**My Initial Question:**

Sorry if you're getting hit twice through cross posting.  One of my teachers tutors a 6th grade boy and his mom asked for reading suggestions for him, specifically in magazine form at grade level.  As a girls' high school librarian with grown children, I'm at a loss.  I have looked at NoveList, mostly because we heard a *great* presentation from an Ebsco rep at our recent MAME 17 spring meeting.  I know they provide Lexile ratings on many  books, read-alikes, and a multitude of ways to search and limit searches.  I will show this to the teacher for sharing with the parent.  However, NoveList covers books, which the parent said he is reluctant to read, hence my request for magazine suggestions.  
  
If you have any suggestions to pass along, please email me off list and I will compile a hit list and share it!  Thanks for your collective wisdom and experience.

**Responses**

Boys Life –it is the magazine of the Boy Scouts organization but there is a lot of information in it that any boy would enjoy – gaming, outdoors, sports, fitness, comics. I have it here in my Teen department.

Sian Marshall, MLIS  
*Head of Teen Services*Oxford Public Library  
530 Pontiac St  
Oxford, MI 48371

What about***Sports Illustrated for Kids* and *Boys' Life*** magazine?   
  
According to the *Boys' Life* FAQ:   
Boys' Life publishes three demographic editions to meet the reading-level needs of subscribers from first  
grade through high school. The covers are the same, but each demographic edition has its own contents  
page and 16 to 20 age-specific pages.  
• LOW demographic goes to all Tiger Cub and Cub Scout subscribers through age 8.  
• MIDDLE demographic goes to all other youth and adult subscribers registered in Cub Scouting.  
• HIGH demographic goes to all subscribers registered in Boy Scouting.  
  
I think if you purchase a general subscription from their site or Amazon (as opposed to being enrolled in scouting) you get the middle demographic. While it's been many years since I read a Boys' Life magazine cover-to-cover, I believe they would be about the interest and reading level you desire.  
  
According to the***Sports Illustrated for Kids*** magazine website, their target readership is ages 8 through 15, with a median readership age of 11.2.  
  
Regards,  
Jessica Little

-- Library Director T.A. Cutler Memorial Library 312 Michigan Ave. St. Louis, MI 48880 (989) 681-5141  
  
MAKE magazine might be fun, though I believe it’s aimed at adults – all about DIY of various stripes, like electronics, robotics, computers, crafts, etc. Maybe an independent zine? Independent zines are sometimes intended for an older audience and might deal with controversial topics, so your mileage may vary. Here’s someone who does a craft/DIY-based zine: [http://www.craftleftovers.com/\_shop/product-tag/zine/](http://www.craftleftovers.com/_shop/product-tag/zine/" \t "_blank). Here’s a zine-swap site: [http://www.swap-bot.com/](http://www.swap-bot.com/" \t "_blank)

 Videogame magazines might be worth considering, but they tend to be a series of ads for new games aimed at the highschool/adult market.

There’s also a magazine called **Teen Ink,** written by teens for other teens.

 I know magazines were the preferred media, but you might also consider some of the Instructables books – they’re produced by and based on tutorials on instructables.com, lots of cool projects.  Good luck! Please let us know how it turns out!  
  
Gillian Streeter, Youth Services Librarian, Norton Shores Branch, Muskegon Area District Library, [gstreeter@madl.org](mailto:gstreeter@madl.org)

I know this is off the grid but my kid learned to read by reading **comic books.** He wouldn’t look at a book and we were in the store one day and he disappeared and I found him reading comic books.  Of course, that was many years ago but I am sure she could still find some around.    S. [Shirley Roos via MichLib]

I don't know what his interests are, but **Muse Magazine** (published by the Smithsonian) is a great one with a higher reading level.  
 Lynn Gordon – School Media Specialist – Clarkston ? via MAMEList

Hi Katy,  
  
interesting question.  Have you looked at the YALSA resources at the ALA site?  Although they focus on books, this link is for reluctant young readers and might offer something the teen will use.  Good luck.  
  
[http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2014-top-ten-quick-picks-reluctant-young-adult-readers](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2014-top-ten-quick-picks-reluctant-young-adult-readers" \t "_blank)   
  
Eunice Borrelli  
MeL Internet Librarian, Library of Michigan  
Sent using OWA for iPad

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Steven K. Bowers (sbowers@wayne.edu)

[https://col131.mail.live.com/ol/clear.gif](https://col131.mail.live.com/ol/)

To: K. Koskela

I know my kids' school likes **Time Magazine for Kids**.  There is a print copy and online: [http://www.timeforkids.com/](http://www.timeforkids.com/" \t ")

-Steve

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Swanger, Kathy (School Library Media Specialist via MAMEList

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To: 'kakoskela@hotmail.com'

Just thought of this one too, does he like Anime? There are a lot of Manga magazine - Shonen Jump is what I'm thinking???

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Has the parent considered **graphic novels**? Perhaps the **Bone series?** My MS kids like that one quite a bit. My 5th graders also like the **Baby Mouse** series. Just a thought.  
   
Amy Sue  
   
Amy Sue Manley, MLIS, ND  
District Librarian  
Parchment Schools

On Tue, May 5, 2015 at 12:14 PM, Mary Hofman <[mhofman@hollandchristian.org](mailto:mhofman@hollandchristian.org" \t "_blank)> wrote:

These are big with 5th and 6th grade boys at my schools.

Boys' Life

Ride BMX

Sports Illustrated for Kids  
  
Mary Hofman   
Elementary Librarian  
Holland Christian Schools

Do not know the lexile – but my nephew, age 11 and an average reader, like **Sports Illustrated for Kids and National Geographic** for Kids.  
  
Terri Luzenske

Media Specialist/Librarian, Hackett Catholic Central HS

My son is a reluctant reader and really likes **Motocross Action Magazine**. **Sports Illustrated for Kids** is also a good one.

Claire Gillespie  
Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library   
(Saint Joseph Public Library)  
500 Market Street  
Saint Joseph, MI  49085

Mad

Dig

National Geographic Kids

Sports Illustrated for Kids

Sports Illustrated

Rolling Stone

Ranger Rick

Hip Hop Weekly  (if he likes rap)

Revolver  (if he likes hard rock)

ESPN

Slam  (if he likes basketball)

Outside  (if he is an outdoorsy kid)

A lot of boys that age also like People & Entertainment

They should also google magazines specific to the kid's interests or hobbies.  Skateboarding?  Video games? ??  Also, there are a lot more online zines/magazines available than in print.

My two cents:  If they want to motivate him to read recreationally, the mother & teacher should offer reading materials based on his interests, not the reading level.  I am talking from 30 years of experience here.

Boys that age often prefer well-illustrated nonfiction to fiction :  DK books [this is the publisher] & *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Have they tried cartoons/comics or kid-appropriate manga/anime?

Have they tried the Bluford series from [www.townsendpress.com](http://www.townsendpress.com/" \t "_blank)?  Orca & Saddleback publishers also have high/low [high interest/low reading level] books that kids like.

*Cynthia Dooley*

*Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility Library*

*1326 St. Antoine*

*Detroit, MI  48226*

*313-967-2132   fax 313-967-2009*

*Email [cjpdooley@yahoo.com](mailto:cjpdooley@yahoo.com" \t "_blank)*

*[cdooley@co.wayne.mi.us](mailto:cdooley@co.wayne.mi.us" \t "_blank)*