

Parents' CLIPBOARD

SECONDARY LEVEL

BY THE PARENTS & READING COMMITTEE OF THE COLORADO COUNCIL, INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

Getting Him to Read

The competition for your son's time will always be present, and reading seems to be the underdog. Still, there is hope. Boys will read when interests are fed and curiosities peaked. As a parent the mission should be to capitalize on your son's interests. In choosing reading materials, your best bet is to know your son, have an acute awareness of his interests, and find reading materials based on these interests. When doing so, there are three questions to consider.

First, is the book or magazine relevant to my son's world? For example, if he's into video games or sports, exploit these interests. *Game Informer*, *Sports Illustrated for Kids* or *ESPN the Magazine* are just a few magazines that explore these topics and will get your son reading. Once hooked, find books such as *Ender's Game* or the *Artemis Fowl* series for gamers and *Slam* or *The Heartbeat of Halftime* for the sport's enthusiast.

Second, what types of informational texts are being made available for my son? Frequently, boys are more inclined to read informational texts than fiction. If your son loves cars, there are a multitude of books, magazines, and web sites that explain the inner workings of automobiles (see chart). Maybe your son is interested in topics such as stars and planets, spies or inventions. The *Eyewitness Books* series, which incorporate engaging text and eye catching text features, has well over a hundred



books that address these and many other topics.

Finally, how can I make the reading process a social endeavor? This doesn't mean everything needs to become a read-aloud but talking about the literature being read helps your son process new ideas and is something that most males need, albeit something they may not initiate. Have conversations about the books selected or ask your son to explain new knowledge and questions about the reading topics. Even having simple conversations about the latest sporting page statistics or music reviews is an effective means for making the reading process social. Just get him talking.

Although there is not one set method that works for every boy, keeping these three ideas in mind will help in the quest to make your son a lifelong reader.

—J. Derek Scott

Sports related resources

MAGAZINES

Sports Illustrated for Kids
ESPN the Magazine
Transworld Skateboarding

BOOKS (author)

John Madden's Heroes of Football (Madden)
Slam (Myers)
Heart of a Champion (Deuker)

INTERNET SITES

www.Slkids.com
www.espn.com

Informational texts and resources

MAGAZINES

Teen Newsweek
Discover
Road and Track

BOOKS (author)

Eyewitness Books (DK Publishing)
Into the Wild (Krakauer)
Case Book of Forensic Detection (Evans)

INTERNET SITES

<http://northvalley.net/kids>
www.howstuffworks.com

Video games and related topics

MAGAZINES

Tips and Tricks
Electronic Gaming Monthly
Game Informer

BOOKS (author)

Ender's Game (Card)
Alex Rider series (Horowitz)
Artemis Fowl series (Colfer)

INTERNET SITES

www.gameinformer.com
www.escapepod.org