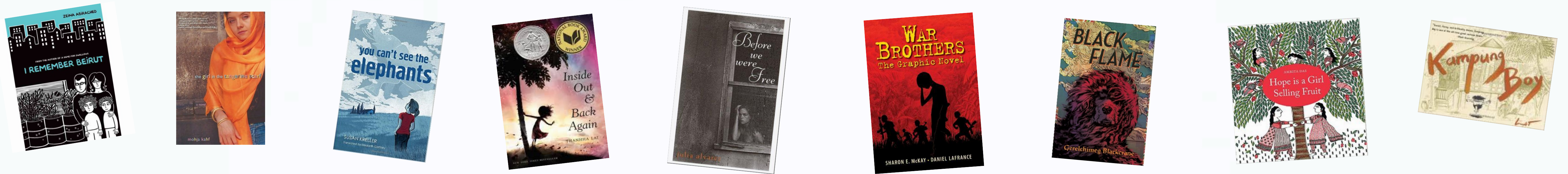


# International and Multicultural Resource Collection Development at Willows Preparatory School

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## Site Background:

Opened in 2014, Willows Preparatory School (WPS) is a 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade private middle school affiliated with Bellevue Children's School. Currently 65 students are enrolled, most from multicultural and international backgrounds. The curriculum is internationally focused and interdisciplinary, resulting in cohesive educational program. Additionally, as a Microsoft Showcase school each student is given a Surface tablet upon entering the program.



## Project Description:

The library at WPS is in its infancy, and allowing the librarian to cultivate the collection specifically to the needs of the student body, faculty, and curriculum. Currently she is focused on immediate requests but needs to have a collection that reflects the international and multicultural focus of the school's International Baccalaureate curriculum.

## Groundwork with stakeholders:

### Faculty

Interviews with each staff member helped to understand what the unique atmosphere WPS has cultivated. Some faculty want a diverse collection, others are focused on research guides and digital resources.

### Students

Students use the library primarily for pleasure reading, and use their Surfaces for any research needs.

### Parents

Want the tuition and fundraising they do to create a robust and diverse library that features literary classics as well as age appropriate current books.

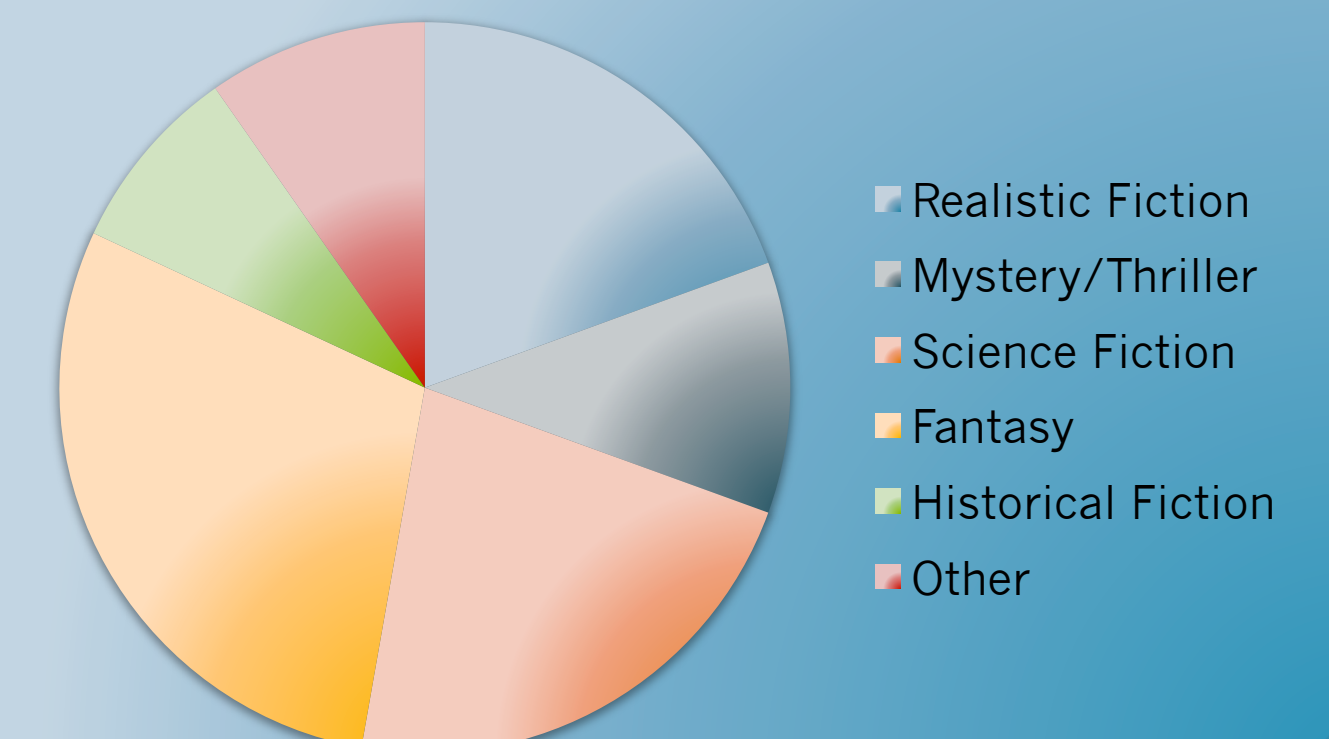
## Student Survey

More than half the student body answered our questions. Here were a couple favorite responses:

"More books about people based on movies like *The Martian* and *Concussion*."

"There should be a battle of the books, after reading a list of books that you give out, you ask questions from the book and the team that gets the most correct wins."

### Genre Preferences of WPS Students



## General Project Timeline and Results:

1. Fiction collection analysis: gifted materials, and many current books published between the opening of the school and present.
2. Research on international and multicultural materials: recommendations for librarian primarily based on ALA award winning books, USBBY, and other collection development guides.
3. Interview administration: the school administrator is looking to have a library collection that will engage students and encourage interaction with both fiction and non-fiction resources.
4. Interview faculty: the faculty feedback was extremely varied. One suggested the non-fiction collection was useless since most student would use the internet; others require their students to check out a variety of books for projects, or that they had plans to work closely with the new library in the future.
5. Interview parent association president: a primary concern was making sure resources were the right fit for students, but also having a mix of classics, popular fiction, and a good non-fiction section for research.
6. Student survey: the students were eager to share what they would like in the library, many responses were more comfortable seating.
7. Resource guide for librarian: created for the librarian to save her time for the future

## Future Plans:

- The library can make purchases for new titles based on the resources cultivated.
- Using the data collected, WPS will develop a Collection Development Policy that can address user needs, and support ongoing international and multicultural resource curation.
- Focus on highlighting excellent new books for students through book talks and readers advisory.

