



“I remember
it had a blue cover”

Strategies for finding a title
from memories of a book read long ago
(or not so long ago)

Tips for what to ask: An Investigative Process



The first step is to identify what your patrons remember about the book.

Six areas to consider:

1. Characters



Who was the story about? Who was the main character or "protagonist"?

example – Dorothy Gale is the protagonist of the *Wizard of Oz*.

2. Setting



What *time* and *location* did the story take place?

example – *The Hobbit* takes place in Middle Earth in the distant past.

3. Plot



What was the story about?

example - Plot of Peter Pan: With the help of Peter Pan and a pixie named Tinkerbell, the three Darling children fly out of their window to Neverland, where they have adventures with lost boys, pirates, Indians and mermaids.

4. Subject/Genre



How can the story be *categorized*? Some common genres are science fiction, mystery, fantasy, humor, animal stories, family stories, and historical fiction.

example – Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone is a fantasy novel.

5. Series



Was the book part of a series?

example – The Bloody Jack books by L.A. Meyer is a twelve book series.

6. Is it like another book?



Do you know a book or movie that is similar in some way to the one you are searching for?

example - The Feed by M.T. Anderson is similar to the movie, *The Terminator*, directed by James Cameron.

Summary



1. Characters
2. Setting
3. Plot
4. Subject/Genre
5. Series
6. Is it like another book?

Tips for what to ask: An Investigative Process



Second, know where to search.