Undiscovered Formats for Undiscovered Readers

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Undiscovered Formats for Undiscovered Readers

Cultivating Reading Motivation with Hi-Lo Fiction, Light Novels, and Graphic Novels
“Every student needs to know the power of a reading life. Dickens simply won’t matter to most twenty-first-century teenagers unless they have developed a love of books first -- a trust that even the most difficult ones can be worthwhile.”

Penny Kittle

Book Love: Developing Depth, Stamina, and Passion in Adolescent Readers
# About This Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What will be addressed:</th>
<th>What won’t be addressed:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Reader identity</td>
<td>● Learning disabilities or other reading limitations</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Reader intimidation</td>
<td>● Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Format analysis</td>
<td>● Case studies</td>
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<td>● Theory</td>
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## The Importance of Terminology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Struggling/Reluctant Reader</th>
<th>Undiscovered Reader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Responsibility</strong></td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reader Identity</strong></td>
<td>Negative, Less Than</td>
<td>To Be Created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expectations</strong></td>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>Potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application</strong></td>
<td>Educational Setting</td>
<td>Everywhere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why Alternative Texts?
“Frustration undermines the will to read.”

(Kittle, 2013, p. 12)

Sometimes, it’s about quantity:

- Cultivate individual reading habits.
- Increase reading stamina.
- Provide students with materials at their reading levels that they can enjoy.
- Build confidence and trust in reading.

“Unless we do more than parcel out truly difficult texts to nonreaders as they limp along reluctantly behind us, we’ve given up on their lives as readers” (Kittle, 2013, p. 7).


Graphic Novels

Combination of words and images to tell a story.

Standalone titles or series.

Requires varying levels of visual literacy.

ANY genre of literature.
Hi-Lo Fiction

High Interest - Low Readability

Specific Format

Reading level is typically 3 or more grades lower than interest level.

Small and compact

High on drama

http://guides.library.unlv.edu/cyalit/hilo

Light Novels
Light Novels

A format of YA literature from Japan which often start with online fan bases.

Often associated with an anime/manga series.

Simply written: Uses simple/modern kanji.

Short paragraphs.

Illustrated.

Often serialized.

Is it wrong to try to pick up girls in a dungeon?

You know, an endless labyrinth divided into multiple floors and filled with scary monsters?

Expectation:

Join a group of fearless adventurers seeking wealth and fame. Go off to battle as soon as guild registration is complete.

Meet a beautiful girl and protect her from an onslaught of monsters with only a sword in my hand.

The air fills with her echoing screams, the monsters’ roars, and the clash of my sword as we face certain death.

In the end, all that remains is her sitting on the floor beside my cool, heroic self standing over the remains of all the monsters I slew.

Her cheeks blush as she looks upon me with beautiful, sparkling eyes. Love is about to bloom.

Then sometimes I’d go to the local watering hole to boast about my day’s adventures to the cute barmaids, make some new allies.

Sometimes I’d protect a young elf from a few of my more barbaric comrades.

Sometimes I’d help a struggling Amazonian warrior by letting her join my party.

Sometimes I might be seen getting friendly with other girls, causing some drama and jealousy.

Sometimes this, sometimes that, sometimes...

I want to grow up a bit, become the kind of hero men dream about in tales of adventure.

I want to be more than friends with cute girls.

I want to meet the ladies of all different races.

Light Novels in the US

US market is heavy on the **shonen** (targeted for young males).

Common characteristics:
- Teenage male protagonist.
- Waking up in a video game world
- Harem trope
- Fan service
- Potential for things to get weird...
Format Analysis
Method - Analysis

Variables

- Reading Levels
- Number of Pages
- Average Word Length
- Average Sentence Length
- Genre

Process

- 750 word minimum samples from each text.
- Minimum of four randomly selected pages.
- ATOS Analyzer for Books with Estimated Word Count.
- Genre - Worldcat, Titlewave, or best judgement.

Goals

- Determine characteristics and trends of each format.
- Compare the formats to traditional YA Literature
- Identify potential use of the formats with undiscovered readers.
**Method - Selection**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>35 Graphic Novels</th>
<th>47 Hi-Lo Fiction</th>
<th>37 Light Novels</th>
<th>66 YA Literature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YALSA’s Great Graphic Novels for Teens 2018 List</td>
<td>Recently published titles through Orca and Saddleback</td>
<td>Vol. 1 for each series</td>
<td>YALSA’s Best Fiction for Young Adults 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labeled as YA interest level in Titlewave.</td>
<td>Labeled as YA interest levels in Titlewave</td>
<td>Publication date of 2014-2018 OR new volumes still being published in 2018</td>
<td>Labeled as YA interest level in Titlewave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction Titles Only</td>
<td>Obtained through Interlibrary Loan or through the Teacher Development &amp; Resources Library</td>
<td>Obtained through Interlibrary Loan or bookstores.</td>
<td>Unable to access 6 titles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First volume listed for series.</td>
<td><em>Unable to access 3 titles.</em></td>
<td><em>Unable to access 9 titles.</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Unable to access 4 titles.</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- Unable to access 9 titles.
- Unable to access 3 titles.
Reading Levels

Reading Levels by Format

- YA Lit
- Graphic Novels
- Hi-Los
- Light Novels
Average Word/Sentence Length

Average Word Length by Format

Average Sentence Length by Format
Genres

- Graphic Novels
- Hi-Lo Fiction
- Light Novels
- Young Adult Literature

- Contemporary Fiction
- Fantasy
- Science Fiction
- Romance
- Dystopia
- Historical Fiction
- Adaptation
Verdict
## When to Recommend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graphic Novels</th>
<th>Hi-Lo Fiction</th>
<th>Light Novels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Want a variety of genres.</td>
<td>Need YA prose stories at lower</td>
<td>Anime/Manga fans who</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking for complex and in-depth stories/characters.</td>
<td>reading levels.</td>
<td>- want “more” from their</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need to build reading confidence through quick reads.</td>
<td>Need to build reading confidence</td>
<td>- favorite series.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty with long sentences/paragraphs.</td>
<td>through quick reads.</td>
<td>- Are not normally interested in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are intimidated by lots of text on a page.</td>
<td>Difficulty with long sentences.</td>
<td>prose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a hard time visualizing the “movie” in their heads.</td>
<td>Interested in contemporary fiction.</td>
<td>Gamers who enjoy RPGs (role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>playing games).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Struggle with long paragraphs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For Now….</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special Thanks!

Davenia Boothe
Kristina Khanoyan
Carlos Gutierrez
David Montes
Daniella Telada
Questions?

Sources


