

# The YAC

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



*January/February 2018*



## Upcoming Events:

- Summer Library Program Early Literacy Manual Review Webinars - January 3 & 18\*
- Summer Library Program Teen Manual Review Webinar - January 9\*
- ILOC (Iowa Libraries Online Conference) -- watch for details - January 18
- Summer Library Program Children's Manual Review Webinars - January 23 & 25\*
- [Children's Authors and Illustrators Week](#) - First Week of February
- [Teen Tech Week](#) - March 4-10
- Summer Library Program Roundtables - March 6-29\*
- [National Library Week](#) - April 8-14
- [Money Smart Week](#) - April 21-28
- [Children's Book Week](#) - April 30-May 6
- [Children's Day/Book Day - El día de los niños/El día de los libros \(Día\)](#) - April 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

### Additional Special Days in January & February:

- January is National Braille Literacy Month
- January 13 - National Sticker Day
- January 16 - Appreciate a Dragon Day
- January 28 - Data Privacy Day
- February is African American History Month
- February 1 - [World Read Aloud Day](#)
- February 22 - [Digital Learning Day](#)

### Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in **March**:

- Women's History Month  
<http://www.nwhp.org/>
- 2 - Read Across America Day  
<http://www.seussville.com/Educators/educatorReadAcrossAmerica.php>
- 11 - Birthday of Libba Bray
- 14 - Pi (Pie) Day
- 20 - Birthday of Lois Lowry
- 21 - World Poetry Day  
<http://www.un.org/en/events/poetryday/>

### Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in **April**:

- Poetry Month
- 2 - Hans Christian Andersen
- 12 - Birthday of Beverly Cleary
- 21 - Birthday of Barbara Park
- 22 - Earth Day
- 26 - Birthday of Patricia Reilly Giff

## Start the New Year Right - Review the Basic Early Literacy Skills!

Many of you are familiar with the six early literacy skills that the National Research Council has recommended that children develop before they enter school and begin to learn to read. The six skills are Print Motivation, Vocabulary, Print Awareness, Narrative Skills, Phonological Awareness and Letter Knowledge.

Including activities that build these foundational skills in your storytime programs is one way to help prepare preschool children for the next steps in literacy.

Let's take a look at how story hour leaders might do this for one skill - **Narrative Skills**.

Narrative Skills are the skills needed to tell or re-tell a story. This involves describing events and putting them in order. Because of the strong connection between spoken and written language, narrative skills are a building block to reading. We can incorporate these

skills into storytime first through **Dialogic Reading**: Start by selecting books with clear pictures of familiar things and a simple plot line. Read the book normally, allowing the children to chime in with repetitive phrases, etc. Pause at a few pre-selected spots to ask open-ended questions such as "What do you think will happen next?" or "Do you think this will work?" and so on.

A second way to build narrative skills at storytime is to have children re-tell a story you have read. Flannel boards and puppets are good props to lead children in this re-telling. You might even make simple paper bag or stick puppets as a craft.

It also helps to introduce the skill you are featuring to parents and caregivers so that they can practice at home. Simply mention that you are focusing on Narrative Skills in this storytime and include tips for follow-up skill building. For example, you might suggest that parents take a moment at the dinner table or at bedtime to have the child talk about something that happened during their day.

#### A Few New Books that Promote "Narrative Skills"

- Barros, Bruna. *The Carpenter*. Gibbs Smith, 2017.
- Fitzpatrick, Marie-Louise. *Owl Bat Bat Owl*. Candlewick, 2017.
- Mack, Jeff. *Mine! Chronicle*, 2017. Miyares, Daniel. *That Neighbor Kid*. S&S, 2017.
- Sturm, James. *Birdsong: A Story in Pictures*. TOON, 2016.
- Walsh, Liam Francis. *Fish*. Roaring Brook, 2016.

## New Dates for Summer Library Program Webinars

### Early Literacy Manual Review

Wednesday, January 3, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 18, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

### Teen Manual Review

Tuesday, January 9, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

### Children's Manual Review

Tuesday, January 23, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 25, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

### Adult Manual

Tuesday, January 16, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

(Presented by Maryann Mori)

## In-Person Round Tables:

- March 6 at Council Bluffs, Green Hills AEA
- March 7 at Pocahontas, Prairie Lakes AEA
- March 8 at Urbandale Public Library
- March 13 at Coralville Public Library
- March 28 at Mason City Public Library
- March 29 at Elkader, Keystone AEA

## First it was STEM, then it was STEAM, now it's STREAM!

You've all heard about the push to include STEM (Science, Technology, and Math) education in library programs. Some have advocated for adding "A" for Art - to encourage creative thinking. More recently, adding an "R" for Reading has been suggested because librarians and literacy experts are concerned that basic reading skills might be taken for granted in the promotion of STEM/STEAM education.

Others have suggested that the R might also stand for wRiting because putting observations and ideas into words requires the same skills and creative thinking that educators are trying to encourage in all areas. However you look at it, preparing young people for careers and life in the future should emphasize reading and writing. You might even argue that even casual communication through email, texting, and tweeting relies more than ever on these skills.

The STEM movement grew out of a shortage of young people prepared for careers in science, technology, engineering and math. However, reading (and writing) well is a basis for so much learning that perhaps it should be included in the acronym as a reminder.

[Note: If you search for STREAM education online, you will find that many parochial schools are using the "R" in STREAM for Religion and other sources use it for Robotics.]

### Resources:

- For lots of great ideas for science-focused programs by librarians, see the blog "Stem in Libraries" at <https://steminlibraries.com/>. The authors of that blog recently presented a webinar for WebJunction that was really worthwhile - you can view the recording at <http://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/from-tots-to-teens-STEAM-powered.html>.
- "The Best and Most Inspiring STEM Books for Kids" -- <https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/stem-books-for-kids/>
- 2017 Best STEM Books -- <http://www.cbcbooks.org/2017-best-stem-books/>

## Odds & Ends

•10 Free Webinars from YALSA in 2018:

[http://www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning/webinar/free\\_competencies\\_webinars](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning/webinar/free_competencies_webinars)

•Register now for the 2018 **ILOC** (Iowa Libraries Online) Conference coming up on Thursday, January 18. The theme this year is “**Advocacy in Action.**” As the conference name implies, the entire day is online. There will be something for everyone! For details, see the Continuing Education Catalog at <https://statelibraryofiowa.lmscheckout.com/Course/index>

•**All Iowa Reads Sets** available: Remember that you can borrow sets (10 copies each) of the new youth AIR titles *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds and *Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse for your library's book discussion groups. Contact your District Office.