

# 7 questions to ask

## WHEN TIDYING THE BOOKSHELF



### 1. What condition is the book in?

If it's falling apart beyond repair (or isn't worth the time to fix it), it's time to recycle. If the REASON it's falling apart, ripped, or has a broken binding is BECAUSE you read it a lot, add the title to a "replace" list and look for a better quality copy the next time you're shopping for books.

### 2. Has my child outgrown the book?

A general guideline is to buy your kids new books when you're buying new clothes. Chances are, their minds have grown during the time their bodies have grown and they're ready for more challenging titles.

### 3. Is it well written and/or illustrated?

Get rid of books with flat, undeveloped characters, are a summary of a movie or TV show, or are "fluff reads" that are easily forgotten. Keep the classics and well written/illustrated stories that are entertaining and thought provoking (even for adults!).

### 4. Would someone else use/love it more?

Is there a homeschooling family, daycare, preschool, teacher, or new mom that would appreciate your donations? It's easier to give away when you know it will be loved by someone else.

### 5. Have I read this book? And will I ever re-read it?

Know yourself and the time constraints during your season of life. If you've had the book a while and have never read it, or don't think you'll ever re-read it, it's probably time to pass it on.

### 6. Is it part of a series & did I buy the rest of the series?

If you (or your kids) read the first book or two of a series, then lost desire to move on, you're (they're) probably not going to plow through the rest of the series and won't miss the titles if they're donated.

### 7. Does it bring me joy?

Maybe it's cliché. . . but it's a good idea to look through your books and decide why you're keeping them. Physical clutter = mental clutter. So keep as many as you want, as long as each one brings you joy.

