



OPENDOORS

a new way for youth to find books they'll love in places they wouldn't expect

What is OpenDoors?

OpenDoors is a readers' advisory program aimed at middle- and high-school-aged readers. Our goal was to adapt librarian Nancy Pearl's concept of the "four doorways" of adult readers' advisory (plot, setting, character, and language) for use with YA works. Working with St. Thomas School, our team created an informational poster, bookmarks, and a Tumblr blog. Students are provided with a number of titles as a starting point and encouraged to explore further and to share their own discoveries via Tumblr. For some readers, these materials may get them thinking about why they enjoy the books they do and encourage them to seek out more diverse reading materials; others may use the categories simply as a field of suggested titles to draw from. In either case, they will be finding new books and actively considering what they liked about them and why.



COMPONENTS:

1) OpenDoors Tumblr: digital readers' advisory

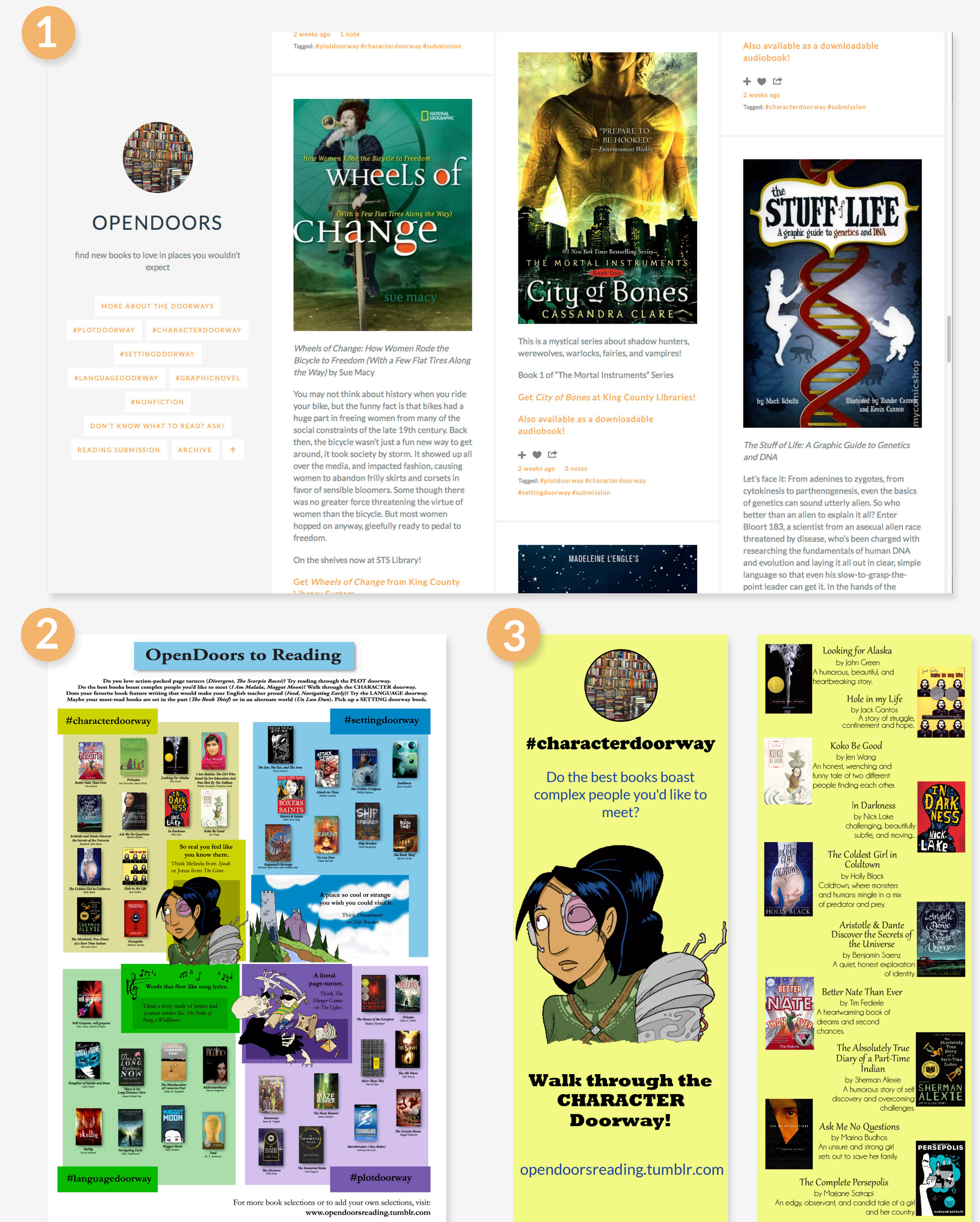
We used Tumblr, since many kids in this age group are familiar with the format & tagging system. Plus, students don't need Tumblr accounts to add books to the blog; they simply enter their email. The blog features a bar on the left to filter books by Doorway (plot, character, language and setting) & by nonfiction and graphic novel offerings.

2) Large posters for around school campuses

Our group artist Steph created original artwork to represent each of the Doorways in the center, with some favorite recent YA books fanning out around the images organized by Doorways. These posters were placed around STS, including in both libraries.

3) Bookmarks

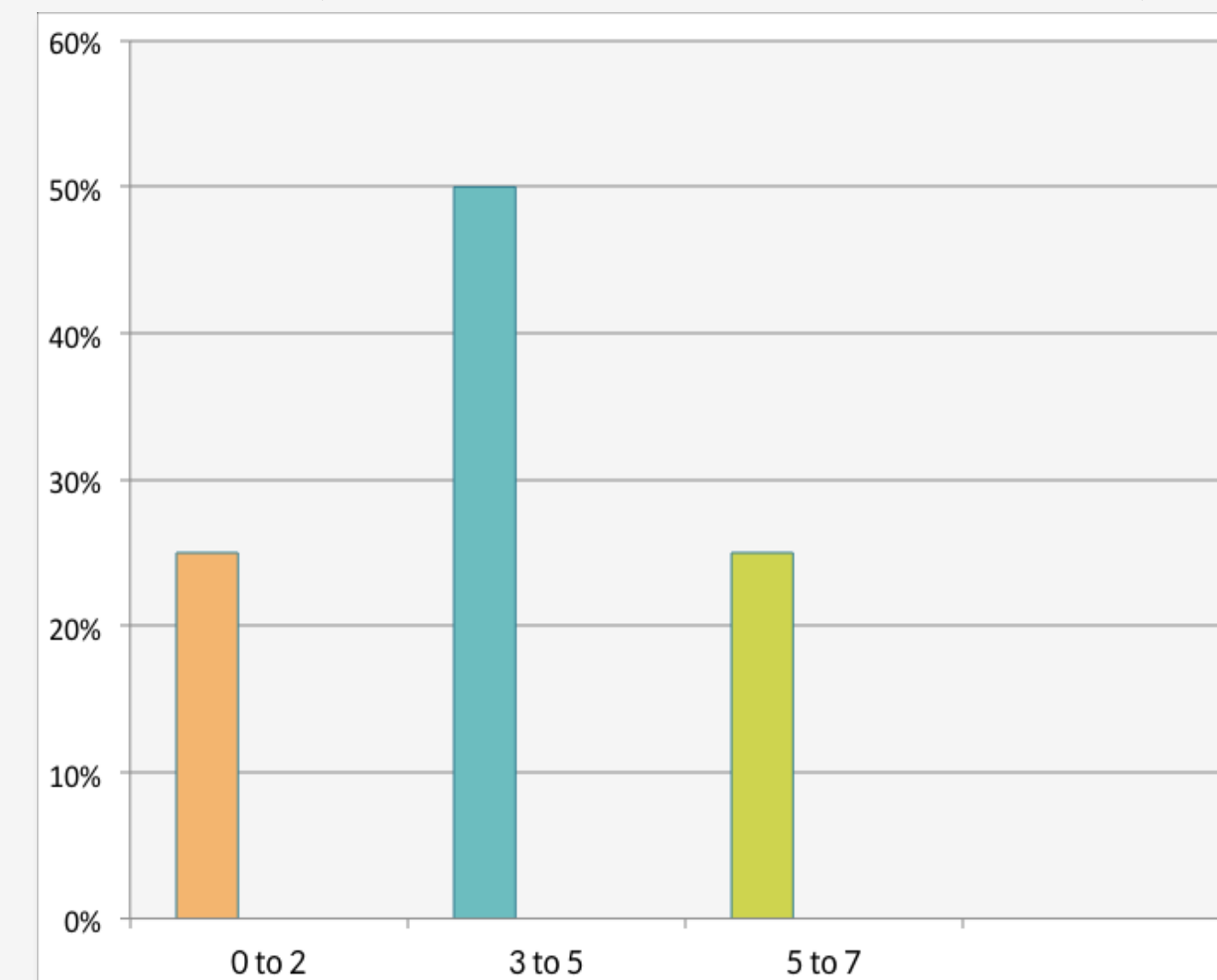
Lastly, we created bookmarks with a scaled-down version of the poster art and recommended booklists to place in stacks under the poster displays so students could have something to take with them that also has the blog's web address printed on it. Readers' advisory to go!



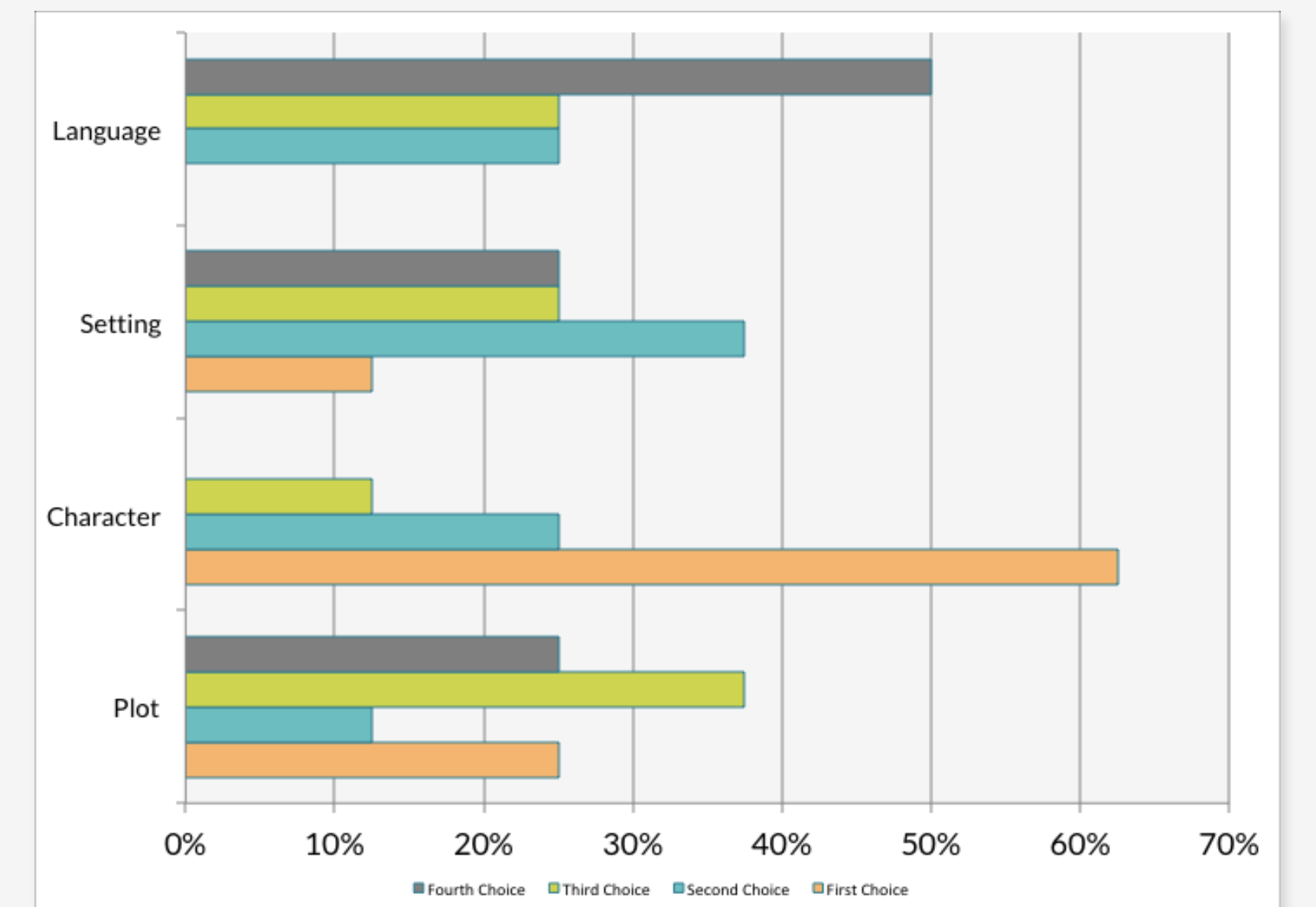
OUTCOMES:

- introduced "doorways" concept to approximately 100 middle school students
- provided handoff document to STS librarian for future use and adaptation
- utilized Tumblr to create a reading-centric platform for finding and sharing YA books
- added 120 books with reviews and links (20 youth posts, 100 MLIS posts)

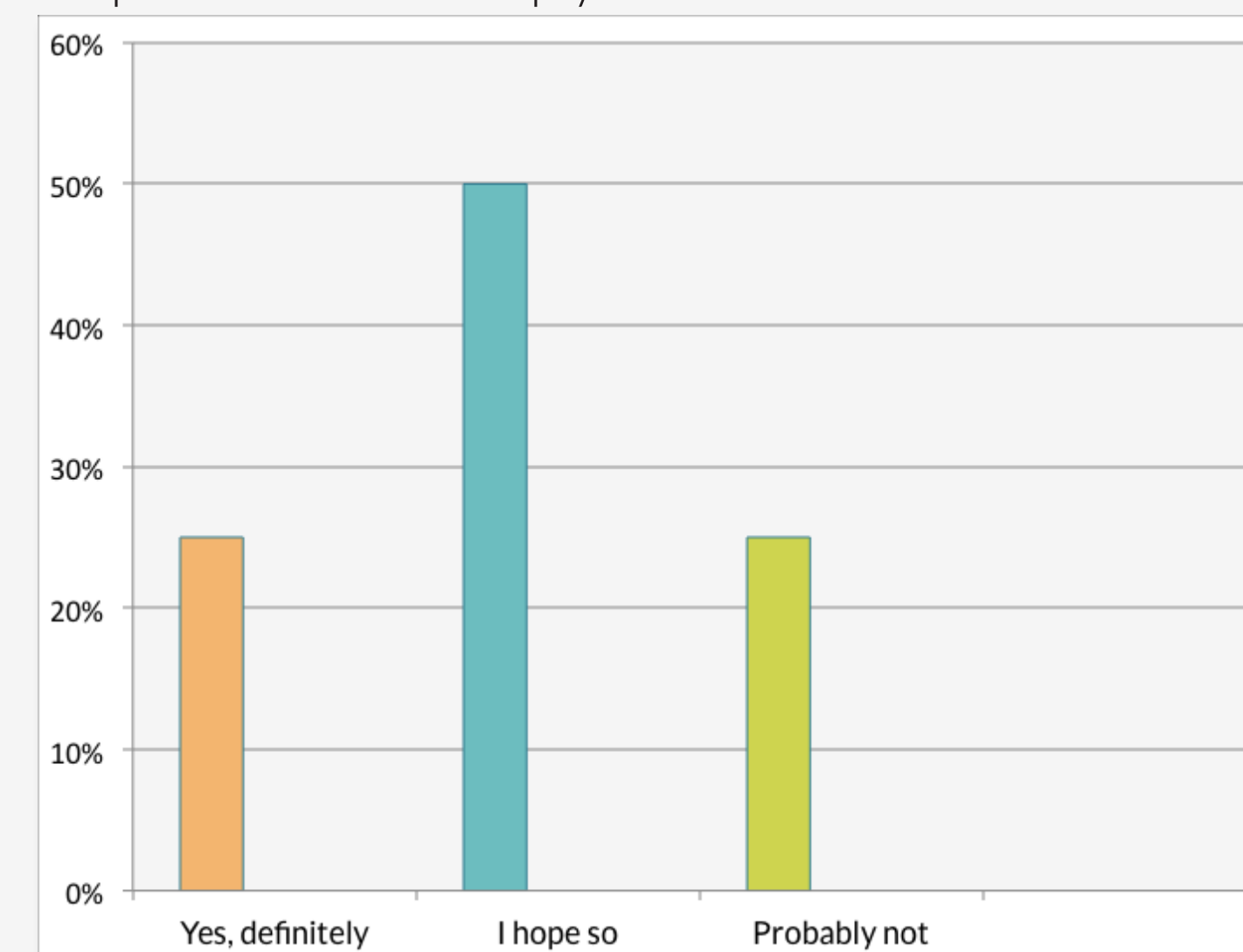
About how many books do you read per month (for school or outside of school)?



Rank your top doorway from your favorite (#1) to your least favorite (#4)



Do you think using an interactive online tool like OpenDoors will help you find more books to read?



Have you used the OpenDoors blog to find books?

