

FIRST GRADE ROUND-UP: GETTING KIDS STOKED ON THE LIBRARY FOR OVER 30 YEARS

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**What is First Grade Round-Up
(FGRU)?**

Why First Graders?

Planning

Execution

WHAT IS FGRU?





FGRU IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CPL TO...

Introduce the Canton community's 1st graders to the joys and wonders of the library.

- To present the library as a welcoming place.
- To create an ease between the children and the CPL staff.
- To instill a positive memory of the library experience.
- To issue library cards.
- To have fun!



IN PRACTICE, FGRU IS 90 MINUTES OF CONTROLLED CHAOS!

1. Welcome and introduction (three classes total, a librarian for each class). Everything begins in our large Community Room (CR).
2. Each classroom proceeds to a mini-activity guided by a librarian and rotates through each activity:
 - Hearing a story.
 - Creating a bookmark and receiving a library card.
 - Touring the Children's Library.
3. Reconvene in the CR for a puppet show.
4. Return to the Children's Library to choose ONE book to check out.
5. Get on the bus and head back to school.



WHY FIRST GRADERS?



First grade is a crucial year for reading. It marks the transition from learning to read to reading to learn, building foundational literacy skills that are essential for future academic success.

TEACHER'S TAKES

These are quotes from our teachers:

- “We love that they get to explore different genres.”
- “We love this field trip. It ties in with community helpers.”
- “They are so excited to learn about topics they find interesting.”
- “Students get a sense of belonging”
- “Students are excited to return to check more books out and use the technology.”



1. Send invites via snail mail in the fall.
2. Send a reminder letter in January after Winter Break.
3. Email directly with our "regulars."
4. They schedule with me.
5. Send a confirmation letter and a copy of the application.
6. The schools organize their own transportation.

A WORD ABOUT SCHOOLS



STORYTIME



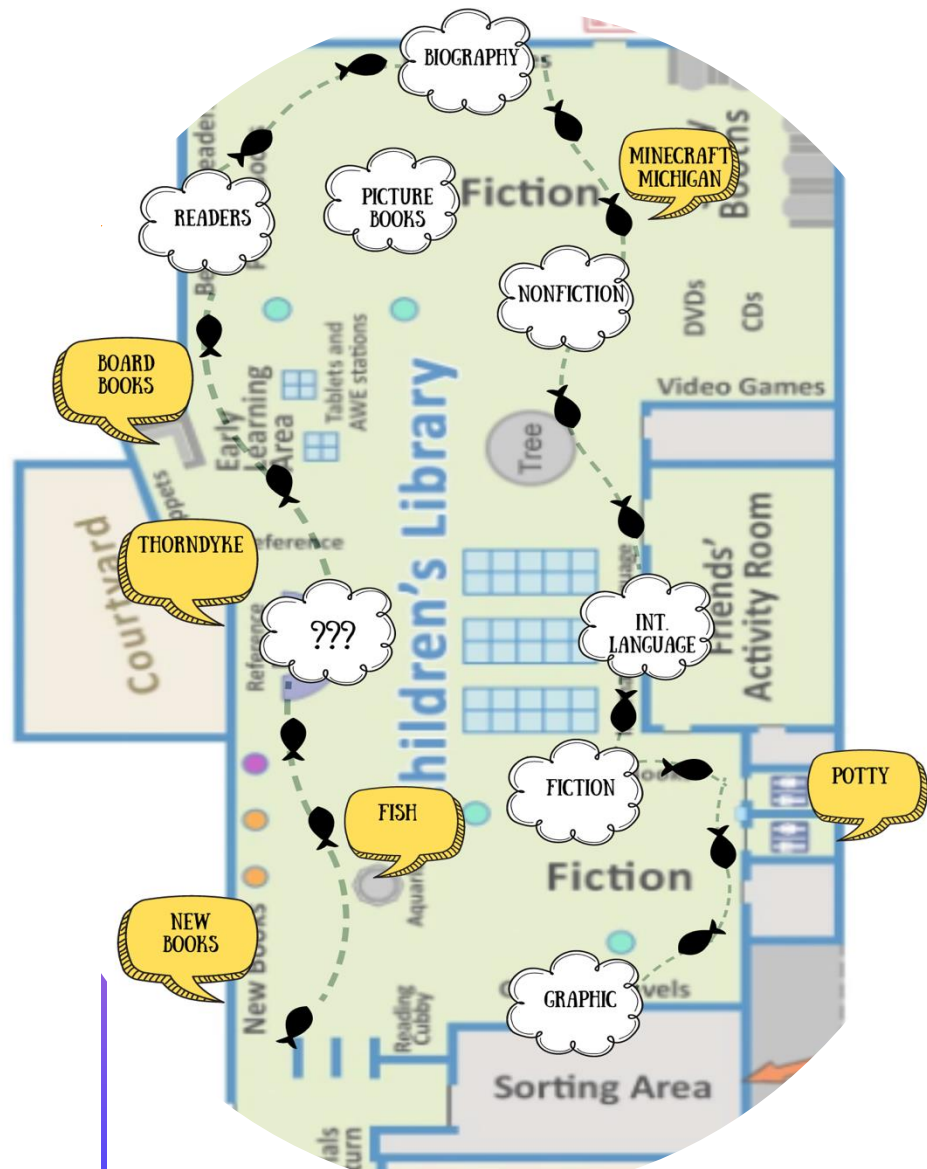
STORYTIMES...

- Are library-themed.
- Have images guiding the tour.
- Rotate out every couple of years and are decided by the team.



TOUR





- Hit the main hot spots in the library.
- Start at the Children's Reference Desk; emphasize that this is THEIR desk.
- Meet Thorndyke!
- Spend a little extra time in our Early Readers section.

LIBRARY CARD/ BOOKMARK



Kids decorate their bookmarks.

- Washable markers only.

Librarians issue cards.

- Kids sign their cards. Fine point sharpies only.
- Use teachers and chaperones as helpers.
- Cards go to teachers OR chaperones after signing. We keep applications for our records.
- Give teachers brochures and free book coupons (from 2nd Hand Prose our Friends' store) to take back to school and send home.



PUPPET SHOW





- After rotation, all kids reconvene in the CR for the puppet show.
- All shows are Mo Willems' Elephant and Piggie stories which were adapted, pre-recorded and staged by staff. Saved on iPad.
- Staff are responsible for practicing and "performing" puppet shows.

ONE BOOK!



- Kids rush back into the library to find and check out one book.
- All available staff are on hand to help.
- Kids use self-checkout with assistance.



VIRTUAL VISITS

Zoom meetings with classes

- 25-30 minutes per class
- Discuss library
- Play tour video
- Q&A
- Email recorded puppet shows to teachers:

[Let's Go For a Drive](#)

[Should I Share My Ice Cream](#)

[I Will Surprise My Friend](#)



FINAL TAKEAWAYS

- First Graders are awesome and developmentally perfect for a formal introduction to their library.
- No matter your size, with some planning and creativity, you can provide a wonderful experience at the library for the 1st graders in your community.
- Creating these experiences for kiddos create life-long connections.





THANK YOU

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