

The YAC

A Newsletter for Iowa Library Staff Who Work with Youth and Children



November/December



Upcoming Events:

- International Games Week - October 29 - November 4
<http://games.ala.org/>
- Picture Book Month - November
<http://picturebookmonth.com/>
- YALSA's Young Adult Services Symposium in Louisville, KY - November 3-5
<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium>

*See the Continuing Education Catalog at <https://statelibraryofiaowa.lmscheckout.com/Course/index> for registration information.

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in January:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday - 15
- National Popcorn Day - 19
- Lewis Carroll birthday - 27
- Multicultural Children's Book Day - 28
<http://multiculturalchildrensbookday.com/>
- National Puzzle Day - 29
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-puzzle-day-january-29/>



Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in February:

- Groundhog day -2
- Laura Ingalls Wilder birthday - 7
- World Read Aloud Day - 8
<http://www.litworld.org/wrad/>
- Winter Olympics begin - 9
- Jane Yolen birthday - 11
- Chinese New Year - 16
- Random Acts of Kindness Day - 17
<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>



Easy Holiday/Winter Activities

- **Silly Snowmen:** Have children draw a snowman on a paper plate with their eyes closed using just a black marker. The edges of the paper plate help them to keep their drawing centered, but still allows for some silly results. For more of a challenge, have children place the paper plate on top of their head. You can also give step-by-step directions such as: "Draw a line for the ground." "Draw a large circle for the base of the snowman." And so on.
- **Candy Cane Fishing:** Use holiday ribbon to tie a small candy cane to a dowel or unsharpened pencil. Then have children use the candy cane as a hook to pick up other candy canes that are "standing" in holiday mugs on the floor.
- **Snowflake Art Trading Cards:** Cut watercolor paper into 2 ½ x 3 ½ inch rectangles, have children paint with watercolors, then sprinkle with salt (while wet) to create textures. When dry, brush off the salt and add a snowflake cut out or sticker. See <https://artprojectsforkids.org/portfolio/snowflake-atc/> for pictures and more detailed instructions.
- Host an "Ugly Sweater Party" for older children: Participants create ugly sweaters on paper using stickers, markers, stencils, etc. and hang them on a small clothesline or bulletin board. Take a vote and award prizes for the ugliest creation. [Some printables that might enhance your program:
<https://www.thedatingdivas.com/wp-content/uploads/uglysweater.pdf>.
A sweater template to enlarge:
<http://www.gotyourhandsfull.com/ugly-christmas-sweater-coloring-pages/>.]
- **Holiday Songs Game:** Set up the game anyway you wish (with teams, etc.). The goal is to guess the next line when given an excerpt from a popular holiday song. You will find that nearly everyone needs to sing aloud to recall the lyrics! You can find examples at <https://www.momsandmunchkins.ca/2012/12/08/christmas-carol-game/>, but it is easy to create your own.



2018 Summer Library Program Updates:

In case you hadn't heard . . .



All of the **Summer Library Program** webinars and roundtables scheduled for October and November have been postponed. Webinar sessions will be rescheduled in January and the in-person Roundtables will take place in March. Please watch for updates!

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) now has the searchable 2018 manual available on its website at www.csllpreads.org. Each library staff user can create an account with a log-in and a password. An instructional video is provided at

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/o1dCOap8vSM>.

With an account you also have access to the online incentives catalog, Facebook banners, and other artwork for 2018.

Helping Reluctant Readers:

A reluctant reader is someone who is just not very interested in books and reading - someone who doesn't read for pleasure. As library lovers, we want everyone to enjoy reading, but sometimes it is difficult to find just the right way to attract and encourage young people who simply aren't convinced that reading can be fun. I've gathered a few tips from educators and literacy experts for you to try at your library:

- According to a study done by Scholastic back in 2006, kids say that the major reason that they don't read more is simply that they don't find books that they like to read. This is the first and biggest challenge for library staff - being in touch with the interests of different age groups, looking for more of what circulates well, and so on. YALSA offers lists of books for reluctant readers at <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/quick-picks-reluctant-young-adult-readers>.
- Larger print may help some readers who feel overwhelmed by the amount of print on a page. Large print helps them recognize letters and words more easily. More white space helps, too. An electronic device may provide the format that just *works* for some children. And you might suggest that they try graphic novels.
- Clever displays are often a key to sparking the interest of reluctant readers because they rarely ask for recommendations directly.
- If fiction doesn't seem to inspire a child, try non-fiction. Suggest that they try something different such as biography, history, how-to, joke books, etc.
- Prizes or contests may provide the incentive that some half-hearted readers need to try a little harder. They may discover that they actually enjoy books!

- Reading with pets is fun and builds confidence for those who are embarrassed because they do not read well. Many libraries partner with groups that train therapy dogs to sponsor “read-with-a-pet” events.

Additional suggestions to pass along to parents:

- Because most kids hate to go to bed, allow children to stay up just a bit longer for reading time.
- Pick a book that is available as a movie, then read and watch together. Comparing the two versions helps parents check for understanding and reinforces comprehension. Did the child seem to know what was coming next in the movie? Was the child able to point out differences?
- Reading aloud, even with an older child, can help them enjoy a book. Taking turns reading aloud can relieve the burden that the child may feel about reading what seems to them like *so much* text.
- Make sure that some reading is a leisure activity. Reading is required for so much school work, a child may not have realized that it can be a fun pastime, too. Something silly like the Captain Underpants or Wimpy Kid books might separate “work from play.”



New for Storytime:

Some Newer “Call and Response” Books to Consider for Storytime

- Balla, Trace. *The Thank You Dish*. Kane Miller, 2017.
- Courgeon, Remi. *Many Moons*. Walter Foster, 2017.
- Donaldson, Julia. *The Giant Jumper*. Dial, 2017.
- Jullien, Jean. *Before & After*. Phaidon, 2017.
- Krosoczka, Jarrett. *Naptastrophe!* Knopf, 2017.
- Litwin, Eric. *The Nuts: Keep Rolling!* Little Brown, 2017.
- Shaskan, Stephen. *Toad on the Road: A Cautionary Tale*. HarperCollins, 2017.
- Smith, Lane. *A Perfect Day*. Roaring Brook, 2017.
- Smiley, Jane. *Twenty Yawns*. Two Lions, 2016.
- Thomas, Jan. *Is That Wise, Pig?* Beach Lane, 2016.
- Usher, Sam. *Rain*. Templar Candlewick, 2017.
- Won, Brian. *Hooray for Today!* HMH, 2016.
- Yuly, Toni. *Thank You, Bees*. Candlewick, 2017.

Some New Read-Alouds that Promote the Early Literacy Skill “Letter Knowledge”

- Austin, Mike. *Rescue Squad No. 9*. Random, 2016.
- Denise, Anika. *Monster Trucks*. HarperCollins, 2016.
- Lazar, Tara. *7 Ate 9: The Untold Story*. Disney-Hyperion, 2017.
- Levis, Caron. *May I Have a Word?* FSG, 2017.

Odds & Ends

- Free **printable bookmarks** for the holiday season:
<https://www.muminthemadhouse.com/winter-colouring-bookmarks/>.
- This fall marks the 75th anniversary of the **Boxcar Children** series by Gertrude Chandler Warner. See <https://www.boxcarchildren.com/about-boxcar-series/> for a timeline of the Boxcar Children books. Great display theme!
- Apply now for the **2018 Summer Learning Resources and Teen Summer Intern** grants through YALSA. These grants are worth \$1000 each and are funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Deadline is January 1st. Apply here:
<http://summerreading.ning.com/page/summer-learning-grants>
- New this year: As an addition to the **All Iowa Reads** program, 2018 will feature "All Iowa Kids Read" and "All Iowa Young Adults Read" titles. The titles were announced at the recent ILA conference in Coralville. The kids' title is *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds and the teen selection is "Girl in the Blue Coat" by Monica Hesse. Webinars about these programs are planned for February. You may wish to order copies for your library!