Enhancing Instruction through Classroom Libraries
How do you feel about your current classroom library?

Students choose an option
Classroom Libraries: WHY & WHERE
Classroom libraries are necessities that...
Why?

- Reading frequency
- Promotes book discussions
- Provides differentiation
- Book access for all kids
- Book choice
Children read 50-60% more in classrooms with adequate libraries than in classrooms without them.

(Allington, 2012; Morrow, 2006; Neuman, 1999)
WHY?

- Reading frequency
- Promotes book discussions
- Provides differentiation
- Book access for all kids
- Book choice
After the Fall

How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again

BOOK OF THE DAY!
WHY?

- reading frequency
- promotes book discussions
- provides differentiation
- book choice
- book access for all kids
Diversity in Children’s Books 2015

Percentages of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds.
Based on the 2015 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children’s Book Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Darwen & Molly Beth Griffin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>American Indians/First Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>Latinx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>Asian/Pacific/Asian Pacific Americans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>African/African Americans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5%*</td>
<td>Animals, Trucks, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.3%**</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* About a quarter of the total children’s books published in 2015 were picture books, and about half of those depict non-human characters, like animals & trucks.
** The remainder depict white characters.
Why?

- Reading frequency promotes book discussions.
- Provides differentiation.
- Book access for all kids.
- Book choice.

Up arrow indicating reading frequency.
Books Make a Difference in Kids’ Lives
The Haves and Have Nots

Lower-Income Communities
(1 book per 300 children)

Out of 300 children:
- 83% read BELOW grade level
- ...and 26% of these children WILL NOT GRADUATE from high school

Upper-Middle Income Communities
(13 books per child)

Out of 300 children:
- 55% read BELOW grade level
- ...and 9% of these children WILL NOT GRADUATE from high school

Differential Access to Books
(“Neuman & Celano, 2012)
WHY?

- reading frequency
- promotes book discussions
- provides differentiation
- book access for all kids
- book choice
“Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty, it should be offered as a gift.”

Kate DiCamillo
WHY?
The #1 reason to have a classroom library is to encourage students to develop a love of reading!
Getting Books & Bins-

**BOOKS:**
- First Book
- Book Outlet
- Epic!
- Thrift Books
- Thrift stores
- Garage Sales
- Ask for donations via social media
- Reading Rockets

**BINS:**
- Dollar Tree--Walmart--IKEA--Target

- Scholastic Warehouse
- Scholastic Dollar Deals
- We Need Diverse Books
- Stories for All Project
- Book Sale Finder
- Facebook Marketplace
- Retired Teachers
- Borrow from school library
- Rivet
- ReadWorks
- Symabloo
Organizing Your Library
Who Organizes Your Classroom Library?

YOUR STUDENTS!
Students label the bins
Books on display
Classroom Libraries are the foundation for literacy
Making Literacy Meaningful
Can Your Students See Themselves In Your Classroom Library?
Books can be...

- mirrors
- windows
- sliding glass doors
“A well-balanced classroom library is really an individualized reading program for each child.”

—Kelli Westmoreland
I never needed anybody to tell me I had reading problems. I figured that out on my own.

Maybe I should send you back to kindergarten!!! My teacher helped.

I never needed an assortment of labels to zap my confidence, either.

I learned to hate books all by myself.

Dyslexic. Reluctant Reader. Slow Reader. On the rare occasions when I did find something I wanted to read...

That's not your reading level!!! Can't you find something more substantial? You've already read that book a hundred times!

That's not a real book!

But just when everything seemed hopeless, my mom came up with a GREAT idea:

So she got me a library card...

...and let me choose whatever I wanted to read— with no judgment.

...or if it was below my reading level...

It didn't matter if it was a magazine...

...I might develop a love for reading.

My mom believed that if I read what I loved...

And she was right!

Love was the key. Love led to habits...

...and habits led to skills.

Skills that continue to this day.

I am a reader today because of one GREAT idea...

...and a lot of love.

The book you are about to read is filled with GREAT ideas!

All you need to do is add the love!
Debrief & Goal Setting
What questions do you have about classroom libraries?
“A classroom library is a living & breathing part of your classroom and the heart of the classroom...”
What change would you like to make?

How can you make those changes happen?

Turn & Talk to share out!

Set 1 goal to implement next year!
What change would you like to make?

How can you make those changes happen?

Students, draw anywhere on this slide!
THANK YOU!