

Does it reflect your world?:

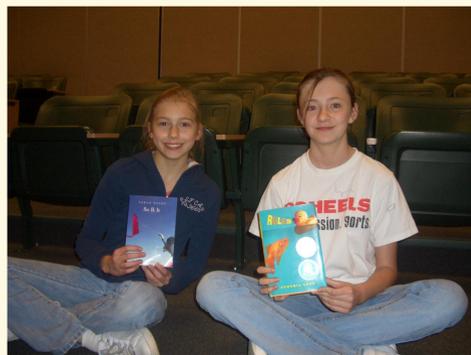
Middle school students' reactions to novels with middle school characters

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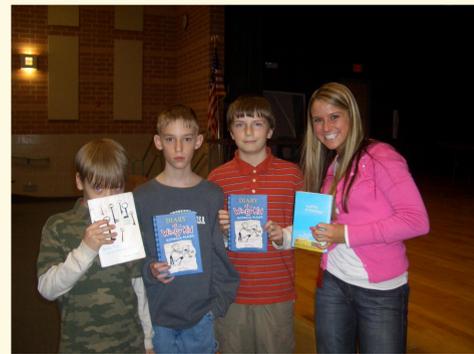
Guiding Questions

- ❖ Do middle school students have positive reactions to current realistic fiction?
- ❖ In which ways do middle school students relate to characters in realistic fiction?
- ❖ After reading realistic fiction, what types of projects would students find worthwhile and what types would they find tedious?



Who does our study involve?

- ❖ Students involved are in grades 5-8 and attend Bloomer Middle School.
- ❖ These students were chosen on a voluntary basis.
- ❖ Majority of students involved in the study are high level readers.



Background Research

- ❖ Previous research indicates young adolescents prefer to read fantasy novels over realistic fiction.
- ❖ When students are given a choice of reading material, as opposed to being assigned a specific book, they are more likely to connect with the text and relate what they read to personal experience.

Process

- ❖ Students were given a variety of realistic fiction novels to select and read.
- ❖ Upon completion, students were interviewed by undergraduate students about their reading habits and reactions to their chosen novel.
- ❖ We are currently beginning to analyze the data collected and compare our findings to previous studies.

Books used in study

- ❖ *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass
- ❖ *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* by Jeff Kinney
- ❖ *So B. It* by Sarah Weeks
- ❖ *Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Connor
- ❖ *Rules* by Cynthia Lord
- ❖ *Not Exactly Normal* by Devin Brown
- ❖ *Leap* by Jane Breskin Zalben



Sample interview questions

- ❖ How much time do you spend reading a week for fun?
- ❖ What genres of book do you normally choose if you are reading for pleasure?
- ❖ Do you like the books you normally read in class?
- ❖ Why did you choose the book you did?
- ❖ Could you relate to any of the characters in the book? In what ways?
- ❖ Do you think that the experiences the characters had were realistic?
- ❖ If you had to do some sort of project or report after reading this book what types do you enjoy doing and what types do you not like to do?

