

Choosing Books to Support Elementary Girls' Science Learning: Problem Handouts



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Scenario

Your cooperating teacher has noticed that the girls in her classroom are not participating in the hands-on science activities in the same ways that boys do. However, the girls do excel during other instruction, notably, during literacy activities. She wonders if there is a way to help girls engage with science by drawing on their literacy strengths. She has some ideas about ways to use books to support girls' learning. She needs your help in finding books that are most appropriate for this task, and preparing a grant application to request funds for these books. In this problem, you will determine what makes a 'good' science book, what qualities of science books make them most supportive of girls' science learning, select a and develop a grant proposal to obtain these text materials. Finally, you will present your request to a panel of evaluators.

How can we use good science books as a way to engage elementary girls in science learning? To address this question, we must first think about the following sub-questions:

- What's a "good" science book?
- Are there good books available in all science content areas?
- What kinds of science books appeal to girls?
- How do we use books in inquiry science to support girls' science learning?

