



March 20, 2025 -- Happy First Day of Spring!

New STEM To Go Kits from Iowa PBS!



We've partnered with Iowa PBS to bring you bilingual STEM To Go kits for your library! As part of the Iowa PBS' Ready To Learn grant, there are five new bilingual kits for libraries to use! Each kit contains bilingual stories, plus literacy activities, games, and educational resources that build early literacy skills.

Libraries can choose from Farms, Dinosaurs, Colors, More Colors, and Maps for themes! Don't forget - all of the kits can be checked out for **five weeks!**

STEM To Go and Storytime Kits

The contents of each kit were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Three Dates Left for the FREE STEM Fairs and Summer Reading Summits!



We've had a blast seeing everyone have fun, network and engage at the STEM Fairs and Summer Reading Summits! You still have time to join the fun!

Remaining Dates & Locations

- **March 24 & 25:** Oelwein Public Library (Northeast District)

- **March 27 & 28:** Algona Public Library (North Central District)
- **March 31 & April 1:** Rockwell City Public Library (Northwest District)

How To Register

Register for one event or both events in Workday Learning. You must register for each event separately if you are planning on attending both days.

Register for the Summer Reading Summit

Register for a STEM Fair

About the STEM Fairs

The **STEM Fairs** are half-day, in-person workshops that give librarians ideas for incorporating easy, low-cost STEM activities at their library! This event features presentations from librarians in your district - and time for hands-on learning! Each STEM Fair location will offer a morning session and an afternoon session with the same material presented to allow more librarians to attend.

About the Summer Reading Summits

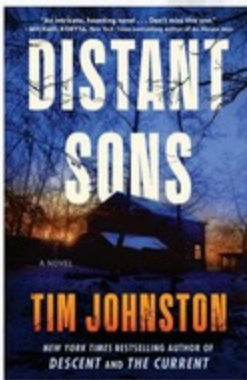
The **Summer Reading Summits** are designed to help you put the finishing touches on your plans for Summer Library programming. We'll talk about the importance of summer learning for kids and teens, best practices for summer programming, craft ideas, book display ideas, and time for networking.

Questions? Visit the [STEM Fair webpage](#) or the [Summer Reading Summit webpage](#).

Save the Date: All Iowa Reads Summer Webinars

2025 ALL IOWA READS

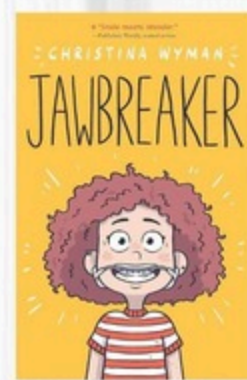
Summer Webinars!



Adult

Tim Johnston

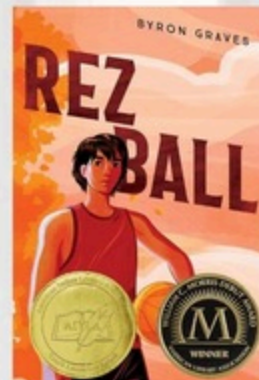
June 17 at 6:30 p.m.



Kids

Christina Wyman

June 18 at 1:00 p.m.



Teen

Byron Graves

June 25 at 3:00 p.m.

Registration Opens Mid-April!

Join us this summer for these **FREE** hour-long webinars with this year's All Iowa Reads authors! Each author will share insights about their book and answer your questions.

This is a wonderful event to plan virtual viewing parties around for kids, teens, or adults during Summer Reading! **Registration will open in mid-April.**

- **Tuesday, June 17, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.:** *Distant Sons* by Tim Johnston (Adult)
- **Wednesday, June 18, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.:** *Jawbreaker* by Christina Wyman (Kids ages 8-12)
- **Wednesday, June 25, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.:** *Rez Ball* by Byron Graves (Teens ages 13-18)

[More About All Iowa Reads](#)

Summer Library Canva Templates Now Available



We've created Bingo Sheets, Reading Log Bookmarks, Prize Drawing Slips, and a Calendar template!

New This Year: A Classroom Reading Challenge Sheet is for librarians to use with your daycares and summer school teachers. Our Gameboard Template has two different reading challenges for Elementary ages. All can be customized for your library on Canva!

[Access the Summer Library Templates](#)

Learn To Host a Tween Dungeons & Dragons Program at Johnston Public Library

Thursday, April 10 at the Johnston Public Library | 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

If you're wanting to learn how to run a Dungeons and Dragons program for Tweens (4th - 6th Grades), Sheila Olson, Johnston Public Library Youth Services Specialist, is hosting a test program for librarians Thursday, April 10 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Johnston Public Library (6700 Merle Hay Road, Johnston).

Attendees can learn how to track character stats, abilities and more - and Sheila will also share resources too! For more information, contact Sheila at (515) 278-5233 ext. 610.



State Library CE Events

Pop YS Live

Pop YS Live is a regular webinar series from the State Library which highlights trends and best practices in services and programming for those working in Youth Services librarianship in Iowa.

Quick Youth Services programming note: *Pop YS Live and Check it Out will be on break in March while Janeé travels for the STEM Fairs and Summer Reading Summits. We'll see you again for our usual webinars in April!*





April Pop YS Live | Volunteers:

Making the Most of Teen Engagement at Your Library

Wednesday, April 9 | 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Providing local teens with volunteer opportunities in the library can be a lot of work, but it can also be very rewarding for both you and for the “Volunteens.” If you’re thinking about starting a teen volunteer program (for summer reading or beyond), Janeé will have some great tips to help you launch or revitalize your engagement efforts.

We’ll discuss the benefits to both libraries and teens, recruitment best practices, and how to manage teen volunteers. A well-structured teen volunteer program not only benefits the library but also empowers the next generation of library users and supporters! This webinar will be recorded.

[Register for April Pop YS Live](#)

April Check It Out!

Tuesday, April 22 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

In this hour, Janeé will book talk the best books for youth ages 0-18 and share collection development tips and trends! There’s also a prize giveaway, too! This webinar will be recorded.



[Register for Check It Out](#)



Level Up Your Summer Reading Book Lists for All Ages

Thursday, April 24 | 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Join Janeé and Sam for a romp through one of the best-kept secrets of the iREAD Resource Guide... the Bibliographies! We'll do a little book talking for all ages, a little brainstorming of display ideas, and a lot of nerding out.

You're sure to leave this session with lots of ideas for kids, teens, adults, and families to "Level Up" their reading lists this summer. This webinar will be recorded.

[Register for Level Up Your Summer Reading](#)

Resource of the Month

Pairing STEAM with Stories

Note: The State Library has this title for checkout! [Reserve a copy from our library catalog](#) today!

If you're looking to create STEAM activities while building social-emotional and critical thinking skills for children at your library - check out *Pairing STEAM with Stories: 46 Hands-On Activities for Children* by Liz McChesney and Brett Nicholas.

The authors spotlighted their book in the February edition of the *Programming Librarian* newsletter. Their book features lots of STEAM activities that librarians can use to build upon their STEAM programming!

[Read the "Pairing STEAM with Stories" Article](#)



State Library of Iowa Youth Services

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