Mock Newbery: A Case Study

Impact of elementary teacher librarians

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What are teacher librarians?
What is the impact on readers?
Berkeley Mock Newbery Book Clubs

A closer look at one program’s impact.
Mock Newbery:
Reading together, talking together, growing as readers.
398 members

- 4th & 5th grade students across all of Berkeley’s elementary schools
- library staff, literacy coaches, teachers
- principals
Book club meetings

Newbery Book Club Meetings

September: Introduction, rules
November: 10 Nominees announced
January: 2 meetings
Discuss & Vote

*Informal weekly meetings to talk about the books
You may vote if you've read 5 of the 10 nominees

fun at lunchtime!
This is my first time reading so many books! Usually, I was at home watching TV. I’ve never felt like I wanted to read!!

Luna
Motivation → Improvement

Teachers commented:

- Reading volume with quality literature
- Enthusiastic engagement & discussions
- Significant gains in reading scores
Growing readers together

“For the first time, Yuval is reading new, challenging books, enjoying and talking about them. Until now he mostly re-read a limited number of books he liked. Occasionally he'd start, but rarely finish a new book.

Now he's reading for pleasure, from start to finish, and telling me all about them. I love this book club! Thank you!”

-- parent of 5th grader at Rosa Parks
Impact of elementary teacher librarians

Teacher librarian impact:

- Selecting engaging new books
- Designing project and supporting sites
- Collaborating with lit. coaches, classroom teachers & library staff