

Introduction

Hello, my name is Christine Alston. I am the media coordinator at Y. E. Smith Elementary. I am also called the media specialist, the library teacher, and that person you go to when your computer or password doesn't work.

I started at YES at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year as your librarian, but prior to that I was an ELA and social studies teacher. I have two adult daughters. My oldest daughter works at the VA Hospital in Durham. My youngest works at a record store in Wake County. I am also the grandmother of a little girl named Josie.

My goal as a library teacher is to help students find books that they 1) love and 2) can read by themselves or enjoy having someone read to them. I believe that becoming successful readers (and loving reading) will open up the world to children, helping them to value themselves and others.

Weeding

Just Weed It!

Library Girl's Tips For Keeping Your Collection...

IF THE ANSWER'S NO... IT'S GOT TO GO!

F

Does it **FOSTER** a Love of Reading?
The books in your library should help students see themselves as readers and make them want to read MORE.

R

Does it **REFLECT** your diverse population? Every student in your school should be able to see themselves in your collection.

E

Does it reflect an **EQUITABLE** global view? Your collection should represent a variety of view points and encourage global connections.

S

Does it **SUPPORT** the curricula? Your collection should be age & developmentally appropriate AND it should support the learning goals of your school.

H

Is it a **HIGH-QUALITY** text? Your collection should be made up of materials that connect your students and teachers to up to date and accurate information.



The [New York City School Library System](#) has a wonderful homepage filled with detailed explanations of ways that school librarians engage in weeding their libraries. I selected this image above to give you a general idea of what I mean when I say that I “weed” the library collection on a regular basis.

One criteria that is not mentioned anywhere on the NYCSLS page but that continues to be important in our county is how race and culture are represented in literature. I will always do my best to safeguard that race and culture are represented in ways that are appropriate for elementary school children. To the best of my knowledge, I have already removed all books that represent harmful representations of race and culture. There are some books based on true stories where the main character experiences hardships, Martin Luther King, Jr. being one of them. He endured racial slurs and unimaginable racism, yet his courage and persistence and leadership is the real story that shines through when the story is told.

If your child brings home a book for you to read to him/her and there are parts of the story you do not feel comfortable sharing because of your child’s age, you can always skip those parts or simply return the book unread. There’s always next week and a new book. However, if you feel strongly that a picture book should be moved to the older children’s fiction section, then please feel free to reach out to me. Please assume that I have your and your child’s best interest at heart. [My email address is christine_alston@dpsnc.net. My Google Voice number is 919-695-3818.] If you have concerns about your child checking out a specific title, please let me know that as well. You are the caretaker of your child’s heart and mind, and I totally support you in this matter.