

LARGE PRINT, LARGER IMPACT



TIPS & INSIGHTS FROM A LIBRARIAN

Tasha Squires, a school librarian at O'Neill Middle School in Downers Grove, Illinois, has several insights to share about her experience with large print books. After introducing this format to her students, Squires noticed key improvements in their skills and mindsets, including reading faster and for longer periods of time, reading with greater fluency, focusing on the text more easily, remembering and understanding texts more clearly, and enjoying reading more. Follow her top tips for starting and promoting a large print collection that appeals to students.

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TIPS TO LAUNCH YOUR LARGE PRINT COLLECTION

ABANDON PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS.

Struggling readers and those with visual impairments love large print texts, but many regular education students enjoy them too.

GIVE STUDENTS FREEDOM TO CHOOSE.

Different students are comfortable with different format options. Large print improves overall accessibility!

DISPLAY TITLES SEPARATELY.

Assign a separate place in the library for the large print collection. In online catalogs, you may want to flag large print holdings with a call number using the letters "LP."

INVEST IN A COLLECTION.

A true large-print collection takes more than 10 or 20 books. Build enough variety for students to browse, then add new titles each year to keep the collection relevant and engaging.

STAY UP TO DATE.

Be aware that new titles are coming out all the time. Your perception of what is available may be outdated.

PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE.

Getting the word out about large print titles is a must! Use "book talks" and podcasts to inform listeners when books become available in large print.

INTRODUCE IT TO TEACHERS.

Feature large print in book talks and classroom-library planning to increase awareness of these accessible options.