

Name: _____ Class: _____

I'm the Library Lady

By J. Patrick Lewis
2012

J. Patrick Lewis is an American poet and prose writer known for his children's poetry. In this poem, a speaker describes the books that can be found at the library. As you read, take notes on how the library lady feels about books.

- [1] If you're looking for good fiction,
Welcome to my jurisdiction¹
In the Dewey Decimal² yard.
I can find the perfect story,
- [5] Humor (goofy), vampire (gory),
Novels (grand), adventure (glory)...
Let me see your library card.

- No, there's nothing more exciting
For someone who's into writing
- [10] Than to fricassee³ a mind,
'Cause a book is like an oven —
What it's cookin' is book lovin'.
Set the temperature, then shove in
Every brain cell you can find.



"Universitätsbibliothek der TU Berlin" by it's time to get away... is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0.

"I'm the Library Lady" from If You Were a Chocolate Mustache by J. Patrick Lewis. Copyright © 2012 by J. Patrick Lewis. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence describes the theme of the poem?
 - A. In order to find books, you need to know how they are sorted.
 - B. The books you find in the library will make you love reading.
 - C. Only people who like to write will enjoy reading a book.
 - D. Once you start a book, it's impossible to put it down.

2. PART B: Which lines from the poem best support the answer to Part A?
 - A. Lines 3-4
 - B. Lines 8-9
 - C. Lines 11-12
 - D. Lines 13-14

3. What does stanza 1 say about the books in the library?
 - A. The books are educational.
 - B. The books are outside.
 - C. The library has different kinds of books.
 - D. The books in the library are boring.

4. What does the phrase "to fricassee a mind" mean as used in stanza 2?

1. The poem lists several different genres, or kinds, of books. What kinds of books do you like to read and why?
2. The librarian in the poem loves books. Think about the teachers and librarians at your school – how do they feel about books? What reasons do they give for why reading books is important? How do you feel about books?