

THE BOY WHO WAS RAISED BY LIBRARIANS

K-3

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Story Summary

This is a story about Melvin, a boy who spent so much time in the library, that it was as if the librarians had raised him! Everything has its place in the library and Melvin likes it that way. His favorite people—Marge, Betty and Leeola—are always in their places behind the reference desk. When something interests Melvin, the librarians help him find the very best information on the subject. Melvin can always find the answers to his questions—and a lot of fun—in the library. Then one day he goes off to college to learn new things and read new books. Read this book to see the choices that Melvin makes!

Objectives

1. To increase understanding of the ways in which libraries serve us.
2. To increase understanding of the ways in which we can access information in libraries.
3. To develop skills related to accessing information for a personal project from a library.
4. To develop verbal expressive skills through classroom discussion.

Before viewing the video

Tell the children that when they view this video they will meet Carla Morris, the author of this book. Ask the children if they have ever gone to the library in their town. Ask them to speak about their experiences there. In which ways have the librarians been helpful? As they watch this video ask them to think about all of the ways in which the three librarians have been helpful to Melvin.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. Why do you think Melvin loved going to the library?
2. Why do you think the librarians loved to see Melvin at the library?
3. How did the librarians help Melvin when he wanted some information about snakes?
4. How did the librarians help Melvin when he brought his jar filled with bugs to the library?
5. How did the librarians help Melvin when he was cast as the Enormous Eggplant in the school play?
6. What were some of the special activities at the library that Melvin enjoyed?
7. How did the librarians help Melvin when he collected baseball cards?
8. How did the librarians help Melvin achieve success in his other school activities?
9. What do you think about the career Melvin chose for himself?

Activities

1. Have the children go to the school library to seek information about an area of interest. Encourage them to speak to the class about the ways in which they were able to gather information.
2. Divide the class among several groups. Have each group write questions to ask the school librarian about a topic of their choosing. Return to the classroom with a variety of multi-media information (books, audio tapes, videos, computer print-outs.)
3. Have a library story hour in the classroom. Have small groups practice reading a book that they will read to the class.
4. Use this book as an introduction to a classroom reading club. Have the children chart their progress through visual displays and charts.