Fiction Call Numbers (Part 1 of 2)

Skills Category: Understanding how fiction call numbers are created

Grade Level: 5th

Time Required: 15 minutes

Objectives: Students will understand how a call number is created and what it represents.

Materials Needed: Handouts and pencils

Preparation: Have copies made for each class. One per student or to share.

Procedure: Addresses help you find where people live and where businesses are located. What do we call the address of a book? (responses) That’s right; a book’s address is called a call number. Today we are only going to talk about call numbers for fiction books.

- Where are the fiction books located in the library?
- What kind of books are fiction books?
- Where is the call number located on the book?

What does a call number on a fiction book represent? (responses) The call number consists of two parts.

- FIC on the first line to let you know what type of book it is and in what section of the library the book is located.

- The second part is for the author’s last name. In our library we use the first three letters of the author’s last name. That is what most libraries do.

Why do you think fiction books are organized by author’s last name? (responses) Make sure to point out that if we like a certain author all of his/her books will be together. You can find a book without the computer if you know the author.

Today you get to be the library cataloger, that’s the person who puts call numbers on books. You can do this by yourself or with a buddy. Figure out the call numbers for these fiction books and write them down.