Case Study – Wembley Primary School

Background
Wembley Primary School is located in Melbourne’s Western suburbs and has approximately 550 students.

Situation
A senior school teacher (Grade 5/6) was concerned about how she could keep highly able and literate students engaged in literacy in authentic and challenging ways, and enhance their appreciation of literature.

What did you do?
- The teacher established a book club for interested Grade 5/6 students to attend during their lunch recess.
- The teacher, together with the Principal, made contact with a local bookshop and set up a visitation program where the children and the teacher visit the bookshop each term.
- Once a term approximately 15 students walk or travel by car, with teachers, to the local bookshop so that they can select books, often recommended by the bookshop manager, for purchase by the school for the school library.
- The program requires students to read the books at school or at home and write a short, catchy book review onto a card. The student’s review is prominently displayed on the shelves of the bookshop for customers to read.
- Parents were encouraged to take their children to the local bookshop and see the children’s reviews. The book reviews have also helped customers select books that are most appropriate for the age/interest of their child.
- Children attend the bookshop and can read the book reviews to support their selection of a book.

Results
- The project has enhanced appreciation and broadened the literature knowledge of highly able and very literate students.
- The project has engaged many more families in the selection of books and has encouraged the establishment of home libraries and encouraged the purchase of suitable and popular books for home and school.
- Many students are highly motivated to participate in the project.
- The project has been so successful that it has been extended to Grades 3 and 4.