

Libraries Provide Reading Choice

Library reading is voluntary and self-instructed. Because students in the same school (and even grade) mature at different times, our library collections offer a wide spectrum of materials for students to practice understanding varying perspectives, thinking critically, and reading for recreational and personal interest, as well as learning and growing in factual knowledge and literary appreciation.

Best Practice: Holistic and varied selection versus defaulting to most restrictive selection.

- Holistic and varied selection empowers family choice and growth. Based on whole work, supports literacy and well-being. Something for everyone.
- Defaulting to most restrictive selection limits choice for all students. Based on fear of single elements, ignores varying maturity. Can result in reduced diversity, loss of choice for advanced readers.

Decisions Rely on Professional Sources

Professional selections are made with librarian expertise by considering the existing collection, user needs and interests, professional reviews, age recommendations, relevance, and popularity.

Libraries Serve a Range of Maturity Levels

Students mature at different rates. By offering diverse collections, libraries let families guide their own child's reading rather than restricting access for everyone.

Evaluation is Holistic, Not Based on Excerpts

Books are selected and judged as complete work. A character's identity or a brief scene doesn't determine appropriateness; content, purpose, and message matter.

Presence of Relationships and Identity

Well-rounded library collections provide "mirrors" reflecting students' own lives to build self-worth, and "windows" into others' diverse experiences to foster empathy and respect.

The library is for everyone. Family values are as varied as the families we serve. We encourage families to guide their own child's reading through open conversation about book choices. One family's choice shouldn't leave a gap on the shelf for others.