



PARENT REPORT

Teacher: Perry
School: Central Elementary
District: Central Schools

Student: Matthew C. Beck

In October of 2007, Matthew took a Degrees of Reading Power (DRP) test. This test measures your child's ability to comprehend the surface meaning of text while it is being read. This Parent Report, which is based on Matthew's current performance on the DRP, suggests the kinds of things you can do to assist in your child's literacy development.

Books to Try Now. The following books are among those your child should enjoy reading on his or her own. Most of them are widely available in bookstores, libraries, and discount stores, as well as from booksellers over the Internet. Many are published in both hardcover and paperback form. Hopefully one of these books will be so appealing that your child will want to read it again, or read other books by the same author. Your child's teacher or the children's librarian at the school or public library can also help you find books to interest your child.

Rem World, Rodman Philbrick.

Arthur wants to lose his "Biscuit Butt" nickname. He tries a device that guarantees weight loss as he sleeps. But he becomes stuck in REM world! Will he ever get out?

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, C.S. Lewis.

Peter, Edmund, Suzy, and Lucy magically pass through the wardrobe into the land of Narnia. They help Aslan the lion fight the evil White Witch.

Ghost Horses, Gloria Skurzynski and Alane Ferguson.

Jack, Ashley, and their parents are on their way to Zion National Park. The children notice that the wild mustangs are acting strangely--and are determined to find out why.

Anastasia Krupnik, Lois Lowry.

Anastasia wishes her fourth-grade teacher had liked her poem. She wishes her mother weren't having a new baby. She wishes it weren't so hard being ten!

Wayne Gretzky, Hockey Great, Thomas R. Raber.

The all-time leading scorer in professional hockey, Canadian Wayne Gretzky began his hockey career at the age of two, taking shots against his grandmother with a ball and a toy hockey stick.

Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?, Jean Fritz.

Christopher Columbus was a stubborn man. He was sure he could get to the East by sailing west. When he reached America, he said it was China!

On the Bus with Joanna Cole, Joanna Cole.

Joanna Cole, author of the Magic School Bus series, tells how she got started as a writer and what it is like being a children's author.

Books to Try Later. Your child may want to try the following books in the next few months.

My Brother Louis Measures Worms, Barbara Robinson.

Mary Elizabeth, 11, has a wacky family. Uncle John is supposed to be dead but isn't. And 8-year-old Louis has been secretly driving the family car.

The River, Gary Paulsen.

Brian and Derek are alone in the wilderness when Derek falls into a coma after being struck by lightning. Derek's only hope is for Brian to build a raft.

The Egypt Game, Zilpha Snyder.

April is the new girl in Melanie's 6th-grade class. They become friends building an Egyptian model together and dealing with mysterious events.

Hitty: Her First Hundred Years, Rachel Field.

Hitty is a doll who was carved from a piece of wood for a little girl named Phoebe. Hitty is over 100 years old and has had lots of adventures.

Mars, Seymour Simon.

In the 1970s, Mariner and Viking spacecraft sent close-up pictures of Mars back to Earth. They showed a lifeless, dusty landscape of plains and valleys.

One Day in the Alpine Tundra, Jean C. George.

Johnny Moore is camping in the Wyoming mountains above the tree line where only grass and mosses grow. This is known as the alpine tundra.

Beyond the Sea of Ice: The Voyages of Henry Hudson, Joan Elizabeth Goodman.

Henry Hudson was determined to find the northern passage to China in the early 1700s. On his last voyage, his mutinous crew set him adrift on the freezing waters that today bear his name.

There are many other things you can do to stimulate your child's interest in reading. Specific activities are recommended on the following page.

Reading Aloud. Reading aloud is the most frequently recommended at-home activity for encouraging literacy development. It benefits children whether they are the listeners or the readers.

- Ask your child to read aloud to his or her younger brothers and sisters. This will benefit all of the children. It is also a welcome help to busy parents. If there are no younger siblings, try to find another audience for your child: grandparents, an aunt or uncle, younger neighborhood children. Look for someone who will appreciate being read to and will respond positively to your child's efforts.

Reading to Do. Too often, children view reading solely as a school activity. But reading has many purposes. One of the most important and satisfying is reading in order to do something. Encourage your child to experience this type of reading with the following activities.

- Science kits are a good way to combine reading and doing and there is a wide variety of interesting science kits available for children. Look for simple science projects such as kits for crystal growing or Explorabook-type materials. Although modern packaging methods make it difficult to see how much written information a kit includes, try to get kits with detailed instructions or with accompanying manuals.
- Encourage your child to become a collector. Look for kits and books on collecting stamps, coins, or sports cards. There is a wide variety of material available for children on these hobbies. The U.S. Post Office, for example, is an excellent source for information on stamp collecting. Collecting involves many literacy activities. The collector must plan and make decisions: whether to specialize in U.S. stamps or collect from many countries, whether to trade one baseball card for another. Displaying and organizing a collection may involve writing and categorizing. These are all worthwhile exercises. Remember, too: every collector needs an appreciative audience. Be one for your child.
- Cooking is a classic reading-to-do activity and a useful skill as well. Encourage your child to keep developing as a cook. If your child has had some experience making simple dishes from recipes, try something more challenging. For example, ask your child to make two dishes at the same time. This will require that your child coordinate the instructions on

the package or the directions in the recipe. If you haven't been cooking with your child, now would be a good time to start!

- Is your child a Scout or a 4-H Club member? Look into the youth organizations available in your community. These groups can provide children with valuable learning experiences. Many of their activities involve reading and writing.

Talking about Reading. Talking to children about what they have read can help them become better readers. Take advantage of everyday situations -- riding in the car or on the bus, waiting in the doctor's office -- to talk to your child about reading.

- When you find a magazine or newspaper article that you have enjoyed reading or that you have found interesting or helpful, clip it and share it with your child. Ask your child to read it if you think it will not be too difficult. Then talk about it. Tell why you enjoyed it or what you found helpful or interesting, then ask your child for his or her opinion.
- What does your child like to read? Contemporary fiction? Series books? Folk tales? Talk to your child about his or her reading preferences. Find out why he or she enjoys a certain type of book. Has your child been exposed to high-quality nonfiction as well as fiction? If your child likes stories about animals, he or she may also enjoy nonfiction books on animals. Talking to children about what they like to read helps them to make more satisfying reading choices.

Other Activities. The computer is a good place to work on reading skills. Public and school libraries have software for exploring any number of topics, from current events to pop music. Children can research a specific item or just play games. Encourage them in both areas. Following directions and thinking through processes will sharpen their critical skills as well as enhance their literacy skills.

Value Reading. You can communicate the value of reading to your child by treating reading as a privileged activity. For example, let your child stay up 15 minutes or so past bedtime, but only if he or she is reading. Give books and other reading materials as gifts. Never use reading as a punishment. Think of other positive ways you can show your child how much you value reading. Try a different one each week.