

SCIRA GRANT SAMPLE

“Simply Reading”

I truly believe, and research shows, that students get better at reading with practice. We need all of our students *simply reading* daily, both in our classrooms and at home. Like sports, musical instruments and even exercise, the more we work at something, the more we improve. Students who are excited about reading, who also have high quality, engaging books at their fingertips daily, will grow and develop as readers. Students with increased opportunities to read will build their stamina for reading and develop a daily habit and lifelong love of reading. As with any task, the learner must be motivated in order to be successful. My request is for a classroom lending library that will help me motivate my students to read voraciously.

The literacy goals for my project are:

Long term- to foster a love of reading within my students

Short term-

1. to ensure that my students go home nightly with two books to read at their reading level.
2. to increase the volume of reading they are doing (as suggested by CCSS).
3. to motivate my students to spend more time at home reading daily
4. to inspire my students to talk about books with their peers as they exchange texts first thing in the morning.
5. to get my students excited to read and ready to enter their homes with a bag of good fit books prepared to curl up and read.

This project is important to my students for a number of reasons. First, all students are motivated to read when their teacher is excited, book choices are presented to them and they have had an opportunity to preview and make their own choices based on interest and ability. Young readers need to practice reading daily and I want to provide texts that will inspire and excite my students to read. Secondly, because I teach first grade in a Title One school, many of my students come from low socioeconomic backgrounds and have very few resources within their homes or opportunities to utilize resources within the community. For many, their one opportunity to read is in our classroom. I want to change that. My students deserve a classroom lending library full of high quality fiction and informational texts so they can come home every single school day with two books in a special bag ready to find a cozy spot to curl up in and read for pleasure. Finally, this project will help me build a community of readers, students who read, as author Kathy Collins suggests, “for real” and get excited about titles, genres, characters and stories. Each morning, my students will start their day by greeting one another with an opportunity to

share what they have been reading with their peers. My students will have time set aside upon arrival to reread a book to a friend or walk up to a classmate to suggest or recommend a title they may have enjoyed the night before. What may sound like a simple grant request (books and bags to travel back and forth to home and school) will truly make a huge difference in the lives of my students. I plan to focus a good portion of the funding on informational texts so my students can read and learn and build background knowledge for content area subjects. I find that high quality informational picture books are easy to recommend to peers. The students' enthusiasm and motivation for reading after enjoying an exciting informational text is contagious. I will also have fiction titles as well as poetry and songbooks so students can borrow a variety of genres.

My students' literacy development will be impacted in numerous ways.

1. Students will build stamina from reading these books at home. They will become more fluent with additional practice.
2. There will be time in the morning for them to reread a favorite book and this repeated reading is another way for them to improve fluency.
3. Once their fluency improves, they will be able to focus their energy on comprehension.
4. I hope to see an improvement in their ability to talk with peers and parents about the texts they are reading. Purposeful talk behaviors are modeled in our classroom and students need opportunities to practice this.
5. I plan to continue to give parents suggestions as to how to talk with their children about books.
6. I expect to see students become more successful at choosing a good fit book.

My proposal is grounded in best practice and it could not be more simple and clear. Richard Allington and colleagues Leslie Morrow and Michael Pressley believe the best classrooms foster a love of reading and provide numerous opportunities for students to **SIMPLY READ**. Allington's research supports the need for this lending library. He states in the article, "*If They Don't Read Much, How They Ever Gonna Get Good*" that "the best way to develop reading ability is to provide abundant opportunity for experiencing reading." With the funding from this grant, I plan to do just that.

- **Students involved**: First grade, 24 students (I will benefit from having the bonus opportunity to use these same texts with all of my future classes since materials are borrowed and returned.)
- **Timeline**: August 2014-June 2015 (and subsequent years)
- **Materials required**: fiction, poetry and informational texts at various levels, book bags

- Assessment: DRA levels will show student growth in the fall, winter and spring

Materials	Price Per Item	Total Price	Source
Leveled Set F+ books (single copy of 24 books)	\$105	\$105	RR Books
Oxford Reading Tree Stories Pack B (single copy of 15 titles)	\$82.50	\$82.50	RR Books
Oxford Reading Tree Stories Pack A (single copy of all 23 titles)	\$126	\$126	RR Books
Canvas Decorate Your Own Tote Bags	\$19.99 X 2	\$39.98	Lakeshore
I Can Read Paperback library 10 books)	\$39.99	\$39.99	Lakeshore
Poems About School	\$5.39	\$5.39	Amazon
This Old Man	\$5.39	\$5.39	Amazon
Down By The Station	\$5.39	\$5.39	Amazon
The Lady With Alligator Purse	\$6.29	\$6.29	Amazon
Mrs. Wishy Washy's Farm	\$5.39	\$5.39	Amazon
Three Little Kittens	\$6.29	\$6.29	Amazon
Kiss The Cow	\$6.29	\$6.29	Amazon
Miss Mary Mack	\$6.30	\$6.30	Amazon

I Know An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly	\$6.29	\$6.29	Amazon
Start To Finish Nature's Cycle's Set (6 books)	\$41.70	\$41.70	Really Good Stuff
The Little Acorn	\$4.75	\$4.75	RR Books
Little Peep's Birdhouse	\$4.75	\$4.75	RR Books

Total= \$497.69