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Breagh Wirth

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Librarian Stereotypes in Children's Literature: 2001-2015

By Breagh Wirth

Master's Research Project

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Readers: Dr. Teresa Welsh

Dr. Stacy Creel

Introduction

Children's literature is often used to educate children by teaching values and behaviors that are considered important in their society (Boutte, Hopkins, & Waklatsi, 2008). Children use books to discover the world outside of their everyday environment (Luyt, Lee, & Yong, 2011). Children's exposure to literature can impact how they view the world (Dedeoğlu, Ulusoy, & Lamme, 2011).

The different values and beliefs that authors and editors expose children to through literature can reveal what the culture was like at the time of publication (Yontz, 2002). In many cases, children form long-term opinions based on what they read (Boutte et al., 2008). Like other impressions that are formed in childhood, the way a child views the library is also often carried on into adulthood (Maynard & McKenna, 2005). As Maynard and McKenna (2005) state, "Given the fact that children who use the library regularly are more likely to continue using the library as adults, they are potentially both current and future users of the public library..." (p. 120). How children's literature portrays librarians to children may influence their view and their use of libraries.

Many outdated stereotypes are used to describe libraries and members of the library profession, and these stereotypes influence the public's opinion of libraries and librarians (Maynard & McKenna, 2005). These stereotypes create specific images on how librarians are believed to look and act (Peresie & Alexander, 2005). Lack of diversity in portrayals in juvenile or young adult literature may cause a student to choose a different career path because students do not identify with the public image of a librarian (p. 29).

Purpose Statement

This study examined selected forms of children's literature from the past fifteen years to explore how librarians and library workers are portrayed to young readers.

Research Questions

- R1. In what ways (gender, ethnicity, appearance or age, and personality or behavior) are librarians or library workers portrayed to young readers?
- R2. In what ways, if any, do these patterns or trends differ according to the intended age of the reader?
- R3. In what ways, if any, do these patterns or trends differ according to the publication dates of the books?

Definitions

Children's Book - "A book written and illustrated specifically for children up to the age of 12-13. Included in this category are juvenile fiction and nonfiction, board books, nursery rhymes, alphabet books, counting books, picture books, easy books, beginning readers, picture storybooks, and storybooks" (Reitz, 2014a).

Children's Literature - "Literarys created specifically for children, as distinct from works written for adults and young adults, including drama, poetry, and prose, fiction, and nonfiction" (Reitz, 2014b).

Picture Book - "A book consisting mainly of visual content, with little or no text, intended mainly for children of preschool age but sometimes of interest to adults because of the artistic quality of the illustrations and/or originality of the text, often used by children's librarians in storytelling" (Reitz, 2014c).

Young Adult Book - "A book intended to be read and enjoyed by adolescents 12 to 18 years of age. Also refers to a book intended for adults but considered suitable by reviewers and librarians for mature ninth- to twelfth-grade readers" (Reitz, 2014d).

Limitations and Delimitations of the Study

This study does not provide a complete representation of librarian stereotypes, but a general indication of how librarians are depicted to children. This study examined books published between the years of 2001 and 2015. Only fiction books written for children ages zero to twelve years old were included.

Assumptions

It is assumed that the intended age level recommendations provided by *Novelist* are accurate descriptions of the intended audience.

Importance of the Study

This study can help determine the image of librarians that children are exposed to when reading and how these portrayals change as children age. Although some research can be found in the literature about librarian stereotypes in books and other media, few recent studies could be found. This study intends to add to and update the current literature; its findings may be of interest to librarians, library users, parents, teachers, as well as gender studies and media studies researchers.

Literature Review

Content Analyses of Children's Literature

Researchers have conducted several content analyses of children's literature to determine what different beliefs and world-views children encounter through reading. Olen, Machet, and Marchand (1998) conducted a content analysis of twenty-five South African picture books to see how grandparents were portrayed in comparison to the role of grandparents in South African culture. The books used in their study were published between 1987 and 1997 and had a grandparent as a protagonist who was usually shown in relatively good health, often lived with the children or acted as a surrogate parent (p.79-82). Intergenerational children stories can show children that grandparents are more than just providers of entertainment but also are a source of their family's history.

Kok and Findlay (2006) conducted a content analysis of twenty- five picture books that either won or were considered for the *Picture Book of the Year Award* by

the Children's Book Council of Australia to determine the frequency each gender occurs and whether the characters followed gender-based stereotypes. This study found no statistical evidence of gender-based stereotypes, though there were more female characters in the books published in the later years of the study (Kok & Findlay, 2006). In another study of gender roles in children's literature, Luyt, Lee, and Yong (2011) conducted a content analysis to determine the amount of gender equality in Singaporean children's literature. Twenty books from each decade between 1970 and 2008 were selected randomly. The representation of female main characters increased over the time period of the study, and there was little distinction between their behaviors and the behavior of male characters (p.59).

Boutte, Hopkins, and Waklatsi (2008) published a content analysis of the twenty-five commonly assigned books in pre-kindergarten through third-grade classrooms to determine the gender, class, and social status of the main characters. The books in this study indicated that the characters' socioeconomic status was often influenced by each character's race. The way that children are exposed to different races through books can influence how they view different races throughout their lives (Boutte et al., 2008).

Dedeoğlu, Ulusoy, and Lamme (2011) examined picture books set in many different geographical locations in order to gain a sense of global poverty. These children's books used several themes to represent poverty including the father's absence, homelessness, child labor, and the quality of life of the characters (p. 43-45). Though these books do not represent a complete view of the issue of poverty, with the right instruction, children who read them will have a better understanding of poverty Dedeoğlu et al., 2011).

Carroll and Rosa (2015) conducted a qualitative study on how nurses are portrayed in children's literature published between 1952-2013. The books in this study were determined to misrepresent the role of nurses and their responsibilities (p. 144). In most cases, the nurses were often shown in old-fashioned uniforms and their actions usually did not show the wide range of duties and roles of a nurse. Carroll and

Rosa believed that based on the literature in this study, children may form a lasting inaccurate opinion of the nursing profession.

Content Analyses of Children's Books with Librarian Characters

There are several past studies on how librarians are portrayed in children's literature and how those portrayals may influence a child's view on libraries and librarians. In 1975, Katherine M. Heylman conducted a content analysis of twenty-five picture books with librarian characters in order to determine whether the stereotypes of negative appearances and behaviors occurred. Heylman found that in most cases the librarians were young, attractive, married, and had an overall kind and positive attitude. This study reported was that while twenty-four librarians were female, only one was male (Heylman, 1975).

In 2002, Elaine Yontz conducted a study that focused on how the portrayal of librarian stereotypes in children's literature has changed over time. Yontz (2002) located thirty-five titles and examined text and illustrations to determine gender, ethnicity, job descriptions, job tools, and the general attitude of the librarians. The results showed that the librarians were predominately depicted in a positive manner and as white females. Overall, this study indicated that librarians in children's literature are portrayed positively (Yontz, 2002).

In a similar content analysis, Peresie and Alexander (2005) explored the role of librarians in young adult literature to determine if recent literature supported the changing field. Using a methodology similar to Yontz's (2002), Peresie and Alexander (2005) located seventeen young adult books published between 1960 and 2004. The novels often depicted librarians as white females, and were consistently described as having negative characteristics such as being fat, gaunt, stern, wearing glasses, and boring (p. 28). The lack of diversity found among librarian characters in young adult literature may dissuade young adults from considering the library as a career (Peresie & Alexander, 2005).

Maynard and McKenna (2005) examined how librarian stereotypes and library descriptions vary

based on the age of the intended audience. In order to examine the different levels of children's literature, Maynard and McKenna choose three titles: a picture book, general children's fiction chapter book, and young adult book. While the librarians in the picture book for young children were shown as kind and helpful, in the two books for older children and teenagers the librarians were shown as either unfriendly or unpopular, though still committed to their jobs. Children of all ages are influenced by what they read and negative characteristics of librarians in juvenile literature may negatively impact the readers' use of the library (Maynard & McKenna, 2005).

Similarly to the past studies conducted by Heylman (1975), Yontz (2002), and Peresie and Alexander (2005), this study conducted a content analysis to examine how librarians are portrayed to children through children's literature. Like these past studies, this study also examined the gender, race, appearance, and behavior of the librarian characters. As with Yontz's 2002 research, this study looked for changes in the librarians' description in children's literature over time. In the study of children's literature by Yontz (2002) and the study of young adult literature by Peresie and Alexander (2005), the focus was on how librarians were portrayed to a specific demographic. Maynard and McKenna (2005) examined several of the same characteristics in their study, but also examined how librarians are portrayed differently for different age levels. Like the study by Maynard and McKenna (2005), this study examined whether librarians were portrayed differently to different age groups through picture books or juvenile chapter books.

Methodology

Data Sources

For this study, a qualitative content analysis was conducted on a set of children's literature titles that contain at least one librarian character. Resources such as *Novelist* and library card catalogs were used to locate the titles for this study.

When searching, the key terms 'librarian' or 'library' were used along with limiting to the years 2001-2015 and the intended age groups, either zero to eight-year-olds or nine to twelve-year-olds.

Additional books were found by browsing the online card catalogs and shelves at the Jefferson Parish Library and the New Orleans Public Library. The age level of each book in this study was determined by their *Novelist* recommendation. The books intended for zero to eight-year-olds were generally picture books, while the books aimed towards nine to twelve-year-olds were mostly juvenile chapter books. The Jefferson Parish Library's and the New Orleans Public Library's online card catalogs were used to locate physical copies of each book.

Procedure

The information gathered for this study was compiled in Excel spreadsheets. This study included ninety-eight books: fifty picture books with an intended audience of zero to eight-year-olds and forty-eight juvenile chapter books with an intended audience of nine to twelve-year-olds. The text and illustrations of each book were examined to determine the characteristics of the librarians. The characteristics examined included: gender, ethnicity, appearance or age, and personality or behavior. The librarians' gender was classified as male, female, or unknown. The standard races listed on the United States Census Bureau's Web site: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander were used to classify the ethnicity of the characters (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017). The librarian's age was classified as old, middle-aged, or young, based on their appearance in illustrations or their descriptions in the text. The appearance category determined commonly-used physical descriptions of the librarians: eyewear, outfit, or any other physical attributes used to describe or depict how a librarian looks. The librarian characters' personality and behavior examined how the librarian acted toward the other characters in the book. For example, it was noted whether the librarians are shown as either friendly or unfriendly and whether the librarians appear to be helpful or uninterested.

Two spreadsheets listing specific characteristics similar to those used by Yontz (2002) and Peresie and Alexander (2005) in their studies were used to identify stereotypes and common characteristics. The first spreadsheet examined the picture books

recommended for children ages zero to eight (Appendix, Table 8). The second spreadsheet listed the juvenile chapter books for children ages nine to twelve (Appendix, Table 9).

Results

R1. In what ways (gender, ethnicity, appearance or age, and personality or behavior) are librarians or library workers portrayed to young readers?

For this study, fifty easy books and forty-eight juvenile books were examined. In the easy or picture books, there were sixty librarian characters. In the juvenile or chapter books, there were sixty-two librarian characters.

Gender

Out of the one hundred and twenty-two librarian characters in this study, one hundred (82%) were female. There were only eighteen (15%) male librarians. The remaining four librarians (3%) were animals that were not distinguishable as either male or female. Ten of the male librarians in this study appeared alongside female librarians, with only eight male librarians appearing on their own without a female coworker. There were no examples of more than one male librarian appearing in the same story, though female librarians often appeared in pairs.

Ethnicity

The race of the librarian was determined by the illustrations provided in both the easy and juvenile books. In many of the juvenile books that did not include illustrations, there were no physical descriptions that state the race of the librarians. In this study, forty-seven (39%) of the librarians examined did not have a stated race or were non-human. Of the remaining seventy-five librarians, there were sixty-six (88%) librarians who were either illustrated as or given Caucasian descriptions. There were nine (12%) African American librarians, three of whom appeared as coworkers to Caucasians. No other race was represented in this study.

Appearance and Age

There were many common descriptions that were often used to describe librarians. One of the most common librarian descriptions is wearing glasses (Peresie & Alexander, 2005). In this study, fifty-five

librarians (45%) were depicted as wearing glasses. There were also three librarians who wore sunglasses and one librarian with a monocle. Wearing long skirts was a common description for the female librarians. Of the one hundred female librarians in this study forty-six librarians (46%) were shown or described as wearing a long skirt. There were also three librarians that were stated to have tattoos. Age is another description that may help influence the public's opinions of librarians. There were thirty-eight librarians (31%) that were not given any descriptions or illustrations to help determine their age range. In the remaining eighty- four librarians, thirty-seven librarians (44%) appeared young, twenty-five (30%) appeared middle-aged, and twenty- two (26%) were depicted as old.

Personality and Behavior

In order to determine personality and behavior, the interactions of the librarians with other characters were examined. Many of the librarians, eighty-two (67%), were shown as either friendly or smiling. Many librarians were also shown as hardworking, knowledgeable, helpful, or encouraging. These seventy-eight librarians (64%) were shown doing different job activities such as shelving books, telling stories, or checking out books and offering assistance with other problems or questions. There were eighteen librarians (15%) who were shown as rule enforcers, instructing other characters to follow the rules of the library. There were eight librarian characters (7%) who were described as evil by other characters, or the title of the book. Six librarians (5%) were shown or described as being sad, dull, or stern.

R2. In what ways, if any, do these patterns or trends differ according to the intended age of the reader?

In order to determine differences between how librarians are compared to younger children in picture books and older children in juvenile chapter books, each category was examined and the two age groups were compared.

Table 1 shows how the librarians' genders were represented in each age group. The majority of librarians were female in both age groups, with fifty-one females (85%) in the easy books and forty-nine females (79%) in the juvenile.

The juvenile chapter books included a higher percentage of male librarians with thirteen male librarians (21%) compared to the five male librarians (8%) in the picture books. The picture books also had four librarians (7%) that were depicted as gender neutral.

Table 1. Genders of Librarian Characters			
	FEMALE	MALE	UNKNOWN
EASY	51	5	4
JUVENILE	49	13	

Table 2. Race of Librarian Characters		
	CAUCASIAN	AFRICAN AMERICAN
EASY	43 (88%)	6 (12%)
JUVENILE	23 (88%)	3 (12%)

Table 2 demonstrates the difference in how race is depicted to young children when compared to older children. In both the picture books and chapter books there were librarians who were not labeled with a race or were not human. In the chapter books, thirty-six librarians (58%) were not shown as a specific race. The picture books included eleven librarians (18%) who were either animals or did not have a designated race. When the race of the remaining librarians was examined, there was no difference in how race was presented to either age group. In both categories, the majority of librarians were Caucasian. In the juvenile books, twenty-three of the librarians (88%) were Caucasian, and in the easy books, forty-three of the librarians (88%) were Caucasian. In both categories, African Americans were similarly represented with three librarians (12%) in the juvenile chapter books and six librarians (12%) in the easy picture books.

As in the other categories, there were some librarian characters who were not given a depiction or description to indicate their age. Table 3 shows how the librarian ages were shown in easy picture books and juvenile chapter books.

There were twenty-eight librarians (45%) in the juvenile chapter books that did not have a stated age and ten (17%) librarians in the picture books without a specific age. In the picture books, twenty-nine (58%) of the remaining librarians were shown as young, while only eight (24%) of the librarians in the chapter books were young. More of the librarians in the chapter books were shown as middle-aged or older than the librarians in the picture books. The picture books showed eleven of the librarians (22%) as middle-aged while the chapter books depicted fourteen librarians (41%) as middle-aged. The picture books depicted ten of the librarians (20%) as old, while the juvenile books depicted or described twelve (35%) as old or elderly.

Table 3. Ages of Librarian Characters			
	YOUNG	MIDDLE-AGED	OLD
EASY	29 (58%)	11 (22%)	10 (20%)
JUVENILE	8 (24%)	14 (41%)	12 (35%)

The librarians' appearances were determined by how they appeared in illustrations or described in the text. In many of the juvenile chapter books, there were no descriptions given to the librarians' physical appearance. Of the librarians that appeared in illustrations or were given physical descriptions, twenty-nine of the librarians in juvenile chapter books (47%) and twenty-six of the librarians in picture books (43%) were depicted as wearing glasses.

The appearance of long skirts was also a common description of the female librarians. Of the fifty-one female librarians in the picture books, thirty-three (65%) were shown to wear long skirts, while only thirteen librarians in juvenile books (27%) appeared in long skirts. Some of the librarians in the chapter books wore sunglasses or a monocle as in *Mrs. Roopy is Loopy* (Gutman, 2004) and *Alcatraz and the Evil Librarians* (Sanderson, 2012).

Many librarians included in this study interacted with the other characters in different ways. There were some instances in which a librarian showed more than one behavior or personality characteristic. As shown in Table 4, the majority of the librarians in both categories were shown as friendly and smiling. In the picture books, forty-eight librarians (80%) were shown as friendly, while thirty-four (54%) were depicted as kind or friendly in the chapter books.

In most cases, librarians were shown engaged in some kind of job activity or helping the children visiting the library. In the chapter books, forty librarians (65%) were depicted as working, while only thirty-eight librarians (63%) in the picture books were shown working. Several librarians were strict enforcers of library rules, with slightly more librarians in chapter books rules enforcers than librarians in the picture books. In the chapter books, there were several librarians who were described as evil, and some librarians in both categories were described as dull, sad, or stern, with four of the picture book librarians (6%) and two of the chapter book librarians (3%) described as simply unlikable but not evil.

Table 4. Behaviors and Personalities of Librarians					
	FRIENDLY/ SMILING	HARDWORKING/ KNOWLEDGEABLE/ HELPFUL/ENCOURAGING	RULE ENFORCERS	EVIL	DULL/ SAD/ STERN
EASY	48 (80%)	38 (63%)	7 (12%)		4 (6%)
JUVENILE	34 (54%)	40 (65%)	11 (18%)	8 (13%)	2 (3%)

R3. In what ways, if any, do these patterns or trends differ according to the publication dates of the books?

In order to determine if the depiction of librarians changed over time, the books in this study were examined in three five-year time periods: 2001-2005, 2006-2010, 2011-2015. The first time-period contained twenty-three librarian characters, the second time period consisted of fifty-five librarian characters and the third had forty-four librarian characters. Table 5 shows that the number of male librarians does increase from approximately nine percent in books published between 2001-2005 to approximately sixteen percent in later time periods; the percentage of female librarians remains consistently high in each time period.

Table 5. Librarian Gender Over Time		
	Female	Male
2001-2005	18 (78%)	2 (9%)
2006-2010	45 (82%)	9 (16%)
2011-2015	36 (82%)	7 (16%)

The race of the librarians did not vary much over time. In each time period, the majority of librarians were depicted as Caucasian (Table 6). In the years 2006-2010, there was a slight increase in the percentage of African American librarians from approximately four or five percent to eleven percent, but the increase did not continue into the later years of the study.

Table 6. Librarian Race Over Time			
	Caucasian	African American	Animal/Unknown
2001-2005	13 (57%)	1 (4%)	9 (39%)
2006-2010	27 (49%)	6 (11%)	22 (40%)
2011-2015	26 (59%)	2 (5%)	16 (36%)

The librarians in this study exhibited many different personalities and characteristics, and some showed different characteristics at different moments in the story. The majority of the librarians were shown as friendly or smiling, especially in the books published in the early years of this study (Table 7).

The percentage of hardworking, knowledgeable, helpful, or encouraging librarians decreased over time, though they remained in the majority. Librarians who were portrayed as rule enforcers did not appear at all in the first five years in the study, but increased in the last ten years to approximately eighteen percent in the final five years of the study. The librarians who were shown as dull, sad, or stern slightly increased over the time period in the study, from not appearing in the first five years to an increase to five percent in the final five years. Evil librarians were mentioned minimally in the first ten years, and they did not appear at all in the final five-year time period.

Table 7. Librarian Personalities and Behaviors Over Time					
	Friendly/Smiling	Hardworking/Knowledgeable/Helpful/ Encouraging	Rule Enforcer	Evil	Dull/Sad/Stern
2001-2005	16 (70%)	17 (74%)		1 (4%)	
2006-2010	35 (64%)	31 (56%)	5 (9%)	4 (7%)	2 (4%)
2011-2015	26 (59%)	26 (59%)	8 (18%)		2 (5%)

Discussion and Conclusion

This study found that librarians in children's literature published in recent years are portrayed in a generally positive image. Neither the publication date nor the intended age of the audience appeared to reflect any substantial differences in the portrayal of librarians.

Overall the librarian characters in the easy picture books and juvenile chapter books examined in this study were depicted positively. The majority of librarians were shown as smiling, friendly, encouraging, and helpful.

In some books, such as Tommy Greenwald's *Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Planet Girl* (2015), reluctant readers have positive relationships with their school librarians, even if they try to avoid the library and books. This is similar to the results of past studies, such as the study by Elaine Yontz (2002), which describe the librarians as overall positive characters. Even though the majority of the books in this study showed the librarians as positive, there were still a few juvenile books such as *Lunch Lady and the League of Librarians* (Krosoczka, 2009) and *Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians* (Sanderson, 2007), in which the librarians are the antagonists the main characters must defeat. However, the evil librarian story was in the minority and in most stories, the librarians were either friendly or helpful throughout the entire book or eventually became more likable.

The majority of librarian characters were female and Caucasian, which is consistent with the findings of past studies by Heylman (1975), Yontz (2002), and Peresie and Alexander (2005). Though there were several male librarians in this study and several African American librarians, they often appeared alongside Caucasian, female coworker(s). No book in this study had more than one male librarian or more than one African American librarian, but nine books had two or more Caucasian female librarians. There was only one book that had a male, African American librarian, Lynn Plourde's (2006) *Book Fair Day*. Though African American and male librarians are represented throughout the study, their lack of a majority and their constant appearance with female Caucasian librarians may influence how children believe librarians should look.

The lack of races other than Caucasians and African Americans in the books in this study indicates a lack of diversity in librarian characters in children's literature.

Though most of the librarians in the children's picture books were depicted through illustrations, many of the chapter books did not include illustrations. The books without illustrations often did not include physical descriptions of how the librarian characters looked, leaving the librarian's race, age, and other physical attributes to the imagination of the reader. In their study of librarians in young adult literature, Peresie and Alexander (2005) also found that the majority of the librarian characters were not given full physical descriptions. By not being specific about the librarian characters' appearances, the authors allowed the children to create their own image of how a librarian might look, instead of determining the librarians' image for the reader.

One notable difference in the portrayal of librarians to the different age levels was the age of the librarian. In the picture books designated for children ages zero to eight, there was a higher percentage of younger librarians. In the chapter books for older children, there was a greater percentage of middle-aged or older librarians. These results are similar to those of Peresie and Alexander's 2007 study of librarians in young adult literature, in which the majority of librarians were either middle-aged or old.

The majority of librarians were shown as helpful, hardworking, and knowledgeable. Even in books where the librarians were shown as strict rule enforcers, such as Eoin Colfer's (2004) *The Legend of Spud Murphy*, they were also willing to assist the library users. Though it may be due to the young intended audience for the books in this study, only one book, *Under the Egg* (Fitzgerald, 2014), mentioned the education it takes to become a librarian and stated that the new public librarian recently received his MLIS. In many of the books, the librarians did not exist outside of their library, and no background information was given on their history or education.

This study examined picture books and juvenile chapter books published between the years of 2001-2015. In the future, more research could be done on a wider range of books and with a greater time frame. Some books with librarian characters were not examined due to time restraints and book availability. This study only examined how librarian characters were depicted in children's literature. Further research could include young adult and adult literature to determine librarian depictions across a wider age range.

Overall, this study did not find any major differences between the depiction of librarians in picture books and chapter books, but a larger study that includes more books or a wider range of years may show different results. The lack of diversity in the librarian characters may indicate a lack of diversity in the librarian field. Many of the juvenile chapter books did not provide any description beyond gender, personality, and behavior, allowing the readers to form their own images of the librarian's physical appearance. The overall positive image of librarians in this sample of children's literature indicates that children are being shown that librarians and libraries are important and useful.

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Appendix. Librarian Characters' Gender, Appearance, Age, Race, Personality and Behavior

Table 8. Children's Picture Books for Children Ages 0-8

Publication Year, Title, and Author	Gender	Appearance and Age	Race	Personality and Behavior
2001 <i>Young Cam Jansen and the Library Mystery</i> by David A. Adler	Female	Young No Glasses	Caucasian	Friendly, Smiling Working
2001 <i>Book! Book! Book!</i> by Deborah Bruss	Female	Young No Glasses Skirt	African American	Friendly, Smiling Helpful
2002 <i>Clarence the Copy Cat</i> by Patricia Lakin	Male	Old Glasses	Caucasian	Friendly, Welcoming Hard Working/Busy
2002 <i>Beverly Billingsly Borrows a Book</i> by Alexander Stadler	Female	Glasses Skirt	Green Bird	Friendly Helpful
2002 <i>The Saturday Escape</i> by Daniel J. Mahoney	Animal	Glasses	Grey Cat	Friendly
2003 <i>I.Q. Goes to the Library</i> by Mary Ann Fraser	Female	Young No Glasses Pants	Caucasian	Friendly Smiling Hard Working/ Busy
2003 <i>Curious George Visits the Library</i> by Margret & H.A. Reys	Female	Young No Glasses Skirt/ Dress	Caucasian	Friendly Smiling Hard Working
2004 <i>Carlo and the Really Nice Librarian</i> by Jessica Spanyol	Female	No Glasses	Alligator	Smiling, Friendly Hardworking
2004 <i>Wild About Books</i> by Judy Sierra	Female	Young No Glasses	Caucasian	Smiling Friendly
2005 <i>When the Library Lights Go Out</i> by Megan McDonald	Female	No Glasses Young Long Skirt	Caucasian	n/a
2005 <i>Maisy Goes to the Library</i> by Lucy Cousins	2 Animals	No Glasses	Ostrich and Peacock	Hard Working
2006 <i>Winston the Book Wolf</i> by Marni McGee	Female	No Glasses Old Long Skirt	Caucasian	Stern Frowning Rule Enforcer
2006 <i>Delilah D. at the Library</i> by Jeanne Willis	Female	Young No Glasses Long Skirt Pretty	Caucasian	Rule Enforcer Friendly Hardworking Helpful

2006 <i>Library Lion</i> by Michelle Knudsen	Female-head librarian Male-Circulation Librarian	Old (Both) Glasses (Both) Skirt (Female)	Caucasian (Both)	Stern (Head) Rule Enforcer (Head) Hard Working (both)
2006 <i>Lola at the Library</i> by Anna McQuinn	Female	Young Pants N/A	Caucasian	Smiling Hardworking
2006 <i>Dancing Dinos Go to School</i> by Sally Lucas	Female	Glasses Young Long Skirt	African American	Smiling Storytelling
2007 <i>The Wonderful Thing About Hiccups</i> by Cece Meng	Female	Old Glasses Long Skirt	Caucasian	Helpful Hardworking Friendly
2007 <i>The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians</i> by Carla Morris	Females (Three) Male (At the end)	Glasses (2) Young (Then Old) Skirts	Caucasian (3) African American (1)	Friendly Smiling Hardworking Helpful (all 4)
2007 <i>Library Mouse</i> by Daniel Kirk	Females (Two) -Main Male	Young (2) Older (1)- Main Glasses (2) Pants	Caucasian (2)- Main African American (1)	Friendly Smiling (all 3)
2007 <i>Mind Your Manners</i> , B.B. Wolf by Judy Sierra	Female	Middle Aged No Glasses No Bun Long Skirt	Caucasian (Doll?)	Smiling Friendly
2008 <i>Our Library</i> by Eve Bunting	Female	Dress Glasses	Goose	Friendly Smiling
2008 <i>We're Going on a Book Hunt</i> by Pat Miller	Animal	No Glasses	Kangaroo	Smiling, Friendly Hardworking
2008 <i>It's Library Day</i> by Janet Morgan Stoeke	Female	Young Pretty No Glasses Dress	Caucasian	Friendly Smiling Hardworking
2008 <i>The Best Book to Read</i> by Debbie Bertram and Susan Bloom	Female	Middle Aged No Glasses Long Skirt	Caucasian	Smiling Friendly Hardworking
2008 <i>Butterflies in My Stomach and Other School Hazards</i> by Serge Bloch	Female	n/a	n/a	Friendly

2009 <i>Dirk Bone and the Mystery of the Missing Books</i> by Doug Cushman	Female	Young No Glasses Dress	Green Zombie	Helpful Hardworking
2009 <i>Miss Smith and the Haunted Library</i> by Michael Garland	Female	Dresses No Glasses Middle Age	Caucasian	Friendly Smiling Hardworking
2009 <i>Ron's Big Mission</i> by Rose Blue and Corinne J. Naden	Female	No Glasses Long Skirt Middle Age	Caucasian	Friendly, Smiling Hardworking Welcoming
2010 <i>The Library Gingerbread Man</i> by Dotti Enderle	Female	Young Glasses Dress	Caucasian	Hardworking Knowledgeable
2010 <i>The Pirates of Plagiarism</i> by Kathleen Fox and Lisa Downey	Female	Middle Age No Glasses Long Skirt	Caucasian	Smiling Friendly
2010 <i>Too Much Noise in the Library</i> by Susan Margaret Chapman	Female	Young Glasses	Caucasian	Friendly, Smiling Helpful
2010 <i>Miss Brooks Loves Books! (and I Don't)</i> by Barbara Bottner	Female	Young No glasses	Caucasian	Smiling, Friendly Hardworking /Storytelling
2011 <i>Penelope Popper Book Doctor</i> by Toni Buzzeo	Female	Middle Age No Glasses Long Skirt	African American	Smiling, Friendly Helpful Hardworking
2011 <i>Homer The Library Cat</i> by Reeve Lindbergh	Female	Middle Age No Glasses Long Skirt	Caucasian	Smiling Friendly
2011 <i>Poindexter Makes a Friend</i> by Mike Twohy	Female	Glasses Long Skirt	Pig	Hardworking Helpful
2011 <i>There's a Dragon in the Library</i> by Dianne de Las Casas	Female (2) Male	Gray Hair (2) Long Skirt One Young Glasses (Male)	Caucasian	Friendly Smiling Rule enforcer (all three)
2012 <i>Return of the Library Dragon</i> by Carmen Agra Deedy	Female (2)	Old Young Glasses	Caucasian	Friendly (Both)
2012 <i>Never Let a Ghost Borrow Your Library Book</i> by Karen Casale	Female	Old Glasses Dress	Caucasian	Smiling Friendly
2012 <i>Can I Bring Woolly to the Library, Mrs. Reeder</i> by Lois G. Grambling	Female	Middle-aged Glasses Skirt	Caucasian	Friendly Hardworking

2013 <i>But I Read It On the Internet</i> by Toni Buzzeo	Female	Young Glasses Crazy Hair Skirt	Caucasian	Friendly Smiling Helpful Knowledgeable
2013 <i>Isabella Star of the Story</i> by Jennifer Fosberry	Female	Middle- Age Glasses Sweater Vest and Skirt	Caucasian	Friendly Smiling
2013 <i>Amelia Bedelia's First Library Card</i> by Herman Parish	Female	Young Pretty No Glasses	Caucasian	Friendly, Smiling Hardworking Helpful
2013 <i>No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou</i> by Rhonda Gowler Greene	Female	Middle Aged Glasses	Caucasian	Stern, Rule enforcer Helpful Encouraging, Smiling
2014 <i>A Library Book for Bear</i> by Bonny Becker	Female	No Glasses Young Pretty Long Skirt	Caucasian	Friendly Smiling
2014 <i>Biscuit Loves the Library</i> by Alyssa Satin Capucilli	Female	Glasses Middle Age Long Skirt	African American	Friendly Hardworking Helpful
2014 <i>Sparky!</i> by Jenny Offill	Female	Young Glasses Long Skirt	Caucasian	Knowledgeable Sad
2014 <i>The Midnight Library</i> by Kazuno Kohara	Female	Young No Glasses Long Skirt	n/a- yellow	Smiling Hardworking Helpful
2014 <i>Emily and the Mighty Om</i> by Sarah Lolley	Female	Young Glasses Long Skirt	Caucasian	Helpful Friendly
2015 <i>The Buk Buk Buk Festival</i> by Mary Jane Auch	Female	Young No Glasses Pretty Long Skirt	Caucasian	Smiling Friendly Helpful
2015 <i>Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story</i> by Reem Faruqi	Female	Middle Aged No Glasses	Caucasian	Smiling Friendly

Table 9. Juvenile Chapter Books for Children 9-12

Publication Year, Title, and Author	Gender	Appearance and Age	Race	Personality and Behavior
2001 <i>Beauty and the Serpent: Thirteen Tales of Unnatural Animals</i> by Barabara Ann Porte	Female	Old Gray/ Messy Hair Long Skirt	Caucasian “Ruddy Cheeks” (p. 1)	Story Teller Rule Enforcer Helpful Hardworking
2001 <i>The Big Nap</i> by Bruce Hale	Male	Hat Sunglasses	Possum	Knowledgeable Helpful
2002 <i>Molly Moon’s Incredible Book of Hypnotism</i> by Georgia Byng	Female	Glasses Middle age Graying	Caucasian “Blue eyes” (p. 24)	Friendly Knowledgeable
2002 <i>Cracked Classics: Trapped in Transylvania</i> by Tony Abbott	Female	Middle-aged Long Skirt Graying hair	N/A	Friendly Hardworking
2003 <i>Captain Underpants and the Big, Bad Battle of the Bionic Booger Boy Part 2: The Revenge of the Ridiculous Robo-Boogers</i> by Dav Pilkey	Female	Old Glasses Long Skirt	Caucasian	Un-Friendly Evil
2004 <i>Mrs. Roopy is Loopy</i> by Dan Gutman	Female	Young Sunglasses Heart Tattoo	Caucasian (cover)	Friendly Storytelling
2004 <i>The Legend of Spud Murphy</i> by Eoin Colfer	Female	Old, Glasses Grey hair Long Skirt	Caucasian (Cover)	Rule Enforcer Hard worker Kind
2004 <i>The Report Card</i> by Andrew Clements	Female	n/a	n/a	Kind, Smiling Hardworking, Helpful
2005 <i>Bella Baxter and the Itchy Disaster</i> by Jane B. Mason and Sarah Hines Stephens	Female	Glasses Young	Caucasian	Friendly Helpful Hardworking
2005 <i>Lunch Time Rules</i> By Vicki Steggall	Female	Glasses	n/a	Smiling, Friendly Helpful
2005 <i>Author Day for Room 3T</i> by Robin Pulver	Female	Glasses Gray Hair Long Skirt	Caucasian	Smiling Friendly
2006 <i>Please Write in this Book</i> by Mary Amato	Female	No Glasses Middle age	Caucasian	Rule Enforcer Stern
2006 <i>The Cupid Chronicles</i> by Coleen Murtagh Paratore	Female	Old Graying	n/a	Friendly Hardworking

2006 <i>Endymion Spring</i> by Matthew Skelton	Female	Glasses	n/a	Friendly Rule enforcer Hard worker
2006 <i>Bully Be Gone</i> by Brian Tacang	Female (2)	Glasses Tattoos Long skirt	n/a	Rule Enforcer (1) Knowledgeable (1)
2006 <i>Runt</i> by V.M. Caldwell	Female	Middle-aged		Helpful
2006 <i>Book Fair Day</i> by Lynn Plourde	Male	Middle-aged Glasses	African American	Smiling, Friendly Hardworking Helpful
2007 <i>Alcatraz versus the Evil Librarian</i> by Brandon Sanderson	Female Male	Glasses Skirt (Female) Monocle (Male)	n/a	Evil Censoring (both)
2007 <i>Changes for Julie</i> by Megan McDonald	Female	n/a	n/a	Friendly Hard worker
2007 <i>The Beast Beneath the Stairs</i> by Michael Dahl	Male	Glasses	n/a	Dark
2007 <i>The Puzzling World of Winston Breen</i> by Eric Berlin	Female	n/a	n/a	Friendly, Helpful Hardworking
2008 <i>Mimosa and the River of Wisdom</i> by J.H. Sweet	Female	Young Beautiful	Caucasian	Hardworking Knowledgeable
2008 <i>Ellie McDoodle New Kid in School</i> by Ruth McNally Barshaw	Female	Middle-aged No glasses Skirt	n/a	Smiling Friendly
2008 <i>Steinbeck's Ghost</i> by Lewis Buzbee	Female	Middle-aged	Caucasian "Blonde hair" (p. 22)	Hardworking Friendly
2009 <i>Lunch Lady and the League of Librarians</i> by Jarrett J. Krosoczka	Female (4)	Middle age (3) glasses Old (1) with Gray hair	Caucasian (3) African American (1)	Negative Evil Unpopular (all)
2009 <i>Hardy Boys Undercover Brothers Shhhhhhh!</i> by Scott Lobdell Paulo Henrique	Female	Glasses Young pants	African American	Friendly Knowledgeable Helpful
2009 <i>The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity</i> by Mac Barnett	Female Male	Glasses	n/a	Kind (1) Rule Enforcer, Military (Both)
2009 <i>Dork Diaries Tales from a Not-So-Fabulous Life</i> by Rachel Renée Russell	Female	Glasses Long Skirt	n/a	Friendly Smiling

2010 <i>The Dragon in the Library</i> by Kate Klimo	Male Female	n/a	n/a	Friendly Hardworking (Both)
2010 <i>Babymouse Cupcake Tycoon</i> by Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm	Female	Glasses Long Skirt	Dog	Friendly Nice
2010 <i>Brains for Lunch</i> by K.A. Holt	Female	Pretty No glasses Middle age	n/a	Friendly Encouraging Rule enforcer
2010 <i>Lilly and the Pirates</i> by Phyllis Root	Male	No glasses Gray hair Old	Caucasian	Dull Rule enforcer Helpful
2011 <i>The Deadlies: Spiders on the Case</i> by Kathryn Lasky	Male	Glasses	Caucasian	Friendly
2011 <i>Skary Childrin and the Carousel of Sorrow</i> by Katy Towell	Female	Young Glasses	n/a	Kind Hardworking
2011 <i>Okay for Now</i> Gary D. Schmidt	Female Male	Glasses (Both) Old - male	n/a	Rule enforcer (1) Kind (1) Hardworking (Both)
2011 <i>The Case of the Library Monster</i> by Dori Hillestad Butler	Female (2)	No glasses	Caucasian	Friendly (Both)
2012 <i>"Who Could That Be at This Hour?"</i> by Lemony Snicket	Male	Young Leather Jacket	n/a	Helpful Rule enforcer Knowledgeable
2013 <i>The Haunted Sleepover</i> by Nancy K. Wallace	Female	Glasses Middle-aged Pants	Caucasian	Friendly
2013 <i>Timmy Failure Mistakes were Made</i> by Stephan Pastis	Male	Sunglasses Leather Vest No shirt Beard	Caucasian	Rule Enforcer Stern Helpful Hard worker
2013 <i>Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library</i> by Chris Grabenstein	Female Female	Glasses Middle age(1) Old (1)	Caucasian "blazing- red hair" (p. 8)	Hardworking Helpful Knowledgeable (Both) Rule enforcer (1)
2013 <i>Runt</i> by Nora Raleigh Baskin	Male Females (2)	N/A	n/a	Hardworking Knowledgeable (Both)
2013 <i>Mister Max The Book of Lost Things</i> by Cynthia Voigt	Female	Older Glasses Long skirt	Caucasian	Hardworking Knowledgeable

2013 <i>Finding Serendipity</i> by Angelica Banks	Female	Old Long skirt White hair No Glasses	n/a	Knowledgeable Friendly
2014 <i>Under the Egg</i> by Laura Marx Fitzgerald	Male Female	Mustache Tattoos Young	n/a	Helpful, Friendly Lenient (1) Hardworking (Both) MLIS (Both)
2014 <i>Rhyme Schemer</i> by K.A. Holt	Female	Glasses Older (kids' opinion, p. 110)	n/a	Friendly Hardworking Encouraging
2015 <i>Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Planet Girl</i> by Tommy Greenwald	Female (2)	Glasses	n/a	Friendly, Helpful Encouraging (Both)
2015 <i>Story Thieves</i> by James Riley	Female	N/A	Caucasian Son on cover	Hardworking Helpful
2015 <i>Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer</i> by Kelly Jones	Female	Middle-aged Glasses Long skirt	Caucasian	Helpful Friendly Knowledgeable