

Zilker Elementary School

AUSTIN, TEXAS

THREE MAIN TAKEAWAYS

- Students feel a sense of accomplishment by spending time working on a paper draft of a book review when they finally get to post it online.
- Biblionasium is a good way for students to set and keep track of goals.
- Students share their reading with their peers online and the conversation extends verbally - their reading is a social experience.

Mrs. White is a 4th grade teacher at Zilker Elementary who coordinates with a teacher librarian. She wanted to use Goodreads for students to write book reviews, but found Biblionasium. She decided to use it instead because if a student is not in their network it anonymizes them.

How Mrs. White uses Biblionasium

She coordinates with her teacher librarian on challenges, but mainly uses it to keep track of the books that her students have read so they can recommend books to other kids in their grade level. What's important for her is for her students to learn how to construct reviews.

Mrs. White appreciates that they still read a physical book. Before they post their reviews online, students handwrite drafts. Students edit their own drafts and peer edit others' drafts before they are checked off with a teacher to post them online.

“I put all the kids that I taught in the same network. They like recommending books to kids in other classes.”



Benefits for Mrs. White and students

Biblionasium fosters a sense of accomplishment for Mrs. White's students. This makes them more excited to read for their own personal gain.

It also helps students to understand goal setting and gives them a platform to actually meet their goals. Mrs. White finds it helpful that these things can be tracked on the Biblionasium website.

“A lot of kids have trouble with being able to summarize something. I always tell them when they’re reading to make sure to take notes so they can write reviews.”

A technique that Mrs. White uses is to make sure that most of the aspects of reading are kept offline. For example, students take notes about what they read while they read. When they are done reading, they write summaries to recall the plot of the book.

Overall, Mrs. White found that Biblionasium was a good way to build a community out of her classroom that is based on reading.

The students feel like it is an accomplishment to be able to add things when they are done reading them and write reviews about them. This inspires students to read more books so they can track them online.



“Part of reading is not keeping the reading to yourself. Part of reading is sharing that experience and being able to talk to others about that experience.”