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## **What are the top ten ingredients that create hunger for young readers to devour books?**

According to the National Education Association, third grade is the turning point for young readers to go from reading words to understanding what they mean.

I have written a sci-fi series called *Pond Punkies*, designed to help the struggling reader. I wrote this series based on what I learned are the most important ingredients to help young readers. I came up with a list of ten.

1. A cover that catches the attention of the reader.
2. Unquestionably distinct and likable characters.
3. A lively plot that accelerates in movement.
4. The interior book design should have larger text, ample margins, and enticing illustrations.
5. Sentences are understandable and simple.
6. Inside pages are cream or off-white in color.
7. Space between lines should be wide and words should not be hyphenated.
8. Must have compelling content.
9. Series books tend to attract struggling readers.
10. Let the reader choose the book.

To learn more about each ingredient go to <http://www.pondpunkies.com/blog.html>.

Sincerely,

Lisa Riebe