



Straight *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

NOVEMBER, 2008 - Published by the Northeast Library System
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor



'Tis the Season

It's right around the corner, workshop season in the Northeast Library System. Over the next few months, librarians, trustees and friends will be merrily attending workshops covering library subjects from A to Z.

First up is the **E-Rate Workshop**, held on December 10th at the Lied Pierce Public Library and starting at 1:30pm. Richard Miller, from the Nebraska Library Commission, will be giving us the latest tips and tricks with E-rate. Laptops will be available for those who would like to submit their 470 or 471 form during the session. If you decide to submit a form, please bring along your PIN, copies of bills for the 471, and other pertinent information.

Call Kathy at 1-800-578-1014 to register and she'll answer any questions you may have.

February begins with **Theresa Dickson** traveling across the state presenting workshops on 'Fifty Plus: Getting Ready to Hand Over the Reins' and "Supervising Friends and Former Peers". Theresa will be in the Northeast Library System on Tuesday, February 3rd at the Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College in Norfolk. Registration information can be found on pages 10 and 11 in Straight Talk.

Have an Arctic Blast! is this year's theme for our Annual Winter Workshop scheduled for Friday, February 20th, at the Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

This year's sessions include:

*Learning Barn with Debbie Borg from the Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau has a learning barn stuffed with books, toy tractors and all things related to agriculture.

*Creative Commons with Michael Sauers. Join Michael as he talks about Creative Com-

mons, how it works and how it is an alternative to Copyright.

*Creative Problem Solving: Techniques that Work with Robin Bernstein. Tired of tackling your problems the same old way? Robin will give you ideas on how to solve your problems creatively.

*Open Source Software: Free Tech Tools for School & Youth Services Librarians with Karen Hein. This session will highlight a variety of open source software available free of charge for use by librarians to support instruction and recreational programming for youth.

*Library Newsletters: Tips & Tricks with Megan Boggs. Need new ideas to pep up your library's newsletter? Join Megan as she will give you ideas on making your newsletter come alive!

*Michael L. Printz Awards with Charissa Loftis. Charissa will dazzle you everything you needed to know about the Printz Awards, given for excellence in young adult literature.



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*Flippin' Out With Genealogy with Kathy Nelson. Join Kathy as she talks about how her work on the history of the Flippin family of Stromsburg has mushroomed from attending a workshop to doing presentations across the state.

*Red Hot Romance with Marilyn Quance. Will regencies make a comeback? Will readers ever tire of vampires and werewolves in their romance? Marilyn will answer these questions and more.

This year's luncheon speaker will be Julia Cook from Fremont. Julia writes juvenile non-fiction such as 'My Mouth is a Volcano' and 'Personal Space Camp'.

This year's summer reading program themes are 'Be Creative @ Your Library' and 'Express Yourself @ Your Library'. Our **SRP Workshop** is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th at the Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College, in Norfolk. Alice Boeckman will be the main presenter. She'll focus on music and young people in the library. Registration information will come available in January 2009.



Family Literacy Bags

Reading Rockets has developed a set of six family literacy bags appropriate for a kindergarten or first grade listening level to encourage some hands-on fun and learning. Just assemble everything into a two-gallon zip top bag, and send home with your students. What goes into each literacy bag?

* Parent information sheet with an introductory note that you can personalize, instructions about how to use the packet, and tips for sharing fiction and nonfiction books with children

* Two books: one fiction and one nonfiction, selected by Reading Rockets for high quality and wide availability in school libraries

* Creativity Activity: a hands-on craft project

* Imagination Activity: encourages imaginative play, writing, or drawing

* Get Real Activity: focuses on real-world experiences for parent and child

* Bookmark: lists the featured titles and alternative titles



ALSC Great Interactive Software for Kids Fall 2008

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) has selected its Fall 2008 list of Great Interactive Software for Kids (GISK), which recognizes high-quality computer programs and digital media for children 14 years of age and younger.

The selected products are:

Beep, Tool Factory, <http://www.toolfactory.com> Windows and Mac Compatible, disk required to run. \$49.95

This CD-ROM is filled with activities geared toward early elementary school age children and requires little to no reading. Children can choose from one of six activities. Music plays to the tune of a drawing combining both art and music. A word robot helps kids form sentences and reads the words aloud. Ongoing mazes and odd-one-out puzzles help children learn problem solving.

GollyGee Blocks: 3-D Modeling for Kids, GollyGee Software, Inc., <http://www.gollygee.com/> PC CD-ROM, Windows, Mac, disk required to run. \$29.95

GollyGee Blocks allows you to build anything you want - and decorate it - in an open-ended 3-D environment that encourages creativity and exploration. In this gravity-free environment, the user has complete control over the building elements, from their placement to their size and appearance. The intuitive interface features icons and instructions that are easy to understand, even for a small child.

LEGO Indiana Jones: The Original Adventures, Lucasarts Entertainment, <http://www.lucasarts.com/> Nintendo DS, Wii, Multiplayer, Rated E 10+. Ages: 10-14 \$29.99

The archaeologist comes to you in the LEGO style video game. Each of the first three movies is a chapter in the game, and each chapter has to be completed before moving on to the next one. After each chapter is completed, the 'free play' is unlocked and you can go back to unlock more games and characters. Players can use the stylus as Indiana Jones uses his whip to swing across an open pit, fight off his enemies, or kiss the leading lady! Another player can join in the fun with a wireless connection.

Mastering Elementary School, Weekly Reader Corp., <http://weeklyreader.com/>, Windows and Mac compatible, disk required to run.. \$29.99

This 2-disc DVD-ROM set provides enriching lessons based around Elementary School curriculum covering the topics of Math, English, Literature, History, and Science. Users learn by watching lively videos, interacting with lessons, and taking quizzes.

Mastering Elementary and Middle School Math, Weekly Reader Corp., <http://www.weeklyreader.com/>, PC, CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, Mac and I-pod compatible, Grades 1-8 \$19.99

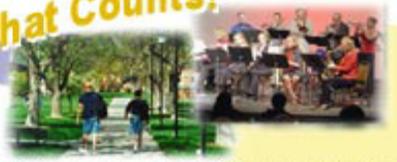
Mastering Math uses audio- and video-powered lessons to make learning math fun. It will assist children in their understanding of both core and complex math concepts. The CD-ROM gives a crash course in the Rapid Calculation Method which gives students proven techniques for solving math problems. There is a progress report function to track student progress.

Nancy Drew and the Phantom of Venice Her Interactive, <http://www.herinteractive.com/>, PC CD-ROM, disk required to run. Rated E, \$19.99

Nancy's latest mystery takes her to Venice, Italy, where a phantom thief has the authorities baffled. Nancy must conduct surveillance of local suspects ultimately using the information that she learns from her investigations to infiltrate a local crime syndicate. Help Nancy interview suspects, interpret clues, solve puzzles, and disguise herself in order to successfully penetrate the secret organization that the phantom thief works for before he or she can strike again.



It's What's INSIDE That Counts!



McCook Community College

800-658-4348

North Platte Community College

800-658-4308

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<http://www.mpcc.edu>

Starting January 1, 2009...

LIBR 2200 INTRODUCTION TO LIBRARY COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

3 Semester Hours / 4.5 Quarter Hours

Online

Spring Term, 2009

January 12 – April 2009

This course will provide students with an understanding of principles and best practices in collection management, including:

- Collection Management Policies Selection Practices and Procedures
- Material Acquisition
- Intellectual Freedom
- Collection Evaluation
- Intellectual Property Issues
- Weeding, Donations, Resource Sharing
- Materials Preservation, and more



Requirement for the Library Technology Assistant Associate of Arts Degree option that is being offered through the Nebraska Community Colleges.

Prerequisite: LIBR 1010 Introduction to Library and Information Services, from Metropolitan Community College (Omaha) which may be taken at the same time, or with instructor approval.

Interested? Call Mid-Plains Community College Today:

Sherry Mihel, Student Advisor

mihels@mpcc.edu

(800) 658-4308 Toll Free

(308) 535-3710

North Platte Community College

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1205 East Third Street

McCook, NE 69001

308-345-3305 Fax

General registration for Spring 2009 term begins November 19, 2008

Class Instructor: Patty Birch pbirch@esu16.org 308-532-8667



Books Honored by Nebraska Center for the Book

Straight-Talk is published ten times per year by the Northeast Library System. Contact Kathy Ellerton or Sheila Cermak at the Northeast Library System Office from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. C.S.T. at 1-800-578-1014 (402)- 564-1586 (Voice) (402)-276-0583 (Cell) (402)-564-7977 (FAX).

Mailing Address:
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The 2008 Nebraska Book Awards program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB), recognizes and honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or concerning Nebraska. This year's winners are:

Nonfiction

150: A Commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of Hall County, Nebraska Edited by Pete Letheby
Publisher: Grand Island Independent

Nonfiction

Honor Africa on Six Wheels: A Semester on Safari by Betty Levitov
Publisher: University of Nebraska Press

Fiction

Dead Ex by Harley Jane Kozak
Publisher: Doubleday

Cover/Design/Illustration

Husker Numbers: A Nebraska Number Book by Rajean Luebs Shepherd, Illustrated by Sandy Appleoff
Publisher: Sleeping Bear Press.

Poetry

Book of Grass by JV Brummels
Publisher: Grizzly Media

Anthology

The Big Empty: Contemporary Nebraska Nonfiction Writers Edited by Ladette Randolph and Nina Shevchuk-Murray
Publisher: University of Nebraska Press

Anthology

Honor Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry Edited by Greg Kosmicki and Mary K. Stillwell
Publisher: Backwaters Press

Closing Notice! NE State Historical Society Library/Archives Reference Room

Beginning January 2009, the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) headquarters at 1500 R will be undergoing a two-year renovation project to bring life/safety and HVAC conditions up to current standards. Researchers planning to work with collections housed in the facility should take note that there will be extended time periods during 2009-2011 that the Reference Room WILL BE CLOSED and that research materials will be unavailable. Some telephone reference will be available during the closure.

Please check the NSHS website often for updates on the closure of the Reference Room, or call 402-471-4771 or email lanshs@nebraskahistory.org for information.



CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

Nov. 19 - **Library Camp Nebraska**, UNL, Lincoln Union, from 9am-4pm.

Nov 21 - College of DuPage, **"Information Literacy for Life"** at 11am.

Nov 25 - **Basic Skills: Public Library Administration** class from 10am-3pm at the Norfolk Public Library.

Nov 27 - **Thanksgiving** holiday. Office closed.

Dec 2 - **Basic Skills: Public Library Administration** class from 10am-3pm at the Norfolk Public Library.

Dec 10 - **E-Rate Workshop** at Lied Pierce Public Library. Time TBA.

Jan 21 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Battle Creek Public Library at 10am.

Feb 3 - **Workshops with Theresa Dickson** at Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College in Norfolk at 9:30am.

Feb 10 - **Library Legislative Day** in Lincoln. Details TBA.

Feb 13 - College of Dupage, **"Targeting the Ages: Programming That Hits the Mark"** at 11am.

Feb 20 - **Have an Arctic Blast!**, NLS Annual Winter Workshop at Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College, in Norfolk.

Mar 24 - **Summer Reading Program** Workshop at Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College in Norfolk. Details TBA.



NEW @ NLS

If you wish to read one of the following articles or check out a book or DVD, please contact Shelia at 1-800-578-1014.

"Branding and Marketing Your Library" by James A. Keller, Public Libraries, Sept/Oct 2008, pp. 45-54.

James Keller, Director of Marketing for the Queens Library (NY) System, emphasizes the value of developing your library brand and reviews the steps involved in developing your local library's brand.

"Dissecting the Web Through Wikipedia" by Adam Bennington, American Libraries, Aug. 2008, pp. 46-49.

Teachers often discourage use of Wikipedia for research projects. The author argues that librarians should use it as a research tool to teach information literacy skills. Many articles are well-written and well-researched. Wikipedia could be used as a centerpiece around which to teach searching and critical reading skills, as well as evaluation of a resource's content.

"Raising Money in December: Some Myths & Some Methods" by Kim Klein, Grassroots Fundraising Journal, Nov/Dec. 2008, pp. 12-15.

Author Kim Klein discounts the myths regarding fundraising in December. She goes on to describe several methods to successfully raise money during the holiday season. Article includes sample gift form and letter.





Northeast News

Congratulations to the staff and board of the **Meadow Grove Public Library**. The library was recently awarded #8 in Hennen's American Public Library Ratings 2008 for libraries serving a population under 1,000.

Congratulations and a sad farewell to Ted Smith, **Norfolk Public Library** Director. Ted announced that he has accepted a position with the Newport Public Library in Oregon and will be leaving Nebraska on December 19th.

Mr. & Mrs. Santa Clause will visit the **Atkinson Public Library** on Monday, December

1st. Children will have their picture taken with Santa Claus, listen to a story, make a holiday craft, and to get a free bag of goodies.

November 7th found the **Bloomfield Public Library** full of kids for their Thanksgiving program. Games and activities put everyone into the holiday spirit.

If you've ever wanted to learn Adobe Acrobat or Photoshop, stop by the **Hartington Public Library** and sign up for a class. Taught by Sara Elton, students will learn the basics of working with digital files.

Wayne Public Library will be giving away a MP3 player as part of their Overdrive promotion. The library recently acquired the downloadable audiobooks and is pleased by the positive response.

Do you like to quilt but can't find the time? The quilters in Osmond have solved that prob-

lem by meeting at 4am at the **Osmond Public Library**. On the first Friday of the month, women brave the cold, dark skies and get together.

If you are trying to beat the Christmas shopping rush, stop by the **Atkinson Public Library** and the **Elgin Public Library** for their silent auctions. The Silent Auctions have proven to be great fundraisers and lots of fun for everyone.

The **Northeast Library System** has added three more titles to it's book set collections. They are: Anna's Blizzard by Alison Hart, Room One by Andrew Clements, and Luck by Jean Craighead George. The 2009 One Book One State selection is A Lantern in Her Hand by Bess Streeter Aldrich. The System Office should have a set available for checkout in January.



Teens visited a car body shop during the Summer Reading Program for the **Stanton Public Library**.





Copyright Law – Public Domain

by
Phyllis Brunken

The topic of Public Domain can be a very complicated one. Fortunately, Lolly Gasaway has created a chart that provides a simple guide to public domain. Gasaway’s chart has become one of the major references on the topic. As noted below, the chart may be freely duplicated or linked to for nonprofit purposes.

WHEN U.S. WORKS PASS INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN by Lolly Gasaway, University of North Carolina

Definition: A public domain work is a creative work that is not protected by copyright and which may be freely used by everyone. The reasons that the work is not protected include: (1) the term of copyright for the work has expired; (2) the author failed to satisfy statutory formalities to perfect the copyright or (3) the work is a work of the U.S. Government.

DATE OF WORK	PROTECTED FROM	TERM
Created 1-1-78 or after	When work is fixed in tangible medium of expression	Life + 70 years ¹ (or if work of corporate authorship, the shorter of 95 years from publication, or 120 years from creation ²)
Published before 1923	In public domain	None
Published from 1923 - 63	When published with notice ³	28 years + could be renewed for 47 years, now extended by 20 years for a total renewal of 67 years. If not so renewed, now in public domain
Published from 1964 - 77	When published with notice	28 years for first term; now automatic extension of 67 years for second term
Created before 1-1-78 but not published	1-1-78, the effective date of the 1976 Act which eliminated common law copyright	Life + 70 years or 12-31-2002, whichever is greater
Created before 1-1-78 but published between then and 12-31-2002	1-1-78, the effective date of the 1976 Act which eliminated common law copyright	Life + 70 years or 12-31-2047 whichever is greater

- 1 Term of joint works is measured by life of the longest-lived author.
- 2 Works for hire, anonymous and pseudonymous works also have this term. 17 U.S.C. § 302(c).
- 3 Under the 1909 Act, works published without notice went into the public domain upon publication. Works published without notice between 1-1-78 and 3-1-89, effective date of the Berne Convention Implementation Act, retained copyright only if efforts to correct the accidental omission of notice was made within five years, such as by placing notice on unsold copies. 17 U.S.C. § 405. (Notes courtesy of Professor Tom Field, Franklin Pierce Law Center and Lolly Gasaway)

LOLLY GASAWAY Last updated 11-04-03
 Chart may be freely duplicated or linked to for nonprofit purposes. No permission needed.
 Please include web address on all reproductions of chart so recipients know where to find

any updates. <http://www.unc.edu/~uncing/public-d.htm>.

A more detailed chart has been developed by Cornell University and is available on their website. Copyright Term and the Public Domain in the United States, January 1, 2007 - http://www.copyright.cornell.edu/training/Hirtle_Public_Domain.htm.

Please send an email to me if you want a complete bibliography of my recommended copyright law resources or have a copyright law question. Phyllis Brunken – pbrunken@cox.net. I am not an attorney and this article may not be substituted for formal legal advice from an attorney well versed in school law and copyright law.



StoryTubes is here!

Children, parents, educators, librarians and anyone else who loves stories - StoryTubes is here!

Kids across the country in Grades 1-6 are invited to talk about their favorite book on YouTube for a chance to win prizes. It's simple! Just make a 2-minute-or-shorter video about your favorite book and upload it to YouTube. Then, go to the StoryTubes.info web site with a parent, upload your video and send the link to your video to the

National StoryTubes Contest.

StoryTubes videos can be entered beginning April 1. You choose a category for your video:

- Hair-Raising Tales
- From or For the Heart
- Of Heroes and Heroines
- Facts, Fads and Phenoms

Each week, the top ten videos in each category will be featured for voting.

Voting mania will then begin and happen each week in May! At the end of each week, one lucky contestant will win \$500 in books. Their sponsoring organization (school, library or designated organization for home-schooled youth) will receive \$1,000 in books. Book prizes are sponsored by publishers Simon & Schuster, Scholastic, Eglemont Press, DK Publishing, Charlesbridge Publishing and Shenanigan Books.

The StoryTubes national partner libraries are:

- Northeast: Middle Country Public Library of Centereach; NY
- Southeast: The Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County/ImaginOn, Charlotte, NC
- Midwest: Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, IL
- Northwest: King County Library System, Issaquah, WA
- Southwest: Pasadena Public Library, Pasadena, CA

Get your story, camera (almost any digital camera will do) and let the streaming stories begin! For more information, visit www.storytubes.info.



**W
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The Nebraska Regional Library Systems Present



Fifty Plus: Getting Ready to Hand Over the Reins:

The aging of the US population has implications for libraries, both at the service desk and behind. This workshop works on getting you ready to serve the public and preparing public libraries to prosper when large numbers of Baby Boomer librarians exit and join with this new demographic. It will include information on emerging trends and how those affect libraries, and how libraries can respond successfully to a growing segment of our customer population, as well as prepare for the impact of a profession with a significant percentage of retirements and the need for recruiting to fill those vacancies.

Supervising Friends and Former Peers: This workshop explores the challenges of accepting growing responsibilities and what that means for the new supervisor. Examines the reasons for seeking out promotions and added responsibilities, both the pluses and the added stresses of supervisory duties, whether or not it includes friends and former peers.

Presenter: Theresa Dickson is the Associate Director of the Pioneer Library System in Norman Oklahoma and a well-known State, Regional and National presenter.

This workshop is sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.





Registration

Schedule:

9:30 a.m. to noon—Fifty Plus

Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.—Supervising Friends and Former Peers

Please check the session(s) you wish to attend. If you are attending both sessions please check both.

_____ Fifty Plus

_____ Supervising Friends and Former Peers

Cost: \$10 for one session, \$15 for both sessions. Each session will qualify for 2.5 CE credits or 5 CE credits for both

This workshop will be presented at these locations on the following dates:

Please indicate which date and site you will be attending.

___ February 2 at Wahoo Public Library, Wahoo, NE

___ February 3 at Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE

___ February 4 at Beatrice Public Library in Beatrice NE

___ February 5 at Lexington Public Library in Lexington NE

___ February 6 at Harms Advanced Technology Center in Scottsbluff, NE

Please send registration by January 26, 2008 to Nebraska Regional Library Systems, C/O Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144.

Please make checks payable to Nebraska Regional Library Systems.



Name _____

Library _____

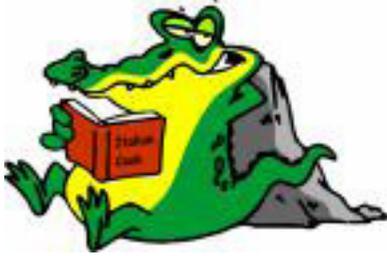
Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

In case of inclement weather please contact your system office to find out if the workshop is being held.

**THE REVIEWER'S CHAIR****March toward the Thunder**

By Joseph Bruchac

War is never like you expect and 15-year old Louis Nolette finds that out very quickly when he signs up not because he is an America – he is an Abenaki Indian from Canada, but the wages will ensure a better life for his mother and himself. An added bonus is the new set of clothes he receives upon joining the Fighting 69th Irish Brigade. As Louis makes friends and then loses them to death as they march across the battle fields of the Civil War, he learns about prejudice, acceptance, courage, and cowardice. Louis keen eye sight, sharp hearing, accurate shooting help to keep his unit out of trouble many times.

The author's great grandfather's Civil War experiences are the bases for this story that contains many historical facts and details. Written for Jr. High and up the reader will get a vivid account of life in the middle of a war. I found the book very interesting with a story line that held my interest and helped to educate me more on this time of our Nation's history.
-Pat Thompson, WSC

Moses Sees a Play

By Isaac Millman

Moses attends a deaf school. He and his classmate have the opportunity to see Cinderella presented as a play by The Little Theater of the Deaf. A hearing class comes to see the play which will be presented in ASL and spoken English. Moses also has the opportunity to communicate in gestures with his new friend, Manuel, who is not deaf but does not know English.

This book is excellent. It depicts deaf children and their interactions with the hearing in a positive, educational way. Many illustrations depict the use of American Sign Language clearly enough for readers to imitate. I would recommend this book for first through fourth grade in both school and public libraries.

-Laticia Olson, Randolph Public School

Skateboard Mom

By Barbara Odanaka

When a young boy receives a skateboard for his birthday he finds out his mom has a special talent.

This would be a great book to read aloud to a group. Very funny!!

I would recommend this book for grades 1-2 for both public and school libraries.

-Lara Morrow, Emmet Public School

Doppelganger

By Pete Hautman & Mary Logue

Roni finds a picture of her adopted friend Brian on a missing children's web site. The two of them find themselves on an adventure to solve this mystery. Was Brian really kidnapped, or is it just a crazy coincidence?

Hautman writes a fast paced story line that keeps you hooked. The reader spends the entire time trying to figure this one out! This is a great book that I would recommend for middle school and high school students.

- Charissa Loftis, WSC

A Song for Harlem

By Patricia C. McKissack

Part of the Scraps of Time Series, in this book Gee introduces her three grandchildren the story of her aunt Lilly Belle. 12 year-old Lilly Belle wins a writing contest and the prize is spending the summer in Harlem attending a writing workshop conducted by Zora Neale Hurston. Alice, a snobbish city girl, makes fun of Lilly and some of the other kids in the workshop for their country way. But when Lilly Belle discovers Alice is a Word Thief she confronts her only to discover that all is not as wonderful as it seems on the outside for Alice. This new information helps them to learn more about each other and they soon become friends.

Reading level: grades 4-6



Well written, you get a feel for what it was like to grow up in the early 1900's in Harlem.

-Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library

Angelina's Silly Little Sister

By Katharine Holabird

How many of us had the little brother or sister that really wanted to be part of the gang? Remember the one that had to play with your friends, and you hated every minute. This story tells about Angelina and her friend in the same predicament. Promises of a pink tea party later in the afternoon tempt all the girls. The two older girls hide from Polly, the little sister. Forgetting about her they go in the house. Later when it is time for the tea party they can't find the little sister. Read this book to find out how it ends. Reading level 2-3rd grade Could be put in fiction-families, or fiction-sisters, or fiction and getting along.

-Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

The Naming

By Alison Croggon

As long as she can remember, sixteen year-old Maerad has been a slave. However, when she discovers the powerful Bard, Cadvan of Lirigon, hidden and injured in the milking barn, she begins an incredible adventure that takes her away from slavery and introduces her to her magical Bard heritage and a past that she had forgotten. Maerad learns that she is the

daughter of the First Bard of Pellinor, who was believed dead along with the entire School of Pellinor. However, that doesn't explain why her gift is so powerful or why she doesn't yet know the Bard gift of Speech. Cadvan has his suspicions as he guides her on a dangerous and perilous journey, dodging the minions of the Dark that plague them. Could she be the One? The Foretold? Only when Maerad is initiated and named as a full Bard will they know for sure. And if she is? What does that mean for Maerad's future? What does it mean for the world of Edil-Amaranoh? Can Maerad understand and control the gifts of her heritage in time? And now that Maerad has finally found people she can love, will she always have to leave them?

This book, the first of a quartet in the Books of Pellinor, is a truly enjoyable read that both the high school student and the adult will enjoy. Croggon introduces the story by indicating it is a translation of an ancient document, including a map of Edil-Amaranoh and appendices explaining its language, history and culture. While these additions give valuable insight into the background of the story, the author's fictitious emphasis, including fake citations, that the story is a "real" story doesn't quite match the flow or tone of the story itself. However, you can easily get caught-up in the adventure itself, imagining the impact of Maerad's choices and how her past has shaped those choices. I look forward to the next installment.

-Valerie Knight, WSC

Fritz's Fish

By Geraldine Elschner

A child wants a pet badly. He finds a fish in a flooded river and keeps it in his bathtub. The fish begins to look bad, so the child releases it back into the river. Finally his mother buys him a fish.

This book would be good for teaching responsibility with pets. It has wonderful illustrations that would be appealing to children. This book would be a worthwhile purchase for a children's collection in lower elementary.

-Sharon Kinnan, Oakdale, NE

The Boy Who Dared

By Susan Campbell Bartoletti

This historical fiction is based on the life of Helmuth Hubener, a seventeen-year-old German who tries to counter the lies and evil of the Nazis and bring truth to the German people. Eventually Helmuth is exposed and imprisoned by the Nazis.

Recommended age level is Middle School. Recommended for any type of library. This book's special features are the pictures of Helmuth Hubener and his family. This is an unnerving account of how traitors, or at least perceived traitors, were treated in Nazi Germany. Although Helmuth was still a teenager, he was treated and sentenced as an adult.

-Deb Daehnke, WSC



The Magic Half

By Annie Barrows

Would you feel alone and left out if you were the middle child with older twin brothers and younger twin sisters? Would your imagination take over and find a magical way to find your own twin? Would anybody believe you if you told them you went back in time and brought your twin home with you? Would they have even more trouble believing you if you told them you did so by looking through the lens of an old pair of eyeglasses?

That is exactly what Miri does after her family moves into a big old house with an attic and a mysterious history. Miri and her brothers have decided to look for stolen loot that is supposed to be buried on their family's property. Miri gets into an argument with her older brother and is sent to cool off in her room. She finds a piece of glass taped to the baseboard of her room and after peering through it she is transported to an earlier time.

There she meets Molly who looks an awful lot like Miri. Molly is living in the same house as Miri, but the year is 1935 and the family is not nearly as happy. Miri decides to save Molly from this bad situation and both girls do a lot of creative thinking in order to get out of a tricky situation.

This is a fun book with some interesting twists and turns and a look at an imaginary but

healthy and loving family. Recommended for fourth grade and up.
-MeMe Smith, Schuyler Public Library

On Tide Mill Lane

By Melissa Wiley

This is the story of little Laura Tucker, who would grow up to be Laura Ingalls Wilder's grandmother. It takes place during and just after the War of 1812, the conflict between the new nation and the British. The family lives near Boston.

It is a delightful story that tells of the activities of their everyday lives interwoven with historical events and the scary story of how Laura's brother suffered life threatening blood poisoning caused by a splinter. This book piqued my interest in reading other Little House books like the Martha Years, and the Caroline Years since I have already all the books by Laura Ingalls Wilder.
- Claudette Wielechowski, North Platte, NE

Book Discussion Guides

Check out Multnomah County Library's Talk It Up website at: www.multcolib.org/talk/ for book discussion guides and activities. This site offers more than 150 discussion guides to children's books such as The Sea Trolls by Nancy Farmer, Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Taylor or Hoot by Carl Hiasen.

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate Di Camillo is hitting the big screen this holiday season. Visit Literature Learning Ladders at eduscapes.com/newbery/04a.htm for links to booktalks, discussion guides and more. One of the links, www.candlewick.com/bookfiles/0763617229.mis.1.pdf offers an extensive teachers guide to the novel.

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<p>COMPLETE LINE OF LIBRARY BOOKS L.B.S.S.</p> <p>Duane Munson</p> <p>2315 29TH STREET, BOX 624, COLUMBUS, NE 68601 TELEPHONE 402-564-3073 FAX 402-564-9730 CELL PHONE 402-910-0772</p>	
<p>ECONO-CLAD CHILD'S WORLD REFERENCE BOOKS</p>	<p>MARSHALL/CAVENDISH SALEM PRESS COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA</p>



NLS Winter Workshop- February 20, 2009
"Have an Arctic Blast! @your library"
Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College, Norfolk

- 8:30am R&R - Registration and Refreshments
- 9-10am Farm Bureau Learning Barn with Debbie Borg
or
Creative Commons & Copyright with Michael Sauers
- 10-10:15am BREAK: Visit with your colleagues
- 10:15-11:15am Creative Problem Solving Techniques that Work with Robin Bernstein
or
Open Source Software: Free Technology Tools for School and Youth Services Librarians with Karen Hein
- 11:30 - 1:15pm LUNCHEON with Julia Cook, author of "My Mouth is a Volcano"
- 1:15 - 2:15pm Library Newsletters Tips & Tricks with Megan Boggs
or
Michael L Printz Awards with Charrisa Loftis
- 2:15-2:30pm BREAK: visit with your colleagues
- 2:20-3:30pm Red Hot Romance with Marilyn Quance
or
Flippin' Out with Genealogy with Kathy Nelson

Registration Information: Complete the information requested below. Cost for the workshops is \$15 which includes lunch. Please fax your registration to: 402-564-7977 or mil to the: Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Avenue, Columbus, NE 68601. **Registration Deadline:** February 5, 2008.

NAME: _____ Phone: _____

Library/School: _____

Payment Enclosed: _____

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on, Holt, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk,
Stanton, Thurston, Wayne and Wheeler.**

"I'd rather be a could-be if I cannot be an are; because a
could-be is a maybe who is reaching for a star. I'd rather
be a has-been than a might-have-been, by far; for a
might have-been has never been, but a has was once an
are."

— Milton Berle

Check out our web site at: <http://northeastlibrary.wetpaint.com>



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