



Youth Services Subdivision

Iowa Library Association

MESSAGE FROM MERRI MONKS

Hello YSS members,

First, let me wish all of you a very Happy Holiday season, whichever of the holidays at this time of the year you celebrate.

The planning session for next year's ILA conference was held on November 8. Next year's conference will be in Cedar Rapids, October 15-17, 2014 - a great learning opportunity and a chance to see the beautiful new Cedar Rapids Public Library. While it's too early to know which of the proposed sessions the Conference Planning Committee will select, we will let you know about those of interest to youth services librarians as soon as possible. YSS proposed danah boyd (small case letters are intentional) as a banquet speaker and for one additional break-out session. danah boyd is a social media scholar, youth researcher & advocate working at Microsoft Research, New York University Media Culture & Communication and the Harvard Berkman Center for Internet & Society. She has a new book coming out in February, entitled *It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens*. Find her on Twitter @zephoria and her blog apopenia - <http://www.zephoria.org/thoughts/>.

During the Summer Library Program Workshops, I "wore my other hat" as the YSS Chair, and conducted a fund-raising raffle, in which we raffled off a children's oak rocking chair. We earned \$222.00 for YSS, which will go towards supporting speakers at ILA.

Danielle Day successfully proposed the Bridge to Reading Picture Book Award, and YSS now has this new children's choice award, along with the four for older kids sponsored by IASL (Iowa Association of School Librarians). Bound-to-Stay-Bound will be printing posters and bookmarks, and Iowa Library Services and AEAs will be helping to get these items distributed to libraries around the state. The ten finalists were chosen by a group of children's librarians and early childhood educators on November 8, and they are posted on the Bridge to Reading website at <http://www.bridgetoreading.com/>. Thanks, Danielle, for all your incredible work and dedication to make this children's choice award a reality for Iowa's youngest citizens.

Thanks to all of you for all the great work that you do!

Best wishes,

Merri M. MonksChair,

YSSYouth Services Consultant

Iowa Library Services/State Library of IA

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BOOK REVIEW

Violet Mackerel's Remarkable Recovery

Written by Anna Branford ; Illustrated by Elanna Allen

When Violet comes down with tonsillitis yet again, her doctor decides to take out her tonsils. Violet's not so sure about this, until Dr. Singh (who does sing, although not because that's how his name sounds) tells her that she will be going to the hospital and then eating lots of ice cream.

Her doctor also mentions that some of his former patients have noticed a change in their voice, and that "remarkable recoveries" will take a few days. Violet interprets this to mean that she will soon have the voice of an opera singer! How exciting!

This upbeat, cozy story is a great choice for readers who are just starting to read chapter books; the large black and white illustrations add a lot of depth and whimsy to the text, making it also a perfect read-aloud book. Violet's family (and brand new friend) are wonderfully supportive throughout her whole remarkable recovery.

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From the Storytelling front

Here is a photo of Duffy De France and Super Sally Storytelling Bear (mascot for Storytellers' Roundtable and the Muscatine Literacy Coalition). In September, Duffy and Sally gave away over **200 books and 50 magazines** at the Heritage Days! This event, near Muscatine, Iowa, occurred at the Wild Cat Den State Park. The Muscatine Literacy Coalition accepts donations of books and magazines for kids, then gives them away at the West Liberty Children's Festival, parks, summer camps, and community Y Programs located in Iowa. Great job, Duffy!



Need some storytelling inspiration? Check out professional storyteller Karen Chance's blog [here](#).

Best Books of 2013 as compiled by Erin Silva

The end of the year brings “end of the year lists” in every category imaginable. Roy Kenagy generously provided a link with a master compilation of online best of the year book lists from a multitude of sources, which can be accessed here : <http://bitly.com/1h1TbLW>. Here, I present you with some of the best books for the youth we serve.

Picture Books

The Day the Crayons Quit - Words by Drew Daywalt, Pictures by Oliver Jeffers

A hilarious insight into the minds of crayons, illustrated by one of my favorite author/illustrators. Some colors are underused (poor, poor pink and white), some overused (ahem, red and blue), and some are in constant competition with one another! Each has written a letter to Duncan, explaining their plight. How does young Duncan help his disgruntled crayons? Let’s just say he gets an “A+ for creativity!”

Mr. Tiger Goes Wild - Words and Pictures by Peter Brown

In a brownish world where everything is perfectly fine, Mr. Tiger stands out. He’s tired of being so proper, polite, and worst of all, bored. He decides to be wild. He begins by walking on all fours, roaring, and finally running gleefully (and naked!) to the wilderness. Over time he misses his friends and returns to find that things are not how he left them. In fact, everyone feels more free to be themselves.

Middle Grade

Doll Bones - Words by Holly Black, Pictures by Eliza Wheeler

From SLJ.com –Three friends steal into the night on a perilous quest to satisfy an unquiet spirit inhabiting a creepy doll. Nestled within this atmospheric ghost story is a poignant exploration of friendship, growing up, and growing apart. Horror with a heart. What I liked most about this story was its poignancy when it comes to boy/girl friendships at an age where girls are thinking about romance and boys are still thinking of girls as their buddies. Plus there is an element of the supernatural as well, making this a creepy, suspenseful read.

Eruption!: Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives. Words by Elizabeth Rusch, Photos by Tom Uhlman. (Scientists in the Field Series)

The Scientists in the Field Series has fantastic books about a fascinating array of subjects (see <http://www.sciencemeetsadventure.com/> for more) Many of my patrons, and I’m sure yours as well, are drawn to volcanoes. This book has some spectacular photos of eruptions, but also describes the work volcanologists do in order to “predict the unpredictable.” It takes a lot of work and set up to monitor volcanic sites, and the behind-the-scenes look within the books’ pages is eye-opening.

Young Adult

Eleanor and Park - Words by Rainbow Rowell

Yes, it’s as good as everyone says it is. This is the perfect love story for those who don’t like squishy romance. Mixed-tapes (it is set in the 80s), comics, bus rides, and the “in crowd” all combine to set the tone for the story of Eleanor and Park. Eleanor is the weird outcast in a new-to-her school. Park is the half-Asian kid who is friends with the cool kids but only just. She takes a seat next to him on the bus, and thus begins an unexpected relationship. You will root for the main characters, boo the villains (Eleanor’s stepfather is such a _____!), and hope against hope the ending will be different.

Reality Boy - Words by A.S. King

Disclaimer: I have not yet read this book, but it is on my list. I find the concept fascinating, as reality TV still dominates much of what teens and adults watch for entertainment. Here is what PW has to say:

Training her eye on the world of reality TV, King introduces 16-year-old Gerald Faust, who gained notoriety as a child during appearances on a show called Network Nanny. Gerald’s rage and pain are visceral, and King tackles a sensational topic with sensitivity while turning a mirror on our culture’s own voyeurism.



Iowa Library Association

<http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/index.php/youth-services-subdivision>

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Other fun stuff...

Letters about Literature:

A writing contest for young readers, sponsored by the Iowa Center for the Book and the Library of Congress Center for the Book. For more information, click here:
<http://bit.ly/1jiG84U>

Miss out on the Summer Reading workshops? Anna Hartmann and Sarah Day make a pretty cool website to help us all out. Add it to your list of favorites! Find it by clicking here:
<http://bit.ly/1bfYSu7>

YSS is now the proud sponsor of the **Bridge to Reading Picture Book Award!** For this year's nominees and more information, click here:
<http://bit.ly/1jiGQ1Z>

Do you work with tweens/teens? Do you know the Teen Librarian Toolbox website? You should.
<http://bit.ly/1g4IZzB> It's totes awesomesauce.

Finally,

Happy New Year to all of us who interact, help, challenge, listen, and love the young people in our communities!

Send in any item you wish for inclusion in the next newsletter to Erin Silva,
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(book reviews, program ideas, fun stuff, pictures, articles of interest...)