Pembina Hills Book Award:

Or...How to Get Grade Nines to Actually Read a Book, Amidst a World Filled with Digital Distractions

Context

- ❏ We are classroom teachers
  - ❏ AISI--16 years ago! *(Thanks, Judy...)*
  - ❏ Continued collaboration

Project Background

- ❏ Observations:
    - ❏ Fewer students read for pleasure
    - ❏ The literacy skills of our students are declining
    - ❏ Stamina is diminishing
    - ❏ Students in high school struggle to meet the demands

Our Guiding Beliefs

- ❏ Reading is important
- ❏ Given the following conditions, grade nines will read:
    - ❏ Quality books
    - ❏ Limited choice (too much choice is intimidating)
    - ❏ Time in class to read
    - ❏ Opportunities to share
    - ❏ A supportive and enthusiastic environment

Process: Before

- ❏ Before:
  - ❏ Preparations and invitations
    - ❏ 5 schools
    - ❏ 10 teachers
    - ❏ 13 diverse grade 9 classes
    - ❏ 239 students

Process: During

- ❏ During:
  - ❏ Baseline measures
    - ❏ Survey
    - ❏ Written component
  - ❏ Introducing the books
  - ❏ Expectations
    - ❏ 5 books, 1 novel, 75-90 minutes/week

Process: After

- ❏ After:
  - ❏ Post-project measures
    - ❏ Survey
    - ❏ Business letter
  - ❏ Teacher meeting
    - ❏ Adjustments for next year
      - ❏ Add more genres--horror/humour/fantasy
      - ❏ Start earlier

Initial Impressions from Data

- ❏ Initially
  - ❏ Many students saw themselves as nonreaders
    - ❏ 38% do not want to read, ever
    - ❏ 8% had not read one book (Sept.-Dec.)
    - ❏ 60% had read 1-5 books (Sept.-Dec.)
  - ❏ 30% are lapsed readers

Impressions from Post-Project Data

- ❏ The majority of students complied with the 5 books, one novel requirement
- ❏ 91% of students say the project should continue
- ❏ Every student found at least one book that they enjoyed
- ❏ Many students expressed appreciation for being able to participate in the project

Moving Forward: Next Year

❏ Keep the most read titles

❏ Add a limited number of titles - mostly novels

❏ All participating teachers have been invited to help choose additional books

> ❏ Books have been purchased and provided

Final Project Costs

2017-18

- ❏ Approx. $500/class
- ❏ TOTAL: $6000

2018-19

- ❏ Approx. $200/class
- ❏ Additional classes?
- ❏ TOTAL: $2500