

The YAC

*A Newsletter for Iowa Library Staff Who Work with Youth and Children
Brought to You by Iowa Library Services*



May 2014

Upcoming Events:

May 1-7 - Choose Privacy Week

May 12-18 - Children's Book Week (<http://www.bookweekonline.com/> -- Voting for Children's Choice Book Awards begins March 25th)

September - Library Card Sign-Up Month

September 15 - October 15 - National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 21-27 - Banned Books Week

October 12-18 - Teen Read Week

November - Native American Heritage Month

November 15 - International Games Day (<http://igd.ala.org/>)

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes to Plan for in July:

- 2 - Birthday of Jack Gantos
- 11 - Birthday of E. B. White
- 20 - Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon in 1969
- 28 - Birthday of Beatrix Potter
- 29 - Birthday of Sharon Creech
- 31 - Birthday of J. K. Rowling

'Specially For Summer



Summer is the time for nature walks, hopscotch and sidewalk chalk. Here are a few other projects just for the summer season:

- Rose Petal Beads - A twist on the usual flour-and-salt dough: Mix 1 cup flour, 3 tablespoons salt, 6 tablespoons water. Add about 9 cups rose petals cut into pieces and crushed with your hands - stop adding when dough begins to get crumbly. Shape into beads adding textures if desired. Use toothpicks to make holes. Allow to dry before stringing.
- Sandpaper Transfer: This is a project for older kids. Have participants draw designs on sandpaper with crayon. Have them press very hard! Turn the sandpaper over and place on brown kraft paper. An adult should iron over the back to transfer the crayon design to the kraft paper. This project might be used for a beach-themed program.
- Plant a pinwheel garden: Waiting for the flowers to bloom? In early summer, a pinwheel garden will brighten your flower beds. The District Offices have a die cut pinwheel that you can request. Or, there are many templates online. Here is one example: <http://www.mom4real.com/2012/04/diy-paper-pinwheels-tutorial.html>
- Do you have landscaping pebbles around your library? Create some pebble art. For examples, see: <http://www.wikilinks.fr/land-art-les-pieds-de-iain-blake/?lang=en> and <http://artful-kids.com/blog/2010/07/27/beach-art/> Put the pebbles back when you are finished!
- Have a marshmallow war or just see who can shoot their marshmallow the farthest with some inexpensive marshmallow shooters like those at: <http://www.cometogetherkids.com/2011/09/mini-marshmallow-shooters-or-pom-pom.html>
- Make ice boats and sail them in a pond or kiddie pool. For examples, see: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/natural-ice-boats/> or <http://alphamom.com/family-fun/crafts/sail-into-summer-with-ice-cube-boats/>

The Summer Slide

It is now an accepted fact that most students lose reading and academic skills over the summer. This is one of the reasons that a summer library program is so important. This year's CSLP science theme is especially good for incorporating S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and math) skills along with reading skills.



Three basic thoughts to share with parents:

- Reading just six books over the summer months may prevent a struggling reader from losing ground.
- Reading a little bit every day is important. Read signs at the zoo, cereal boxes, anything!
- Reading aloud to children is important. Children may be interested in books that are beyond their own reading level. If an adult reads those books aloud it may motivate the child to continue to practice reading.

Passive Programming:

There are many ways to engage casual library visitors (i.e. those who may not be registered for your summer programs). Passive programming is any display with an interactive element - a puzzle, a guessing game, etc. Here are some easy ones to try:

- **Book in a Jar:** Have a damaged copy of a well-known children's book? Put a few pages through a shredder, stuff them in a glass jar, and ask patrons to identify the book.
- **I Spy:** Fill a display case with odds and ends, then compose a rhyme challenging children to spot some of the small items. Use the *I Spy* books as a guide. Feature the Summer Library Program theme or another summertime theme. Be sure to include an open book or two! A two-dimensional version could be done on a bulletin board with die cut shapes, magazine cut-outs, and so on.
- **Book Titles in Code:** Have children decipher a book title or short quote using a simple code with one letter representing another. Post the quote on a bulletin board and provide photocopies. Place clues around the library or children's area. For example, taping a small letter A to the C on your circ desk sign would indicate that C=A in the code. Or, you might use tiny animal symbols for the code. For example, a small fish taped to the C means that a fish symbol equals the letter C.
- **Letterboxing:** This game involves hiding little booklets in small metal boxes (from Altoids, etc.) around the library. Each participant must have their own small rubber stamp to mark each booklet that they find (they should "register" their stamp at the circ desk - children can make their own stampers using fun foam shapes stuck to lids, etc.). You can make the boxes and booklets as elaborate (or as simple) as you wish. Magnets might be glued to the boxes to attach them to metal parts of shelving. Post clues about the location of the boxes on a poster ("Find a letterbox



near children's books about pet care." "Find a letterbox where you would read about Hogwarts School.") Think of some creative variations on this activity!

- **Guess That Title:** Another simple game for identifying popular books involves cropping dust jackets (or print-outs of the covers) down to small sections and asking children/teens to identify them.
- For the youngest patrons, **simple activities** such as color- or pattern- matching cards can be provided at minimal cost. See for example: <http://stayathomeeducator.com/color-pattern-cards/>. A "clothesline" with shirts and shorts to pair-up would be fun! Or, how about a "beach" with flip flops to match up? Make your own flip flops from ribbon and cardstock: <http://www.families.com/blog/summer-scrapbooking-fun-with-sandals-or-flip-flops>.
- "Wherever you see the rubber ducky . . .:" If you want to provide several activities (puzzle pages and such), you might **adopt a mascot** (2- or 3-D) to indicate each spot where young patrons can find the activities. Create a poster inviting them to look for the mascot.

On the Road

Road trips can be opportunities for parents and children to play games that (secretly) build literacy skills. Games that involve matching, counting, and observing will build skills as well as reading and word games. Post a few ideas where parents will see them! (Some are handy for rainy days at home, too.)



- Have the whole family take turns calling out words that sound like the noise they describe: crash, squeak, gurgle, etc.
- Look for signs that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Start with "A" and move through the alphabet.
- Print a map of each day's leg of your journey. Help children mark your progress as you pass each town or landmark. (You might even use gold stars or other small stickers to mark each milestone.)
- Show children how to address a postcard to a friend or relative.
- Bring along magnetic letters (or poetry magnets for older children) and something that they will stick to - such as a small baking sheet, old lunch box, etc.
- Print out some road trip BINGO games suited to each age group from: <http://www.thirtyhandmadedays.com/2011/05/funner-in-the-summer-road-trip-bingo-from-oopsey-daisy/>

- You will find more BINGO games and other printable car games at:
<http://www.momsminivan.com/printables.html>

Resources:

"Keeping Kids Off the Summer Slide": <http://www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources/articles/keeping-kids-off-the-summer-slide.htm>

Print this mini-poster provided by Target:

<http://abullseyeview.com/2012/06/infographic-help-your-kids-skip-the-summer-slide/>

"Start with a Book" offers 24 themes for summer reading to inspire kids:

<http://www.startwithabook.org/summer-reading-learning>

Plan Ahead for Banned Books Week



The American Library Association recently released the list of top ten challenged books for 2013. You will find several titles for children and young adults included:

- 1) *Captain Underpants* (series), by Dav Pilkey (Offensive language, unsuited for age group, violence)
- 2) *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison (Offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence)
- 3) *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie (drugs/alcohol/smoking, offensive language, racism, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group)
- 4) *Fifty Shades of Grey*, by E.L. James (nudity, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group)
- 5) *The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins (religious viewpoint, unsuited to age group)
- 6) *A Bad Boy Can Be Good for a Girl*, by Tanya Lee Stone (drugs/alcohol/smoking, nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit)
- 7) *Looking for Alaska*, by John Green (drugs/alcohol/smoking, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group)
- 8) *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky (drugs/alcohol/smoking, homosexuality, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group)
- 9) *Bless Me Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya (occult/Satanism, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit)
- 10) *Bone* (series), by Jeff Smith (political viewpoint, racism, violence)

As you can see, there are some "old favorites" on the list. Classic children's books that have been banned or challenged include: *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein, *Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne, *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl, *Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh, *Anne Frank: The*

Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank, *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson, *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White, *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak, *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss, *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl, *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum, and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?* by Bill Martin, Jr. Check the list at <http://www.buzzfeed.com/spenceralthouse/classic-childrens-books-that-have-been-banned-in-america> to find out why! (The site includes some handy cover art that can be used for your bulletin boards, too.)

Your display might also include *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, the *Harry Potter* series by J. K. Rowling, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain, *Anastasia Again* by Lois Lowry, the *Alice* series by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, *His Dark Materials* series by Philip Pullman, *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott, *Blubber* and *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* by Judy Blume, *The Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline B. Cooney, *How to Eat Fried Worms* by Thomas Rockwell and *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

Below are suggestions for bulletin boards or displays using the die cut shapes from Iowa Library Services. You might use these along with a display of challenged books.



Odds & Ends

☀️ Take-Home Science Kits

Vicki Christensen at Anita Public Library shared an idea for science "kits" that the children can take home:

- In ziplock baggies we put approximately 24 toothpicks and 14 or 15 large marshmallows -- a take home construction project for the 4th & 5th grades.
- 2nd and 3rd grades will take home Peanut Butter Playdough in a baggie:

2c. smooth peanut butter

2 c. powdered milk

1 c. honey

Mix together. If too dry, add some honey, if too moist, add more powdered milk.

You might supply raisins, chocolate chips, coconut, etc. to use as decorations.

Kids love this stuff and it's edible barring any allergies. I use 1 ½ recipes for enough for 25 students.

- The Kindergarten & first grade will take home toilet tube elephants. We used a marker to mark the cutting lines. Takes some adult help, but they are cute and the children enjoy them. Found on the website:

<http://www.thecrafttrain.com/1/post/2013/08/cut-fold-toilet-roll-elephants.html>

☀ The Collaborative **Summer Library slogans for 2016** have been announced! The overall theme is Sports (2016 is a Summer Olympics year) and the slogans are:

- Early Literacy/Children's: *On Your Mark, Get Set, Read*
- Teens: *Get in the Game: Read*
- Adults: *Exercise Your Mind—Read*

The themes for 2015 are:

- Early Literacy/Children's: *Every Hero Has a Story*
- Teen: *Unmask*
- Adult: *Escape the Ordinary*

The overall theme for 2017 is "Build a Better World."

More about the Cooperative Summer Library Program:

- Website: <http://cslpreads.org/>
- Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/cslpreads
- Twitter: [#CSLP2014](https://twitter.com/CSLP2014)
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/cslpreads



☀ Webinars:

May 8 (1-2 pm)

Springing into Youth Nonfiction (Booklist)

Don't miss this free, hour-long webinar introducing nonfiction titles for middle-grade and high-school readers and listeners. Join representatives from Annick Press, Free Spirit Publishing, and Listening Library/Random House to learn how to incorporate these titles into the library and classroom. Moderated by Booklist senior editor, Ilene Cooper.

For more information and to register for this program, visit:

<http://www.booklistonline.com/webinars>

May 13 (2-3 pm)

Innovative & Engaging Teen Programming

This webinar will take a look at teen programming today and offer a fresh new perspective on programs that not only work, but also create meaningful experiences for teens. It will also touch upon various ways to reach out and better connect teen communities of all sizes.

For more information and to register for this program, visit:

<https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar>

May 20 (1-2 pm)

The everyday importance STEM: How learning about science and technology can promote success in all aspects of our lives (ACRL)



Understanding of science and technology is increasingly important for today's citizens to negotiate successfully not just technical careers but even their everyday lives: from health information to the moral decisions arising from scientific innovation, to improved methods of making logical and informed decisions in all areas. Librarians and faculty play a pivotal role in helping to foster that success through their choice of offerings, explains John Rennie, editorial director of McGraw-Hill Education's AccessScience, past editor in chief of Scientific American, and Carl Sagan Award winner for Public Understanding of Science - who has spent three decades communicating science to the public in print, online, and on television. The first key lies in anticipating what will best hook the interests of the diverse audiences that educators and librarians reach: for instance, are younger and non-specialist audiences more responsive to inspirational "cabinet of wonders" approaches, to appeals to relevance, or to crisp narrative? Rennie will also look at the qualities that help to set certain sources of science information apart. Accuracy, clarity, and authority are musts, but does a source also anticipate a user's needs or questions and work to guarantee a rewarding experience? Does it inspire the right serious study habits (such as consultation of the professional science literature) and help to shape logical and informed habits of thought? Drawing on his years of experience and with examples such as the new Cosmos TV series, Rennie will explore how the right science resources can build critical thinking skills that will serve people for a lifetime.

For more information and to register for this program, visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PFDBRKR>