

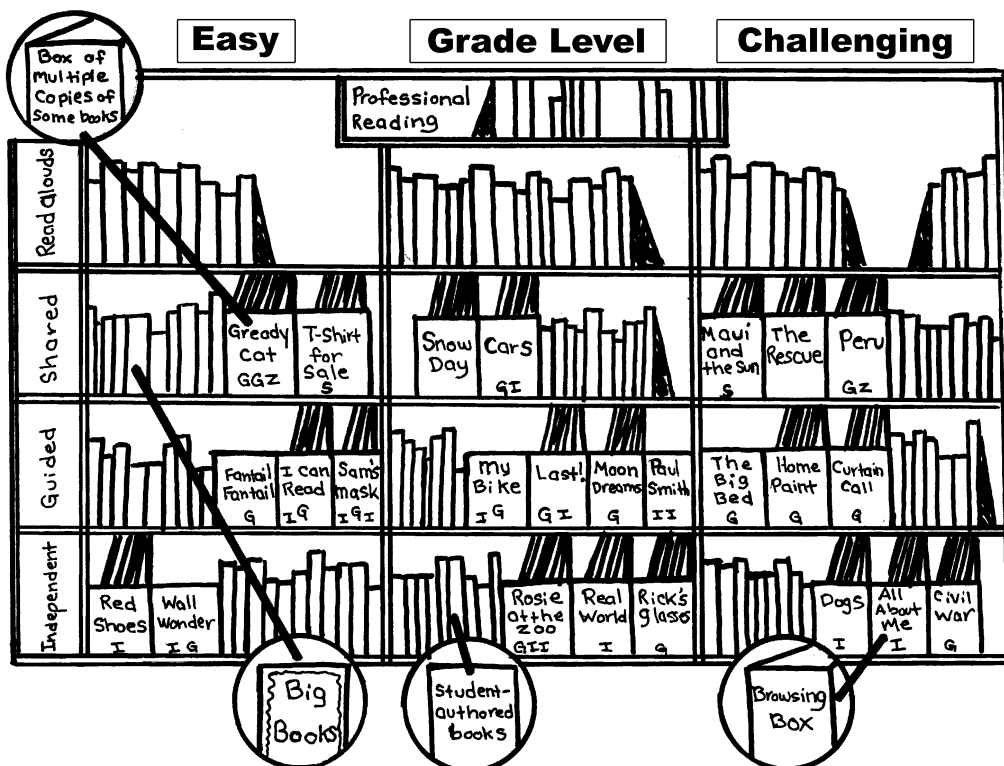


And now for a more serious take on this important subject.

# What an Effective Classroom Library Looks Like: Organization and Layout

## *Organize to Help Accomplish Your Major Goals*

Above all, the space in a classroom library must be organized to encourage comfortable student interactions with books and all other literacy tools or props stored or displayed here. This means that teachers must organize the classroom library with user-friendliness



in mind. Displays need to invite students to touch, take, examine, read, write, and talk. Directions posted in the classroom library need to help students figure out what to do, how to do it, where to do it, and when to do it. To do less is to invite mayhem.

The classroom library also needs to be organized so students suffer neither from “browser overload” nor from an inability to reasonably maintain the order and appearance of the area. This means the library should be organized to provide cues for appropriate levels and different types of materials.

You will reap many benefits from carefully organizing the physical space. Doing so can help your students in all the major interactions that you would like to see occur in the classroom library. You may get some good ideas from the three photos below. Each has strengths, which we’ve highlighted in the captions.

“Browsing baskets” of leveled books



Library situated in a corner away from traffic flow

Teacher’s Read Aloud chair in central spot

Large display area for posters, book reviews, book swap ads, and more

Large bulletin board to display student writing

Many books visible and organized by topic and level



Comfortable reading spot

Books displayed with covers facing out (in a book wedge)



Small group table for guided reading and mini-lessons