

## **WHY I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT MY LOCAL BOOKSTORE!**

Melanie Bonanza, Middle School Librarian

For years I struggled with overflowing wish list files from teachers, and bumbled with large book jobbers, who were slow and knew me not. Orders were slow in arriving, and invariably the processing was wrong and/or sloppy. I took a chance on my favorite local book store. I was thrilled by the result. Not only did my orders arrive quicker, but I always remained one step ahead of my students and teachers because I couldn't help but shop when I picked up my books. And a good local bookseller is very aware of the community he lives in and is responsive to the needs of parents and children in their locale, which a large jobber is not! My local book store also has community events that I can advertise to my students that will enhance their exposure to good literature and the authors that write it. When I run a book fair I no longer need to use the commercial book fairs that swamp you with media based books, toys and pencils when what I want are just good books! My local book store supplies me with the most current titles and everything I need to run a fair! Invariably teachers and parents comment how much happier they are with the book store fairs as compared to the commercial ones. And the sales prove this out! Profits are spent on new books, and also used for future purchases. To see the excitement in a child's eyes when I show them the book they had asked for two days ago that is now in their hands is so satisfying.

I should also mention that only your friendly local bookstore would put up with the confusion and chaos that sometimes accompanies working with a wacked out librarian and her skinflint school district, while keeping a smile on their faces. It is such a pleasure to deal with the folks at your store.

I really do appreciate all of you!!! Mel B.