



Betwixt and BeTween: Reader's Advisory and Programming for Tweens

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Suggesting Tween Books

- Remember, my “clean” might not be your “clean!” If parents appear very concerned, advise them to read a book **before** giving it to their child.
- If possible, talk to the tween, not the parent.



Resources for Finding Tween Books

- State book award lists
- ALSC's Tween Recommended Reads List:
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/tweenrecommendedreads>
- Kiss the Book: <http://kissthebook.blogspot.com>
- So You Want to Read Middle Grade? A tween book feature on the GreenBean
- TeenQueen blog:
<http://www.greenbeanteenqueen.com/>



- What's Next [in a series] Database from Kent District Library:

<http://ww2.kdl.org/libcat/whatsnext.asp>

- What to Recommend When Popular Books & Series Aren't Enough for Tweens (or they're all checked out):

<http://tinyurl.com/tweenreads>



Why Program for Tweens?

- » Get kids in the door! They're starting to be at the age where they pick their activities, not their parents.
- » Build rapport with kids, so you can sell them books later.
- » Programs can promote library materials & boost circulation.
- » Provide a place for kids to share common interests & develop social skills!



- » Can be an opportunity for kids to learn a new skill or information.
- » It's more fun than being on desk!



Program Must Haves

» Awkward Silence Filler

Never too old for coloring pages!

» Craft Project

You know Pinterest, right?

» Music

There's probably a YouTube playlist for that

» Interactive Activity

If your physical space & insurance company permit



» **Poll/Debate**

Who's the greatest Doctor Who of all?

» **Costume Contest and/or Photo Booth**

These kids and their selfies

» **Books**

Sneak 'em in there

» **Snacks**

If you have the budget for it



General Tips

- » Pinterest and blogs are your BFFs. Don't reinvent the wheel!
- » Outline the program from the outset so tweens know what to expect, but be prepared to be flexible.
- » Be clear about intended age range when you advertise your program. (No adult My Little Pony fans allowed!)



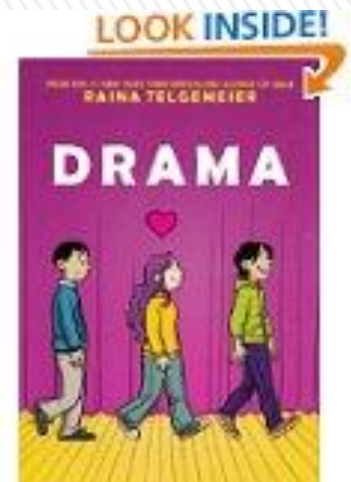
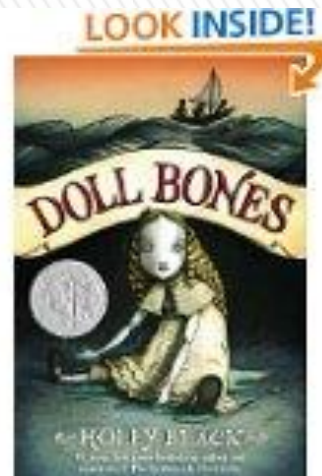
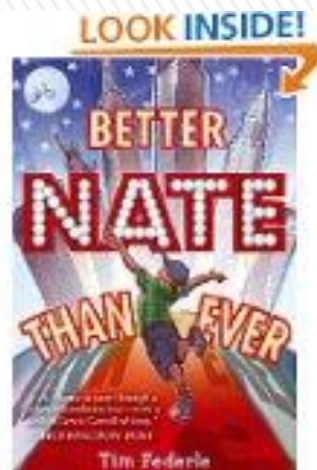
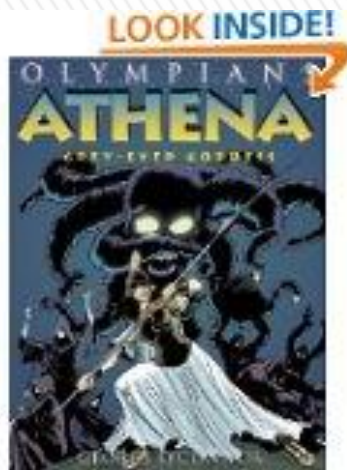
» If you don't know the subject matter, be honest about your lack of knowledge, but be interested. (My tweens all know that I don't read any manga on my own, but I *love* hearing them describe the wild plots and weird characters to me).

If you do happen to like the topic, **share your enthusiasm!**



Favorite Books

- » **Athena: GreyEyed Goddess** by George O'Connor
- » **Better Nate Than Ever** by Tim Federle
- » **Doll Bones** by Holly Black
- » **Drama** by Raina Telgemeier



- » **Savvy** by Ingrid Law
- » **The Screaming Staircase** by Jonathan Stroud
- » **Titanic: Voices from the Disaster** by Deborah Hopkinson
- » **Zombie Makers: True Stories from Nature's Undead** by Rebecca L. Johnson

