BD06211_Bookbag Browsing: sampling the classroom library

**Preparation:**

Collect a variety or sampler of classroom books; create 6-9 bags of books (with 7 to 10 books in each bag). Each bag should have a variety of genres and types including, for example:

* A taste of a series like *Spiderwick Chronicles*, *Time Warp Trio,* A *Series of Unfortunate Events, Alex Rider* books.
* Thin books both fiction and non-fiction
* On a variety of topics (ex. *Gorillas* or *Earthquakes* by Seymour Simon)
* Include authors who appeal to reluctant readers (ex. Paulsen, Scieska, Hobbs, Myers, Avi, Horowitz, Korman, Spinelli, Almond, Sachar, Gantos)

**The Reading:**

Group students (groups of 3-5) to explore the books

Each group spreads a bag of books on their communal desk tops. Allow a short length of time (3-5 minutes) for students to explore the books in their first bag and preview them for later reading.

When time is up, students record any books they would like to read later on their “Books I Need To Read” book log.

Students gather books back into the book bag to pass along to the next group and receive a new sampler of books.

Repeat 3 or 4 times. Instead of gathering books the final time, students leave the books spread out on the communal desk tops; allow students to move about the room to ‘shop’ for books that appeal to them. Students place one or two in their reading folder or record on their list for later reading.

J. Gonski [www.fivestarteaching.com](http://www.fivestarteaching.com)