

AFTER ACTION REPORT

TO: Melody Pittman
FROM: Kim Ritchie
DATE: August 2, 2012
RE: After Action Report of Middle School Book Club, a.k.a. Cover2Cover Club

Purpose

- What did we set out to do?
Plan and execute a monthly book club for middle school-aged children, 11 and up.
- What was supposed to happen?
Children and teens were supposed to read a book club selection to discuss with library staff and their peers the following book club meeting.
- Is there a process or procedure in place for this activity?
This activity falls under the library's programming policy.

Executive Summary

- What actually happened?
Middle school-aged children signed up for each book club meeting. They read the selections chosen by library staff, discussed the selections and other books of that same genre with their peers and library staff.
- What worked well that needs to be sustained?
Genre exploration, a 12 participant limit, and discussions leading to understanding a particular genre and enjoying it worked very well. An atmosphere that did not tolerate judgment of members' opinions was also well received. The demographics of the group were well-mixed: boys and girls, home, public and private school students, and the age range of 11 to 14 years old.
- What did not work well and needs to be changed?
Since pre-registration was done throughout the month between meetings, sometimes participants did not have enough time to completely read the selection.

Lessons Learned

- What can we do better next time?
Encourage the participants to sign up sooner, by signing up for the following month at the end of each meeting. Consider signing participants for a semester or year-long commitment, bearing in mind that it may reduce participation or allowance for new members.

Action Items

- Develop a list of the actions to fix specific needs.
Have sign up lists and selections ready at the beginning of each Cover2Cover Club meeting.
- Timelines and responsibilities
We have already selected the books for the first four months, and they will be ordered and ready for each meeting. We will discuss with each participant and their parent/guardian signing up for future book club meetings at each meeting.