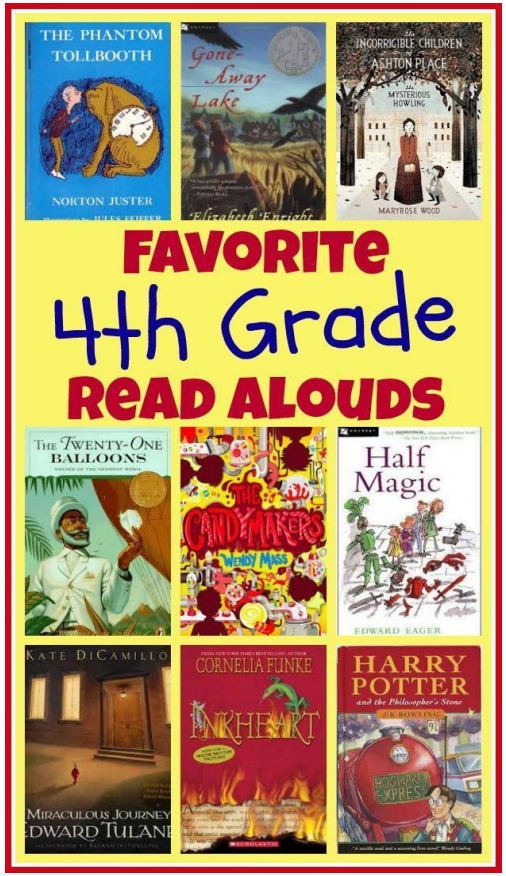


- This means read to your child even before they are born.
- Show them the book’s pictures when they are babies and older while you read.
- Listen to audiobooks and let them follow along with the pictures in the book. https://www.bankstreet.edu/center-childrens-literature/childrens-book-committee/further-resources/read-alouds-for-older-children/



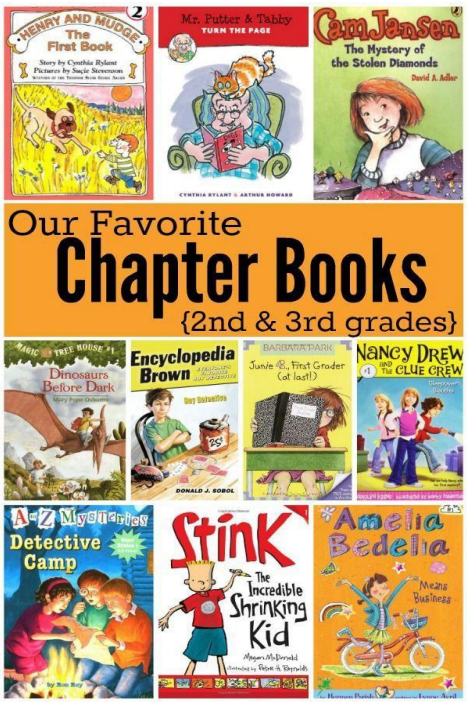






Best Interactive Books

A Growing Book by Book List



Some suggested read aloud books, but make sure that your child is interested and wants to read it before you choose it for him or her

Other suggested websites with lists that offer fun read aloud books

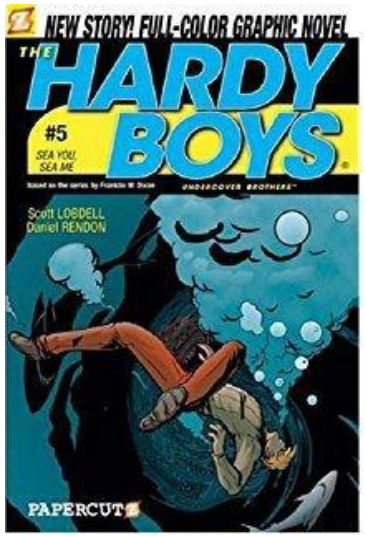
- New York Public Library's 100 Picture Picture Books Everyone Should Know http://www.aadl.org/user/lists/26610
- Bank Street College of Education Book Lists https://www.bankstreet.edu/center-childrens-literature/childrens-book-committee

Boys especially need pictures, websites, and pleasure from listening to keep their interest

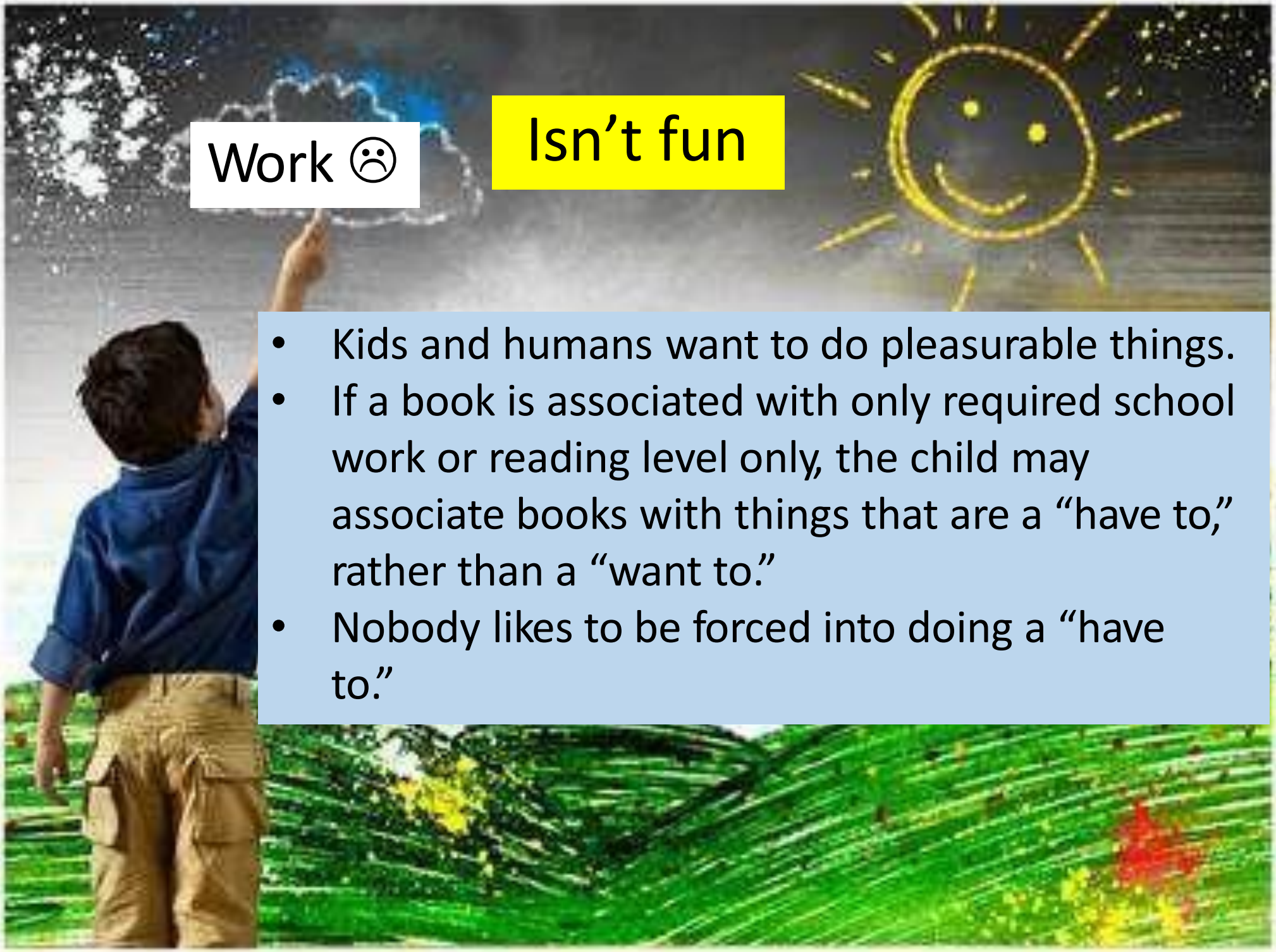
• Guys Read (Jon Scieszka)	• http://www.guysread.com/
• Boys and Girls Learn Differently by Michael Gurian	• https://www.amazon.com/Girls-Learn-Differently-Teachers-Parents/dp/0470608250
• Readkiddoread (James Patterson)	• http://www.readkiddoread.com/
• Goodreads for Children	• https://www.goodreads.com/genres/childrens

Graphic novels are also important

- They continue to show pictures to older readers
- The vocabulary is either equal or above the vocabulary of books with no pictures
- Convincing the Naysayers…Why Graphic Novels Deserve a Place in the School Library http://connect.ala.org/node/170204



So how do you make “book reading” fun?



- Kids and humans want to do pleasurable things.
- If a book is associated with only required school work or reading level only, the child may associate books with things that are a "have to," rather than a "want to."
- Nobody likes to be forced into doing a "have to."

For each book that they have to read for school or on their level, let them choose any level book that:

- Is fun
- Interests them
- Makes them happy
- Gives them information about things that interest them

Even if it's the same book over and over

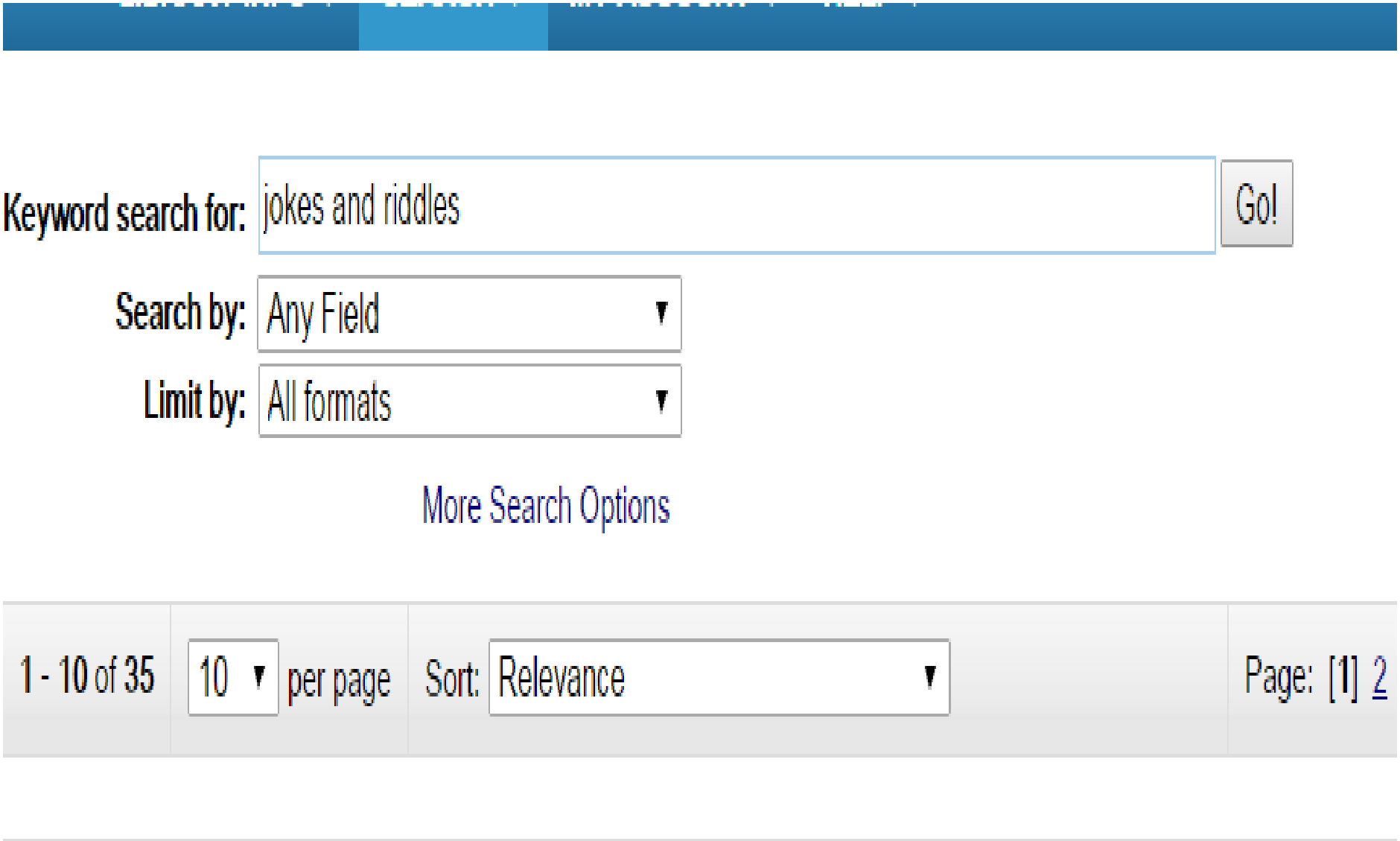
What if they don’t know what they want to read because they have already associated books with no fun?

Give them the “I like” chart

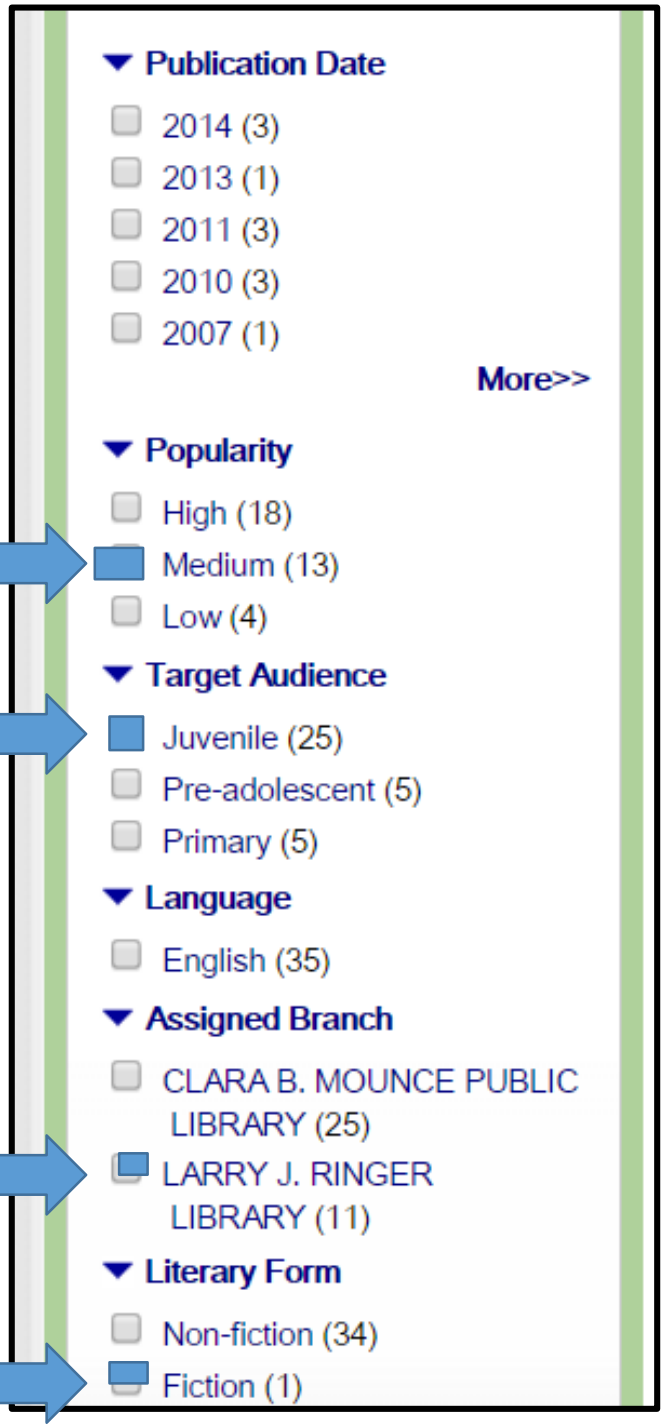
Let them circle everything they like (don’t mention reading about these things. Just find out what interests them)

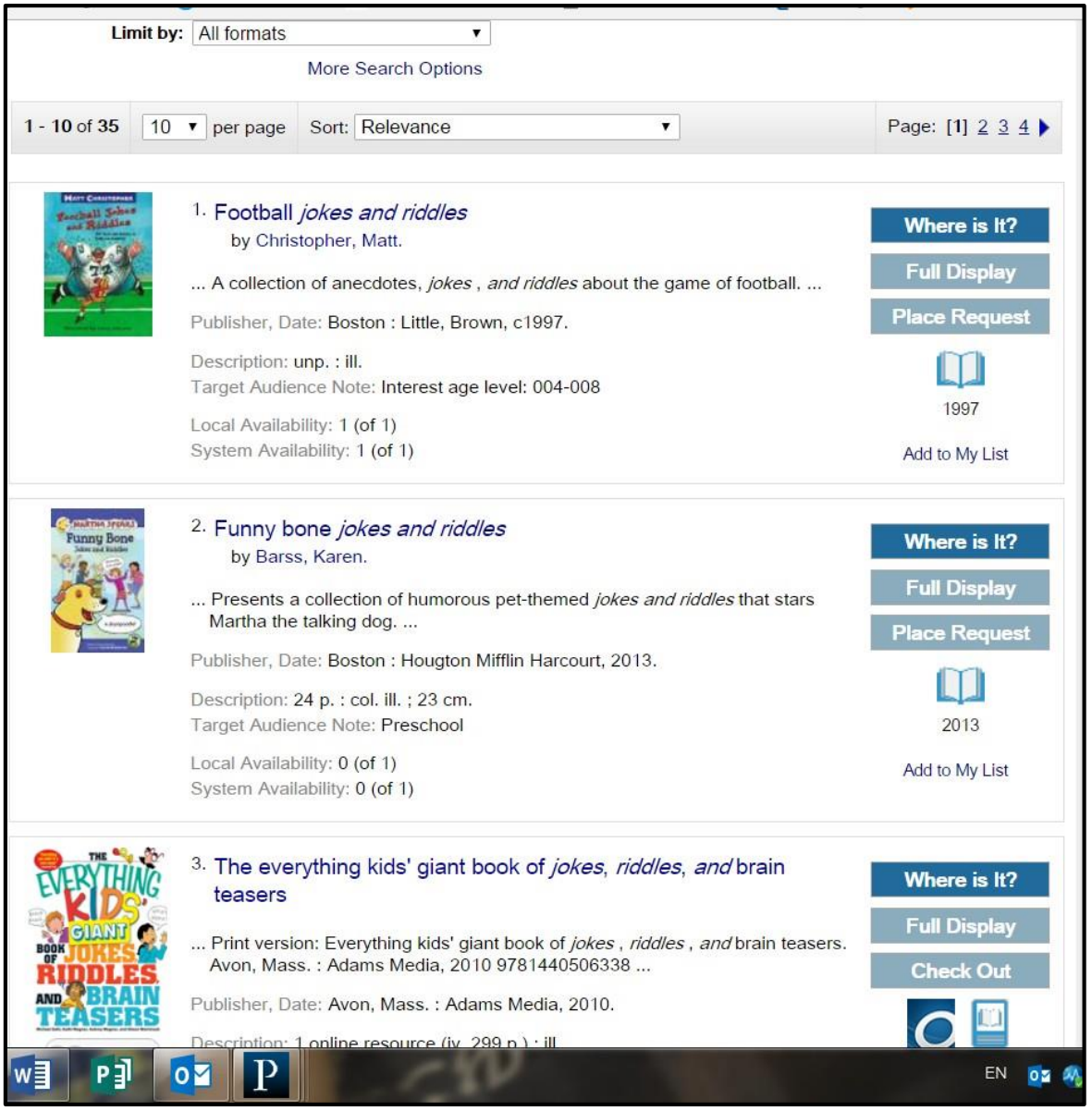
Animals	**Funny**	**Realistic stories**	**History**	**Video games**	**Cartoons**
Mysteries	**Fantasy**	**Scary**	**Gross stuff**	**Sad stories**	**Weird**
Art	**Music**	**I spy games**	**Jokes and riddles**	**Thick books**	**Skinny books**
Books with pictures	**Sports**	**Sea animals**	**Insects**	**Games**	**Fairy tales**
Science	**Math**	**Making things**	**Superheroes**	**Dinosaurs**	**Maps**
Favorite TV or movie character	**Planes, boats, trains, etc.**	**Stories about school**	**Watching movies & TV**	**Drawing**	**Puzzles**
War stuff	**Inventions**	**Snakes**	**World records/trivia**	**Series**	**Listening to stories**
Paper airplanes	**Listening to music**	**Science Fiction**	**Castles and princesses**	**Crafts**	**Choose the ending**

Go to your library's catalog search box.
Then plug in the words your child chose.



Use filters to narrow your search by age/reading level/ fiction or non-fiction





Nothing of Interest

Your library may not have what your child wants, but they may be able to get it

They may try to buy it

Book/Media Suggestion Form

Title _____

Author _____ Date of Publication _____

Subject _____

Format ( ) Adult ( ) Fiction ( ) Audio Book
( ) Juvenile ( ) Nonfiction ( ) DVD/Blu-Ray
( ) Young Adult ( ) eBook *if available*

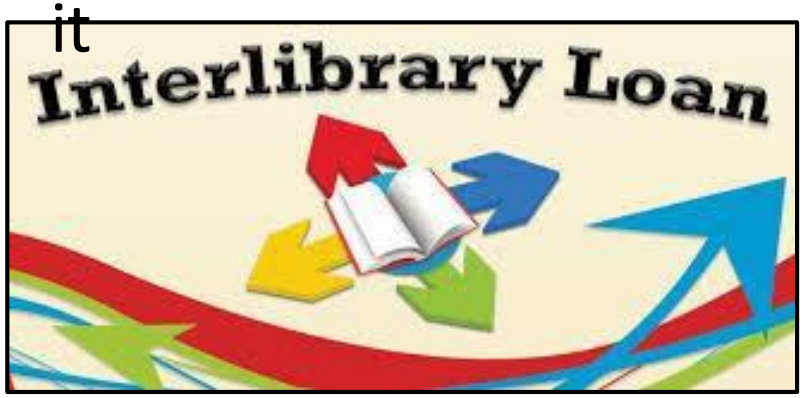
Where did you hear about this item? Please cite source and date of your information, such as newspaper, magazine, television, friend, etc.

_____

Today's Date _____

You can check the online catalog in the next few months to determine if the library system has purchased the item.

They can try to borrow it



If they know what they want, they will make every effort to get it for them

What if your child is being oppositional and doesn't want to read anything?

Stop and think about the situation

- Are you <u>afraid</u> he or she won't succeed?
- Are you <u>worried</u> about his or her future? College entrance? Paying for college? What job they will get?
- Are you <u>frustrated</u> with his or her school performance?
- Are you <u>angry</u> because you feel he or she is not trying?
- Are you <u>confused</u> because you love to read?

If you answered "yes" to any of these, read the next section.....

- Now fill out the first section on your sheet.
  - List why children SHOULD read

- Then answer the question:
  - How do you feel when children don’t want to read?

- Share your answers with the group

They may be reacting emotionally to your emotions

Calm down

If they pick up your anxiety, fear, and worry, they may become anxious.

Then they connect these negative emotions with the object “book” and reading.

Who wants to associate with something that causes Mom or Dad to freak out?

If you're angry or frustrated, it may have moved into a power struggle

Include them in planning a reading time during the day and length of reading time with guidelines and consequences to give them a sense of power.

Stick to consequences.

Tricks to plan and compromise

Agree together on a routine and read at the same time each day. Base this time on your child's most relaxed time.

"Down time" or their relaxed time might be different for each child.

Introverted Child

- If your child is introverted, he or she needs quiet downtime to diffuse from the loud chaotic school day. Reading isn't always a down time. It may be viewed as work by your child. Lack of downtime can cause lack of interest and focus because introverts need stopped moments to regain energy.

Let me sit quietly and do my own thing for awhile before I start reading

Extroverted Child

If your child is extroverted, he or she needs play and friend time to gain energy after a day of sitting quiet and still in school. Let them get their energy out with friends, TV, games, talking about their day to you, etc., so they will focus more on the book.

Changing Reading Time

Be open to unavoidable changes in your schedule. If you freak out because you suddenly have to run an errand during the reading time, they will not be as calm and happy while reading and you'll feel frustrated and rushed. Merely let them know reading time is moved to two hours later just for that day.

Make sure they have a choice in your planned reading time to help them feel like it's their idea rather than yours only

Have to + my idea = fun and power

Have to + your idea = work

Got one too fidgety to read for long?

Fidget toys" like squeeze balls can help. Teach your child how to use the toys quietly while working.

Letting your child move around to different locations while reading (on the floor, in a rocking chair) can also give them the sensory stimulation they need.

Got one too fidgety to read for long?

Let your child try reading two books during a week—going back and forth on each for an hour, a few minutes, or even days.

Break books into segments. How many chapters can you read? How many pages?

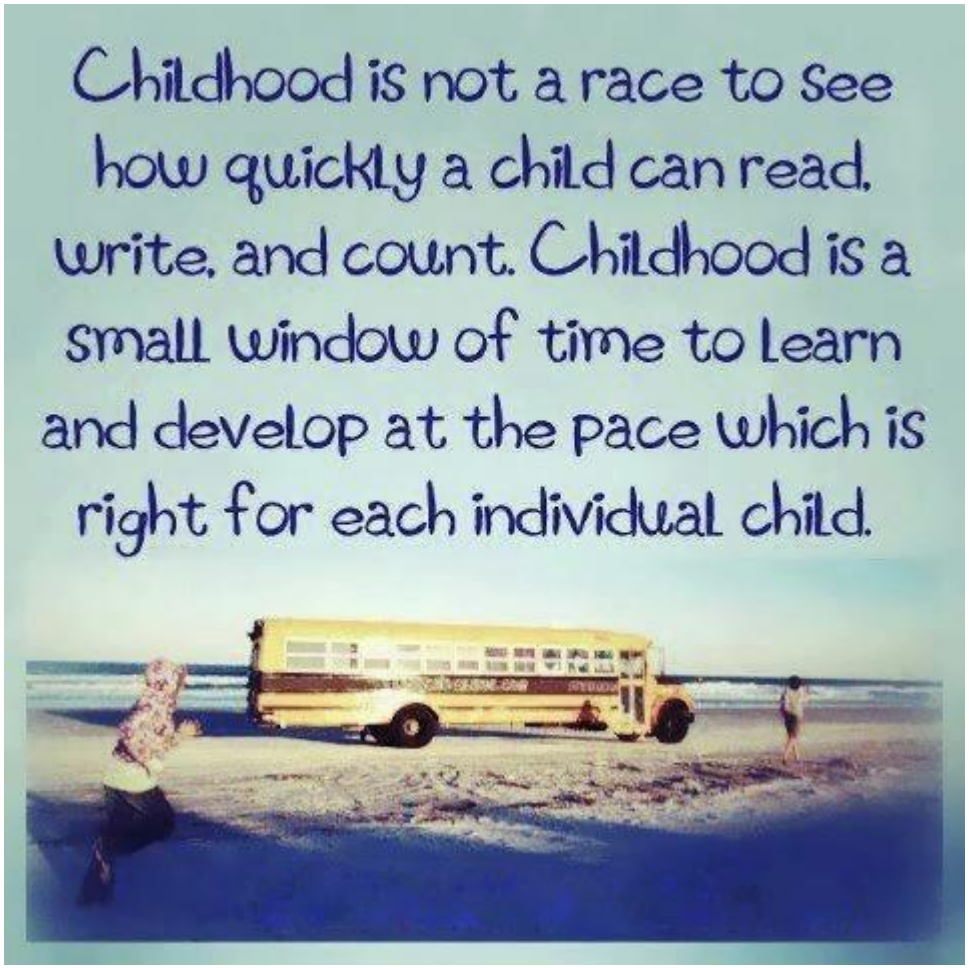
Date	Chapters I read	Pages I read	Reward
8/25/17	2	16	
8/26/17	1	7	
8/27/17	2	10	

Got one too fidgety to read for long?

Let them get up occasionally to walk around. Exercise forces them to bring vital oxygen to their brain, which will allow them to focus better. Example: Read 10 minutes, walk 5 minutes, repeat.

Praise them when they accomplish.

Are you confused why they don't love reading like you do or what you like to read?



Parenting Styles

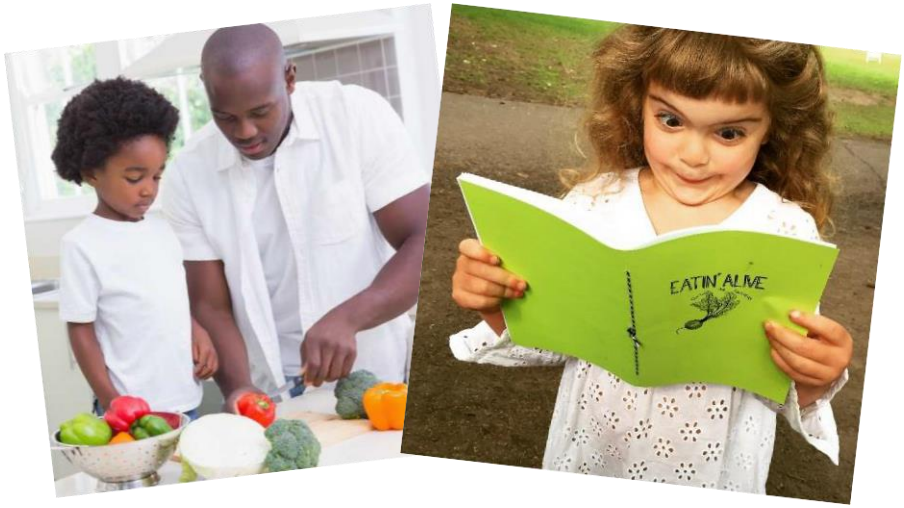
- **No one type fits all**
- **Different results for different children**

Or the opposite, you just don't like to read or don't have time to read

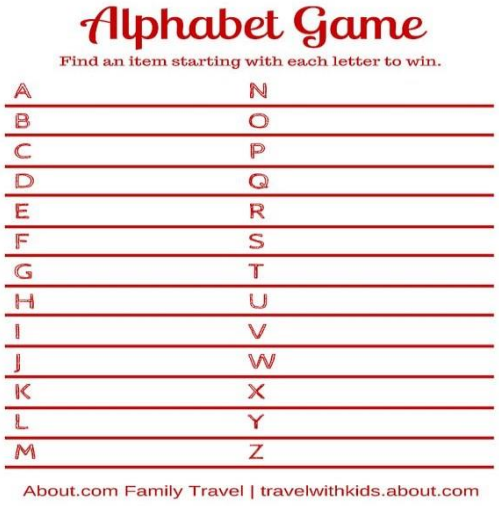
Check this blog out to see if you're a "Mombie"
https://onetiredworkingmommy.com/2013/11/01/warning-signs-that-you-are-becoming-a-sleep-deprived-mombie/

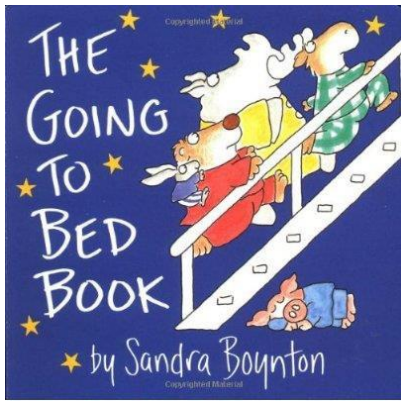
If you're a tired, working parent here are some fun reading projects to share with your child

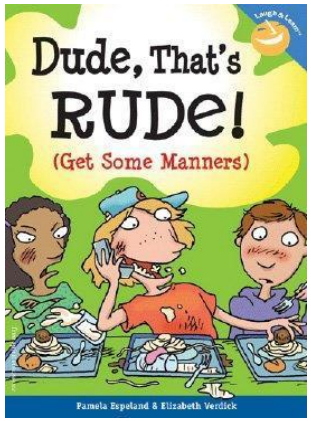
Shared cooking assignments. Read aloud while preparing dinner



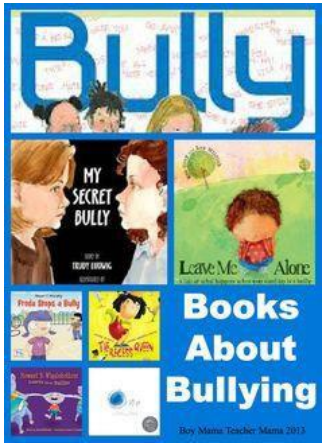
Audiobooks and travel games – signs & licenses







Share lesson subject with parents to open discussions with their kids



Are they reluctant because they are struggling to read?

They may not have understood basic sounds, letters, or words and fell behind their class.

This could lead to a lack of self-confidence as the class notices they do not complete reading as fast as they do. Oral reading in class can also be an embarrassment for a student because the class hears them struggle.

Doubting their ability combined with fear of failure means the reluctant reader assumes they are incapable of the reading tasks and so may avoid it

Avoidance leads to little practice.
Little practice leads to struggling again.

Build their confidence

Let them read for fun below their level

Let them read graphic novels and non-fiction so they can associate pictures with words

Let them listen to audiobooks while reading the text because the auditory cues of the reader stressing words will help them remember what they read

Praise small triumphs

- Did they remember the character's names?
- Did they remember what happened at the end?

If your child is still struggling, they may have an unresolved learning issue

But don’t panic!

Check out the obvious –

- Vision test
- Hearing test

If these tests are normal, talk to your doctor about information on other learning issues

- Jot down ways to get a reluctant reader to cooperate on the bottom section of your sheet

- Discuss it with your group

Thanks to College Station Independent School Librarian, Sally Smith, for her help, insight, and collaboration.

We truly appreciate your input!