

# More than books at library

There are dead polliwogs encased in Lucite in the children's room of the Farmington library.

There's also a dead bat in Lucite and a live hamster in an aquarium.

In recent years, the library has been proving that there's a bit more than musty old volumes in the building on Liberty in Farmington.

And youngsters don't seem to mind a bit. It was business as usual for the li-

brary during National Library Week.

"Neato" is the term Lisa Samra, 11, of Farmington, had for the polliwog series she just checked out from the library.

"O grosso" was the lyrical term one of her friends found for the furry cricket in Lucite.

Afternoon in the library means checking out the realia collection and the latest in mysteries.

Amy Grant, 11, attends Longacre. She admits to hunting out the love stories on the library shelves.

"I like the mushy stuff," she says.

Classmate Laurie Dingle, 11, does on mysteries but will succumb to a love story on occasion.

"It depends on how mushy it is," she says.

BUT MOST OF THE GIRLS sought out books written by Judy Blume. Their realism and straightforward style appeal to the young readers.

"She writes about interesting situations in real life," said Ms. Dingle.

"She writes about real situations," Ms. Blume, who has written such books as "Are You There God, It's Me,

Margaret," "Beetle" and "Forever." Ms. Blume's latest book, "Wiley," is strictly adult fare. "You have to get your parent's permission to check that one out," the librarian said with a smile.

But her first novels were aimed at young readers in junior high school.

"She writes about problems that people would have. You feel like you're really there, where it's really happening," said Ms. Samra.

When Ms. Samra and her friends grow up a bit they can join the women in the 18-34 age bracket who make up the majority of the book buying public, according to national surveys.

In the words of Amy Grant, "All I do is read."



Heather McNichols, 7, of Farmington browses for another volume to read while waiting for her brother to have his hair cut in town. The library is a better place to wait than the barber shop. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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