



Selection Considerations for “Series” Titles

No matter what adults’ opinions of series titles are, series remain the most checked-out books in the school library. Reading series offers important values:

🌱 the comfort or safety that familiarity and predictability provides while students are learning to read; 🌱 a “reading community” of shared interest; and 🌱 sustained reading—that is, reading book after book in a series—is a key element for building reading confidence, independence and fluency.

General Criteria for Selecting Series Titles

1. What is the literary quality of the writing of this series?
2. Can each title stand on its own as an engaging reading experience or is it necessary to get all in the series?
3. For illustrated series, are the illustrations appealing? What do they contribute to the series?
4. How do the illustrations contribute to the series’ interpretation?

Selecting Fiction Series

1. First and foremost, are these in demand by students? Is there excitement around “the next book in the series”? Are multiple copies a consideration based on current interest?
2. Most popular are mystery-solving or humor: will the mood engage readers with these?
3. If the story content is continual, can we purchase all titles in the series?
4. Are the characters engaging and entertaining enough to sustain reading through multiple titles?
5. Does the author write titles besides series? If so, what is the literary quality of their writing?
6. Are there tropes that repeat in each title? If so, how tiresome might this become for readers?
7. From bawdy to naughty, violent to adult-themed, does the series contain questionable content?



Selection Nonfiction Series

1. Is this series the grade level need and appeal we seek?
2. What are the topics the collection needs? Do these series fill that need?
3. Is it better to purchase from a variety of series on one popular topic, or a series set? What reader need influences this decision?
4. Does the same author write all titles in the series on multiple topics? If so, on what authority do they write on so many topics?
5. In selecting individual titles from a series, is there an individual, single nonfiction title that might better suite need?