***Why we do the OLA Reading Programs***

“A well-balanced reading program will provide students with opportunities to read for the pleasure of discovering interesting information as well as for the pleasure of self-discovery, for self-enrichment, and for the sheer fun of it. Such reading activities are particularly important in the elementary grades, when attitudes towards reading and reading habits are first being formed. Reading experiences that invite students to discover new worlds and new experiences and to develop their imaginative powers will go a long way towards convincing them that reading can be a rich source of pleasure and knowledge. Such experiences are likely to lead to a love of reading, which is among the most valuable resources a students can take with them into adult life.”

(p 10 The Ontario Curriculum Grades 1-8 Language)

“Within each grade and from one grade to another, students should also have many opportunities to select their own reading materials. Frequent exposure to good writing will inspire students to work towards high standards in their own writing and will help them develop an appreciation for the power and beauty of the written word.”

(P.11 The Ontario Curriculum Grades 1-8 Language)

Which specific expectations we are hitting:

1.1-1.9 but mostly 1.8 which is Responding to and Evaluating Texts. When students are asked to vote, they are judging texts, which is a Level 5 question (out of 6) on the Revised Bloom’s Taxonomy of Skills.

As well, a study out of York University showed that boys who read more fiction than non-fiction are more empathetic than boys who read a steady diet of factual material. This lead researchers to hypothesize that by putting themselves in a character’s position when reading fiction enables boys to rehearse empathetic skills.