Genrefication

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey found at the following url:

http://tinyurl.com/genrefythelibrary

Margaret Sullivan Brannon & Karen Meier
Objectives

To enhance participants' knowledge of the genrefication process and its impact on a school community

To provide opportunity to talk through the pros and cons to make an informed decision regarding genrefication

To provide those who want to pursue genrefication a supportive PLC to help through the process
WHO’S HERE?
Margaret Sullivan Brannon
Jesse Wharton Elementary

- At Jesse Wharton 14 years
- Building opened in 1999
- What I'm doing now:
  - Eliminating decimals in popular nonfiction sections
  - Weeding extensively
- Why:
  - Empower students
  - Make shelving easier for myself and my volunteers
At Southwest for 6 ½ years
- Approximately 1600 students
- Very diverse population
- Good administrative support
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} media specialist was cut two years ago by the superintendent

Why did I genrefy?
- Wanted to provide easy access for students to books that they are interested in
- Positive feedback from students about the idea
It’s such an overwhelming task. How did I do it?

- Used my media services students (a.k.a. media assistants)
- Gave students independence with this
- Took us an entire semester
My students did (and still do) the work!

They…

- Pulled books from the shelves
- Determined the genre from Titlewave
- Changed the spine label in Destiny
- Put the labels on the books
Students even designed where the different genres were to be permanently housed and created a bulletin board!
African American Interest Section?

- Contemplating this for about a year
- Had some positive feedback from students
- Thought students would enjoy having a place for books selected just for them
- Planning to have African American media services students select the books
Aha Moment!

Read article entitled “What is White Privilege Really?” in Teaching Tolerance

“What White Privilege as the “Power of Normal”
- “subtle versions of white privilege”
- Simple, everyday things that white people don’t even think about

https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2018/what-is-white-privilege-really

Simple Things

Examples include:

- “The first-aid kit having “flesh-colored” Band-Aids that only match the skin tone of white people.”

- “The products white people need for their hair being in the aisle labeled “hair care” rather than in a smaller, separate section of ‘ethnic hair products.’”

- “The grocery store stocking a variety of food options that reflect the cultural traditions of most white people.”

- [https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2018/what-is-white-privilege-really](https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2018/what-is-white-privilege-really)

My library is not genrefied because I just haven't given it much thought

My library is not genrefied and I am not going to do it because I don't know when I would find time

My library is not genrefied, but I'm going to begin the process within this school year or next

My library is genrefied

My Library is not genrefied and I'm not going to do it because I think students should be familiar with how libraries are organized
On the back of the cards you received there is a number 1, 2, or 3.

Please group yourselves by these numbers.
Read the following articles based on your number. You will discuss the pros and cons that the articles mention. Record on a sticky note.

1. A House Divided
   https://tinyurl.com/genrearticle1

2. Genrefication of the Fiction Collection at an Elementary Library
   https://tinyurl.com/genrearticle2

3. Dewey’s Destiny: Actions in the Field
   https://tinyurl.com/genrearticle3
Reflection

Reflect on your personal vision for YOUR library and community.

How would genrefication support (or not) your mission?
Ready to take the plunge?

- In a perfect world, where you have unlimited time and resources, what would your decision be? Why or why not?

https://tinyurl.com/genreplunge
Let’s Talk (and Plan!)

Break into grade level groups of 3-5 people. Middle/High may wish to combine
Discuss the following questions
Be prepared to share out

- What stakeholders will you need to persuade?
  - What arguments could you use?

- What types of genre sections would be helpful for your library? Consider your community of learners.
  - Picture books?
  - Graphic Novels?

- Will you incorporate any non-fiction? If so, what would you include?

- How will you accomplish this in your Library?
  - What resources will you need?
Where do you go from here?

What are your next steps?

Any questions?
Join our PLC

Teams.Microsoft.com

Team Code:
3bzt8qf

Contact information:
Margaret Sullivan Brannon – sullivm@gcsnc.com
Karen Meier – meierk@gcsnc.com
References


