

## School (Grades 7-12) Demo Searches for NoveList

*Below is a selection of demonstration searches for NoveList in schools. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE NOVELIST K-8 SEARCHES (NoveList K-8 Sample Searches are available at <http://support.epnet.com>, where all NoveList K-8 support materials are listed). As such, the assumed school population is high school or middle school (grades 7-12).*

### **SEARCH #1 (Find a Favorite Author):**

Your goal is to inspire your high school English students to read for pleasure. The distractions of TV, DVDs, sports, etc. are limiting the time they devote to reading. You decide to "lure" them in by focusing on one of their favorite authors, Michael Crichton.

1. Select the "Search Our Database" tab.
2. Select the "Find a Favorite Author" link.
3. Enter "Crichton, Michael." (You can also type in "michael crichton" or "crichton michael" without the comma.)
4. Click on first record that appears in list and scroll down the record to the link to Michael Crichton's website. Click on the website link and navigate through interesting facts about the author.
5. Return to the list to see all the books written by Michael Crichton.

### **SEARCH #2 (Finding "Page-Turning" Fiction for Your Reluctant Readers):**

It's book report time and the English teacher has allowed students to make their own choices. A student who is not a book lover asks you for a title that is "not boring." Here are two search suggestions:

- (1) Explore Fiction:
  - a. Select the "Browse Lists" tab.
  - b. Select the link for "Young Adult" under the Explore Fiction heading.
  - c. Click on "Contemporary."
  - d. Click on "Different Drummers."or
- (2) Describe a Plot:
  - a. Select the "Search Our Database" tab.
  - b. Select the link for Describe a Plot.
  - c. Type in: "fast-paced thrillers."
  - d. Limit your search to the YA reading level.
  - e. Click "Search."

### **SEARCH #3 (Finding Novels to Correlate to a History Unit):**

The history teacher is introducing students to the topic of civil rights, especially in relation to African-Americans. The teacher would like a list of novels about African-American teenagers that students could read as a part of this unit.

#### Describe a Plot

1. Select the "Search Our Database" tab.
2. Select the link for "Describe a Plot."
3. Type in: "African-American teenagers civil rights."
4. Select Young Adult level in the Limiters box and click "Search."

### **SEARCH #4 (Finding Novels in a Series):**

A student comes to the library saying that her friend told her about a cool series that had something about circles in the title. She can't remember the author but thinks she would recognize it if she heard it.

1. Select the "Search Our Database" tab.
2. Select the link for "Find a Series Name."
3. Type in: "circle" and select Young Adult for the reading level limiter.

#### **Search Results:**

NoveList retrieves five series, two of which are by Tamora Pierce, whom the student recognizes as the author she is seeking. You can click the link for either series, "Circle of Magic" or "Circle Opens," to view the titles (in series order) included in each.

### **SEARCH #5 (Using a Favorite Book to Find Other Books):**

A seventh grade student has just finished reading Pat McKissack's *A Picture of Freedom*. She tells you that really enjoyed reading it. You use this opportunity to help this student learn more about her reading interests and to find more books.

1. Use "Find A Favorite Title" to locate the NoveList record for *A Picture of Freedom*.
2. Have the student examine the title record for McKissack's book.
3. Click on "Find Similar Books" and then scroll down and click on the "clear" button at the bottom of the list of subject headings.
4. Ask the student to look at the subject headings contained in the record and select the subjects that are most important (have to have or "Required") to her. She can also select "nice to have" subjects (Desired column).
5. The student says that one of the things that interested her about the book was that it described what it was like for a 12 year-old girl living in the past.
6. Instruct the student to click on the "history" and "twelve-year old girls" subject headings in the Required column, then to click on the "search" button. A list of historical fiction books with twelve-year-old girls is displayed.

This search returns dozens of titles containing these two subject headings for this reader. You could also use clickable subject headings at the title record to find books with these subject headings, but your results would be at all reading levels. Find Similar Books

allows the use of Limiters (and by default, searches for books at the same level as the title you begin with).

### **SEARCH #6 (Creating a Customized Summer Reading List):**

It is the end of the year and you have asked your fifth grade class to create their own reading list for the summer. You ask that they create a list of 5-10 titles and commit to reading 4 of the titles during the summer. One of the books they read should be an award-winning title.

There are several ways that NoveList could be used in this way:

#### Explore Fiction

1. Click the "Browse Lists" tab.
2. Select the link for Children's level under the Explore Fiction heading.
3. Look through icons of interest. (Some students may be interested in fantasy, others in stories about family or history.)
4. Let students select the areas of interest and browse through a few of the titles.

#### Best Fiction

1. Click the "Browse Lists" tab and select the link for "Best Fiction."
2. Select the link for Children's level under the Best Fiction heading.
3. Select an award winning title. Students may need guidance.
4. If you select "Literary," you can print out lists of titles from many award lists, including the ALA Notable Children's Awards, Coretta Scott King Awards, Newbery Awards and others).

#### BookTalks

1. Click the "For Readers" tab and select the link for "BookTalks, Children's Level."
2. Print and pass out BookTalks of interest. These short enticing descriptions of books whet young appetites for reading.

Each of the above selections can be addressed at the Young Adult level for older students.

### **SEARCH #7 (Finding Books that Support World Literature Curriculum):**

The tenth grade English class is covering World Literature. Although the class will read several titles together as a class, they will be asked to select a book written by a foreign author to read for independent reading.

1. Select the "School Resources" tab.
2. Click the link (under Teaching with Fiction) for Middle School and High School Articles.

3. Click the link for the archives and scroll down until you see the link for "Opening the World Story" (the articles are in alphabetical order by title). You can read, use or print out the "quiz" on world authors with an accompanying bibliography.

### **SEARCH #8 (Finding Books by Lexile Score):**

One of your reluctant readers really enjoyed *Holes* by Louis Sachar. He liked the fact that it was about boys his age (eleven years old). You would like to find some more books to keep this student reading but want to be sure that they do not frustrate his new interest in reading.

1. Access NoveList and select the "Search Our Database" tab.
2. Select "Find a Favorite Title" by clicking on the link.
3. Enter "holes" in the edit box. Set the limiters for Young Adult and Children's reading levels. Click the "Search" button.
4. *Holes* is one of the titles on the return list. Note that it has a lexile of 660.
5. Click the "Search Our Database" tab again.
6. Select Boolean Search by clicking on the link.
7. Enter "eleven year old boys" in the first edit box. Scroll down to the Limit Your Results box and make sure that Young Adult and Children's levels are selected. At the Lexile rating, enter a Lexile score 50 below and 100 above the score of the book; in this case, 610 to 760.
8. Click the "Search" button.
9. NoveList returns a list of about 70 titles about eleven year old boys within the Lexile range you entered.

### **Additional Tips:**

- You could further narrow the search by entering more or different descriptors based on the reader's interests.
- You could select the actual title record for *Holes*, then use Find Similar Books and include Lexiles as one of the limiters in that search.