

# Legos, Pókemon and Book Clubs

After school activities  
for the elementary set

Nancy Peate, Esther Moberg and Korie Buerkle

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# Why is programming for this age important?

The library reaches the very young in  
storytime but loses many kids as they  
approach middle-school age.

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If you do not  
offer kids  
something of  
value now, you  
may be irrelevant  
to them for the  
rest of their lives.



- Eli Neiburger, Ann Arbor  
District Library

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## Why run clubs and regular events?

By tying the library and kids together the kids get a sense that they are a part of something bigger in the community.

Clubs and events become part of their life and something they look forward to.

This gives libraries a way to connect to the audience through their needs, not ours.

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## Why Legos, Pókeon and Book Clubs?

A bit about the elementary set:

They like to join organized groups.

They enjoy analyzing, counting, arranging, sequencing.

Their thinking is becoming more logical and organized.

They like tasks that require specific order.

They are eager to try new things.

They love riddles, jokes, tongue twisters and puns.

They are establishing a sense of self.

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## Regarding expectations...

Kids need guidance from adults to stay on task.

Elementary-age kids are not big on self-motivation. Clubs or programs give kids a deadline to work toward, and something to look forward to.

Kids need clear and simple expectations.

Don't expect kids to know your boundaries through osmosis. Articulate your expectations.

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**Part 1**

**Book Clubs**

Korie Buerkle  
Newberg Public Library  
Newberg, Oregon

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**Who is your audience?**

Specific grades

Boys

Girls

ESL students

Home-schoolers

All of the above?

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**What kind of book club?**

Variety of genres

Book and a movie

Mother/daughter, Father/son, etc.

Art book clubs

Ideas?

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## When and where does book club take place?

At the library - after school

At a school - during school or after school

Weekends or evenings

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## Where do the books come from?

Do the kids check them out?

Do you place holds on book in your system for the kids, then the kids check them out?

Book club sets at your library- or in your library system?

Grants to purchase book club sets to circulate to schools as well?

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## Choosing the books

Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award nominees  
<http://oasl.memberclicks.net/bcca-2013nominees>

Oregon Reader's Choice Award nominees  
<http://www.olaweb.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=109508>

Past nominees/ winners

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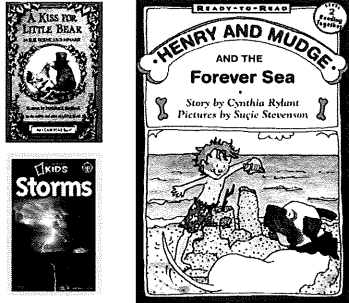
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# 1<sup>st</sup> grade favorites



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# 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade favorites



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# 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade favorites



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## Registration

Registration or no registration

Unlimited or limited number of spots

When does registration begin and end

What has worked for you?

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## Book club day arrives!

Now what?

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## Welcome and expectations

Check out the guidelines from Ginny Moore Kruse and Kathleen T. Horning  
<http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/books/discguide.asp>

What do *you* think is reasonable to ask of your group?

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## Different personalities

Make sure the shy kids are heard, and the loud kids don't dominate too much.

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## Questions

It's not business, it's personal...

Remember, these kids are forming a sense of self.

They are beginning to think of people outside of themselves.

So work your magic and help them relate to the story.

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Who was your favorite character? Why?

Who was your least favorite character? Why?

What was your favorite part? Why?

What was your least favorite part? Why?

How did you feel when X happened?

Has anything like X ever happened to you?

Would you have made the same choice as the character- how would the story have been different?

If you were designing the cover, what scene would you choose?

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## More questions

Check out Multnomah County Library's fabulous discussion guides:  
<http://www.multcolib.org/talk/guides.html>

And Hennepin County Library's discussion guides too:  
[http://www.hclib.org/pub/bookspace/BookListAction.cfm?list\\_num=468](http://www.hclib.org/pub/bookspace/BookListAction.cfm?list_num=468)

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## Party like it's... book club!

Create a craft or activity to go with the book!



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## Remember...

the bit about the elementary set?

- Their thinking is becoming more logical and organized.
- They like tasks that require specific order.
- They are eager to try new things.
- They love riddles, jokes, tongue twisters and puns.

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## Ideas

Create treasure hunts around the library

I spy games looking for objects in the book

Add a sequence element by having the kids put the found objects in order by the story.

Bring in an expert

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## More ideas

Blogs:  
<http://kidsblogs.nationalgeographic.com/dogearred/>

Scholastic: <http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/>

PUBYAC: The listserv for public librarians serving children and young adults  
<http://www.pubyac.org/subscribe.htm>

Pinterest

Esther's ideas: <http://kidsbookclub.pbworks.com>

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## To snack or not to snack

Snacks are fun. They add to the party atmosphere.

Snacks cost money, and many kids have food sensitivities or allergies.

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## The end.

Don't let your captive audience go until you  
book talk next month's book.

Any read-alikes or sequels kids might want  
to take home?

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**Part 1: Book Clubs**  
Korie Buerkle, Newberg Public Library  
April 27, 2012

**Sources**

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**Presentation links**

Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award nominees  
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Book club guidelines from Ginny Moore Kruse and Kathleen T. Horning  
<http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/books/discguide.asp>

Esther Moberg's ideas: <http://kidsbookclub.pbworks.com>

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National Geographic Kids

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Scholastic

<http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/>