

# MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

JUNE/JULY 2005

## **Your System Board:**

Joan Davis  
Maxine Erpelding  
Gail Irwin  
Penny Jeffrey  
Mary Koch  
Laura Martinsen  
Kristina Owen  
Michelle Self  
Stacy Vogel



Keynote Speaker  
Julie Andrews

Meridian Library System  
Suite B  
3519 Second Avenue  
Kearney NE 68847

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Phone: 308-234-2087  
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## **International Reading Association 50th Anniversary Conference Report**

I found the International Reading Association Conference in San Antonio very different from a library conference. For one thing, the focus is entirely on literacy, reading and books. For another, there was no emphasis on technology. This was the 50th anniversary of the IRA and attendance at the conference reflected this very special year: over 25,000 teachers and librarians swarmed the streets around the convention center in San Antonio.

To kick off the conference, the keynote for the opening general session was actor/author Julie Andrews. Due to the restrictions of her union, Ms. Andrews was limited on the amount of time she could speak so a film highlighting her career (with many previously unseen clips from her stage plays) was shown prior to her speech. Ms. Andrews began writing over 25 years ago when she wrote *Mandy* for her daughter. This was followed by *The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles*. Today, she and her daughter Emma co-author the Dumpy book series. Ms. Andrews mentioned the three W's she finds important in reading: Words leading to Wisdom that lead to Wonder.

The closing keynote session began with the handing over of the gavel to the new IRA president. As he finished his remarks and began to introduce the guest speakers, we were in for a surprise: the emergency alarm system went off asking that we all leave the auditorium. Since one keynote speaker was Dave Barry, we just assumed it was some kind of joke! It was not a joke but a malfunction in the system. After we all settled down again, Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson came on stage to speak. As Barry quipped, "I just thought that handle would flush the toilet!" Barry proceeded to give us his take on attending school during the atomic bomb scare years. In his hometown they talked about actually erecting a giant desk over the whole town, so they wouldn't have to crouch under it. Barry and Pearson are old friends from a rock band made up of authors who tour the U.S. raising money for literacy. They have recently co-authored a prequel to J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*. The story came about when Pearson's daughter asked her father how Peter Pan came to BE Peter Pan and how he originally met Captain Hook.

The highlight of this keynote was when Barry and Pearson donned pirate hats and gave a selected reading from *Peter and the Starcatchers*. They ended their speech with a thanks to educators: “As parents of kids in public schools, we know it’s hard and we appreciate it. Thank you.”



The three luncheon speakers were all authors: Rosemary Wells, Meg Cabot and Kate DiCamillo. I was disappointed with Rosemary Wells who spoke about her political agenda rather than her writing. Kate DiCamillo is not a great speaker—she read her speech. However, it was a funny speech about how she failed at being a Brownie and how that led to her becoming an author. Coincidentally, she named an older neighbor lady who had shown interest in her as a child and it turned out that this woman’s daughter-in-law was in the audience. The shining star of the luncheons was Meg Cabot who, as usual, wore her tiara! She is naturally funny and had the audience laughing the entire time. Here are her top reasons why she writes young adult books:

10. It is one of the few jobs in which you can legally work in your pajamas.
9. Your readers talk about interesting things, like what happened on *The OC* last night, and “Do you think this boy likes me?”
8. YA is one of the few genres in which it is perfectly acceptable not to have any sex scenes at all.
7. If you make a mistake in a YA, your readers will not hesitate to let you know about it.
6. They will also not hesitate to let you know that your book was so good, they read it in ninety minutes while standing up at Barnes and Noble, and so they didn’t need to buy it.
5. I used to research my historical romances, so I would have to go to the library. To do my YA research, I just have to turn on the WB or MTV, and it’s all there!
4. Writing YA is one of the few ways you can actually profit from having an inner voice that is approximately fourteen years old.
3. You get to relive all the traumas you experienced as a teen, only this time, you can give them all a happy ending.
2. You can get back at all the cheerleaders who were mean to you in high school by modeling characters after them.
1. I get to meet fellow lovers of YA books—teenagers, teachers, librarians, and discriminating adult readers as well!

### **Adolescent Literature: Light and Dark**

Author/editor Jerry Weiss started out this panel by reviewing some of his favorite dark books:

*Stuck in Neutral* by Terry Trueman  
*After* by Francine Prose  
*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Day of Tears* by Julius Lester  
*America* by E. R. Frank  
*Rag and Bone Child* by Robert Cormier  
*Keesha’s House* by Helen Frost

Librarian/author Patrick Jones spoke about dark tales as survival tales. Teens see the stories as a mirror that reflects their situations. This gives them value.

Patrick is now authoring teen books. *Things Change* is about dating violence. *Nail* (to be released this Spring) is about the one that sticks out getting hammered and *Chasing The Taillights* is about poverty, class, crime, race and injustice.

Author Edward Bloor writes about the world of the “have” and “have-nots”. He feels that teens look to books to address the big issues—the “real” stuff. While the literature of the late 19th century told kids how they should live, today’s books reflect how they actually live. Bloor is the author of *Tangerine*, *Crusader* and *Storytime*.

Novelist and Playwright Adam Rapp talked about teens needing a voice to connect to and finding someone who thinks as they do. Literature can give teens access to questioning. Authors help readers create in their minds. Rapp is the author of *Missing the Piano* and *The Buffalo Tree*.

On the lighter side, author/editor Helen Weiss reviewed some of her favorites:

Joan Bauer: *Best Foot Forward*

Gordon Parks: *Son of the Mob*

David Lubar: *Hidden Talents*, *Dunk* and *Sleeping Freshman Never Lie*

Richard Peck: *Teacher’s Funeral* and *Past Perfect and Present Tense*

Poetry by Jack Prelutsky, Ogden Nash and Michael Rosen

Authors Janette Rallison (*Love and the Pursuit of Free Throws*), Susan Juby (*Miss Smithers*) and Carolyn Mackler (*The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things*) discussed how humor helps teens get through those difficult years and that dark bits show up the humor. Humor can be used to explore serious issues. What is a tragedy in adult life is often humorous in teen life. For many kids, reading substitutes for an active social life. Quoting C.S. Lewis: “We read to know that we’re not alone.” Kids say about their books: I feel safe when I read one of your books.

### **Exploring and Celebrating the Heroes of the Past and Present as We prepare the Heroes of Tomorrow**

Author David Adler talked about the fact that most heroes are not born to greatness. He likes to use the actual words of the subject in his

books and create a context so the reader can understand the person. He writes picture biographies; his latest is *George Washington*.

Author/illustrator Diane Stanley (*Joan of Arc*, etc.) feels that important people have both flaws and accomplishments. Before she writes, she asks:

1. Is it a good story?
2. Is the back story strong? (Setting, history, other characters)
3. Is the person consequential?

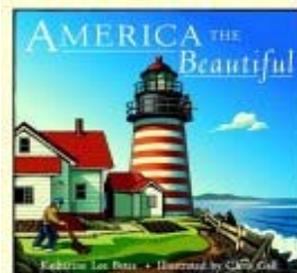
Ms. Stanley does not write about American subjects. She like to introduce children to history, culture and languages beyond our shores. The hardest thing to do is to find that fine line between a person’s heroic deeds and their character flaws.

Author Sherry Garland (*Voices of the Alamo*) writes about the Western Frontier. She likes to knock the hero off the pedestal at times. She also writes historical fiction from the first person point of view (*Dear America*). Ms. Garland defines a hero as:

1. A person who is courageous in a life-threatening situation.
2. Those who face obstacles and inspire others.
3. Someone who goes somewhere no one has gone before.

Author Christopher Paul Curtis (*Bud, Not Buddy*, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* and *Bucking the Sarge*) talked about heroes overcoming obstacles. His teens need to ask their elders how to succeed. Heroism happens over time.

Illustrator Wendell Minor talked about the process of developing the art in such books as *American the Beautiful*, *Buzz Aldrin* and *John Jay Audubon*.



**Young Adult Literature: Still Speaking to Teens After All These Years** was another panel presentation by well-known teen authors.

Francine Pascal talked about how teens began to like to read after they discovered her *Sweet Valley High* series. She is currently finishing *Sweet Valley Gates* that follows her characters into adulthood in a gated community. Her newest book *The Ruling Class* is about bullying and is based on the true-life experiences of her granddaughter.

Pete Hautman writes about the things that mattered when he was young and that still matter to him. *Godless* is a book about power. He likes to write on the periphery of a person's comfort zone.

Helen Frost talked about writing narrative stories and books in various poetic forms. She talked about how kids identify with the characters in *Keesha's House*.

Lawrence Baines presented the statistics about the decline of reading among teens.

20 hours of television to 1 hour of reading  
200 hours on the internet vs. 80 hours reading  
200 hours on video games vs. 70 hours reading

Persons ages 15-24 average 8 minutes per day reading. This has resulted in a decline in vocabulary. Authors are eliminating the use of difficult words in their books. Books must have an "entertainment value" in order for kids to read them. Teachers today must use image based media to teach multi-sensory learning.

### **Once is Not Enough: Series Books for Young Readers**

Reading series books helps children to develop reading skills and a lifelong love of reading. The antecedent of series books were the dime novels, followed by Edward Stratemeyer's "Fiction Factory." Series books are defined as having the same character/s in varying situations.

Critics hate series books and find them shallow

and formulaic with no literary quality. However, the most common children's books in bookstores are series books and one-half of children's top 60 favorite books are series titles. (A poll was taken on this audience and almost all had read 5 or more series as a child.)

On the plus side, series books teach fluency, improve vocabulary, teach basic story patterns and help to increase reading speeds.

Author Nancy Krulik has written over 150 series books. Her best know series is *Katie Kazoo Switcheroo* in which Katie turns into someone else (even animals) in her life in each book. The series is aimed at 2nd and 3rd grade readers.

Her take on why series books are popular?

- They have eye-catching covers
- Cool is an important factor
- Humor
- Pages have white space (less text)
- Chapters are short
- Sentences are short
- Collectability factor (kids want the entire series)
- Predictability factor
- It's the characters that keep them coming back

Suzy Kline, author of *Horrible Harry* and *Herbie Jones* series was a very funny speaker. She bases all her characters on students she has encountered in her years of teaching. She always carries a notebook and writes down ideas each day.

Dan Gutzman currently authors five different series, some more successful than others. He talked about how he started to write series books for the money. That strategy failed. It is only when he tried to write the best book that he could that he succeeded and the publisher asked to turn the book into a series. He writes simple, entertaining books for kids who don't like to read.

Author Gordon Korman had his first novel published when he was only 14 years old. He likes to write series for reluctant boy teen readers. He

feels that there is too much "adult" taste in most kid's books. He tries to write books where the characters stay true to life even if the events are unreal. Humor is one common denominator in all his books.

**Children's Choices for 2005** (A joint project of the International Reading Association and Children's Book Council). This list was just released at the conference & is reprinted later in this newsletter issue.

I was also able to attend the **Scholastic Author's Breakfast** which featured favorite authors talking about their favorite teachers. Authors included Patrick Carman, Jack Prelutsky, Jack Gantos, Pam Munoz Ryan, Walter Dean Myers and Mo Willems. This was a wonderfully funny and touching time as authors shared some of their memories!

To close out my conference experience, I attended a couple of author talks spotlighting Bill Wallace and Ben Mikaelson. Each shared how they became writers and why they write the type of stories they do. Wallace writes sports stories for older adolescents and Mikaelson writes stories with a social conscience connection.

One of the things I loved about this conference was how many authors were there and how available they were to attendees! Every author who was at the conference had autograph signing times in the exhibit area.

**2004-2005 Favorite Books from the SiGNAL  
(Special Interest Group on  
Adolescent Literature)**

*Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Chodlenko  
*Ben Franklin's Almanac* by Candace Fleming  
*Behind You* by Jacqueline Woodson  
*Bucking the Sarge* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*Godless* by Peter Hautmann  
*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J. K. Rowling  
*Heartbeat* by Sharon Creech  
*Here Today* by Ann M. Martin  
*Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke

*Kira, Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata  
*Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* by Gary D. Schmidt  
*Messenger* by Lois Lowry  
*My Father's Summers: A Daughter's Memoirs* by Kathi Appelt  
*Pepperland* by Mark Delaney  
*Spinning the Universe* by Helen Frost  
*The River Between Us* by Richard Peck  
*The Teacher's Funeral* by Richard Peck  
*The Thought of High Windows* by Lynne Kositsky  
*Truth About Sparrows* by Marian Hale  
*The Year of Secret Assignments* by J. Moriarty



**Jean Lukesh Text Book Wins Award**

Jean Lukesh, history teacher and former Walnut Middle School media specialist has won the 2005 Textbook Excellence Award for humanities and social studies with her text *The Nebraska Adventure*. The textbook covers history, geography, economics and government of Nebraska and is used by Nebraska fourth graders. Congratulations, Jean!



Here's an opportunity to recognize someone "Special" amongst your colleagues: The NLA Special & Institutional Section invites you to nominate a colleague or library for the S & I Promotional Award this year. The Award recognizes outstanding achievements in marketing/promotion of services in Nebraska's special and institutional libraries. Winners may be either special libraries or employees of special libraries. You do not need to be a member of S & I to submit a nomination, and nominees need not be a member of the Section or a member of NLA. Self-nominations are welcomed. For more information on the award, past winners, and a nomination form go to the S & I Award web site at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/SANDI/specialaward.html> Nominations are due August 1 2005 (but don't wait till the last minute!) Send nominations to Ceri Daniels, Chair [cdaniels@cline-law.com](mailto:cdaniels@cline-law.com) tel. 402-474-6900

## Nominations Sought For Mad Hatter Award

For the youth services librarian who serves beyond the call of duty, The School, Childrens, and Young People's (SCYP) Section of the Nebraska Library Association has a special award – The Mad Hatter Youth Service Award. The Mad Hatter is given annually to a librarian who has made outstanding contributions to the field of library service to youth.

Nominations can be made by librarians, administrators, principals, or members of the Nebraska Library Association. A special registration form, available on the Mad Hatter website <[http:// www.nol.org/home/NLA/SCYP/MadHatter.html](http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/SCYP/MadHatter.html)> must accompany the nomination. Nominations are due to Kay Paulsen, Lux Middle School, 7800 High St., Lincoln, NE 58606 by August 1, 2005.



Wanted: Webster's Third Edition unabridged International Dictionary for a patron who would like to purchase.

Please contact the Ord Township Library, (308) 728-3012 or [ordlibrary@charterinternet.com](mailto:ordlibrary@charterinternet.com)



### GETTING NEW BOARD MEMBERS UP TO SPEED - FAST

Who helps new board members ramp up quickly? Current board members - especially members of the governance or nominating committee. Whether the orientation takes place on a Saturday morning or in a special pre-retreat session, here are topics that can help incoming board members get a handle on their work.

#### Key Issues to cover

Some board members may be facing their first such "job." So the orientation should include an overview of the non-profit sector. In addition, it should include:

1. *An overview of the organization*, including mission, history, programs, finances, fundraising and the strategic plan.
2. *Info about the board*, e.g., its committees and task forces, who the officers are and a little bit about individual board members, too. (Some groups put together a "board bio book" for just that purpose.)
3. *Guidance about board roles and responsibilities*, including board oversight and governance. These days that's more important than ever; board members will need to get up to speed about reading financials, for instance.

Note: Although board orientation is for new members, it can provide a good refresher for current directors, too.

From "Presenting: Board Orientation", published by Board-Source. ISBN 1-58686-019-4



### 2005 Golden Sower Award Winners

#### K-3 List:

Winner: *Togo*, written and illustrated by Robert J. Blake

Honor: *Clarence the Copy Cat*  
*Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School*

#### 4-6 List:

Winner: *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli  
Honor: *The Ghost Sitter*  
*The Summer of Riley*

#### Young Adult:

Winner: *Mississippi Trial, 1955* by Chris Crowe  
Honor: *Ashes of Roses*  
*Things Not Seen*



### Teen Read Week Website

YALSA is pleased to announce the launch of its 2005 Teen Read Week web site! Visit it at <http://www.ala.org/teenread> to register (early bird registrants will get free books--more details on that later), access annotated booklists, get program ideas, download a logo, and much more. This year's theme is "Get Real! @ your library," and the focus is on nonfiction and realistic fiction. Even though Teen Read Week isn't until Oct. 16-22, it's not too early to start planning your community's Teen Read Week celebration. To help you plan, we have the Teen Read Week manual marked down to just \$10.00, and it can be purchased from the web site. Also, be sure to check out your summer ALA Graphics Catalog, which will be mailed out in early May for fabulous Teen Read Week products. This year let's work together to get more teens than ever to read for the fun of it!



NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S

## 11TH ANNUAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2005 / 9:00 A. M. - 4:00 P. M.

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE / LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER

801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE

This year's Festival has been funded by the Norfolk Library Foundation, the City of Norfolk,  
& the SCYP division of the Nebraska Library Association.

**FEATURING AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS:**

**\*CANDACE FLEMING\***

2006 Golden Sower Award nominee for *BOXES FOR KATJE*

Also author of *BEN FRANKLIN'S ALMANAC—WHEN AGNES CAWS—GABRIELLA'S SONG—  
A BIG CHEESE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE—MUNCH! MUNCH! MUNCH!* and more...

**\*MARION DANE BAUER\***

2006 Golden Sower Award nominee for *RUNT*

Also author of *ON MY HONOR—THE DOUBLE-DIGIT CLUB—LAND OF THE BUFFALO BONES—  
AN EARLY WINTER—WHY DO KITTENS PURR?—IF YOU WERE BORN A KITTEN* and more...

**\*NEAL SHUSTERMAN\***

2006 Golden Sower Award nominee for *FULL TILT*

Also author of *THE SCHWA WAS HERE—THE DARK SIDE OF NOWHERE—DOWNSIDERS—  
SCORPION SHARDS—SPEEDING BULLET—WHAT DADDY DID—THE EYES OF KID MIDAS* and  
more...

**ALSO**

- 2005-2006 Golden Sower Previews by Karen Drevo & Marci Retzlaff
- Book Display & Discount Sales by Norfolk Public Library Foundation of titles by Fleming, Bauer, & Shusterman
- Book Display & Sales by Sheridan County Publishing Company of Gordon, NE of books by & about the Sandoz family as well as rare & unusual histories & memoirs of the Sandhills
- Sales of Golden Sower Items
- Autograph Session/Book Signing with Candace Fleming, Marion Dane Bauer & Neal Shusterman
- Door Prizes
- Five Continuing Education Hours (for all day attendance) from the Nebraska Library Commission for School & Public Librarians
- Five Professional Growth Points (for all day attendance) for Teachers/Staff employed by Norfolk Public Schools

**TICKETS:** Youth (Age 18 & under): \$5.00/advance or \$7.00/door Adults: \$15.00/advance or \$20.00/door

Free admittance to current members of the SCYP division of the Nebraska Library Association

**Advance tickets are available at Norfolk Public Library OR by mail order. To order tickets by mail, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with full payment (make checks payable to "Norfolk Library Foundation--Literature Festival") to:**

Literature Festival

Norfolk Public Library  
308 Prospect Avenue  
Norfolk, NE 68701

**For more information, contact Karen Drevo at the above address or by:  
Phone: 402/844-2100\*\*\*Fax: 402/844-2102\*\*\*e-mail: kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us**

**A WONDERFUL WAY TO SPEND A SUMMER DAY!**

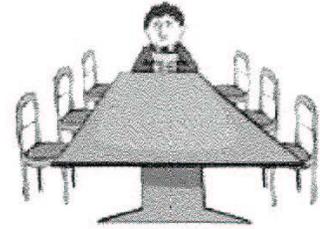
# Open Meetings Law Workshop

The Nebraska Association of School Boards is sponsoring an *Open Meetings Law Workshop* this summer to be presented by NASB legal counsel John Spatz. The Workshop will address important topics of the Open Meetings Law and engage the participants in some real life scenarios. This will be a very interactive workshop where the participants will leave with a new understanding of the requirements of the Open Meetings Law. Along with the interactive discussions, those in attendance will also receive a copy of the "Guidebook to Nebraska's Public Meetings Law."

In an effort to encourage ALL members of public bodies to attend, the charge for the workshop is only \$100 per public body. If you have a three member board or a nine member board, all will be allowed to attend for the \$100 fee. Please fax or mail this registration to the NASB address listed below.

Issues to be addressed include:

- 1) How to deal with problem constituents in the public meeting setting.
- 2) Potential pitfalls when going into a closed session.
- 3) Am I conducting a meeting when discussing issues with another board member?
- 4) What can sub-committees discuss?
- 5) What happens if the board violates the open meetings law? Can I get in trouble?



Do you feel alone when trying to figure out Nebraska's Open Meetings Law?

Attend the 2005 Open Meetings Law Workshop to learn ways to feel more confident you are following the law.



Board/Association \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- North Platte - June 22     Ravenna - June 28     Norfolk - June 30

Please name the members of the board who will attend.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Please bill     Check enclosed

The workshop will run from 6:30 to 8:30p.m. on the following dates and locations

## Wednesday, June 22

### North Platte

Quality Inn & Suites Sandhills  
 Convention Center  
 2102 South Jeffers Street

## Tuesday, June 28

### Ravenna

Ravenna High School  
 41750 Carthage Rd

## Thursday, June 30

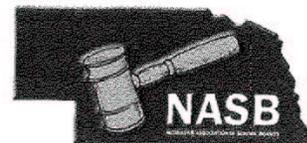
### Norfolk

Northeast Community College  
 801 East Benjamin Avenue

No cancellations after June 17 for North Platte and June 24 for Ravenna and Norfolk.

## Nebraska Association of School Boards

1311 Stockwell Street  
 Lincoln, NE 68502  
 (402) 423-4951 or (800) 422-4572  
 Fax (402) 423-4961



**Children's Choices for 2005  
(from the IRA/CBC)**

Grades K-2

*Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins.  
*All Year Long* by Kathleen W. Deady.  
*And Here's to You!* By David Elliot.  
*Baby Brains* by Simon James.  
*Beach Day!* By Patricia Lakin.  
*Beatrice Doesn't Want To* by Laura Numeroff.  
*The Beetle Alphabet Book* by Jerry Pallotta.  
*A Big Week for Little Mouse* by Eugenie Fernandes.  
*Billy Tibbles Moves Out* by Jan Fearnley.  
*Boom Chicka Rock* by John Archambault.  
*The Cat Who Walked Across France* by Kate Banks.  
*Clatter Bash! A Day of the Dead Celebration* by Richard Keep.  
*Cock-A-Doodle-Mooooo!: A Mixed-Up Menagerie* by Keith Duquette.  
*The Copy Crocs* by David Bedford.  
*The Daddy Mountain* by Jules Feiffer.  
*Daffodil* by Emily Jenkins.  
*Dear Tooth Fairy* by Alan Durang.  
*Don't Forget to Come Back!* By Robbie H. Harris.  
*Drumheller Dinosaur Dance* by Robert Heidbreder.  
*Enrico Starts School* by Charlotte Middleton.  
*Fairytale News* by Colin and Jacqui Harkins.  
*Four Boys Named Jordan* by Jessica Harper.  
*The Friend* by Sarah Stewart.  
*Gator Gumbo: A Spicy-Hot Tale* by Candace Fleming.  
*Goldilocks and the Three Martians* by Stu Smith.  
*Here They Come!* By David Costello.  
*Hot Hot Hot* by Neal Layton.  
*How to Catch a Star* by Oliver Jerrers.  
*I Am Too Absolutely Small for School: A Charlie and Lola Book* by Lauren Child.  
*It's Bedtime, Wibbly Pig!* By Mick Inkpen.  
*Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale* by Mo Willems.  
*Larabee* by Kevin Luthardt.  
*Mister Seahorse* by Eric Carle.  
*Most Loved Monster* by Lynn Downey.  
*No Laughing, No Smiling, No Giggling* by James Stevenson.  
*Over the Hills and Far Away* by Chris Conover.  
*The Pig Who Went Home on Sunday: An Appalachian Folktale* by Donald David.  
*Prancing Dancing Lily* by Marsha Diane Arnold.  
*Rooster Can't Cock-A-Doodle-Do* by Karen Rostoker-Gruber.  
*Show Dog* by Meghan McCarthy.

*Smudge Bunny* by Dr. Bernie Siegel.  
*Someone Bigger* by Jonathan Emmett.  
*Stinky Smelly Feet: A Love Story* by Margie Palatini.  
*Super Sam!* By Lori Ries.  
*Ten Redneck Babies: A Southern Counting Book* by David Davis.  
*That Dancin' Dolly* by Jennifer J. Mertz.  
*There Once Was a Very Odd School and Other Lunch-Box Limericks* by Stephen Krensky.  
*This is the Teacher* by Rhonda Gowler Greene.  
*Tigress* by Nick Dowson.  
*Truck Duck* by Michael Rex.  
*Walter the Farting Dog: Trouble at the Yard Sale* by William Kotzwinkle.  
*What's That Awful Smell?* By Heather Tekavec.  
*Who Will Tuck Me in Tonight?* By Carol Roth.  
*Widget and the Puppy* by Lyn Rossiter McFarland.  
*Worm Gets a Job* by Kathy Caple.

Grades 3-4

*Abby's Chairs* by Barbara Santini.  
*ABC All-American Riddles* by Mara and Ford Smith.  
*Atomic Ace (He's Just My Dad)* by Jeff Weigel.  
*The Bee-Man of Orn* by Frank R. Stockton.  
*The Best Cat in the World* by Leslea Newman.  
*Bronco Charlie and the Pony Express* by Marlene Targ Brill.  
*Crocodiles* by Sandra Markle.  
*Dogs: How to Choose and Care for a Dog* by Laura S. Jeffrey.  
*Duck for President* by Doreen Cronin.  
*Great White Sharks* by Sandra Markle.  
*Halloween Crafts* by Fay Robinson.  
*Hoop Kings* by Charles R. Smith, Jr.  
*I and You and Don't Forget Who: What is a Pronoun?* By Brian P. Cleary.  
*It's a Test Day, Tiger Turcotte* by Pansie Hart Flood.  
*Killer Whales* by Sandra Markle.  
*Lions* by Sandra Markle.  
*Monkey Business* by Wallace Edwards.  
*Mr. Maxwell's Mouse* by Frank Asch.  
*Oliver's Game* by Matt Tavares.  
*Our Principal Promised to Kiss a Pig* by Kalli Dakos and Alicia DesMarteau.  
*The Pepins and Their Problems* by Polly Horvath.  
*Polar Bears* by Sandra Markle.  
*Poop: A Natural History of the Unmentionable* by Nicola Davies.  
*Rainbow Soup: Adventures in Poetry* by Brian P. Cleary.

Children's Choices for 2005 (continued)

*Roger, the Jolly Pirate* by Brett Helquist.  
*The Schoolchildren's Blizzard* by Marty Rhodes Figley.  
*Something to Tell the Grandcows* by Eileen Spinelli.  
*The Trial of Cardigan Jones* by Tim Egan.  
*Tuff Fluff: The Case of Duckie's Missing Brain* by Scott Nash.  
*What If You Met a Pirate?* By Jan Adkins.

Grades 5-6

*101 Ways to Bug Your Teacher* by Lee Wardlaw.  
*Blackjack: Dreaming of a Morgan Horse* by Ellen F. Feld.  
*Death by Eggplant* by Susan Heyboer O'Keefe.  
*Dream: A Tale of Wonder, Wisdom and Wishes* by Susan V. Bosak.  
*Faraway Worlds* by Paul Halpern.  
*The Harmonica* by Tony Johnston.  
*Holding at Third* by Linda Zinnen.  
*How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell.  
*Lion Boy: The Chase* by Zizou Corder.  
*Murder, My Tweet: A Chet Gecko Mystery* by Bruce Hale.  
*My Curious Uncle Dudley* by Barry Yourgrau.  
*The President is Shot! The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln* by Harold Holzer.  
*Red Kayak* by Priscilla Cummings.  
*Show: Don't Tell! Secrets of Writing* by Josephine Nobisso.  
*Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers and Secret Writing* by Paul B. Janeczko.  
*The Top 10 Ways to Ruin the First Day of 5th Grade* by Kenneth Derby.  
*Tripping Over the Lunch Lady and Other School Stories* by Nancy E. Mercado.  
*Edgar and Ellen Under Town* by Charles Ogden.



Do you have any baseball fans at your library? Join the Major Leagues @ Your Library, a partnership between the American Library Association and Major League Baseball. The 2005 program kicked off with a brand new trivia game online. This free program is available in English and Spanish. To register your library for the program, go to: <http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/sponsorship/jtmlhome/joinmajorleagues.htm>

Once you register, you will be able to access not only the game, but posters, graphics and ideas for using baseball in your library.

**My book of the month:** *The Wright Sister: Katharine Wright and Her Famous Brothers* by Richard Maurer.

I'm sure most of you have never heard of Katharine Wright and yet she is as interesting as her more famous brothers. Taking over the duties of "mother" at age 15, she was nonetheless encouraged by their father, Bishop Wright, to finish her education. Of all of the Wright siblings, she is the only one who obtained a college degree, graduating from Oberlin College. She went on to teach Latin and Greek until her brothers called upon her social skills to guide them through their increasing contact with the public. Katharine literally dined with kings and other world leaders. She became the second female trustee of Oberlin College.

This is a fascinating look at a woman who was strong and liberated before it was popular.



### Lessons from the CEO

As reported in the May 7, 2004 Wall Street Journal, J.C. Penney Company's CEO Allen Questrom offered the following five tips for turning around a "stodgy" brand:

- Be patient. Turnarounds take a long time.
- Old rules of doing business can still be relevant, but choose what makes sense today.
- Simplify your objectives and make them understandable.
- Don't try so many new things that you lose focus on your main competency.
- The more employees who understand a new strategy, the more likely it will work.



June 14th: Flag Day

## Web Sites of the Month

### **Children's Book Sense Picks, Summer 2005:**

Summer reading suggestions for children and teenagers. Includes picture books, poetry, and stories featuring the Crusades, llamas, dogs, pigs, monsters, forests, peas, rubber ducks, baseball, wizards, peach orchards, and more. From BookSense.com, a site from a group of independent booksellers.

<http://www.booksense.com/bspicks/kidspicks/sum05index.jsp>

### **Pop-Up and Moveable Books: A Tour**

**Through Their History:** An exhibit of pop-up and movable books published from 1850 to the present from France, Germany, the U.S. and Czechoslovakia. Some examples have been animated to demonstrate how the books actually move. Also includes a brief history of movable books back to the 13th century and images from S & J Fuller paper doll books from the early 19th century. From the Gustine Courson Weaver Collection at the University of North Texas Libraries.

<http://www.library.unt.edu/rarebooks/exhibits/popup2/>

### **Summer Reading Recommended by Horn**

**Book Editors:** Suggestions for picture books, easy readers, intermediate and young adult fiction, poetry, and nonfiction for children. From the editors of the children's literature review publications, Horn Book Magazine and the Horn Book Guide.

<http://www.hbook.com/booklists/summer.asp>

**First Ladies' Gallery:** This site from the White House presents brief biographies of the current and past First Ladies. Some profiles include images. Also provides a link to information about life in the White House.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies/>

**Virtual Kite Zoo:** Follow the links to find pictures, descriptions, construction plans, and the history of a wide variety of kites.

<http://www.tug.com/kites/zoo/>

**Ice Cream:** This site has basic recipes, information on ice cream machines, and links to other ice cream sites. From an ice-cream lover and computer science professor at the University of Waterloo.

<http://www.cgl.uwaterloo.ca/~smann/IceCream/>

**Cook it Quick!** This site is chock-full of "quick tips, techniques, and recipes for preparing foods that taste good and are good for you!" Additionally, it offers strategies for picking priorities which add more time to life by creating "Don't Do" lists. From the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension.

<http://lancaster.unl.edu/food/ciq.htm>

**Drought for Kids:** Describes what drought is ("not just a lack of rainfall"), and explains how droughts are tracked, the damage they can cause, and how to plan ahead and conserve water. Offers career information about people who study droughts and climate. Includes a glossary, maps and graphs, and a game area with crosswords and jigsaw puzzles. From the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

<http://drought.unl.edu/kids/>

**July 4th: Celebrating Independence Day in the United States:** "The following articles and photos illuminate aspects of U.S. history and values, and provide a snapshot of some of the diverse ways in which Americans have celebrated the Fourth of July." Includes links to related government documents. Some material also in Spanish. From the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/holidays/july4/>

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