



Youth Services Subdivision

Iowa Library Association

MESSAGE FROM ARIELLE LOY

I hope you're all enjoying spring time at your libraries! In Central Iowa we enjoyed one very warm, sunny day and a great deal of rain! At the recent *Rainbow Science* program for school-age children in Boone we explored how rainbows form and how to create them at home. With the incredible rain we've received I'm sure the kids will be looking skyward for rainbows...if the sun decides to come out again! I keep reminding soggy patrons how beautiful the green grass and budding flowers will be when the rain finally ends.

Spring came quickly and it seems to be speeding by us, soon we'll be in the thick of summer. In Boone we've been confirming presenters, gathering prizes, and making plans. I hope that many of you got the opportunity to attend one of the Summer Reading Program workshops earlier this fall. A multitude of thanks to Angie Pilkington and Samantha Helmick, they did a fabulous job of getting us geared up, excited, and thinking about the summer!

And, while summer still seems a ways off, there are many of us that are looking further ahead to October and the conference in Coralville. Zach Stier and I attended the Conference Planning Meeting in Johnston. We were able to promote several exciting youth services sessions for this year's annual conference. Now the Conference Planning Committee is hard at work making our conference dreams come true! Many thanks for their hard work and to those of you that have volunteered as presenters. If you're interested in presenting at the conference there is still time to be involved! We have space for panelists in a discussion of the marketing of teen and tween programs and services. Also, we'll need lots of volunteers to man the Youth Services Subdivision booth...and it is way more fun to work the booth as a team! Shoot me an email if either of these opportunities sound like fun to you.

In our rush toward the future let's not forget that in a few short weeks we'll meet in Des Moines for Kids First! In this newsletter Merri Monks has provided an excellent sneak peek into Kids First. It is going to be a fabulous opportunity for learning, growing, and building relationships. An enormous "thank-you" to Merri for putting together this excellent event!

Please enjoy the book reviews and program ideas shared in this newsletter and consider sharing some thoughts of your own in this summer's newsletter. I hope you all have a fabulous springtime and remember that these April showers really do produce May flowers!

Arielle Loy

Young Adult Librarian

Ericson Public Library - Boone

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KIDS FIRST CONFERENCE

One of Iowa's biggest events for youth services librarians is Kids First, produced biennially by Iowa Library Services/State Library of Iowa—and this is a Kids First year! The conference this year will be April 29-30 at the Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center in Urbandale. Our keynote speakers include Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, of Reach Out and Read; Trent Reedy, award-winning author of *Words in the Dust* and *Stealing Air*; Dori Hillestad Butler, author of many award-winning books for children, including *The Buddy Files* series; and John Corey Whaley, Printz Award-winning author of *When Things Come Back*.

The two-day conference will also feature over 30 break-out sessions on topics of special interest to children's and teens' librarians. These sessions will be presented by librarians from around Iowa, as well as other experts, on a variety of subjects, such as early literacy, puppetry, programming, online gaming, and storytelling. And on Monday night, we'll enjoy a Storytelling Festival, opening with a special performance by magician Rick Eugene Brammer (who is also a great friend of librarians throughout Iowa and Illinois).

As your youth services consultant, organizing this conference is one of the most exciting parts of my work on your behalf. Planning starts more than two years in advance for this event (I've already started on the work of arranging for plenary session speakers for Kids First 2015). Two committees of youth services librarians—the Children's Services Advisory Council and the Teens' Services Advisory Council (both comprised of librarians from each of Iowa's six library districts)—provide invaluable input on topics for the breakout sessions, and on suggestions for plenary session speakers.

Our hotel this year, centrally located for attendees from all parts of Iowa in the Des Moines metro area, is just south of I-80/35; parking is free, and sleeping rooms are available at \$55.00/night. Kids First will be in the hotel's Conference Center, and we'll be the only event in the Conference Center. The hotel has a water park—so bring your bathing suits!

Kids First is funded primarily by the Library Services and Technology Act, through the Institute of Museum and Library Services; and secondarily by the Hazel Westgate Endowment and thirdly, by registration fees paid by attendees.

Merri M. Monks

Youth Services Consultant

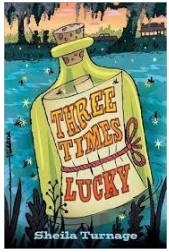
Iowa Library Services/State Library of Iowa



Get ready for the 4th YSS silent auction at Kid's First Conference, April 29 and 30 in Des Moines! We will have a lot of amazing items for you to bid on. Proceeds from the silent auction are used to bring speakers to future ILA conferences. If you have any questions please contact Katie Dreyer at Pella (kdreyer@cityofpella.com). See you in a few weeks!

Katie Dreyer
Youth Services Librarian

REVIEWS



Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage

Mo LoBeau narrates this action-packed mystery full of crazy characters and surprising twists of plot. Mo (short for Moses) counts herself lucky for having been rescued from the river after a hurricane as a newborn by a man who calls himself the Colonel (he lost all his memories from an injury during the storm). Our story starts the summer before Mo's sixth-grade year, and she thinks it will be a simple summer of working at the family diner and hanging out with her best friend, Dale, in their small town of Tupelo Landing in North Carolina (no cell phone towers here). But when an out-of-town detective starts poking around asking questions, everything is turned upside-down.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and would recommend it to school-aged or middle-school readers who enjoy realistic fiction or mysteries with interesting characters. It would make a good family read-aloud as well, although parents of young children may need to explain/edit some passages mentioning Dale's abusive father. Overall, this was one of the most fun books I read this year, and I was thrilled when it won a Newbery Honor!

Anastasia Tuckness
Youth Services Library Assistant
Ames Public Library

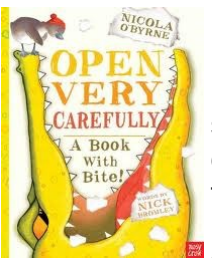
Who's on First?

Who's on First? by Abbott & Costello Illustrated by John Martz **ISBN: 9781594745904**



Since the 1930s when the comic duo of Abbott and Costello introduced the sketch, "Who's on First?" thousands of people have watched, laughed and become just as confused as the next person trying to sort out the characters of this very unusual baseball team. In fact, in 1999, Time magazine named "Who's on First?" the best comedy sketch of the 20th century. Illustrator John Martz does a wonderful job bringing the frustration and thus the absurdity of the sketch to the page in cartoon characters that kids will love. Definitely a book you will have to go back and read again and again to keep it all straight!

Brianne Anderson
Youth Services Librarian
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Open Very Carefully by Nick Bromley

Imagine that you are settling down to sleep and you decide to read the Old Mother Goose story, The Ugly Duckling. Suddenly you see at the corner of the page you see a crocodile. Do you dare to keep reading or are you brave enough to turn the pages carefully to see what happens? Open Very Carefully by Nick Bromley allows the audience to be active participants as the pages are turned. Pair this one with a crocodile puppet for extra fun during storytime.

Zach Stier
Children's Librarian
Ericson Public Library- Boone

Have you read a great new book for kids or teens? Did you try out an awesome new app with your kids? Have your young patrons been raving about a new CD or DVD? Write a review and send it off to Erin or Arielle to be included in the summer newsletter!

STEM PROGRAMMING IDEAS AND RESOURCES - from Arielle Loy @ Ericson Library

The STEM Education Coalition in Washington D.C. has created five general principles, among them the fact that STEM education is “closely linked to our nation’s economic prosperity” and that STEM skills are an essential part of a well-rounded education. Also, that effective STEM education is vital to preparing students for the best, most successful jobs of the future (STEM Education Coalition 2013). I was really inspired by the excellent STEM ideas and resources shared at the webinar hosted by the State Library earlier this year. Iowa libraries have been providing informal STEM education for years. In this article I demonstrate informal STEM education in practice.

When you present a story or activity about an animal discuss what that animal eats, its habitat, predators, the sound it makes, and special facts. Every time you tell the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* you are introducing an early science lesson! (Although, you might point out that caterpillars actually build a chrysalis and not a cocoon.) Additionally, every time you share a story or activity about five little snowmen, sea shells, turkeys, owls...or anything else...you are providing an introductory math lesson. *There Were Five in the Bed* is not just a funny song but also a basic lesson in subtraction. *512 Ants on Sullivan Street* by Carol A. Losi is an entertaining, engaging story that secretly demonstrates multiplication.

At Ericson Public Library, Zach makes an effort to tie science experiments into his bi-monthly family events. For Grossology he created snot using white glue, Borax, and food coloring. For older children and parents he may have been able to discuss polymers, chemical reactions, and how the snot is cold at first and gets warmer as you play with it (that makes it endothermic). The littlest participants left understanding that mixing things together creates something new, which is the most basic lesson in chemistry. My favorite STEM program for school-age children includes static-electricity experiments with balloons, tissue paper, soda cans, and plastic spoons. Don’t forget that every Lego program you host is engineering in action!

For teenagers science experiments can become more involved and complicated. I’ve explored engineering with the teens in Boone by challenging them to build the best catapult from everyday materials and Katie had the teens in Pella build structures from marshmallows and toothpicks.

Johnston Public Library has hosted several STEM-related programs including an egg drop contest, star gazing, and a demonstration of home-made robots from the local Lego League. They also hosted an F-16 Fighter Pilot as part of their Visions of the Universe program. Inviting men and women working in STEM fields is a great way to encourage children and teens to get involved. These professionals might include pilots, doctors, nurses, computer scientists, chemists, teachers, and more!

There are countless ways in which you can encourage STEM education in your library. Similarly, there are many ways in which you’ve already been doing so. In an effort to share ideas and meet our goal of encouraging STEM education in Iowa libraries please consider sharing a program idea in the summer YSS newsletter. Just write a short snippet about how you’re including STEM education at your library and email it to me (aloy@boone.lib.ia.us). For more information and ideas check out these super online resources.

www.makezine.com

This is the website for MAKE Magazine and MAKER Media which is encouraging a transformation in innovation and encouraging hands-on learning.

www.thingiverse.com

Thingiverse is a place to share digital designs to inspire technological creativity.

www.iptv.org/iptv_news_detail.cfm?id=5102&type=education

This is a great list of STEM resources compiled by the geniuses at Iowa Public Television.

libraries.idaho.gov/STEM-Resources

The Idaho Commission for Libraries created this excellent list of resources.

www.ngcproject.org

The National Girls Collaborative Project’s vision is to bring together organizations throughout the United States that are committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This website even features a list of recourses specifically for libraries.



Iowa Library Association

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

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2013 Goal Setting Meeting

On February 26th a collection of Youth Services Subdivision members met to discuss and set goals for 2013. The meeting was held via WebEx which is a useful service graciously provided by the State Library. The following three goals were the result of this discussion.

1. Encourage the incorporation of early literacy skills and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills in youth programming in Iowa libraries.

We will strive to achieve this goal via the promotion of early literacy and STEM skills in conference sessions, workshops, and newsletter articles.

2. Encourage the greater use of the Youth Services Subdivision mentoring program.

3. Maintain membership numbers and encourage increased participation.

We can encourage participation by improving communication and being enthusiastic about subdivision events. However, members will only participate if the subdivision is doing things they want to be involved in! So, share your ideas with the officers!

YSS Mentoring/ Networking Chart

YSS sponsors a mentoring program which has also been referred to as the "Gmail Email Group." This is essentially a chart that is available through Google Drive which can be accessed and edited by YSS members. This chart is intended to be used as a way to network, communicate, and mentor other Iowa librarians serving youth. Add your information to the chart and, when you're looking for information or guidance, check the chart for librarians with expertise in that area.

To access the spreadsheet go to

<http://bit.ly/11MyHtg>

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