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Not surprisingly, kids like reading

I enjoyed the May 31 article on summer reading picks for kids. The oft-heard lament, “Kids today just don’t read anymore,” is simply untrue.

As a junior high school librarian (and formerly a high school librarian), I have seen firsthand that given reading materials interesting to them, time to read, and teachers and librarians to offer good suggestions, kids and teens today do read - a lot.

Throw in some fun ways to help them select good books and talk about what they read, such as the Library Thing Web site, a reading club Wiki, and audiobooks on Playaway MP3 players, and reading is actually cool.

In my school of about 450 students, we have circulated over 6,000 items this year. I have overheard 7th and 8th graders passionately recommend certain series to their friends. We have an active reading club and certain books were in such high demand that students waited weeks or even months to get their copy.

A few noteworthy examples: Stephanie Meyer’s Twilight series, Rick Riordan’s Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, and Anthony Horowitz’s Alex Rider Adventures series.

School, public, and classroom libraries need support to keep an ample supply of current, appealing titles in stock. Schools need well-read teachers and school library media specialists to stay up to date on the highest quality and most interesting reading materials for kids.

And kids need encouragement to discover high-interest books and to set aside time for reading.

Patti Rish
Waterville