

December 20, 2018

The Beacon Society
c/o Susan Z. Diamond, Grant Committee Chair
16W603 Third Ave.

Dear Ms. Diamond,

The Swampscott Middle School Library/Media Center was thrilled to receive the Jan Stauber 2018 grant from The Beacon Society for the Sherlock Holmes Scavenger Hunt. The scavenger hunt class was designed to teach 5th and 6th grade students how to use the online catalog and to understand the difference between fiction and non-fiction. Students worked in teams to find 10 books based on clues. They had to remember where things were located in the library and read the clues closely. Teamwork was a must.

The first year the class was offered, students said it would be great to have prizes. The Jan Stauber grant allowed the library to award Sherlock Holmes books as prizes to the winning teams. These students not only completed the scavenger hunt first, but they correctly followed the clues. Members of each team presented results and had to explain to the whole class how they found the books and which were the hardest and easiest to locate. This meant that the students were teaching their classmates.

For the grant, two different Sherlock Holmes scavenger hunts were designed; one for 5th graders and one for 6th graders. The class began with a discussion about Sherlock Holmes. Photos I took of Sherlock Holmes locations in London were displayed. Students were asked what they knew about Sherlock Holmes. Then, we discussed how his strengths were traits the students should use to complete the scavenger hunt. The 6th graders, in most cases, were more familiar with Sherlock Holmes than the 5th graders. But all were thrilled to win the books. I had three different titles so that each team member could get a different book.

Some of the comments from the students included, "I wish we could do this every time we come to the library." And, "do we really get to KEEP the books?" For the purposes of the school, the fact that the students felt that they really learned about using the online catalog and locating information meant that we met our goal – and students enjoyed doing it.

For student safety, a selection of photos of the students holding the books they won will be sent by US mail. That way, there was no concern with online photos being re-posted. If you need more photos, please let us know – only a selection was sent. Besides this report, we attached to the email the invoice for the books, the two different scavenger hunts, Holmes photos and the lesson description. We were able to spend less than we originally thought by buying directly from Dover Publications. We only spent \$255, instead of the initial estimate of \$364.

Thank you, again, for this great opportunity.

Sincerely,

Sandy Moltz, Librarian/Media Specialist
Swampscott Middle School
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