

GUYS READ, TOO

Presented by

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IS THERE A PROBLEM HERE?



- The public library is located across from the high school.
 - A groups of boys has flocked to a library table on the main floor.
 - The boys are engaged in a heated debate on the powers of their favorite comic book superheroes.
 - Boys have put all the library's graphic novels on the table.
 - Boys are pulling their own titles from their backpacks
- The teen librarian is filling in for the reference librarian who is on vacation.
 - The security guard is nearby glaring at the group of boys.
 - An adult library worker stops and pointing to the graphic novels, asks, "Where did you get those?"
 - "I better not see any of the library's books finding their way into those backpacks."

YOUR LIBRARY?

- Learn about the issue
 - Variety of genres
 - Variety of formats
 - Acquisitions reflect pop culture
 - Homework help resources
- Conduct self-evaluation
 - Policies about not purchasing items with parental advisory labeling
 - Selection bias against graphic novels
 - Uninviting teen area
 - Out-of-date displays
 - Judgmental staff



WHAT RESEARCH SHOWS

2015 Brown Center Report on American Education

- Girls outscore boys on practically every reading test given to large population
- 1942 Iowa study found girls performing better than boys on tests of reading comprehension, vocabulary, and basic language skills
- Girls outscoored boys on every reading test ever given by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
- Gender gap worldwide phenomenon

READ MORE?



- Gender gap larger for middle and high school students than elementary school.
- Popular recommendation for boosting boys' reading performance by finding ways for boys to enjoy reading more.

WHAT ABOUT ADULTS?

- Reading gap seems to evaporate
- Reading scores for men and women statistically indistinguishable up to age 35
- After age 35, men statistically significantly higher scores all the way to the oldest group, age 55 and older
- Women remain more enthusiastic readers even as the test scores of men caught up

CLOSING THE GAP

CAUSES OF LITERACY GAP

- Biological / developmental differences
- Educational practices
- Cultural differences



BIOLOGICAL / DEVELOPMENTAL

- Physical body changes
- Struggle for identity
- Body needs time to adjust
- Use physical contact to cover clumsiness
- Speak in louder tones
- Unusual physical appearances
- Reluctant to ask for help



MEET DIVERSE NEEDS

- Reading programs in short bursts
- Allow time for pleasure reading and movement
- Pair books with activities
- Expand idea of “reading response”

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

- Preferences change over teenage years
- Influenced by popular culture
- Reading seen as passive act



CREATE CULTURE OF READING

- Start boys' book club
- Make boys reading “experts”
- Host programs on variety of interests
- Reach out to fathers and other male family members
- Reach out to male community members

TEACHING / PROGRAMMING

- Like classic or award winning titles
- Prefer titles with rich prose, lush descriptions and character development
- Hampered by limited selection of titles
- Hampered by limited space



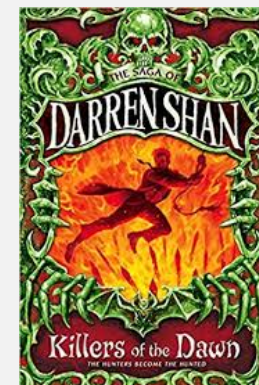
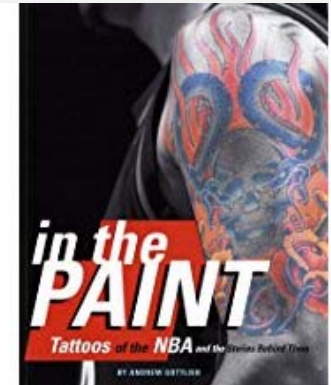
PLAN WITH BOYS IN MIND

- Have variety of genres available
- Provide fiction that appeals to variety of interests
- Let boys choose topics
- Let boys “obsess” about topic
- Reinforce boys efforts

MATERIAL SELECTION FOR RELUCTANT MALE READERS

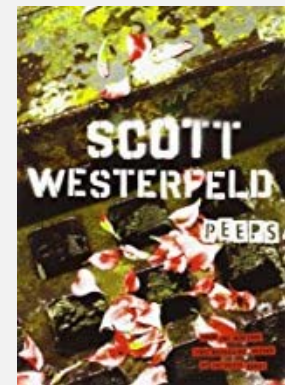
START WITH THE COVER

- Should convey some degree of excitement or danger
- Real photographs
- Edgy, bold fonts
- Book blurb teasers hint of action and adventure



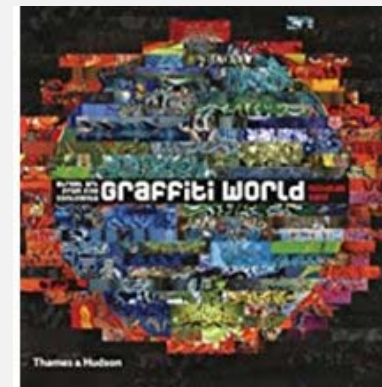
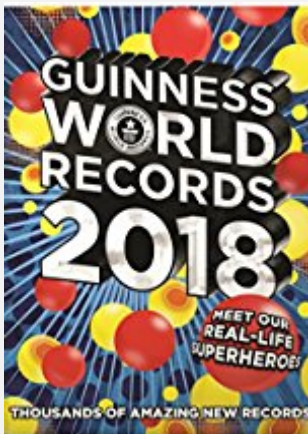
FICTION

- Does the first page excite?
- Does the first ten pages set the pace?
- Does the rest of the book follow along with first impression?
- Is there enough white space?



NONFICTION

- Does the inside content support the cover?
- Does the book have interesting sections throughout?

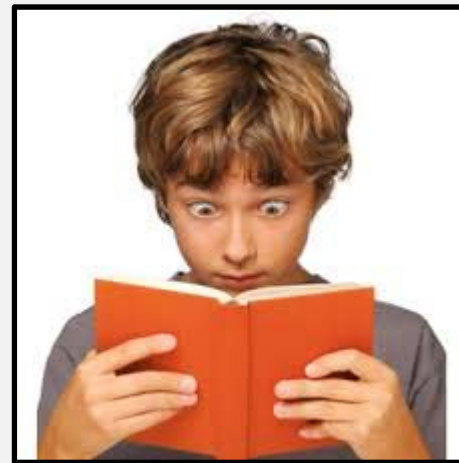


GUY APPEALING CONTENT

- Violence or threat of violence
- Sex or threat of sex
- Vampires
- Cars
- Pop culture
- How to titles
- Tattoos
- Cartooning
- Nonfiction sports books
- Wars and military
- Tie-ins to current news
- Weird
- Biographies of living
- Music

FAVORITE GENRES/ FORMATS

- Fantasy
- Science fiction
- Suspense
- Historical fiction
- Sports stories
- Graphic novels
- Manga



PROGRAMMING ISSUES



- Competition between children's and teen's departments
- Split job responsibilities for librarian programmer
- Non-welcome attitude of staff toward males

PROGRAM ADVANTAGES

- Provide positive experiences for male patrons
- May enhance library's image
- Librarians get in touch with patron group



PLANNING A PROGRAM

- Decide focus based on males' interests
- Pick cool theme
- May need icebreaker
- Focus on “what”—craft, role-playing games, board games, video game challenges, artwork for manga and comics
- Use community presenter and author visits
- Make registration easy
- Pick desired incentives

WAYS TO INCLUDE GUYS

- Create teen area
- Create teen webpage
- Teen advisory boards
- Connect with schools
- School visits
- Booktalks



HELPFUL RESOURCES

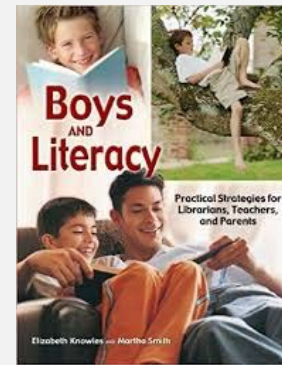
SUMMING IT UP: MOTIVATING MALE READERS

- Focus on the “Now”
- Use a variety of topics and genres
- Set them up for success
- Use male reading models

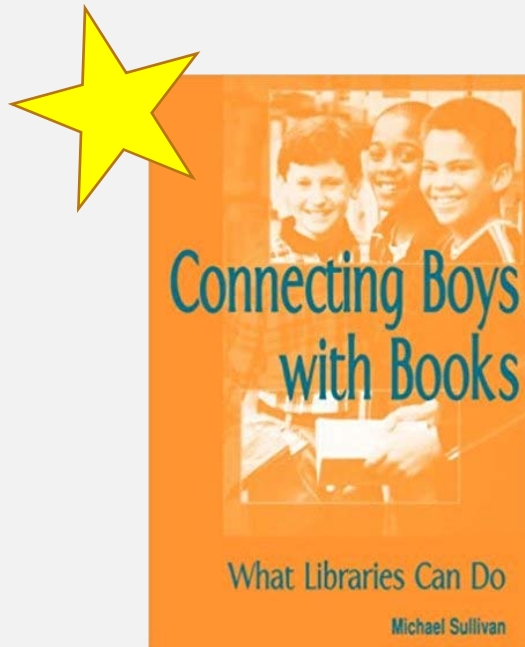


PRINT RESOURCES

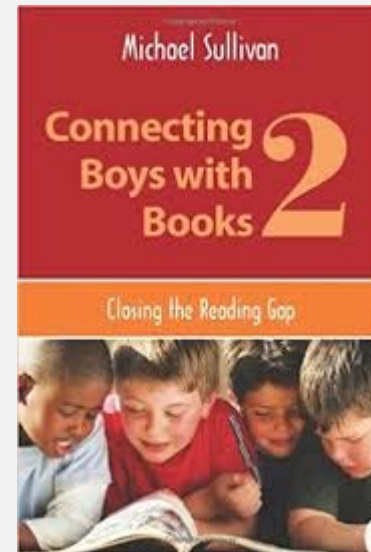
- *The Common Core Approach to Building Literacy in Boys*
- Liz Knowles and Martha Smith
- *Boys and Literacy: Practical Strategies for Librarians, Teachers and Parents*
- Elizabeth Knowles and Martha Smith



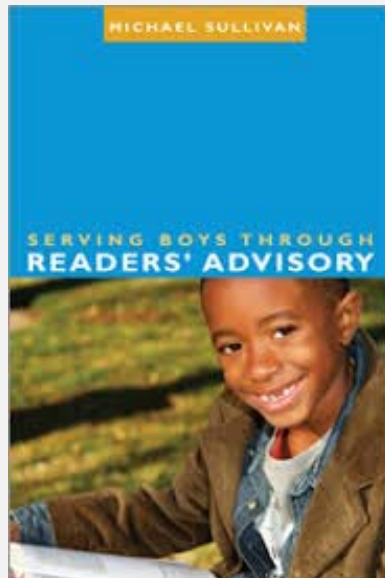
- *Connecting Boys with Books: What Libraries Can Do*
- Michael Sullivan



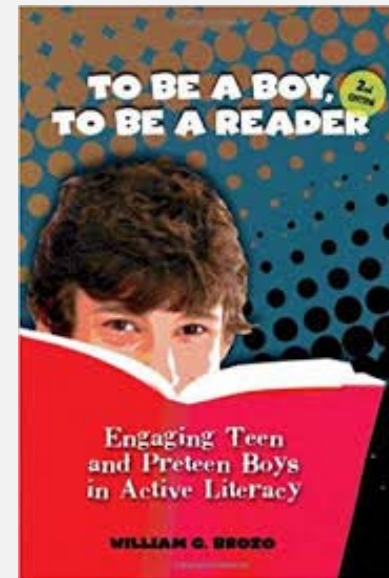
- *Connecting Boys with Books2: Closing the Gap*
- Michael Sullivan



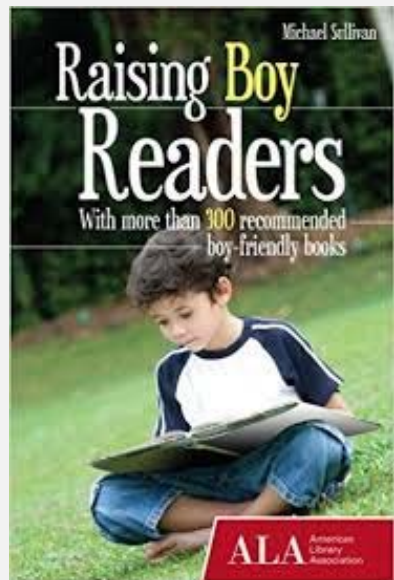
- *Serving Boys through Readers' Advisory*
- Michael Sullivan



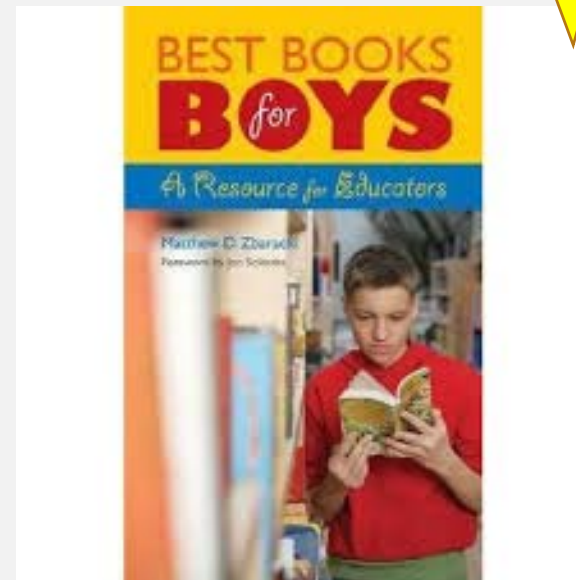
- *To Be a Boy, To Be a Reader: Engaging Teen and Preteen Boys in Active Literacy*
- William G. Brozo



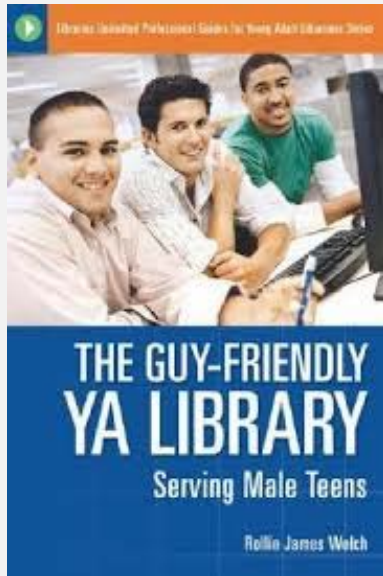
- *Raising Boy Readers*
- Michael Sullivan



- *Best Books for Boys*
- Matthew D. Zbaracki



- *The Guy-Friendly YA Library: Serving Male Teens*
- Rollie James Welch



Web Resources

- Guys Read
<http://www.guysread.com/>
- Boys Blokes Books Blog
<http://boysblokesbooks.edublogs.org/>
- CommonSenseMedia Books for Boys
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/books-for-boys>
- Books for Boys (and girls)
<https://www.boybookofthemo nth.com/books-for-boys/>

CONCLUSION

STATE LIBRARY CAN HELP

- In Frankfort
502-564-8306
- Outside Frankfort
800-928-7000
(choose option #3)
- Email and phone: 8:00 – 4:30 (ET) M-F
- Onsite visits: 9:00 – 4:00 (ET) M-F



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Follow-up email with training certificate (may take 1-2 weeks to arrive)
- Archived KDLA Webinars
<https://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/KDLAArchivedWebinars.aspx>
- Training Events Calendar
<https://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/staffdevelopment/Pages/ContinuingEducationCalendar.aspx>

FUNDING FOR TODAY'S
TRAINING PROVIDED BY



FINAL ACTIONS

- Take the Survey
- Download the Presentation
- Click “Guys Read, Too”
 - “Save to my computer”
 - In the pop-up window:
 - “Click to Download”
 - “Save”
 - Choose where to save it
 - “Save”

