

Chapter Books vs. Picture Books

Month	Picture Books	Chapter Books
September		
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		

Genres at a Glance

Fiction		
Code	Genre	Definition
TL	Traditional Literature	Stories that are passed down from one group to another in history. This includes folktales, legends, fables, fairy tales, tall tales, and myths from different cultures.
F	Fantasy	A story including elements that are impossible such as talking animals or magical powers. Make-believe is what this genre is all about.
SF	Science Fiction	A type of fantasy that uses science and technology (robots, time machines, etc.)
RF	Realistic Fiction	A story using made-up characters that could happen in real life.
HF	Historical Fiction	A fictional story that takes place in a particular time period in the past. Often the setting is real, but the characters are made up from the author's imagination.
M	Mystery	A suspenseful story about a puzzling event that is not solved until the end of the story.

Nonfiction		
Code	Genre	Definition
I	Informational	Texts that provide facts about a variety of topics (sports, animals, science, history, careers, travel, geography, space, weather, etc.)
B	Biography	The story of a real person's life written by another person.
AB	Autobiography	The story of a real person's life that is written by that person.

Other Genre		
Code	Genre	Definition
P	Poetry	Poetry is verse written to create a response of thought and feeling from the reader. It often uses rhythm and rhyme to help convey its meaning.

What Genres Am I Reading?

Genre	Tally
Traditional Literature	
Realistic Fiction	
Historical Fiction	
Fantasy	
Science Fiction	
Mystery	
Informational	
Biography	
Poetry	

Genres I Read in the Month of _____

5									
4									
3									
2									
1									
0	Fantasy	Realistic Fiction	Mystery	Traditional Literature	Science Fiction	Poetry	Historical Fiction	Biography	Informational

Genres I Read in the Month of _____

10									
8									
6									
4									
2									
0	Fantasy	Realistic Fiction	Mystery	Traditional Literature	Science Fiction	Poetry	Historical Fiction	Biography	Informational

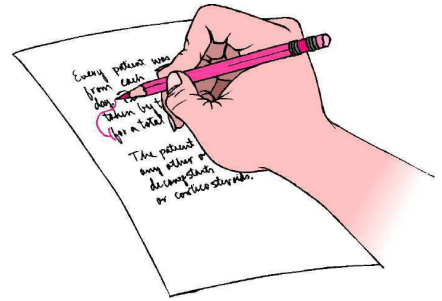
Suggestions for Letter Topics



- Something that surprised you or that you found interesting
- What you liked or disliked about the book and why
- An interesting or important character
- How the main character changed throughout the story
- Parts of the book that puzzled you or made you ask questions
- What the story means to you
- Your thoughts or feelings about the author's message (the theme of the story)
- What you noticed about the characters, such as what made them act as they did or how they changed
- Why you think the author chose the title
- Your predictions and whether or not they were right
- How the information in the books fits with what you already know
- How the book reminds you of yourself, people you know, or of something that happened in your life (T-S Connections)
- How the book is like other books by the same author, on the same topic, or in the same genre
- How the book reminds you of other books, especially the characters, events, or setting (T-T Connections)
- How the illustrations add meaning to the story
- The ending and your feelings about it
- The language the author used and what you thought about it
- The author's craft: What was good about the author's writing
- Why you chose the book
- Why you think that the book is popular with students in the class
- Whether you would recommend the book to another reader
- What would you change about the book and why
- Whether the book is easy, just right, or challenging for you and how you know
- How the setting affects the characters
- How the author builds suspense
- What you want to remember about this book
- Why you abandoned the book

Guidelines for *Proofreading* Your Reading Letter

1. Did you reread your letter to make sure that it makes sense?



2. Did you write the date?

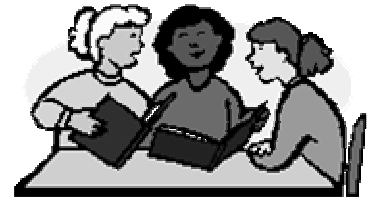
3. Did you check the greeting and closing?

4. Did you check your spelling, capitalization, and punctuation?

5. Did you put your best effort into making the letter thoughtful and reflective?

Preparing for a Book Discussion

Read and think about....



- What you find interesting or surprising
- How the author makes you feel
- What you like or dislike about the writing
- What the author is trying to say and how you feel about it
- What the book makes you think about
- Your reaction to the characters
- How the book reminds you of your life
- How the book reminds you of other books
- How the book is similar to or different from other books by this author or other books in this genre
- What you don't understand, find confusing, or have questions about during your reading
- What you notice about the illustrations
- What you want to remember about the book
- Places where the author gives good descriptions
- Why you think the author wrote the book
- What you think the author's "message" might be
- What you learned

Ways to Have a Good Discussion

1. Be prepared.
2. Sit so everyone can see one another.
3. Get started right away.
4. Look directly at the person who is talking.
5. Listen to understand.
6. Ask questions to understand better.
7. Speak clearly but not too loudly.
8. Wait for the speaker to finish.
9. Use language that invites the opinions of others.
10. Be sure everyone gets a turn.
11. Build on one another's ideas.
12. Respect one another's ideas.
13. Stay on the topic.
14. Give examples from the text that supports your thinking.