

Library Considerations

A Well-Rounded, Inviting K–First-Grade Classroom Library Might Contain . . .

- Baskets of books representing various genres**
(i.e., picture books, narrative texts, list books, informational texts, poetry, biographies, wordless picture books, graphic novels, concept books such as alphabet books, counting books, shapes, colors, opposites, etc.)
- Baskets of books gathered around topics**
(i.e., sharks, dinosaurs, Halloween, books about school, baby siblings, superheroes, flowers, etc.)
- Baskets of books featuring individual authors**
(i.e., Ezra Jack Keats, Mem Fox, Donald Crews, Cynthia Rylant, Arnold Lobel, Mo Willems, etc.)
- Baskets of books arranged by series**
(i.e., Horrible Harry, Frog and Toad, Poppleton, Piggie and Elephant, Pigeon, Cam Jansen, etc.)
- Baskets of books that support the work of the current unit of study or inquiry**
(i.e., during a poetry study: poetry by Arnold Adoff, poems about nature, silly poems, shape poems, etc.)
- Leveled book baskets that represent the range of learners and their projected growth**
(i.e., depends on your particular leveling system and the text needs of your students)
- Baskets that contain texts other than books**
(i.e., Sunday comics, maps, cards, Internet material, etc.)
- Baskets that contain “kids’ picks”**
(i.e., books we love from home, favorite books from kindergarten, top ten funniest stories, etc.)
- Shared reading texts and multiple copies**
(i.e., Mrs. Wishy-Washy, Hungry Giant, poems from shared reading time, etc.)
- A basket containing texts the teacher has read aloud**
(i.e., multiple copies of these texts, etc.)
- Baskets containing readers’ tools**
(i.e., sticky notes, bookmarks, graphic organizers, if necessary)

Other Classroom Library Considerations:

Location: Where is the library in the classroom?

Changes: How does it change to reflect the work, time of year, and so on?

Design: Is it visually appealing and organized so that young readers can find books?

Access: How do students borrow and return books?

Responsibility: Are there whole-class expectations for taking care of books?