

LIBRARY'S BEST PALS

Roosevelt Isle's Doyle kids tore thru 2,000 tomes in year – NYPL

BY ROB GOBBO
DAILY NEWS WRITER

PARENTS TRYING to raise young readers should take a page out of this family's book.

The Doyle kids from Roosevelt Island devour some 2,000 books a year, making them one of the New York Public Library's most bookish broods.

"I just find reading fun," said Erin Doyle, 12. "And I like all types of books."

The five Doyle children, who range in age from 10 to 15, are home-schooled by their mother and make the Roosevelt Island branch their second home.

It's where they do homework, socialize with other kids and, of course, read book after book.

"We come here every day," said the proud mother, Lynda Doyle, 51. "The first thing the kids do is run to see if the books they reserved came in."

Lynda Doyle said all her kids read at least an hour a day, with her oldest, Sean, 15, reading "so many hours, I can't even count."

"Most of the time, I need to tell the kids to shut the light out each night because they'll read all night long," their mom said.

The youngsters read plenty of fiction but also check out tomes on cooking, Web design and knitting.

"We learned how to do all of those things!" Colleen Doyle, 13, said.

The Doyle kids read the massive collection of 2,000 titles over 12 months starting last summer. Their mom credits the New York

Public Library's summer reading program, which kicks off today in all branches, for keeping her kids' noses between the pages.

This year, top readers in the program will earn prizes and be recognized on the field at Yankee Stadium – and the Doyle children, who have been honored in the past, could very well be among them.

"They get really competitive with reading," Lynda Doyle said. "I guess there's worse things to be competitive about!"

To keep track of kids' reading stats, the library launched an online system in which youngsters log the number of books they read, recommend tomes to friends and earn badges for reviewing works.

Last year, 20,000 kids city-wide participated in the library's summer reading program. Library spokeswoman Jennifer Lam expects that number to be even greater this year.

"We've made the program more interactive," Lam said. "Reading is a solitary activity, but we're trying to get more kids talking about books."

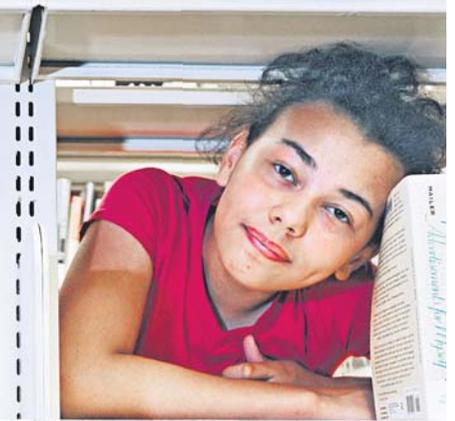
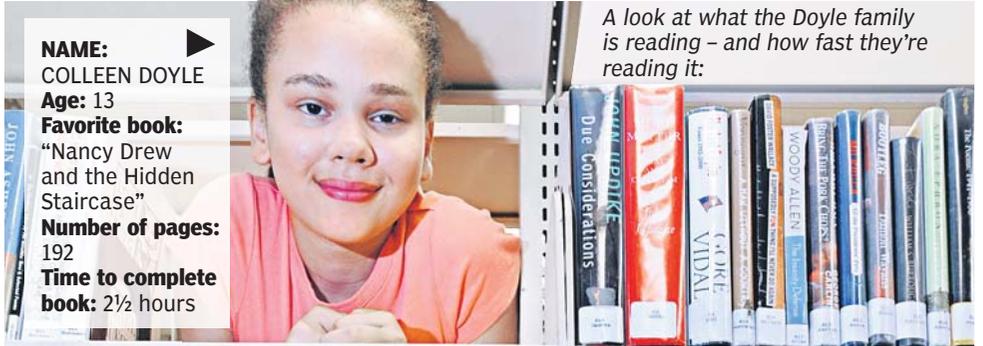
Despite its success, library officials are worried about the program's future with crippling city budget cuts on the horizon. Libraries citywide are facing a \$37 million budget shortfall, potentially shutting 10 branches and limiting branch hours.

The Doyle children, for certain, would not approve.

"The library just has so many books," said Siobhan Doyle, 10, "it's always hard to choose one."

NAME: COLLEEN DOYLE
Age: 13
Favorite book: "Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase"
Number of pages: 192
Time to complete book: 2½ hours

A look at what the Doyle family is reading – and how fast they're reading it:



NAME: SIOBHAN DOYLE
Age: 10
Favorite book: "Star Wars: Cloak of Deception"
Number of pages: 368
Time to complete book: 6 hours

NAME: ERIN DOYLE
Age: 12
Favorite book: "Beacon Street Girls: Best Friends/Worst Enemies"
Number of pages: 256
Time to complete book: 3 hours

NAME: SHANE DOYLE
Age: 10
Favorite book: "Star Wars: The Clone Wars"
Number of pages: 272
Time to complete book: 5 hours



SUSAN WATTS/DAILY NEWS

Wee folks face big heart risks: study

LONDON – Short people have a 50% higher risk of heart problems than tall people, a new study has found.

Height was not as important as weight, blood pressure or smoking aspects – but researchers who looked at data from 3 million people worldwide found a significant link.

The shortest people were shorter than 5-feet-3 on average, while the tallest were at least 5-feet-9.

"We don't want to scare short people, but perhaps they should be extra-cautious about their lifestyle," said Borge Nordestgaard, a professor of genetic epidemiology at the University of Copenhagen.

Scientists theorized that short people could be undernourished and vulnerable to health problems or have a hormone imbalance that hurts the heart. They also speculate that smaller arteries may get clogged quicker.

News Wire Services

More hearings on booth cuts due

THE MTA will hold another round of public hearings in July on token booth and information kiosk closures, officials said yesterday.

A judge ruled the cash-strapped Metropolitan Transportation Authority broke state law by shuttering dozens of booths – without holding timely public hearings.

The MTA, which believes hearings held early last year were sufficient, is appealing

the judge's decision and hopes to close roughly 40 more booths.

The MTA will schedule hearings for Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn.

Transit workers and union officials warned the MTA board that fewer token booth clerks will put riders at greater risk in emergencies, a charge MTA brass deny.

Pete Donohue



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