

“Home of the Jaguars”

GLENROSA MIDDLE SCHOOL

September, 2017

A message from our Librarian regarding YA books:

Glenrosa Middle School has students in the age range of 12-15, and as such, our library contains books of interest to and for the reading level of students in this range. We have coded our books in a few ways to help direct students to the best fit books for them. We have an "easier, quicker" section of books marked with a purple dot, "graphic novels and manga" marked with an orange dot, "non-fiction novels" marked with a green dot, and "young adult" books marked with a YA sticker. Middle grade fiction is generally marketed to ages 9-12 while young adult is geared for 12+. There is no official line for these books, and generally there is not a recommended age mentioned inside the covers, so it is part of my job as the librarian to do my best to make sure that we have a mixture of both books, and that the books geared for older students are marked so that students in the younger range can make the right choice when picking a novel.

Young Adult (YA) novels generally have a teenaged protagonist dealing with teen situations, and therefore reflect teen life that may be too provocative or mature for some students and their families. If a book has more than occasional profanity, deals with sex or sexuality, has noticeable violence, or deals with controversial or sensitive subjects such as teen pregnancy or suicide, our school places a YA label on the book cover. We recognize that we have a diverse student population, and that not all of our students are ready for, have a need for, or have an interest in YA books, so we have more than 50% of our collection that is "general fiction." For students who are interested in taking out a YA book, we engage in a brief conversation with them before signing out YA materials. The student is told of the possible content (and made specific to the book if the person signing out the book is familiar with that exact book), asked if they are okay reading those potential situations, and if their parent would be okay with them reading something with that content. If the student says "yes" to both, then we tell them that if at any point they feel uncomfortable while reading that they can stop reading, return the book, and we can help them find something better suited to them.

Parents, please be advised that if you are uncomfortable with your son/daughter signing out YA material, we can put him/her on our "no YA loans" list, which results in a pop-up message on our computer advising us that YA material should not be loaned to this student. To place a student on this list, simply email [Aaron.Cassidy@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:Aaron.Cassidy@sd23.bc.ca) or return the bottom portion of this letter as soon as possible to our school office.

Lastly, please check around in your homes for any library materials or textbooks. We would love to have all of our loaned items returned.

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My child **WILL NOT** be allowed to sign out YA books. Please place them on the “no YA loans” list.

Child’s name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_