

DESCRIPTION OF SUCCESSFUL READING PROGRAMME	
<b>PROGRAMME TITLE: Wissens-Trolley (Science Trolley)</b> <b>PROGRAMME ORGANISER(S): Österreichischer Buchklub der Jugend (Austrian Book Club for Young People) in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research</b>	
<b>Description Created by LiRe Partner Institution: The Institute for Children's Literature</b>	
Time & Place	Target Group(s)
Since 2008 - ongoing	Each year two packages of the best non-fiction books for two age groups – primary school and secondary school – are proposed to schools. Ages: (6-9, 10-14)
<b>Short Description (Max. 200 words)</b>	
<p>Reading is not just about reading fiction. This programme is devoted to non-fiction and presents a selection of the best non-fiction books for children and young people in a calendar year. In cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research and the Journal "Book Culture," and with the help of a specialized jury and the participation of young readers, the best non-fiction Book of the Year is selected. The books forming the shortlist for the price are then divided in two age groups (below and above 5th grade). The Book Club prepares teaching materials for working with these books in the classroom. Questions about the books help children towards a better understanding of the scientific contents. Packages are made, which include the short-listed non-fiction books of the year the relevant educational material; any interested school can borrow them. This Science Trolley programme goes directly to schools. School libraries can also complement their collections of children's non-fiction. Especially important is the educational material which provides pleasure and enjoyment when reading non-fiction books.</p>	
<b>Objectives (General &amp; Specific)</b>	
<p><b>General Objective:</b> To promote reading (especially of non-fiction) and knowledge.</p> <p><b>Specific objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To develop reading culture among children of different age groups.</li> <li>- To stimulate curiosity about science.</li> <li>- To promote reading through non-fiction books in different fields.</li> <li>- To facilitate children's access to non-fiction books.</li> <li>- To stimulate children's and young people's interest in the unknown.</li> <li>- To create interest and fascination in research work in the minds young people.</li> <li>- To develop reading skills through the use of non-fiction books.</li> <li>- To emphasise the importance of science communication and the necessity to make the</li> </ul>	

results of scientific research work available to a wider public.

- To develop the ability to read and understand scientific texts.
- To use and practise different reading strategies for reading information.

**Scheme of Reading Promotion Actions & Activities**

A panel of specialists in different scientific fields as well as in the field of children’s literature selects a shortlist from the non-fiction books published in the previous year.

After that the young readers vote for the best non-fiction book of the year.

As a supporting action, bookshops and public libraries in Austria organize the Science Week.

The main fields in which non-fiction books are selected are: Medicine and Biology; Natural and Technical sciences; Humanities and Social sciences; Junior Books.

Then the Book Club develops worksheets and pedagogical exercises for these books in order to bring science closer to children and young people. The relevant material is published in the form of a booklet and together with the books from the shortlist is lent to each school that would like to work with the books.

Each year two packages of the best non-fiction books for two age groups – primary school and secondary school – are offered to schools. Schools can borrow the books for free.

**Results / Indicators of Success**

This initiative is in its fifth year and always attracts new readers and engages young people’s interest in science.

More than 20 000 readers take part in the selection of the best non-fiction book of the year.

Authors of the works selected for the shortlist are usually successful in presenting their research area from an unexpected perspective, thus encouraging curiosity in science.

Access of students to the best non-fiction books is facilitated.

The number of orders for the books from the Science Trolley packages increases every year.

**CONCLUSIONS**  
(WHAT WORKED WELL AND WHY)

In the past years, the sale of non-fiction books is booming on the market. The authors of these books combine new knowledge with excitement and entertainment, ensuring the success of the books.

Lots of studies show that many young people are especially interested in the sciences and non-fiction reading. Through working with non-fiction books they can develop their reading and understanding abilities, especially where complicated scientific topics are concerned. The Science Trolley is an important contribution to developing reading skills and enhancing reading habits.

Many young people are interested in different scientific topics. Lots of non-fiction books for children and young people are published every year, but there are not many projects dealing with non-fiction. The merit of this project is that it focuses on non-fiction. With the Science Trolley, the Austrian Book Club for Young People promotes reading and knowledge at the same time.

The activities proposed for each book show how to work with the scientific books in the classroom and provide impulses for teacher development and student creativity.

#### LINKS TO FURTHER MATERIAL

[www.buchklub.at/](http://www.buchklub.at/)