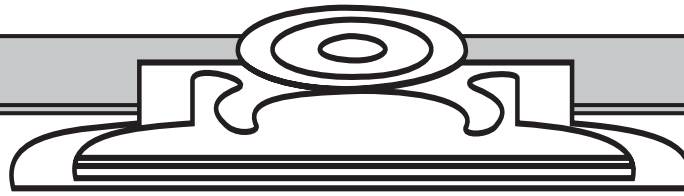


By the Parents & Reading
Committee, Colorado
Council, International
Reading Association
Karen Durica, Editor
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Parents' Clipboard

SECONDARY LEVEL



Visit www.ccira.org for
Parents' Clipboards and
Parent Brochures

Making Connections

Students do better if they can see a purpose in what they are doing. This is particularly true of boys. Where a typical girl may be more willing to "do school", boys often become frustrated when they cannot see how the reading or writing they are being asked to do relates to anything important in their lives. Help your students find purpose in their assignments by connecting the story or topic to their lives.



For reading, ask if your student has ever faced a problem similar to the one the main character in the book is facing. For example, has he or she ever had to make a hard decision or deal with a disappointment? Is the main character like him or her or totally different? How so? If the book is nonfiction, ask your student how the information he or she is reading compares to other facts known about this topic. Is this new information? Does it conflict with what he or she has thought about this topic before? How might this new information be used?



For writing, help your student think about the "audience" who will read this piece of writing. Visualizing a real person reading the assignment often adds to the purpose for writing it. If your student is struggling with the topic, encourage him or her to imagine a special friend reading the piece. Even though the topic may not be of particular interest to your student, what might he or she do to make it enjoyable for a special friend to read? How can your student connect other things he or she knows to the assigned topic?

TOP TENS - 100 BOOKS FOR TEENS

One hundred book titles chosen to light the love of reading in teenagers, to ignite discussions, to make them laugh and to make them cry, to help them live in the world, and to help them want to keep on reading to the next generation.

For a free copy of this brochure, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

CCIRA Top Tens
10266 Rustic Redwood Way
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126.

Also – Books Recommended by Teens Themselves

Looking for book titles to interest your adolescent? If you're worried you just don't know what books he or she may like, you may want to visit www.cal-webs.org/bluespruce/ for a list of Colorado Blue Spruce Award winners. Middle and high school students submit nominations and vote for this award. A list of previous winners, as well as current nominations and story summaries are available.

Challenge = Success

Students thinking of attending Colorado public colleges and universities should take note of the advice from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE). New entrance requirements, beginning with the class of 2008, indicate that there are more important factors than just a grade point average. "Keep in mind that most colleges give preference to students who challenge themselves throughout high school over those who take easier classes and get a higher grade point average" (FAQ, CCHE web site). Students are encouraged to plan ahead and to visit the following web site for information about Colorado public colleges and universities, as well as entrance requirements:

<http://www.ColoradoMentor.org>

Thought for the Day

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

Thomas Edison