

Summer Reading: The Kids' Choices

"Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopypants", "Grampa's Zombie BBQ" and "The Day My Butt Went Psycho".

To most parents these titles are enough to make you cringe and quickly walk to another part of the library, but to a lot of kids, especially those reluctant to even come to the library, these are the books of summer!

Books that have both a certain amount of potty humor and the distinction of being a book that a teacher would never assign draw many kids to the library over the summer to participate in our Summer Reading Club. Summer at the library is a time for kids to explore the books they want to read without wondering how many AR points they are worth or if the teacher will approve it for a book report.

Have faith parents, even if your son or daughter still cringes when you ask him or her to pick up a book or would rather read comic books than the latest Newbery Winner, a summer spent at the library with Captain Underpants, Rainbow Fairies, and Spider-man comics can bring about surprising results for your child!

I must admit I don't "get" Captain Underpants, and I have no urge to read about "The Day My Butt Went Psycho", but my 8 year old son gets them just fine. I know that by giving him the opportunity to read the stuff that he chooses even though I don't understand the appeal, he will be much more likely to feel comfortable with the books his teacher will assign him at school and have a much better attitude toward reading.

This summer, many kids will be practicing their swings to bring up their batting averages, perfecting their jump shots, or working really hard to make that winning goal. Parents, remember not to forget that all-important practice time spent at the library. Signing up for Summer Reading Club is free, and kids can get points for every book that they read!

Those points can then be spent on great prizes provided by some of Columbus' most kid-friendly restaurants and merchants. So, bring your reluctant readers down to the library and I'll introduce them to the Stupid Stinkbugs from Saturn or Junie B. Jones and her Big Fat Mouth.

Who knows what may happen next?

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