QUICK DIPPING

This method gives you a glimmer of a book’s appeal

**Hold the book and look at its basic features**

Is it heavy?

Look at the typeface, the space between the lines, the general layout – How easy is it to read?

Is there much white space? Is it densely printed?

The rule of thumb is that the more white space in the margins and between the print indicates

that the book is fairly fast paced. Are there significant breaks between paragraphs or group of

paragraphs? If this is the case, then the point of view may change frequently between

characters and locales making this another indication of quick pacing

If white space is at a minimum and there are few breaks between paragraphs and chapters,

then this would probably indicate a slower, more character driven story

**Look at the cover**

What does it tell you about the book – or what the publisher wants you to think about the

book?

**Read the Blurb**

Does it give you an idea of the storyline?

Does it tell you everything, or maybe it doesn’t tell you anything?

Is it inviting, teasing, ominous?

**Read the first paragraph or page**

Does it pull you into the story or is there a slow build up?

Can you get an idea of pacing, the point of view, who the main character is?

**Skim and read bits and pieces here and there throughout the book**

Does it seem to flow?

What is your general impression of the book?

**Read the end**

If it has an epilogue, read a couple of sections before the epilogue

Is there a conclusion or is it open-ended?

Does the ending read like a checklist, wrapping up all loose ends?

**Others**

Try to look for clues of settings, time frame, characters, story-line (character or plot-driven),

genre(s), style (humorous, serious), pacing, format (use of flashbacks, single or multiple points of

view)

Does this bring to mind any other authors or titles as possible read-a-likes?

Which readers would enjoy this? Why would they like it?

Sarah Glogowski

Readers’ Advisory Workshop

Finger Lakes Library System

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