

The YAC

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



September 2015



Upcoming Events:

September is **Library Card Sign-Up Month**

<http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/card>

September 15 - October 15 is **Hispanic Heritage Month**

September 17-20 - **Story! Festival** in Story City

<http://www.storycity.net/story-festival/>

September 23 - **Performers' Showcase** in Sioux Center*

September 24 - **Performers' Showcase** in Atlantic*

September 25 - **Performers' Showcase** in Iowa City*

September 30 is **Banned Websites Awareness Day**

<http://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/bwad>

September 27-October 3 is **Banned Books Week**

<http://www.bannedbooksweek.org/>

October 18-24 - **Teen Read Week**

<http://teenreadweek.ning.com/>

October 27 - **Summer Library Program Workshop** in Atlantic (save the date!)

October 28 - **Summer Library Program Workshop** in Cherokee (save the date!)

October 29 - **Summer Library Program Workshop** in Mason City (save the date!)

November 3 - **Summer Library Program Workshop** in Waterloo (save the date!)

November 4 - **Summer Library Program Workshop** in Southeast Iowa (save the date!)

November 5 - **Summer Library Program Workshop** in Des Moines (save the date!)

November 9-13 - **National Young Readers Week**

<http://www.bookitprogram.com/nyrw/default.asp>

November 21 - **International Games Day**

<http://igd.ala.org/>

*See the Continuing Education Catalog at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat/> for registration information.



Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in November:

- 4 - Anniversary of the discovery of King Tut's tomb in 1922 (opened on the 29th)
- 10 - Birthday of Neil Gaiman
- 12 - Birthday of Kevin Henkes
- 15 - America Recycles Day
<http://americarecyclesday.org/>
- 15-21 - Geography Awareness Week
<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/programs/geographyawarenessweek/>
- 25 - Birthday of Marc Brown

Occasions for Special Displays/Program Themes in December:

- 1 - World AIDS Day
<http://www.worldaidsday.org/>
- 14 - South Pole was discovered in 1911 (think penguins!)

- 17 - Wright Brothers first flight in 1903
- 22 - First day of winter/First Christmas lights were sold on this day in 1882
- 26 - Kwanzaa begins
- 28 - Chewing gum patented in 1869/ Iowa became the 29th state in 1846

Halloween/Day of the Dead

Halloween is a perfect time for some fun library displays and activities! The theme is so adaptable - from cute to spooky and gross - that you can do a wide variety of things! I have searched for ideas that are quick-and-easy for you to use and these are my favorites:

Activities:

- Printable Day of the Dead BINGO: <https://happythought.co.uk/day-of-the-dead/games>
- Make simple flannel board jack-o-lanterns like the ones at: <http://craftsbyamanda.com/make-jack-olantern-felt-board/>
- For a passive program, create your own I Spy game. Line a display case with black paper or cloth. Fill with old books, spider webs, plastic spiders and the items to search for. For the rhyme, you might use Scholastic's spooky library game as a starting point and change it to suit your needs. See the website at: <http://www.scholastic.com/ispy/games/>
- Trick or Treat @ your library - hand out bookmarks instead of candy. The District Offices can supply some die cut bookmarks for your little trick-or-treaters. We have a ghost, black cat, or plain bookmarks. You might invite visitors to decorate the plain bookmarks with a sticker or stampers (purple, orange and neon green are good seasonal colors to order).
- Have a spooky poetry reading featuring selections from Jack Prelutsky's *Nightmares* or similar works. You can find "The Bogeyman" online at: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/177559>. [Note that there is no definite concept of what a bogeyman looks like, so this would be a good theme for drawings - perhaps even a drawing contest.]

Some printables for decorating:



- Spell Book pages to glue into an old weeded book: <http://griffithsrated.blogspot.com/2013/10/diy-halloween-spell-book.html>
- Book covers: <http://www.littlehouseonthecorner.com/halloween-book-covers/> or http://parginsupermom.com/?attachment_id=8414

- In Paper Dreams offers some cute (large-size) monster templates: <http://inpaperdreams.com/halloween-monsters>
- Template for easy Calaveras to create banners, etc.: <https://happythought.co.uk/craft/papel-picado-calaveras>
- Day of the Dead skeleton: <https://happythought.co.uk/day-of-the-dead/games>

Harvest Theme:

If ghouls and skeletons aren't so popular with your community or the age group you are serving, substitute a harvest theme. Make use of decorations related to apples, pumpkins and sunflowers. For storytime programs use books like *Strega Nona's Harvest* by Tomie dePaola or *How Many Seeds are in a Pumpkin* by Emily McNamara. Try apple stamping: Cut a few apples in half from stem to blossom end, dip in orange tempera paint, stamp on paper. When dry, draw a stem to look like a pumpkin!



The next issue of the YAC will feature ideas for the winter holidays. Please share programs or displays that have worked well for your library by e-mailing sue.gruber@state.lib.ia.us. Photos are welcome! We would love to see what other Iowa libraries are doing to celebrate this special time of year.

OUTDOOR S.T.E.A.M.

Before the weather gets chilly, try a few of these outdoor activities for after-school programs or storytimes:

Pool Noodle Marble Run - Cut several pool noodles in half lengthwise. Prop up one end of the noodle on a box or bench, etc. You might test various marbles, small wooden and plastic balls to see what rolls best. Or graph the times for each run to see how much they vary. For even more fun on warmer days, add a pan of water or small wading pool at the bottom end for a splash at the finish. This website offers photos and additional instructions: <http://mamapapabubba.com/2013/07/06/marble-run-water-slide/>

Note: If you are really ambitious, you can tape several of the pool noodles together to make a longer run that goes down a stairway or from another high spot. The course can even bend a bit.

Make a Sundial - You can make a sundial using something as simple as a paper plate with a pencil in the center or rocks placed around a center pole. You may even have a light post or other post that will work. The website at

<http://www.theoldschool.com/motivate/tips/2013/a-timeout-for-time-craft-a-garden-sundial> explains how to mark the hours. This might be a good activity to mark the end of Daylight Savings time.

Large-Scale Art - Make some large paintings by using Swiffer dusters, feather dusters or sponge mops as "brushes." You will need tubs of tempera paint and large roll paper taped to a fence or side of a building.

Sponge Toss - Draw a large target (6' or so across) with concentric circles (as for archery) and mark points for each ring (use smaller numbers for younger children). Have children line up at a line about 3' from the outer circle. Dip sponges (3 x 5" or so) in a bucket of water and toss them without squeezing the excess water out. Each child might have 3 attempts. Each child can add up his/her own scores. Substitute bean bags if it is too chilly for water play.

Graph Falling Temperatures - Set up a large outdoor thermometer and have children help create a graph of the temperature changes this winter (a simple line graph with date across the bottom and temperature up the left side). Be sure to record the temperature at the same time each day. Small round stickers would be handy for marking each day's temperature.



Celebrate International Games Day @ your library on November 21st. Play some new board games, introduce kids to some classic games like checkers, create some life-size game pieces for decorations, have a puzzle race, and basically have fun.

Here are a few links and suggestions:

- Printable board games: <http://www.mes-english.com/games/boardgames.php>
- Purchase inexpensive puzzles from "dollar" stores to suit different age groups. Have a race between groups to see who can finish first, time each group with a kitchen timer, or just enjoy assembling puzzles all day - or all week!
- Play post-it scrabble: Use a blank wall, bulletin board or large poster board. Create tiles from square post-it notes. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble_letter_distributions for the number of each letter you will need. You don't need a grid, just start with a few words and

invite patrons to add to the game (or play the game with teams or individual players as usual).

- Decorate with "scrabble tiles" - the District Offices can provide 5" black letters that you can glue to 6" squares to spell out any message you choose.
- The District Offices also have die cut dominoes to add to bulletin boards/displays. They can be cut in a variety of colors.



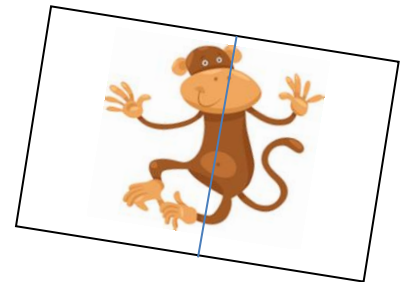
Better Storytimes - Understanding Syllables



Dividing long words into smaller parts helps children hear and repeat the word correctly. It is something we naturally do when teaching new vocabulary. Children's books have about three times the number of new or unusual words as everyday conversation, so this is something that preschool storytime presenters do a lot!

Spoken syllables center on a vowel sound. When a vowel is spoken, the jaw drops open. You can feel this by placing your hand under the chin as you speak. Children can do this to count the number of parts in a word. Clapping out the syllables helps, too.

To emphasize the idea of breaking words into smaller parts, you might also play "Say It Fast/Say It Slow:" Select some familiar two-syllable words that you can find pictures for (words like monkey, pencil, mitten, bunny, pumpkin, tiger, apple, airplane). Print the pictures to fill a sheet of paper then cut them in half. Start with three or four pictures. Hold half of the picture in each hand and move the hand forward as you say each syllable slowly. Repeat a few times gradually speeding up so that the word sounds natural. Have the children join in as they catch on. When everyone understands the game, you might mix up the pictures to form silly words like mon-ger and air-key.



Odds & Ends

☀ This year's **Banned Books Week** (September 27-October 3) will focus on books written for teens. YA literature is an often-challenged category. Of the Top Ten Most

Challenged Books of 2014 announced by The American Library Association April, many were books for teens (<http://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks>). This might also be an interesting lead-in for Teen Read Week, which is October 18-24 (<http://teenreadweek.ning.com/>).

Read more here: <http://bannedbooksweek.org/node/8805>.

★ **Wimp Yourself!** - See what you would look like as a Wimpy Kid at: <http://www.wimpykidclub.co.uk/wimp-yourself/>

★ The web site **Too Small To Fail** offers free printable tip sheets for parents and longer literacy guides featuring Sesame Street characters at: <http://toosmall.org/community/resources#Guides>

★ Check out a fun **music sampler** provided by the National Association for the Education of Young Children at: <http://families.naeyc.org/songs/archive>

★ **"Displays That Work"** is a great Pinterest source for library display ideas at: <https://www.pinterest.com/publib/displays-that-work/>

★ The Magpie Librarian at Brooklyn Public Library shares a **cool display for a teen area** using first lines of books at: <https://magpielibrarian.wordpress.com/2015/05/01/dont-judge-a-book-by-its-cover-but-what-about-the-first-line-a-teen-library-display/>



★ **Most Anticipated Children's and YA Books of Fall 2015** are posted at: <http://publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/tip-sheet/article/67651-the-most-anticipated-children-s-and-ya-books-of-fall-2015.html>

★ Cute **mini-posters** for early literacy are available to download from ALA: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/babiesneedwords>

★ **Curiosity Creates Grant** applications are due September 25th. See <http://www.ala.org/alsc/curiositycreates> for details about these new grants from ALSC!



★ Voting for the **Teens' Top Ten** list (with winners to be announced during Teen Read Week) began August 15th. You might create a display of the nominees and encourage young adults to vote on the YALSA website at: <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/reads4teens>

