

# Xiuning Middle School English Library Book Donations

Thank you for your interest in donating a book (or books!) to the English library at Xiuning Middle School. Both the Yale-China Teaching Fellows there and their students are eager for more variety in the library collection. Please consult the information below when making your selection, in order to be certain that your contribution meets the needs of the school.

## General Information

First-year student reading levels range from Reading Level Grade 2 up to Reading Level Grade 6, by Scholastic's standards, with the vast majority of students at either RL 2 or 3, less commonly as high as 4. There are some more advanced students, but the English library already has many books that only more advanced students can read.

The vast majority of students do not want to read *Winnie the Pooh* or other books that are obviously for small children. Reading children's stories becomes very patronizing very quickly, and is not engaging.

## High Interest, Low Reading Level

The Fellows would like many more RL 2 and 3 young adult books, which are not easy to find, since most RL 2 and 3 books are made for 7- and 8-year-olds. In educational jargon, they are looking for "hi-lo books" (high interest, low reading level). Examples that seem very appropriate:

- Avi. *The Barn*.
- Conford, Ellen. *The Frog Princess Of Pelham*.
- Cutler, Jane. *Spaceman*.
- Hatrick, Gloria. *Masks*.
- Napoli, Donna J. *The Prince of the Pond*.
- Partridge, Elizabeth. *Clara and the Hoodoo Man*.
- Ryan, Mary E. *The Trouble With Perfect*.
- Scieszka, Jon. *The Time Warp Trio* series.
- Spinelli, Jerry. *Crash*.

There are also several good publishers that specialize in Hi-Lo books: Tea Leaf Press ([www.tealeafpress.com](http://www.tealeafpress.com)), High Noon Book, High Interest Publishing, and Capstone Publishing.

## Picture Books

Picture books are useful if they are short enough to be read in a class period, or if the text is substantial enough to be a worthwhile challenge for lower-level readers. In terms of content, beginner history and biography books are good, especially ones about Western culture, history, and famous people – including NBA stars!

## Young Adult Chapter Books

Many books in this category will be inaccessible to a majority of students at Xiuning Middle School due to the relatively high level of English in the books, but it would still be nice to increase the options for those students who want to take on a bit more of a challenge. In addition to suggesting Newberry awards winners and nominees, the Fellows have compiled the following lists (though they are by no means exhaustive!):

### Titles and Series

- John Christopher's *Tripod* series
- Ellen Raskin's *The Westing Game*
- John Flanagan's *Ranger's Apprentice* Series
- Michelle Paver's *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* Series
- Joseph Delaney's *The Last Apprentice* Series
- Kristin Cashore's *Graceling, Fire*
- Nancy Drew & Hardy Boys
- Ann Brashares's *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* Series
- Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* Series
- Isobelle Carmody's *Obernewtyn* Series
- Chris D'Lacey's *The Fire Within* Series
- Melissa Marr's *Wicked Lovely* Series
- Angie Sage's *Septimus Heap* Series
- James Patterson's *Maximum Ride* Series
- Lynne Reid Banks' *Indian in the Cupboard* Series
- Holly Black's *Spiderwick Chronicles*
- John Fitzgerald's *The Great Brain* Series
- Louise Fitzhugh's *Harriet the Spy*
- Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*
- Elizabeth Winthrop's *Castle in the Attic* Series
- K. A. Applegate's *Animorphs* Series
- R. L. Stein's *Goosebumps* Series

### Authors

- Joan Aiken
- Lloyd Alexander
- Avi
- Orson Scott Card
- Ruth Chew
- Susanne Collins
- Caroline Cooney
- Susan Cooper
- Bruce Coville
- Roald Dahl
- Susan Fletcher
- Cornelia Funke
- Neil Gaiman
- Jean Craighead George
- Easier Robert Heinlein
- Diana Wynne Jones
- Lois Lowry
- Anne M. Martin
- Robin McKinley
- Garth Nix
- Mary Norton
- Robert C. O'Brien
- Scott O'Dell
- Tamora Pierce
- Gary Paulsen
- Rick Riordan
- Maria V Snyder
- Megan Whalen Turner
- Laurence Yep
- Jane Yolen

## Classroom Set

The Fellows would like to have about 40 copies of one title to use with a class of students. If you are interested in donating a set, please contact the Fellows first.

*To contact the Fellows about book donations, you can write to Zoe (nirkatze@gmail.com) and Doug (douglass.a.endrizzi@gmail.com).*