

Dewey Decimal Reader's Theater

(1) Once upon a time libraries could be very confusing places.

(All) What do you mean by that?

(2) Well, every library had its own way of sorting books on the shelf.

(3) This made it hard to find the book you wanted.

(4) Books in libraries used to be impossible to find!

(5) Then, in 1876 a librarian named Melvil Dewey had an idea about how to sort all of the books in the library.

(All) Who?

(6) Haven't you ever heard of Melvil Dewey?

(7) Doesn't he play in the NBA?

(All) [Wrong Answer Sound] Buzz.

(8) No, I think he was a famous singer.

(All) [Wrong Answer Sound] Buzz.

(9) Actually, he made the way we sort books in our library.

(10) Melvil Dewey decided that it would make it easier to find a book in a library if all libraries were organized in the same way.

(11) He created a way to sort books in libraries. It is called the Dewey Decimal System.

(12) You mean the reason it is called the Dewey Decimal System is because it is named after Mr. Dewey?

(All) [Right Answer Sound] Ding-ding-ding!

(13) How does the Dewey Decimal System sort books?

(14) First it sorts books in two main groups – fiction and non-fiction.

(15) Isn't it true that fiction means "fake" or not true?

(All) [Let me think – hand motion] Let me think.

(16) That's right! All fiction books are not true.

(17) And all non-fiction books are true.

(18) Fiction books are put on the shelf in ABC order by the author's last name.

(19) What is an author?

(20) An author is the person that has written the book.

(21) So fiction books are put on the shelf in ABC order by the author's last name. How are non-fiction books sorted?

(22) Let me guess! By color?

(All) No!

(23) I know! Are they sorted by size?

(All) No!

(24) Are they sorted by subject?

(All) Yes!

(25) Non-fiction books, or true books, are sorted by the same subject.

(26) So all the true books on baseball are in the same place in the library, right?

(27) Thanks to the Dewey Decimal System, all books on the same subject are in the same place in the library.

(All) [Excited fan noise] Yay!

(28) I've got an idea! Now that we know how libraries are organized, let's see if we can find a book using the Dewey Decimal System.

(All) [Thumbs up sign] Good Idea!

The End