

Some kids are bookworms.

Many things distract kids from reading

Others would rather do anything else than pick up a book.

In this electronic age, stuffed with every kind of activity imaginable, librarians and teachers must try to figure out ways to pique student interest in reading.

Dudley Elementary school librarian Angie Richeson thinks it's more difficult to get students interested in books because of activities, technology, television, movies and video games.

"Most days I feel like I am doing a song and dance but in a good way," Richeson said. "I am willing to go the extra mile to get to know them and help them find just the right book."

Finding right book important

Gothenburg junior and senior high librarian Lori Long said there are many ways to get students to stick their noses in books or participate in any type of reading.

"I think finding the one book that can hook you is important," she explained. "It might be about finding a purpose like a how-to book or it might be a professional journal or other non-fiction materials."

Teachers encourage love of reading

Written by Elizabeth Barrett Thursday, 17 January 2013 14:23 -



Long often conducts "patron interviews" to stimulate student interest.

"I might ask when was the last time they finished a book they liked and what was it?"

Or she inquires about favorite and least-favorite movies.

Popular books in the high school media center include the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, The Hunger Games, sports fiction books by such authors as Kris Crutcher, Carl Deuker and Mike Lupica and a couple of series based on the "Pretty Little Liars" and television show and "The Clique."

In the past few weeks, Long has had many conversations with juniors involved in an American author unit through Mary Clark's English class.

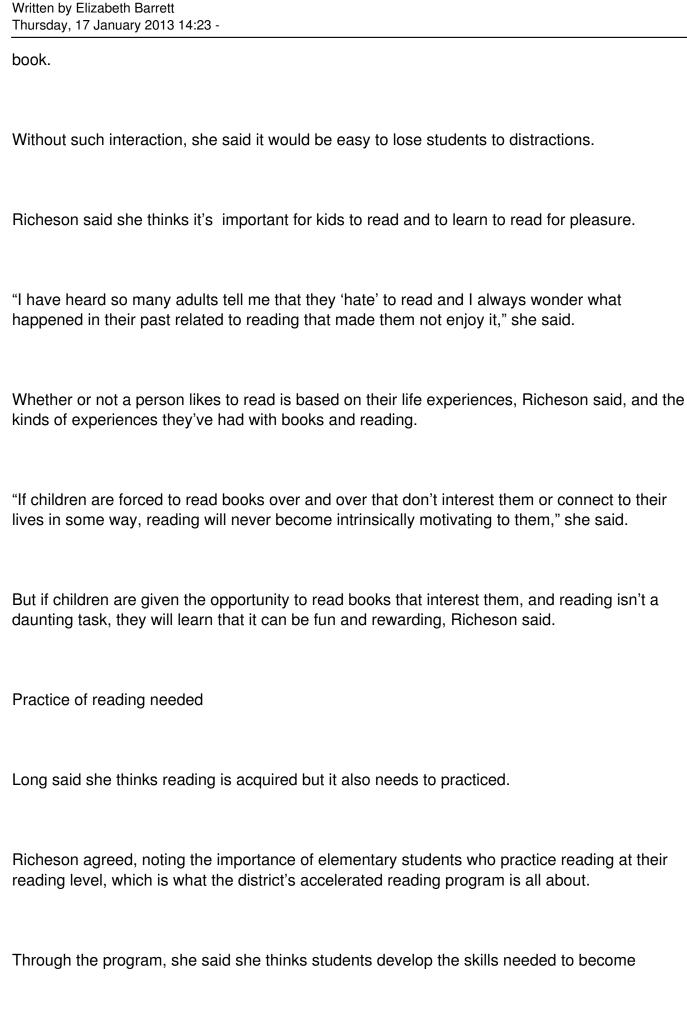
Students research authors, including reading two novels written by that author, and complete a literary analysis.

Knowing students helps

Richeson said she tries to make contact with all students who walk through the door.

After three years in her position, Richeson said she finally feels like she has a general idea of what most of the kids are reading, what they like to read and how long it takes them to finish a

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successful readers.

Still, Richeson said she thinks there's a fine line between reading for practice and reading for pleasure, adding that she feels it's her job to help students define and understand that line.

"We want kids to enjoy reading and choose what they want to read but we also want them to actually be able to read and comprehend the book," she explained. "I think there needs to be happy medium."

District supports reading

Both Long and Richeson said reading is a priority for Gothenburg students and that they feel supported in their efforts.

The library, they said, provides diverse materials (including electronic devices) to support the curriculum, literacy standards and provide information and personal reading opportunities for students.

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