



Spotlight on ...

READING COUNTS!

Reading Counts Q & A

Q. What is *Reading Counts*?

A. *Reading Counts* is a computer-based program that lets students take quizzes on selected books they have read. Students earn points for each quiz. Students are recognized when they reach certain point levels – 25, 50, 75, 100, 150, 200, etc.

Q. Who can participate?

A. Anyone who is reading independently can participate.

Q. How do I know if my child's book has a *Reading Counts* quiz?

A. All *Reading Counts* books in the John Muir library have special labels on the spines. This label identifies the book's lexile and point value. Also, all our *Reading Counts* books are listed by lexile in binders in the library.

Q. What is a lexile?

A. A lexile is a measurement of a book's difficulty and a student's reading level. It is used to match students to appropriate books.

Q. What is my child's lexile?

A. Check with your child's teacher!

Q. How can I help my child choose books?

A. Students should be selecting books within a range of their lexile. If a student's lexile is 350L, then s/he should select books with a lexile between 250L and 400L (100L below to 50L above his/her lexile). Encourage your child to pick a *Reading Counts* book on his/her library day or visit our library yourself and look in the binder for books your child might enjoy. Most of these books are also available at the San Bruno Public Library.

Why *Reading Counts*?

Research shows that reading achievement is related to the amount of time students spend reading – **the more they read, the better readers they become!** Making sure that students get reading practice with books matched to their reading level is a great way to strengthen reading skills. *Reading Counts* enables readers of all levels to feel successful and be recognized for their reading achievement. This motivates them to read more. For more information about the benefits of *Reading Counts*, visit the Scholastic website at www.scholastic.com.

But we don't have time ...

Your child is already so busy with homework, how can you ask them to take on one more thing?

- Every student has a nightly reading requirement. *Reading Counts* books can be used to fulfill this requirement.
- Keep a *Reading Counts* book in your child's backpack for Silent Reading during school.
- Save some time on weekends to read together. Take turns reading and talking about what you've read.

DID YOU KNOW?

To date, **98** John Muir students have earned at least **25** points.

Those **98** students have earned a combined total of **6,299** points!

The Magic Tree House: A Great Place to Start

Kids love to travel through time and around the world with Jack and Annie and their magic tree house.



For students new to *Reading Counts*, The Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne is a great starting point. Her fantasy books take kids back in time on thrilling adventures around the world. The main characters, Jack and Annie, find a magic tree house packed with books. They soon discover that all they have to do to begin a new adventure is open one of those books, point to a picture & wish to go there.

Below is a list of our library's Magic Tree House books and their lexile levels. Check one out!

- 230L Mummies in the Morning
- 240L Dinosaurs Before Dark
- 280L Night of the Ninjas
- 290L Pirates Past Noon
Afternoon on the Amazon
- 300L Stage Fright on a Summer Night
- 310L The Knight at Dawn
Good Morning, Gorillas
Dingoes at Dinnertime
Twister on Tuesday
- 320L Midnight on the Moon
- 340L Tonight on the Titanic
Civil War on Sunday
- 350L Dolphins at Daybreak
Earthquake in the Early Morning
Ghost Town at Sundown
Sunset of the Sabertooth
- 370L Lions at Lunchtime
High Tide in Hawaii
Tigers at Twilight
- 380L Day of the Dragon King
Hour of the Olympics
Buffalo Before Breakfast
- 390L Haunted Castle on Hallow's Eve
- 410L Vacation Under the Volcano
- 440L Polar Bears Past Bedtime
- 590L Carnival at Candlelight

Author Spotlight:

Bruce Coville



If your child has already read the Magic Tree House series but is not quite ready for Harry Potter, he or she may enjoy books written by Bruce Coville. He is an author of several fantasy and science fiction series. Our library has Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher (710L) and Jennifer Murdley's Toad (700L) from Coville's "Magic Shop" series. Both books involve trips to the mysterious Mr. Elives' Magic Shop and the purchase of a magical creature that changes the main character's life. See a student review of Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher below.

A Kid's Review

If you love magic, then this is a good book for you! Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher by Bruce Coville is about a boy named Jeremy who finds a magic shop and buys a dragon egg by mistake. When Jeremy gets home, he finds out that he has to hatch and take care of the baby dragon inside the egg. Taking care of a dragon is NOT easy! If you want to know more about Jeremy's



Calling All Readers!

Have you just finished a great *Reading Counts* book? Do you think other kids would enjoy it too? Then tell us about it. Write a brief book review – be sure to include the title and author's name and tell us what makes it a book worth reading. Don't give away the good parts, just give us hint or two! Put your review with your name and room number in the envelope on the *Reading Counts* bulletin board in the cafeteria. Your reviews will be available in the library and may even be published in Dr. Dunleavy's *Muir Words!*