

Lucy Calkins Classroom Libraries Video Interview Transcript

View this video and more [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Question: *What are some of the ways TCRWP Classroom Libraries help teachers engage kids in reading?*

Lucy: In order to develop the libraries, one of the things we did was we visited classrooms that have to-die-for libraries, and we studied those classrooms with an eye not only at the best books in them, but also on what these teachers are doing that we want to make sure to help other teachers do. We came to understand that in the really to-die-for classrooms it's important to have bins that lure kids to the books. In a book bin that just says "science books," you could have phenomenal books, but the title of the bin doesn't really lure kids to find those great books. Whereas a bin that says "deep and mysterious places," is going to entice kids to read those books. The interesting thing is that inside of a bin called "deep and mysterious places," you can put books about caves, black holes, the intestines, and all kinds of odd things that wouldn't traditionally be lumped into the same category.

Although we categorized quite a lot of the books, we didn't do this for all of them because of course your kids are going to want to be part of that process. We've created categories for the books and then made lovely, fantastic labels to highlight those categories on the outside of a bin of books. And then we also realized that it's really fun for kids to have a little bit of help reading books and putting post-its on them. I think all of us teachers and educators wish for our kids read novels and look for symbolism. Well, if you want kids to do that, we discovered that all you need to do is to give them really cute post-its that say, "Symbolism", and all of a sudden they're going to read looking for symbolism. We made post-its (for example, a post-it saying "stereotypes alert" with some really cute pictures) so that the kids can read and be looking for stereotypes, and if they see a stereotype, put the post-it there, and later get together with their partner and talk about what they saw. Other post-its we made say things like, "Grosser than gross" or, "This is deep." And so in the Classroom Libraries we give kids the stuff (we, the curators, call it the "bling,") that's going to make them be better readers, more active readers, more thoughtful readers, and more engaged in reading.

To learn more about the TCRWP Classroom Libraries, browse representative titles, and order shelves, visit calkinslibraries.com