Tracy Richter

Reflection 2.1

**2.1 Literature**

Candidates are familiar with a wide range of children’s, young adult, and professional literature in multiple formats and languages to support reading for information, reading for pleasure, and reading for lifelong learning.

**Artifacts**

1. [ISTC 789 Book Talk/ Book “Speed Dating” Activity](file:///G:\Spring%202014\Internships\Glenwood%20Middle\Grade_6_Speed%20Dating%20Book%20Talks.docx) w/ [PowerPoint](file:///G:\Spring%202014\Internships\Glenwood%20Middle\Book%20Speed%20Dating.pptx)

2. [EDUC 417 Reading Logs/ Text Sets](file:///G:\EDUC%20417%20Reading%20Logs.docx)

3. [EDUC 417 Hans Christian Andersen Author Study](../../EDUC%20417%20Hans%20Christian%20Andersen%20Presentation.pptx)

**Relevance**

As a media specialist, you have to be well-versed in a wide range of literature, from children’s books to young adult novels. This knowledge is necessity because you have to be able to implement appropriate literature into the curriculum effectively to complement instruction, but to also recommend books to students. Staying up-to-date with literature, in all formats and acquiring a vast expertise about them is a critical part of the media specialist role for their students’ success and knowledge growth.

In my middle school placement, I was able to demonstrate my literature knowledge by gathering a myriad of different books from different genres for the book talk “speed dating” activity. I collected books from four different genres: nonfiction, mystery/ thriller, science fiction/ fantasy, and graphic novels. I had to know about a lot of books to be able to choose the most appropriate ones for the students coming into the activity. I was also able to book talk books at each table to help recommend books from each genre. After I book talked, the students were then able to “get to know” the books for about 4 minutes and decide if they wanted to check them out and start a “committed relationship” with them. The students had a lot of fun with this activity, but it also helped them grow *their* literature knowledge as well. They even made book suggestions to me based on the books I chose to put out on the tables. After the activity, I had asked them if they might want to do this again, but instead allow them to choose the books. That way they could expand their knowledge and my knowledge about books that they love to read or might be interested in reading in the future. This activity was a great way to expose students to an abundance of different books and to support reading for enjoyment. I will definitely continue to have these kinds of events in my future library to keep my students engaged in reading and to expose them to all the different kinds of literature that is out there.

It would take a very long time to read every single book in your library and remember what each one was about, however that is a realistic goal for a media specialist. Therefore, finding a way to keep track of the books that you have read, with a short description about the books, would be extremely helpful to achieve that goal. In my coursework, I created reading logs for 100 books that I had read over the course of the semester, ranging from children’s picture books to young adult chapter books. I made sure that I read a myriad of books from different genres including historical fiction, modern fantasy, poetry, autobiography/ biography, and more, to expand my knowledge of literature. In addition to reading different genres, I also included the themes that were present in the book, the age-level the book would be appropriate for, and my personal response to the book that includes a summary and how I might use it in a classroom setting. For the future, I will use this reading log, and continue to add on to it so I can use it as a reference for student recommendations or how it could be implemented in the classroom.

Hans Christian Andersen is one of the most well-known children’s authors of all-time. He has written classic books, like *The Ugly Duckling* and *The Little Mermaid*. For my coursework, I conducted an author study, expanding my knowledge of his literature and his background, in order to help me implement these timeless works of art into any library or classroom setting. In my project, I focused on his writing style, background, awards, and selected works. I also wrote a review of *The Little Mermaid,* and highlighted some helpful websites that teachers or I could use when instructing students about this famous author. I would use this artifact in the future by having my students become aware of his works or allow them to conduct their own author study collecting and expanding their knowledge of literature. I could also use this in collaboration with a classroom teacher in order to have students explore the world of Hans Christian Andersen and impart my knowledge of his of literature to them. Author studies are a great way to gain knowledge about a wide range of literature, and I was certainly able to do that, with this project.