

Radical Reads: Accelerated Reader Resources

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Introduction

Ovey Comeaux High School, in Lafayette, Louisiana, is a large high school, serving approximately 2,000 students in grades nine to twelve. There are 115 full time educators, along with two full time librarians. The students and faculty have many library services and resources available to them. The library has more than 35,000 volumes and many electronic resources. Approximately one-fifth of the library is devoted to research materials. Teachers may choose from hundreds of educational videos, and also may borrow items such as laptops, projectors, electronic games, and hand-held educational gaming systems. The library catalog is available online, and it is accessible from each of the twenty-three library computer stations. The catalog is available remotely and users may request material or search. The Comeaux librarians have a website where students can email them and where they post helpful information about research materials, booktalks, and other relevant library information. Many students use of the site, especially when writing research papers.

One search available in the catalog is "AR Bookfind," which is limited to books for which there is an Accelerated Reader (AR) exam. AR is available online, so students may take tests at home. This article describes the creation of a desktop library bibliography of AR titles. The bibliography is broken down by genre and presents the newest material. It is easy to use, visually-appealing, and includes a brief description of how to use the Comeaux High School Library and where to find certain items, including a library map and Dewey Decimal review.

Objectives:

- Display new literature in a variety of topics and genre
- Create AR list so library patrons may see which books have an AR test
- Assist novice library users in becoming familiar with the layout, procedures, and new literature found in the library
- Assist novice library users in finding materials and familiarize them with the Dewey Decimal Classification System.

Project Background

The Radical Reads program has been in effect at Comeaux High School for the past five years. It was established to help novice library users, mainly freshmen, get accustomed to using the school library. The circulation numbers are high for a school of this size, but many students are unfamiliar with what materials the library offers, where materials are located, and how they can access the online catalog from home. Some students are uncomfortable asking for help, but they have no problem looking in the binders that have been created to help them find material. Radical Reads information is contained in a binder. This project is an expansion of that, and produced a binders with AR titles by genre.

Students are given a library orientation in their freshman year. It can be overwhelming and difficult to remember, especially since many new students are in the "information overload" state their first week of high school. Many students do not feel comfortable with the library until their senior year. That is much too long to wait! Not all teachers require use of library resources, which compounds the problem. Radical Reads was seen as a way to show the students what literature was available to them without making them feel nervous in the library.

Method

My approach to this project was to read the current Radical Reads binder to assess what materials are listed currently. I accessed the purchasing records to see what new materials had been purchased and read reviews of that material. I updated the information in the binder. I spoke with the faculty, staff, and students concerning literature they would like to see in the binder. Since the binder is already divided into sections, this made the searching easier. Some topics overlap, but they will be mentioned in multiple sections to ease confusion.

I posted a few questions on my blog page and see what students are reading and see if it is in our library. Many students I have spoken with spend their own money to buy books. I sketched a map of the library. I scanned the schematics for the school into a computer file and then made a copy for the binder. I downloaded and printed current AR program information and included it in the binder.

I enjoyed the creativity that this project offered and the fact that it can now be easily updated every few months, instead of every few years. Along with the novels I have been exposed to, I have also learned that the library is a wonderful gathering place for the school. Assisting students to find information and materials they need to be successful in school, or just helping them to find pleasurable reading material was a heartwarming experience.

New Non-Fiction

Book	Author
101 Tips for Graduates	Susan Morem
A Brief History of Afganistan	Shaista Wahab
Barry Bonds: A Biography	John Bloom
Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking	Malcolm Gladwell
Career Opportunities in Television and Cable	T. Allan Taylor

Career Opportunities in the Travel Industry	Judy Colbert
Do Not Open	John Farndon
How I Broke into Hollywood: Success Stories from the Trenches	Pablo F. Fenjves
Nightwatch: The Practical Guide to Viewing the Universe	Terence Dickinson
The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East	Sandy Tolan
The Pirate Queen	Susan Ronald
The World Almanac and Book of Facts, 2008	Ed. C. Alan Joyce
Unnatural Phenomena	Jerome Clark

African American Authors

Book	Author
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou
Oh Pray Wings Are Gonna Fit Me Well	Maya Angelou
Black Ice	Lorene Cary
We Beat the Street	Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt
The Color Purple	Alice Walker
November Blues	Sharon Draper
A Lesson Before Dying*	Ernest Gaines
A Gathering of Old Men*	Ernest Gaines
The Music of Summer	Rosa Guy
Arilla Sun Down**	Virginia Hamilton
M.C. Higgins, the Great	Virginia Hamilton
A Raisin in the Sun	Lorraine Hansberry
Selected Poems	Langston Hughes
Their Eyes Were Watching God	Zora Neale Hurston
The Hatweaver's Lesson	Yolanda Joe
The Color of Water	James McBride
Jazz	Toni Morrison
Harlem Summer	Walter Dean Myers
Dreams from my Father	Barack Obama
Rosa Parks: My Story	Rosa Parks
My Jim	Nancy Rawles
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred Taylor
My Soul Looks Back in Wonder	Juan Williams
Rite of Passage	Richard Wright

*Author in residence at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**Series

Science Fiction and Fantasy

Book	Author
Abhorsen	Garth Nix
Blue Bloods	Melissa De La Cruz
Cell	Stephen King
Cirque de Freak	Darren Shan
Corydon& the Fall of Atlantis	Tobias Druitt
Dangerous Girls	R.L. Stine
Dragonsong****	Anne McCaffrey
Dr. Ernest Drake's Dragonology	Ed. Dugald Steer
Faerie Wars	Herbie Brennan
The Game	Diana Wynne Jones
Grimpow: The Invisible Road	Rafael Abalos
The Land of Silver Apples	Nancy Farmer
Little (grrl) Lost	Charles de Lint
The Martian Chronicles	Ray Bradbury
On a Pale Horse**	Piers Anthony
Seeing Redd	Frank Beddor
Storm Thief	Chris Wooding
Summer of Fear	Lois Duncan
My Swordhand is Singing	Marcus Sedgwick
Tattoo	Jennifer Lynn Barnes
Uglies***	Scott Westerfeld
Wyvernhaul*	Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

*Series: kiessha'ra book five

**Series: Incarnations of nature book one

***Series: Uglies Book One

****Series: Harper Hall Trilogy Volume One

Great Series

Title	Author
Blueford High Series	Paul Langan Anne Schraff
Brothers in Arms	
Summer of Secrets	
Blood is Thicker	
A Matter of Trust	
Until We Meet Again	

(11 of 13 books of the series...)	
Diary of a Teenage Girl Series Caitlyn (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)** Chloe (1, 2, 3, 4) ** Kim (1, 2, 3, 4)**	Melody Carlson
Incarnations of Immortality Series *On a Pale Horse *Bearing an Hourglass *With A Tangled Skein *For Love of Evil	Piers Anthony
The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency *No 1 Ladies Detective Agency *The Full Cupboard of Life *In the Company of Cheerful Ladies *The Good Husband of Zebra Dr.	Alexander McCall Smith
True Colors Series *Dark Blue: Color Me Lonely *Blade Sliver: Color Me Scarred *Deep Green: Color Me Jealous *Harsh Pink: Color Me Burned *Pitch Black: Color Me Lost *Torch Red: Color Me Torn	Melody Carlson
Uglies Series Uglies (4 books in the series)	Scott Westerfeld

*Partial series sets

**Number of Books about each character

Historical Fiction

Book	Author
And Only to Deceive	Tasha Alexander
The Chicken Dance	Jacques Couvillon
Fever, 1793	Laurie Halse Anderson
Innocent Traitor	Alison Weir
Gentlemen of the Road	Michael Chabon
Leonardo's Shadow	Christopher Grey
Nine Days a Queen	Ann Rinaldi
Rasputin's Daughter	Robert Alexander
Tallgrass	Sandra Dallas
Territory	Emma Bull
When I Crossed No-Bob	Margaret McMullan
World Without End	Ken Follett

Inspirational

Book	Author
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens	Sean Covey
A Child Called It	David Pelzer
Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul: The Real Deal	Jack Canfield, Mark Hanson, Deborah Reber
First Impressions	Ann Demarais and Valerie White
The Five People You Meet In Heaven	Mitch Albom
The Flip Side	Flip Flippen
Inside My Heart: Choosing to Live with Passion and Purpose	Robin McGraw
On Relationships	Kimberley Kirberger
Tongue Fu! At School	Sam Horn
Who Moved My Cheese?	Spencer Johnson
The World According to Mister Rogers	Fred Rogers

Mystery

Book	Author
The Collectors	David Baldacci
Dead Connection	Alfair Burke
The Falconer's Knot	Mary Hoffman
The Ghost	Robert Harris
I Heard That Song Before	Mary Higgins Clark
Lost and Found*	Anne Schraff
Plain Truth	Jodi Picoult
The Stalker	Joan Lowery Nixon
The Traitor's Gate	Avi
Who Killed my Daughter?	Lois Duncan
Wrong Place, Wrong Time	Andrea Kane

*Series (Buford high)

Adventure

Book	Author
Baboon	David Jones
The Beet Fields	Gary Paulsen
Being	Kevin Brooks
The Castaways	Iain Lawrence

Click	Linda Sue Park et al...
Crashing Through	Robert Kurson
The Fetch*	Chris Humphreys
Miracle in the Andes	Nando Parrado
Night of the Howling Dogs	Graham Salisbury
On the Ridge Between Life and Death	David Roberts
The Road	Cormac McCarthy
School's Out-Forever	James Patterson
Underworld	Catherine MacPhail
The White Darkness	Geraldine McCaughrean

*Series (book one of the runestone saga)

Romance

Book	Author
24 Girls in 7 Days	Alex Bradley
The Choice	Nicholas Sparks
Cupid	Julius Lester
Cyrano	Geraldine McCaughrean
Girl, Going on 17, Pants on Fire	Sue Limb
The Geography of Girlhood	Kirsten Smith
The Invisible Wall: A Love Story That Broke Barriers	Harry Berstein
Message in a Bottle	Jahnna N. Malcolm
Secrets in the Shadows*	Anne Schraff

*Series (Buford High)

Sports

Book	Author
The Best of Baseball Digest	John Kuenster
Big Games: College Football's Greatest Rivalies	Michael Bradley
Cover up	John Feinstein
Eagle Blue	Michael D'Orso
Glory Road	Don Haskins
Gym Candy	Carl Deuker
Hard Hit	Ann Turner
Hurricane Season	Neal Thompson
The Knucklebook	Dave Clark
Last Dance Behind the Scenes at the Final Four	John Feinstein

NBA Basketball Basics	Mack Vancil
Pistol: Life of Pete Marovich	Mark Kriegel
Playing for Pizza	John Grisham
Samurai Shortstop	Alan Gratz
Sultans of Swat	New York Times
Tiny!	John Devaney
Twelve Mighty Orphans	Jim Dent
Venus and Serena: Serving from the Hip	Venus and Serena Williams

Oldies but Goodies

Emma	Jane Austen
Gone with the Wind	Margaret Mitchell
Sense and Sensibility	Jane Austen
Sonnets from the Portugese, and Other Love Poems	Elizabeth Barrett Browning
The Way We Were	Arthur Laurents
Wuthering Heights	Charlotte Bronte

Test Prep and Career

Book	Author
10 Real SAT's	College Board
200 Best Jobs for College Graduates	J. Michael Farr
America's Top Jobs for People Without a Four Year Degree	Ronald Krannich
Coping with Academic Anxiety	Allen Ottens
Cutting Edge Careers (series) *Artificial Intelligence *Biotechnology *Creating Search Engines *Nanotechnology	R. Greenberger Linley Hall Judith Levin Corona Brezina
Extraordinary Jobs in Health and Science	Alecia Devantier
For Teens Only: Notes, Quotes, & Advice You Can Use	Carol Weston
How to Beat Test Anxiety and Score Higher on Your Exams	James Divine and David Kylen
How to Get a Job and Keep It	Susan Morem
In Their Shoes	Deborah Reber
The Marino Mission**	Karen Chapmen
Ready or Not, Here Life Comes	Mel Levine
Search and Succeed: A Guide to using the Classifieds	Bruce McGlothlin
Teenagers Preparing for the Real World	Chad Foster

*Series: Cutting edge Careers

**A fiction book that teaches 1000 words for the SAT

New Arrivals in Fiction

Title	author
After	Francine Prose
Blood Brothers	S.A. Harazin
Brothers in Arms*	Paul Langan & Ben Alirez
Change of Heart*	Jodi Picoult
Color of the Sea	John Hamamura
Crank	Ellen Hopkins
Dear Zoe	Philip Beard
Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood*	Ann Brashares
Hattie Big Sky	Kirby Larson
The Higher Power of Lucky	Susan Patron
Lush	Natasha Friend
The Pact	Jodi Picoult
Peeps	Scott Westerfeld
Small Steps*	Louis Sachar
Sweethearts	Sara Zarr
The Appeal	John Grisham
Uglies*	Scott Westerfeld

*Series

Disabilities: Non-fiction

Book	Author
The Acorn People	Ron Jones
Born on a Blue Day	Daniel Tammet
Extraordinary People with Disabilities	Deborah Kent
Inside Mr. B's Classroom	Leslie Baldacci
No Excuses	Kyle Maynard
A Smile as Big as the Moon	Michael Kersjes
Special Parent, Special Child	Tom Sullivan
What If You Couldn't...?	Janet Kamien

Disabilities: Fiction

Book	Author
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Bucking the Sarge	Christopher Paul Curtis
Cruise Control	Terry Trueman
Flowers for Algernon	Daniel Keyes
Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller	Sara Elizabeth Miller
Rules	Cynthia Lord
Shark Girl	Kelly Bingham
The Silent Boy	Lois Lowry
A Small White Scar	K. A. Nazum

Non-Fiction that reads like a novel

Book	Author
Adrift: Seventy Six Days Lost at Sea	Steven Callahan
A Night to Remember	Walter Lord
Born on a Blue Day	Daniel Tammet
Dove*	Robert Lee Graham
The Hot Zone	Richard Preston
Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog	Josh Grogan
Night	Elie Wiesel
October Sky	Homer Hickam
Tell Them I Didn't Cry	Jackie Spinner
Winterdance: the Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod	Gary Paulsen

*If you like this book, you may like *The Life of Pi* by Yan Martel