**Dewey Decimal Lesson for Second Grade**

**AASL Standards**

1.1.2 - Use prior and background knowledge as context for new learning.

2.1.5 - Collaborate with others to exchange ideas, develop new understandings, make decisions, and solve problems.

2.2.3 - Employ a critical stance in drawing conclusions by demonstrating that the pattern of evidence leads to a decision or conclusion.

3.2.2 - Show social responsibility by participating actively with others in learning situations and by contributing questions and ideas during group discussions.

  

**Group size:** small group activity, whole class discussion

**Materials:** about 8 books per group - at least two from different hundreds sections of the DDS (2 from the 500s, 2 from the 700s, etc.). The books should have something obvious in common - don’t pair inventions and cats from the 600s, for example. Instead, use cats and dogs.



**Activity:** Have the students sort the books into categories that make sense to them. Note: At this point it doesn’t matter if they are right or wrong in terms of the DDS, just that they have a sound reason for sorting them the way they did.

After each group is done, have each one share at least one of their pairs - which two books they grouped together, and why. Explain that’s how the non-fiction section is organized, too. A man named Melvil Dewey was tired of not being able to find the books he wanted in different libraries, so he created a system that is still used in over 90% of our libraries today.

If any students have paired up books that are paired in the DDS, hold them up and give the topic - pets, transportation, etc. Emphasize how confusing it used to be - cats and dogs were filed alphabetically in one library, by color in another, by size in a third, by author in a fourth, etc.

**Assessment:** Observation by librarian during the activity

  

Disclaimer: This activity is my own idea, and the clip art is from a stated Public Domain site you can find here: <http://openclipart.org/>