Program 2: Monthly Book Discussion

Once a month your library offers a book discussion for 8-12 year olds. You advertise the program and you make sure to have multiple copies of the book available for check out throughout the month. Registration is required. Attendance usually is around 15-20 children.

The librarian who runs the session picks the next book for discussion, and the children are asked if they have any suggestions at the end of each session. Even though this is not run as a series, there are many regulars who attend almost every time, so they care if their suggestions are used.

The children are expected to read the book alone at home before the session. The librarian leads the discussion by asking first some simple comprehension questions and then more interpretive questions to guide the discussion. Participants sit around tables in the program room. Parents and siblings don’t stay in the room. There are snacks, usually chips, cookies and juice, which are eaten during the discussion. Children usually raise their hands when they want to speak, but it isn’t required. Sometimes they just chime in with a thought or idea.

Sometimes the discussion is supplemented with material related to the book; viewing a website that relates to the topic of the book, for example.

The program runs for about one hour.

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