

Fox, Kathleen. *Fun-brarian: Games, activities, & ideas to liven up your library!* Fort Atkinson, WI: Upstart Books, 2007. 57p. \$15.95 (ISBN: 978-1-932146-86-8)

Designed for the school library media specialist, *Fun-brarian: Games, activities, & ideas to liven up your library!* provides games and activities that can be played in a media center. The games in this book are geared for elementary school students, but some games can be modified for use with pre-school or middle school students. Fox provides suggestions for modification for many of the games/activities.

Fun-brarian is divided into three sections. The first section, games and activities, contains the meat of the book. Here the reader will find twenty games that can be played in the media center. Each game/activity includes a brief description, objective, grade level suggestion, time to complete, and directions. Most games take 20-25 minutes to complete, but there are some quick games in case you only have a few minutes to spare. There are terrific twists to some games that kids may already know how to play, such as Mother, May I? (Librarian, May I?), and 20 questions. These games are clever ways to teach students the Dewey Decimal System, library manners, identifying media, and genre classification.

Section two is called the “librarian’s life” and contains ideas to promote a positive library image that can be used with all grade levels. For example, inscribing a student’s name with a book plate inside his/her favorite book. Kids will seek out books that are recommended by their peers and also love to find “their” book. Another example is “what’s in the box?” in which the librarian places an object from the library in a box and the students, by feel alone, have to guess what is in the box. Section three contains passes, awards, and certificates that can easily be reproduced.

Overall, *Fun-brarian: Games, activities, & ideas to liven up your library!* is a wonderful resource for new school library media specialists or for the experience librarian that needs to add a little spice to their room. The book could use division breaks between the sections (as divided in the table of contents) for better content organization, and there is one minor typo in the page numbering in the table of contents. Although the book is recommended for school library media specialists, public librarians may be able to adapt some of the games and ideas for use in programming or library instruction.

Reese Evenson
Children’s Librarian
Jefferson County Public Library
revenson@jefferson.lib.co.us