



Parents' Guide To LIBRARY MATERIALS

Welcome to the Marshall County Public Library. We are happy you are here, and even more happy that you have made the decision to make literacy an important part of your child's growth. Studies show that children who have access to age-appropriate reading materials will be more likely to experience success in their academic life and beyond.

With a collection of 170,000+ books in our physical collection, the process of picking out titles for your child may seem overwhelming. We hope this document helps you find the books that are right for your family. If you have any questions whatsoever about the collection, a specific title, or any part of the library, please don't hesitate to ask! The library staff is here to help however they can.

Sections of the Library

Our library collection is divided up into different sections to help patrons find the material they are looking for.

Easy (E)

This designation is for picture books. It's where you'll find titles like *The Cat in the Hat*, *Pete the Cat*, and *Bad Kitty*. (There are even books about things other than cats!)

Board Books

This designation is for short picture books with few words and thick pages that make it easier for little fingers to use. You will find these books on their own special shelves in the easy section.

Junior Fiction (JF) & Junior Audiobooks (JAC)

This designation is for chapter books. You will find titles like *Charlotte's Web* and *Wonder*.

Young Adult (YA) & Young Adult Audiobooks (YAC)

This designation is for older readers who are ready to tackle mature issues. You will find titles such as *The Hunger Games* and *13 Reasons Why*.

Junior Graphic Novels (JGN)

This designation is for graphic novels (aka comic books) aimed at younger readers. You will find titles like DC *Superhero Girls* and *Babymouse*.

Graphic Novels (GN) and Manga (MN)

This designation is for graphic novels that appeal to a wide age range. You will find most DC and Marvel titles in GN. MN is the designation for graphic novels from Japan. Many manga companies provide an age recommendation on their books, but please note that these recommendations are not standardized and may not align with local sensibilities.

Adult Graphic Novels (AGN)

This designation is for graphic novels that have mature content intended for an adult audience. You will find titles like *The Walking Dead* here.

Junior Nonfiction

We designate nonfiction titles aimed at younger readers with a J before the Dewey Decimal Number. For example, the call number for *The Underground Railroad* by Bonnie Bader is J973.7 Bader.

Family Values & Library Materials

The Marshall County Public Library collects materials that represent the wide variety of identities, moral values, religious beliefs, and political opinions held by the diverse citizens of Marshall County. We acknowledge that not every item in the collection is right for every patron, yet our goal is to provide every patron with material that is right for them. For this reason, we encourage parents to be active participants in their child's selection of library materials. Some ways you might do this is by being present when your child selects materials or talking with your child about the materials they checked out once you get home.

If you are having trouble finding materials that speak to your family's identity, moral values, religious beliefs, political opinions, or interests, please speak to a member of the staff about providing suggestions for materials to be purchased.

DVDs and Sound Recordings

DVDs and sound recordings (like CDs) are rated by the Motion Picture Association of America and Recording Industry Association of America. The Marshall County Public Library does not allow minors under the age of 17 to check out items rated by the MPAA or RIAA for adult use.

Online Content

At present, there are not parental controls that can be placed on Hoopla or Libby, the two apps that provide digital library materials.

Review Sources

To learn more about children's materials, the library recommends the following professional review sources: *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus*, *The Children's Book Review*, and *Publisher's Weekly*. Parents may also find Commonsense Media a helpful resource as it provides content warnings, age recommendations, and comments from other parents regarding the title.

Linked Accounts

It is possible to link a parent's library card to that of their child. (This is very helpful for those times when you're pretty sure a few books have found a hiding place under the bed.) To have your child's account linked to yours, please see a member of the library staff.

Accelerated Reader

Please note that AR levels are based on a mathematic formula to predict the level of reading difficulty for a book. It does not take into consideration content. Therefore, some books with low AR levels may not be appropriate for children. (For example, *Game of Thrones* is a 5.5 AR, but may not be appropriate for a 5th grader.)