

Motivating Boys to Read
A Review of Gregg Toppo's USA Today Article
"Funny but boys do read" July 6,2005 page 8D

Gregg Toppo , a writer for USA Today, was concerned with the national figures showing the girls read more and better than boys. He turned to children's author and former elementary school teacher Jon Scieszka for some answers. Jon Scieszka explains if you want to get boys to read you must make them laugh. There is something about boys and humor and humor is the hook to get boys reading. Secondly, Scieszka reminds us to chose books that boys like. Boys are not into "Charlotte's Web" or "Little House on the Prairie". Boys identify these selections with reading and decide reading is not for them.

So what motivates boys to read? Scieszka's non-profit literacy initiative posts books boys like to read on GUYS READ WEBSITE/ www.guysread.com. Scieszka says boys like action, adventure and science fiction. Scieszka says sometimes you have to start with Lemony Snicket or Roald Dahl to get boys hooked so they can move on to other forms of reading. Scieszka, co-creator of "The Stinky Cheese Man and other Fairly Stupid Tales", has collected 921 humorous stories by male authors in a new book titled "Guys Write for Guys READ".

Here are some suggested books by Jon Scieszka that boys will like:

No, David by Dave Shannon
George and Martha by James Marshall
How Angel Peterson Got His Name by Gary Paulsen
Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
Artemis Fowl books by Eoin Colfer
Alex Rider Books by Anthony Horowitz

Reading is such a treasured life skill. Hopefully, one of these books will open that world to one of your reluctant readers.