

Spunky Girls and Strong Women: A Refugee Summer Book Club

Mary Lou McCloskey

mlmccloskey@gmail.com

Ann Garbarino

annegarbarino@globalvillageproject.org

Online handout:

www.mlmcc.com

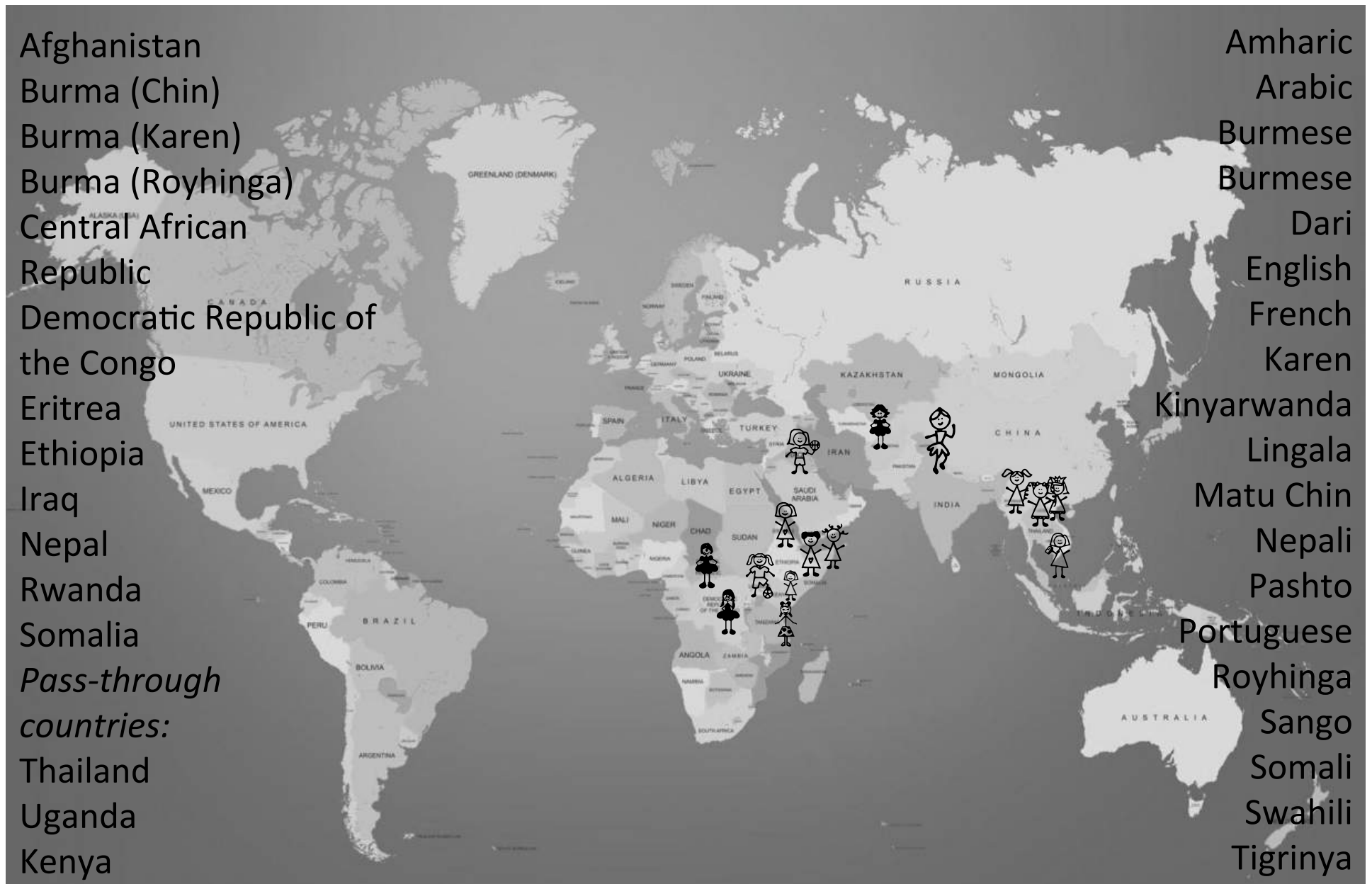
GATESOL 2015

<http://globalvillageproject.org>

The Global Village Project

*Helping Teenage Refugee Girls Achieve
Their Educational Dreams...*

www.globalvillageproject.org



Students come from 10 countries/cultures
and speak 19 languages.

The Challenge

- Risk of summer regression.
(Werner-Smith & Smolkin, 1995);
Entwisle, Alexander & Steffel, 1997).
- Little opportunity to use English
- Lack of reading culture in some homes
- Summer reading can make a huge difference
(Kim 2004)

Our Goals

- **Enjoyment**

- Students and volunteer will enjoy being together, interacting with one another and with books

- **Library Familiarity**

- Students will become familiar with the community library and develop the habit of using it

- **Reading Opportunities**

- Students will be offered rich, engaging and empowering, and appropriate reading opportunities weekly and be encouraged to read in between

- **Oral Language Experience**

- Students will have rich oral language opportunities through discussion and activities about **books**

- **Better Readers and Speakers**

Our Summer Book Club Collaborators

- **Global Village Project**
 - provided a small grant for books, materials, and assistant.
- **Public Library**
 - Ordered and stored requested book sets, provided site, orientation, and support.
- **Volunteers**
 - 21 volunteers helped with transportation and worked with small groups at similar levels, ages, and interests.
- **Community members**
 - visited as “Guest Readers” to read aloud to students.
- **GVP Alumna**
 - Who presented Book Talks each week.

Our Theme: Spunky Girls



Book Club Structure

3:45	Snack, sign-in and setup
4:00	Guest Read-Aloud
4:20	Book Talk and Project
5:00	Read-together in small groups
5:45	Return and check out books
6:00	Adjourn

Book Club Planning

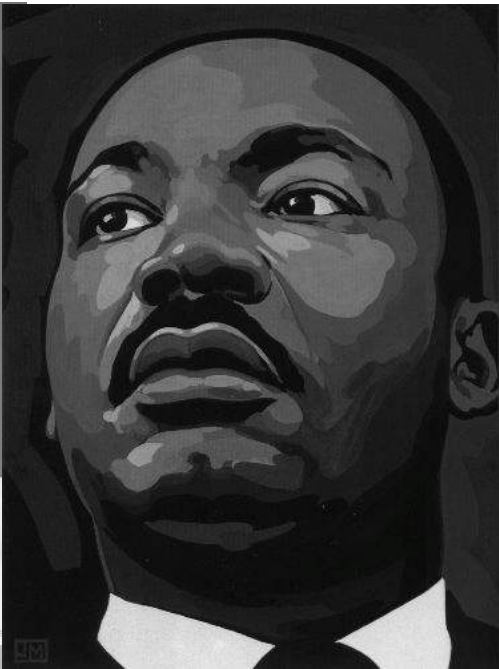
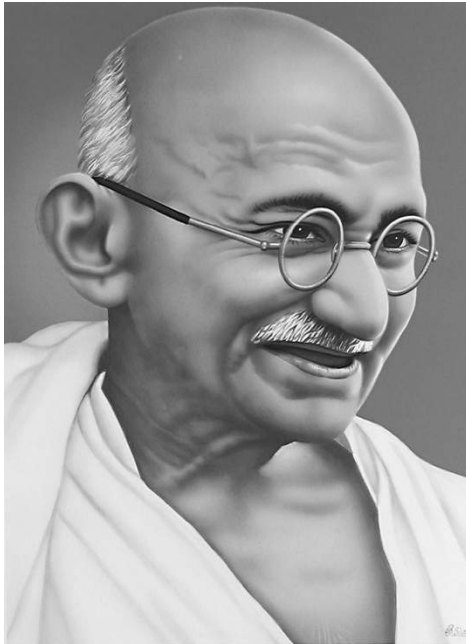
- *Prepare resource/training materials for volunteers*
- *Provide volunteer orientation & training*
- *Communicate with volunteers weekly*
- *Determine/estimate student levels*
- *Order or purchase appropriate books for 8 levels*
- *Assign groups to available volunteers weekly and suggest read-together books*
- *Manage books, student and volunteer attendance*
- *Collect data (surveys, pre/post reading scores*
- *Prepare and manage student folders*
- *Prepare and manage projects and activities*
- *Schedule read-aloud guests*



Surprises!

- Our theme, “Spunky Girls and Strong Women” designed around teenage girls in our program
- Our girls brought little sisters and brothers and big sisters and brothers – even a few parents!
- We had to re-think our theme and book selections – fast!!

Strong Boys and Men, Too!



Guess
what the
numbers
represent

Book Club Stats

55

262

21

2,026

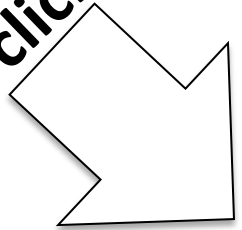
28

22,400

14

375

Then click



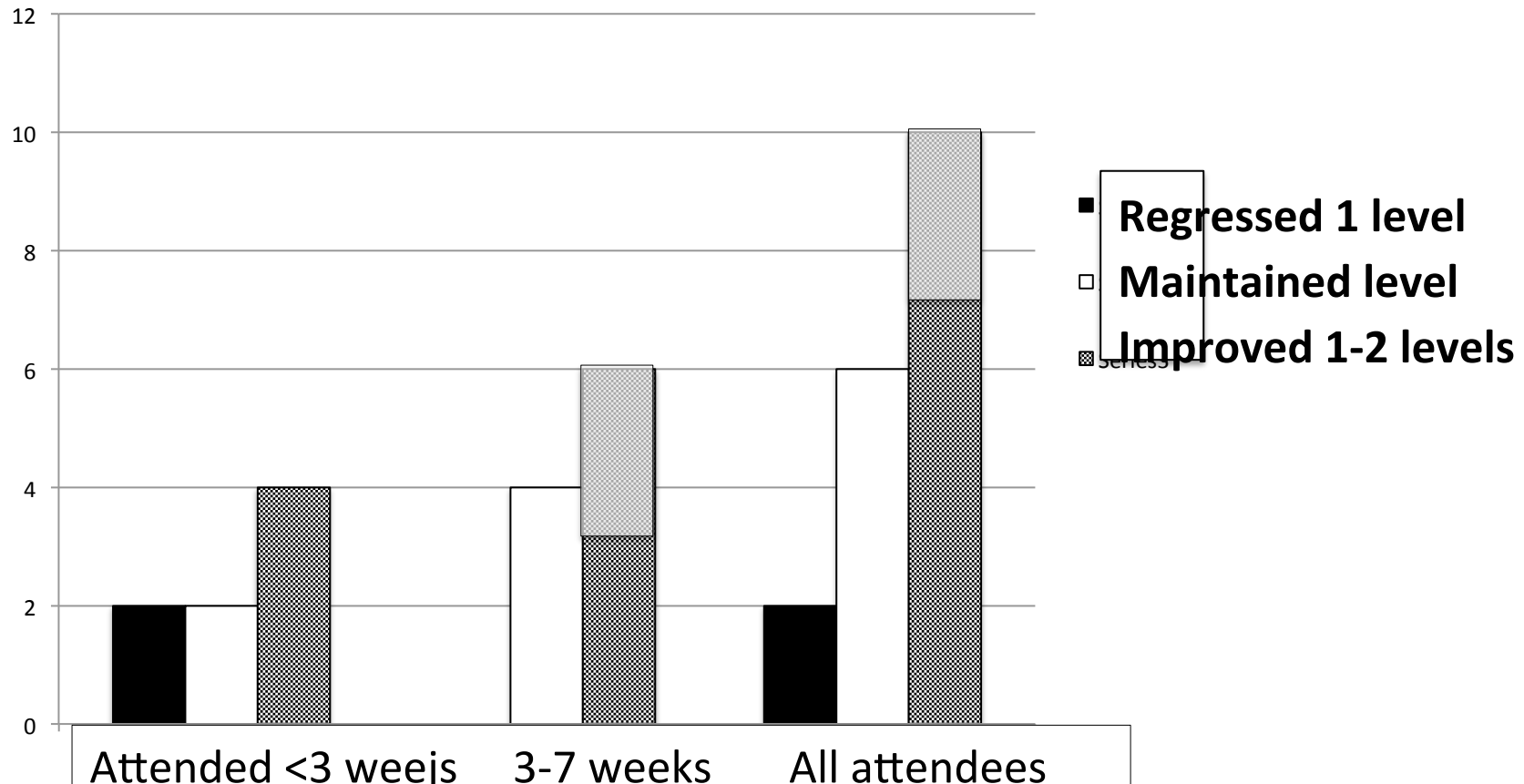
Book Club Stats

- 55 total students
- 262 books read
- 21 total
- 2,026 pages read
- volunteers
- 28 average weekly students
- 22,400 minutes of reading
- 14 average weekly volunteers
- 375 hours of reading

Reading Level Changes

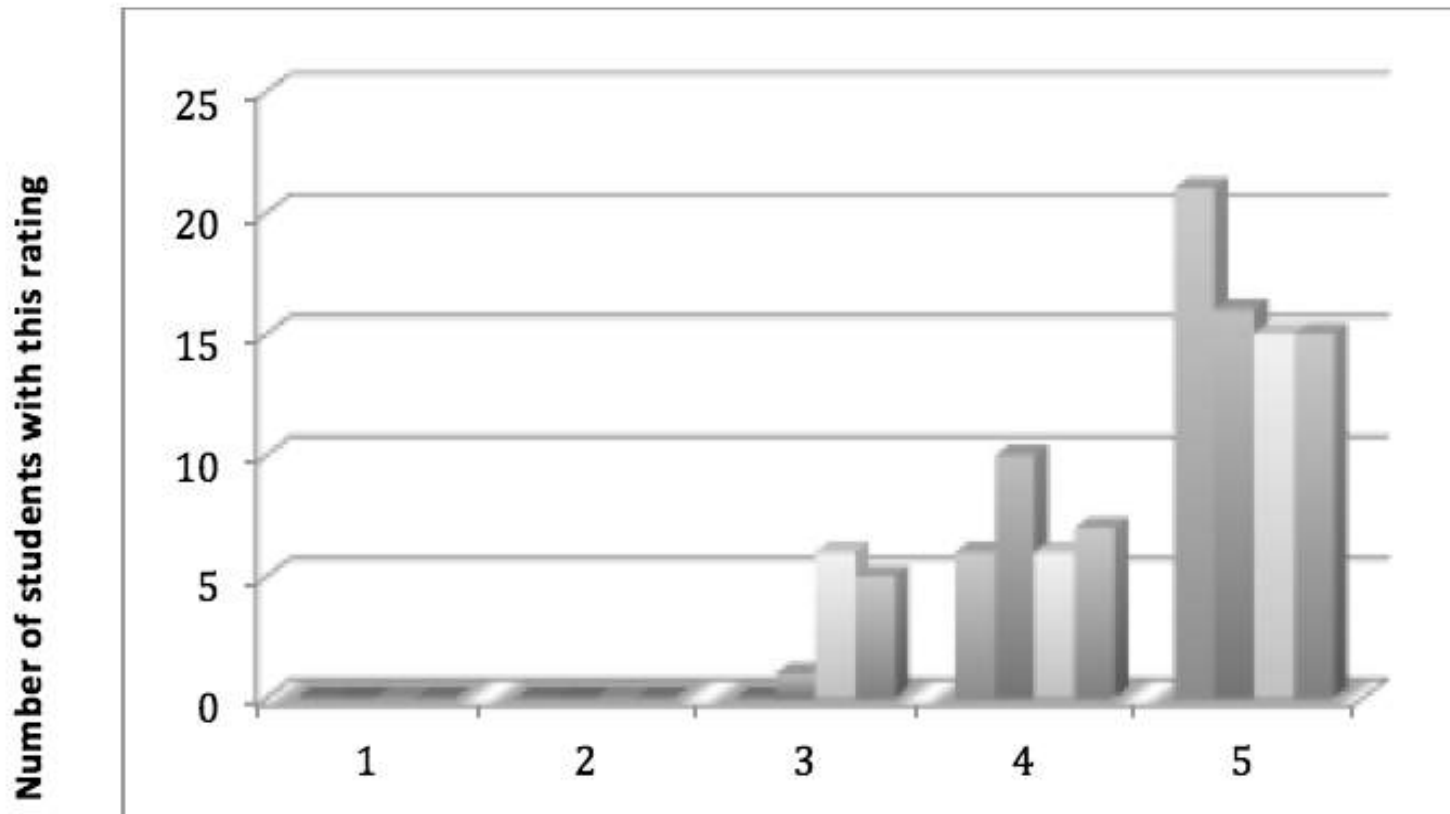
Fountas & Pinnell Instructional Reading Level

Changes from spring to fall for students returning students who attended the Summer Book Club.

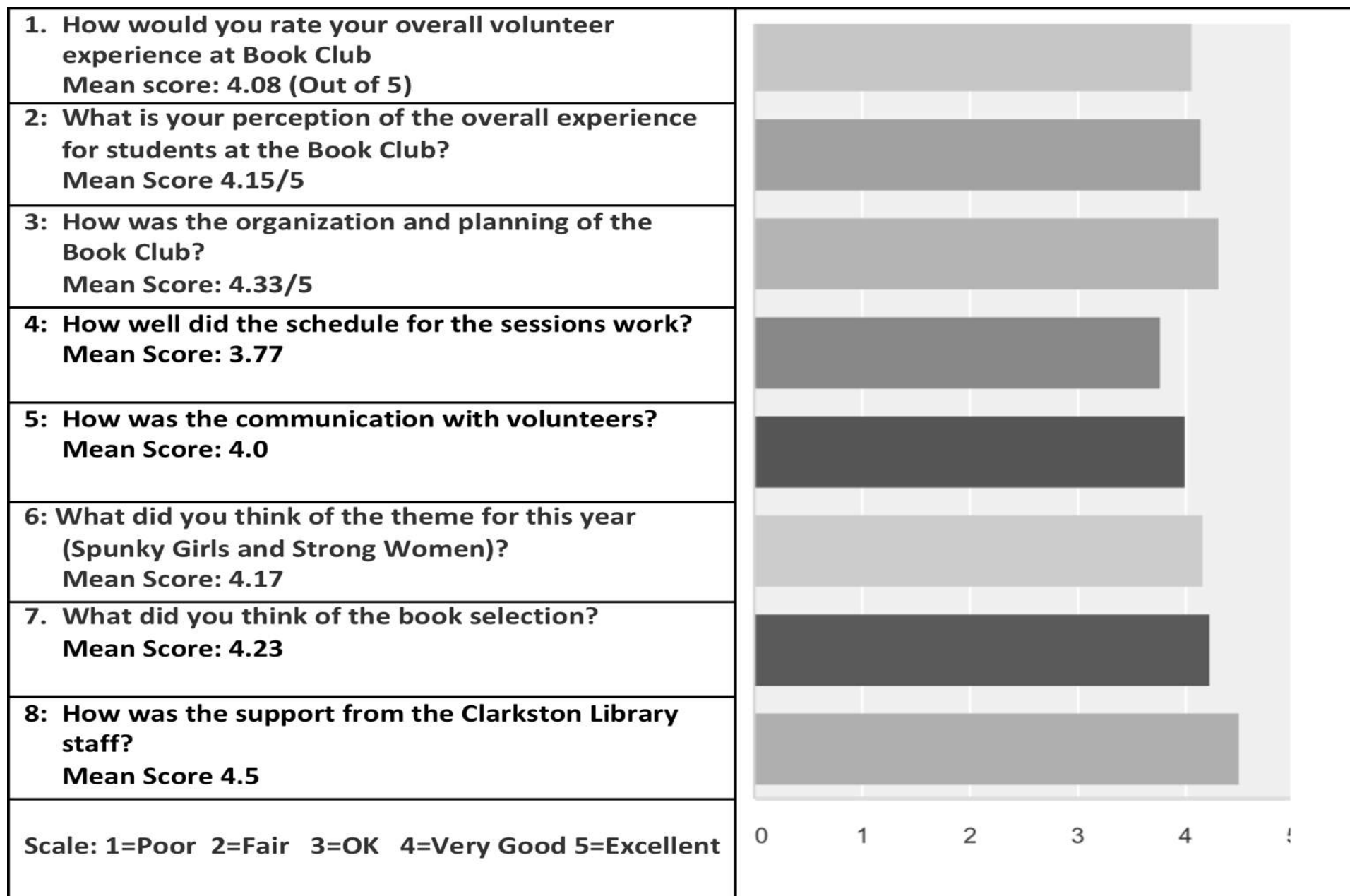


Student Feedback

	1. How much did you enjoy Book Club?
	2. How did you like the books you read?
	3. How did you like the activities?
	4. Would you like to come to Book Club again next year?



Volunteer Feedback



Read-Alouds

The House on Dirty-Third Street

Little Firefly

14 Cows for America

The Other Side

Nadia's Hands

Chicken Sunday

Wangari's Trees of Peace

Projects

- Slide show on how to handle a book with photo tableaux.
- Quilt of book recommendations
- Focused discussions
- Drawing a tree and its gifts (*Wangari's Trees of Peace*)
- Writing a letter to a character
- Making a song playlist for a book
- Casting the movie of a book
- Citizenship – Q & A with Mayor Ted Terry of Clarkston



Challenges

- **Scheduling**
- **Different students every week**
- **Keeping track of what was read and figuring out what books to request**
- **Library cards**
- **Evaluating**

What we learned for next time

- We should have another Book Club next year
- We should schedule better
- We should simplify our initial survey for ease of administration.
- Two groups for the Read Aloud/Book Talk/Activity with elementary students meeting in the children's area of the library.
- Only one outside summer reading program – probably the DeKalb Library's or our own.

Presentation Resources at www.mlmcc.com

Book lists

Slides of
presentation
(w/o photos)

