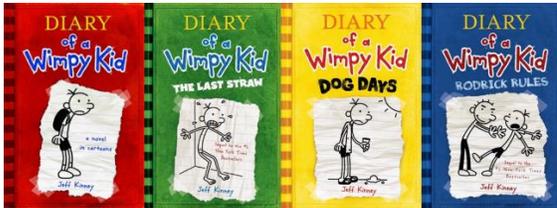
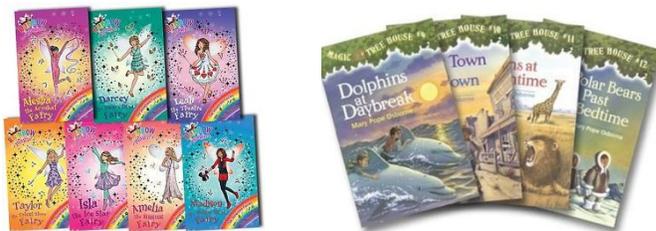


“But he just keeps reading the same books!” or *Why it’s o.k. to let your child read 30 books in the same series.*

Reading series books has wide appeal, particularly to kids ages 7-9. The most popular titles kids are checking out of the Library are series books – Magic Tree House, Rainbow Fairies, Dork Diaries, Warriors, Bad Guys, Big Nate, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Captain Underpants – the list goes on and on. Part of it may be peer pressure, but a lot of it is that series books really appeal to kids.



I frequently have conversations with parents who are frustrated that their child is ‘stuck’ reading books in a series and isn’t interested in moving on to other books. Even though it may seem to you like your child is just reading the same book over & over (& over!) again, he/she is actually gaining confidence in his/her reading abilities and improving his/her reading skills.



No matter what kids are reading, whether it is too easy, just right, or too hard, they are still practicing their reading skills and gaining fluency. Fluency is not just about speed, but also about being able to understand the meaning of the words and the meaning of the story. Kids choose to read books in a series because they know before even picking up the next book that they will enjoy reading it. They already like the characters, they are familiar with the setting and the pacing, they like the plots, they know how difficult the vocabulary will be, and they are comfortable with how long the book is. Most importantly – they are enjoying what they are reading!





Don't you have favorite authors you read whenever they release a new title? I personally love the "In Death" books by J.D. Robb. I read (and sometimes re-read) every title published and there are now 47 books in the series. Or think about your favorite t.v. series – don't you look forward to seeing the latest episode? Think of a book series like that – your child is visiting book friends and reading about what they've been doing lately.

Don't worry about your kids "being stuck" on a particular series, and don't be in a rush to make them move on to something else, or you run the risk of spoiling their reading pleasure. In my experience kids naturally move on from series books at their own pace, when they are ready. (Or maybe I should say "branch out from series books".) I would much rather have a child reading "fluff" or books that are "too easy" or "the same old series" than not reading at all. By letting kids have a voice in selecting their own books you also give them a sense of independence and control over their reading. If kids need to read something for a book report, the teacher will let them know whether or not one of those series titles will be acceptable. Otherwise, let your child choose his/her own books as much as possible.



Keep in mind that children's librarians are here to help guide you and your child. We know the books and we understand the stages of reading that children go through. Sometimes a child will be more receptive to a book suggestion coming from the librarian, rather than the parent. So next time you visit the library, ask the librarian to suggest some new titles for your series reader.

And try not to stress when another series title shows up in your child's next pile of books!