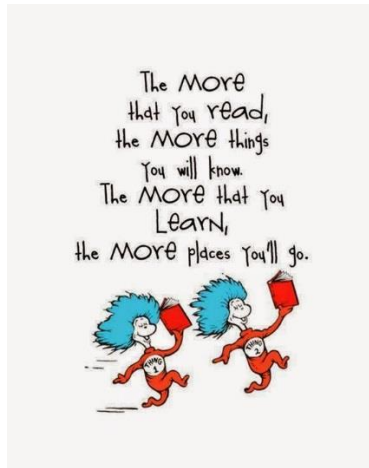


Student Voice on the Library Book Browse & Drop Everything and Read Program



This year, all junior English classes, as well as ESL classes, were invited to the FMG Library Learning Commons to learn how to properly browse for a book of choice. Students were encouraged to choose a novel of interest written at each student's personal reading level. Once the students selected their "just right" books, they signed them out and participated in DEAR - drop everything and read – in the quiet environment of their classrooms. Students were given the daily opportunity to read self-selected titles for 10-15 minutes of English or ESL class. Here is what students had to say about this literacy initiative:

"The book browse has helped me rediscover my passion for reading novels. When I was younger, I enjoyed reading and it was a fun way to pass time. However, as I got older, I found less time to read and focused on other activities. The DEAR program allowed me to enjoy reading again. I try to find some time during the day to read, and the DEAR initiative has helped. I am able to read for leisure as I now have time." Kenneth Gamueda

"The book browse made me more aware of the many different book genres. I found several of them appealing and found that I liked a genre that I didn't have much interest in before. In addition, I didn't know that the Goetz library offered e-books for download. Now that I know this, I will be downloading books on my phone so that I can read wherever I go." Tsimat Semagn

"The book browse has made me enjoy going into the library and signing out a book that I would like to read, not a book that my teacher has forced us to read. I have really benefited from the DEAR program because it gives me the freedom to read what I want to read, and the genre I enjoy." Florian Aliaj

"I never had the time to read at home, or sometimes I'd forget. Reading in class gave me time to think about and enjoy the book in silence, which eventually made me more inclined to read deeper into the book I had gotten. It allowed me to imagine the characters and give them vivid descriptions through my imagination." Omar Safi

“The book browse made me more interested in reading and made me realize I like the sci-fi genre. I am really enjoying the book I signed out.” Jay Ortiz

“The book browse helped me reconnect with my favourite book genres, which proves to be difficult during a hectic semester. Reading has also helped ease the stress of my everyday life. In other words, it has been an escape from reality.” Sharuka Joseph

So, students do love to read – even in the world of personal electronic devices – so long as they’re reading what they want to read. In “The Rarity of Engaged Reading,” Angela Peery claims that engaged reading should give students “time, ownership and response” with the opportunity for students to read in class, self-select titles, and speak to their peers and/or teacher about what they’ve read. She asserts that only then can we expect to nurture life-long readers. To read the whole article, go to www.growteachers.com and search for “The Rarity of Engaged Reading.”

Ms. M. the Teacher-Librarian