Fiction/Narrative and Nonfiction/Informational Books (Part 2 of 2)

Skills Category: Locating Easy Books by Author’s Last Name

Grade Level: 1st

Time Required: 10-15 minutes

Objectives: To locate easy books by author.


Preparation: Use call numbers which have been provided with this lesson. You will need to print them out on white card stock. Look at your monthly collection statistics report to get the number of books in your Easy collection by looking at the end of row E.

Procedure: “Do you remember what kinds of books we have in the “easy and everyone” section? (You may need to do a quick review.) Do you know how many of these books we have in the library?” (Let students guess). Then tell them the exact number (______). That’s a lot of books to look at if you want a certain book, isn’t it?”

“Where do you live? Do you live in any house you want to in __________(Sandy, Riverton, etc.)? No, of course you don’t. You have your very own place in which to live. Each book has its own place to live on the library shelves.

“Do you have an address? How many of you know your address? Books have an address, too. It is called a “call number” and it is located on the spine of the book.” (Bring out your examples at this time and explain that the top part of the call number “E” tells the area of the library. Explain that the bottom part of the call number tells the first letters of the author’s last name. Students should already be familiar with who an author is. Place your examples in alphabetical order. The samples all start with a different letter so these first grade students will only have to alphabetize by one letter.)
These books are put together on the shelf by author’s last name. This system is good because all of the Junie B. Jones books will be together on the shelf, and all of the Clifford books will be together on the shelf.

“The call number on the book is like your address. It tells us the spot where the book lives on the library shelves.”

Physically go to the easy & everyone shelves and show students that the books are alphabetically placed by call number. Point out that books are arranged on the shelves left to right and top to bottom.

Activity

Let five students at a time hold a call-number card and one student at a time do the alphabetizing. Do this until every student has participated as either a call number or the alphabetizer. Distribute the call-number cards in jumbled order. Let the alphabetizer arrange them correctly.