

**HSA Meeting**  
Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>  
(Principal's Comments)

- **Theme of the Year:  
“Daly Reads for a Purpose”**
  
- **K- 2 Reading Night**
  
- **Daly School NYS Assessment Results**
  
- **Supportive Instructional Strategies**
  
- **Reading Initiative:  
“Daly Bookworms”**
  
- **Reading Baggies**
  
- **Parent Resources**
  
- **P.A.R.P. (Parents As Reading Partners) Committee**

*“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”*

# How to Choose a Book from the Library

Tips from Mrs. Mody, Daly School Library Media Specialist

Choosing appropriate and interesting books from the library is something every student at Daly Elementary does each week. Sometimes a child may need some help in choosing. These are a few of the things I do:

Grades K-2

- In the beginning, choosing books is limited to a small section in the library (So children aren't overwhelmed). We learn how to choose:
  1. Tilt the book out, look at the cover. Does it look interesting?
  2. Take the book off the shelf. Go for a picture walk. Do you see any words you know? Who are the characters? What are they doing? Try to tell the story in your own words.
  3. Make a choice: Yes, I would like to take this book home or No, put the book back on the shelf and continue browsing.
- As children begin reading they are encouraged to choose books they can read themselves (Easy Readers/Picture books). I assess independent reading level by using the Five Finger Rules. The goal is to choose a "Just Right" book.



- Sometimes a child might choose a book because they are interested in the subject matter but the reading level is too hard. I encourage them to find someone at home to read with. This is a chance for you to read to your child. Encourage his/her curiosity.

## Grades 3-5

- The children are encouraged to choose something interesting or purposeful to them. What is your child interested in? Making friends? Magic? Horses? True Stories? Do you have an assignment that requires research? Ask them. I ask all the time.
- “What was the last great book you read?” This is one of my favorite questions because I can usually come up another book in that same genre or by the same author that your child would like to read. You can too:
  - Go to amazon.com and look up your child’s favorite book. Under the general book information you will find *Customers Who Bought This Item Also Bought...* You might find your child’s next favorite book.
  - Check the Port Washington Public Library for book lists by grade level. Also check out their website [pwpl.org/childrensroom/greatbooks](http://pwpl.org/childrensroom/greatbooks)
  - KidsReads.com is a great resource for new books.
  - ReadingRockets.org/parents is another website for reading tips.
  - Refer to the school district Summer Reading List for grade level suggestions. The elementary librarians work hard each year to revise this list and keep it current.
- Encourage Browsing. Choose a section. Fiction or Non-fiction? Sit down in front of a shelf. Begin reading the titles from left to right. Pull a title that grabs your attention.
- Once the child has a few suggestions in hand I encourage them to read the first few pages or the blurb on the back cover. Do you like it? Is it a “Just Right” book? Make a choice.

If you have any questions regarding book choice in the Daly Library please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Mody

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## Good Readers...

*Good readers select appropriately leveled reading materials and continue to improve each time they read.*

*Good readers read and sustain their reading for longer periods of time.*

*Good readers preview a book before reading it and predict what might happen, or identify topics included in nonfiction texts.*

*Good readers read aloud quickly (fluently) and smoothly.*

*Good readers use a variety of reading strategies (meaning, structure and visual cues).*

*Good readers read for meaning.*

*Good readers read and function within a literacy community.*

Taken from Developmental Reading Assessment, K-3

## Questioning Strategies

*Who are the main characters in the story? Describe him/her.*

*How do the characters change throughout the story?*

*Where does the story take place?*

*What are the main events in the story? Sequence them.*

*How did you feel as you were reading the book? Why?*

*What pictures have you created in your mind?*

*What is the moral/theme/lesson of the story?*

*Would you recommend this book to someone else? Tell why or why not.*

