



# **Straight** *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

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## **Golden Sower Award Nominees for 2008-2009**

The GSA nominee list is developed by selection committees of volunteer readers representing classroom readers, media specialists and librarians in Nebraska.

Voting for the current year is open from November 1st when the ballot tally sheets are posted through April 15th. Voting is open to all eligible Golden Sower readers in the state of NEBRASKA through public libraries and school library media centers. To be eligible to vote, a reader must have read or heard a minimum of four of the current nominees from one

category: Primary, Intermediate, or Young Adult.

### **PRIMARY NOMINEES**

CHICKS AND SALSA by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Paulette Bogan.  
DUCK AND GOOSE by Tad Hills; illustrated by Tad Hills.  
FANCY NANCY by Jane O'Connor; illustrated by Preiss Glasser.  
HONEY, HONEY—LION!: A STORY OF AFRICA written and illustrated by Jan Brett.  
IF I BUILT A CAR written and illustrated by Chris Van Dusen.  
LET THEM PLAY by Margot Theis Raven; illustrated by Chris Ellison.  
LIBRARY LION by Michelle Knudsen; illustrated by Kevin Hawkes.  
LUCK by Jean Craighead George; illustrated by Wendell Minor.  
NOTHING TO DO by Douglas Wood; illustrated by Wendy Anderson Halperin.  
THE THREE SILLY BILLIES by Margie Palatini; illustrated by Barry Moser.

### **INTERMEDIATE NOMINEES**

ANNA'S BLIZZARD by Alison Hart.  
EACH LITTLE BIRD THAT SINGS by Deborah Wiles.  
GOSSAMER by Lois Lowry.  
LISTENING FOR LIONS by Gloria Whelan.  
OUT OF ORDER by Betty Hicks.  
ROOM ONE: A MYSTERY OR TWO by Andrew Clements; illustrated by Chris Blair.  
RULES by Cynthia Lord.

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SATCH AND ME by Dan Gutman.  
WHITTINGTON by Alan W. Armstrong; illustrated by S. D. Schin-  
dler.  
WING NUT by Mary Jane Auch.

## YOUNG ADULT NOMINEES

CROSSING THE WIRE by Will Hobbs.  
DRAGON'S KEEP by Janet Lee Carey.  
A FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT by Caroline B Cooney.  
HEAT by Mike Lupica.  
THE LEGEND OF BASS REEVES: BEING THE TRUE AND FICTIONAL  
ACCOUNT OF THE MOST VALIANT MARSHAL IN THE WEST by Gary  
Paulsen.  
LIFE AS WE KNEW IT by Susan Beth Pfeffer.  
SHAKESPEARE'S SECRET by Elise Broach.  
A SUMMER OF KINGS by Han Nolan.  
TOMORROW, THE RIVER by Dianne E. Gray.  
TWILIGHT by Stephenie Meyer.



Stop by for a moment at the **Neligh Public Library** to admire their Community Pride Trophy for their entry in the 4th of July parade.



## Celebrate Banned Books Week - September 27-October 4

The Nebraska Library Association Intellectual Freedom (NLA IF) Committee is encouraging Nebraska librarians to celebrate Banned Books Week September 27th through October 4th. This year's theme is Closing Books Shuts Out Ideas, and as usual you can find ideas for programs, information on book challenges and censorship on the American Library Association (ALA) website at: [www.ala.org/bbooks](http://www.ala.org/bbooks).

The NLA IF Committee is once again collaborating with the American Civil Liberties Union-Nebraska (ACLU NE) and the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON) on promoting the freedom to read with banned book week activities, including our selection of 3 titles for One State, One Banned Book. This year's selections are: Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus by Barbara Park, The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman and The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger, all of which have been challenged, and happily remain on library shelves. We're hoping that one or all of the titles will make for interesting reading and discussion for varying reading tastes and levels. For a link to download a copy of the poster for One State, One Banned Book – as well as for additional information on programs and activities, please go to the NLA IF blog at: <http://nlaif.blogspot.com/>.

### 7 Things Every Library Trustee Should Know

1. Hours of operation
2. Budget
3. Upcoming programs
4. Location
5. Phone numbers
6. Web address
7. Mission statement or why your community has a library

### Straight Talk by E-mail?

Would you and your library board prefer to receive your copy of Straight Talk by e-mail? If so, please contact Sheila at the System Office at 1-800-578-1014.



Scary spiders and other creepy crawlies were spotted at the **Clarkson Public Library**.



Wiggling like worms was one of the many summer reading program activities at the **Schuyler Public Library**.

**Battle Creek Public Library** interns helped with this year's summer reading program by planning and leading this year's craft sessions.



The **Antelope County Library Association** recently purchased this sign to be displayed at all Antelope County events.



**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).

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### IS YOUR LIBRARY READY FOR THE 2008 ELECTION?

This year's election is proving to be one for the record books. The System office has a donkey and an elephant AccuCut dies ready for you to use for this election season. Call the System office at 1-800-548-1014 now and we'll mail them out to you right away!

### Library of Congress Sponsors National Reading and Writing Contest for Young Readers

Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program for young readers in grades 4 through 12, sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Young readers can select authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. The contest is sponsored in Nebraska by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Houchen Bindery Ltd., and Lee Booksellers.

Judges representing the Nebraska Center for the Book will select the top essayists in the state on three competition levels: Level I for young readers in grades 4 through 6, Level II for grade 7 and 8 readers, and Level III for readers in grades 9 through 12. Entries in each state will be assessed on three criteria: content, or the writer's achievement in addressing the contest theme; exposition, or the writer's use of language skills; and voice, the writer's style and originality of expression.

State winners will receive a \$50 Target Gift Card. Each state winner will then advance to the national competition. A panel of judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will then select six national winners (two per competition level) and twelve national runners-up (four per competition level). Each national winner will receive a \$500 Target Gift Card. In addition, they will win a Reading Promotion Grant of \$10,000 for their school or community library. National winners will be instrumental in deciding how the library funds will be spent. The 12 national runners-up will win a \$100 Target Gift Card, plus they will win a Reading Promotion Grant of \$1,000 for their school or community library.

The required entry coupon and a copy of the "how to enter" guidelines are available at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/publications/lal/aboutcontest.html>. Contact [lal@epix.net](mailto:lal@epix.net) for free teaching materials (including lesson plans, blackline masters, writing samples, and assessment checklists) for schools, libraries, and home school partnerships. Deadline for entries is December 6, 2008.

Target sponsors Letters about Literature as part of its commitment to supporting education and early childhood reading. Target recognizes the integral role reading plays in shaping a child's future, because reading is the foundation for life-long learning and success. Since opening its doors, Target has given five percent of its income to organizations that support education, the arts, and safe families and communities. Today that translates to \$3 million every week.



### CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept. 23 - **Webjunction & Technology Planning for Your Library** from 9am-4pm at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. For more information, contact Christa Burns at the Nebraska Library Commission at 1-800-307-2665.

Oct. 6 - **Nebraska Learns 2.0.** This 16 week program begins. For more information, contact Michael Sauers at the Nebraska Library Commission at 1-800-307-2665.

Oct. 15 - **The 4 Rs: Robots, Romance, Revolvers & Recipes**, a NLA pre-conference at the Bennet Martin Public Library. Contact Kathy at 1-800-578-1014 for registration information.

Oct. 16-17 - "**Nebraska Libraries: Vision for the Information Age**", NLA Annual Conference at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln. For more information, go to the NLA website: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2008/index.html>.

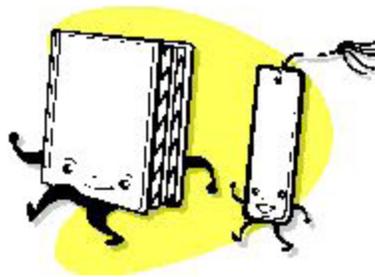
Oct. 30 - **Fall Colloquium - An Evening With Veronica Pitchford** from 5:30pm at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln. For more information contact Kathy

Tooker at 1-800-627-7884 or Brenda Ealey at 1-800-288-6063.

Nov. 14 - **State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting** at the Benson Branch, Omaha Public Library, starting at 9:30am.

Nov. 18 - **Basic Skills: Public Library Administration** class from 10am-3pm at the Norfolk Public Library.

Nov. 19 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at the Central City Public Library



### NEW @ NLS

Please give the system office a call at 1-800-578-1014 to request one of the following items:

**"Holding an Effective Meeting"**, LVN, 2006. 18 min.

Learn strategies for having your meetings be effective and efficient. In today's fast-paced world, it's important to use our time efficiently and a well run board meeting can do just that. Topics included are setting a workable agen-

da, keeping the discussion on topic and dealing with difficult meeting participants.

**"Go Where The Grants Are"** by Cynthia Anderson and Kathi Knop, LMC, August/September 2008, pp. 10-13.

Want to write grants and not sure where to get started? Authors Cynthia Anderson and Kathi Knop gives advice on how to organize your research and tips on finding a funder. Grant types are reviewed plus a list of potential funding sources for grants.

**"Letter to a Newly Appointed Library Trustee"** by Lee Price, Public Libraries, July/August 2008, pp.27-29

This is a great article to hand to every trustee on your library board, especially your new ones. Author Lee Price reassures your new trustee on the basics: attend meetings, visit the library, and attend some of the library's events. Next, he touches upon fund-raising and the need for board participation. Finally, he discusses planning and how important a plan is for the library's future.





Children at the **House Memorial Library** in Pender had a great time playing 'wrap the pupa in their co-coon' game!



Kids enjoyed eating their worms in mud at the **Oakdale Public Library**.



It was a buggy story time at the **Hartington Public Library**.



This creepy, crawly ant pinata was spotted at the **Howells Public Library**.



## "We the People Bookshelf " Grant Opportunity

Apply through Jan. 30, 2009 for a collection of 17 titles on the theme "Picturing America"

CHICAGO – The American Library Association's (ALA) Public Programs Office is pleased to partner with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for the sixth We the People Bookshelf project. Part of the NEH's We the People program, the Bookshelf encourages young people to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in American history.

This year's theme, "Picturing America," explores the premise that a nation's literature, as well as its visual art, can be a window on its character, ideals and aspirations. The We the People Bookshelf on "Picturing America" will be a literary complement to the NEH's Picturing America program – a free education resource that provides reproductions of 40 pieces of great American art to schools and public libraries to help educators teach American history and culture through our nation's art ([www.PicturingAmerica.neh.gov](http://www.PicturingAmerica.neh.gov)).

Public and school (K-12) libraries are invited to apply online from Sept. 2, 2008 through Jan. 30, 2009 at <http://publicprograms.ala.org/bookshelf>. In spring 2009, NEH and ALA will select 4,000 libraries to receive the 17 books for young readers, plus three works in Spanish translation, as well as bonus materials for readers of all ages. Selected libraries will be required to use the Bookshelf selections in programs for young readers in their communities.

The Bookshelf grants are part of the NEH's We the People program, which aims to encourage and strengthen the teaching, study and understanding of American history and culture through libraries, schools, colleges, universities and cultural institutions. NEH plans to offer a We the People Bookshelf each year on themes related to ideas and ideals unique to America. Since 2003,

The "Picturing America" Bookshelf will feature the following books:

- Kindergarten to Grade 3: "Walt Whitman: Words for America" by Barbara Kerley; "Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez" by Kathleen Krull; "Cosechando esperanza: La historia de César Chávez" by Kathleen Krull (translated by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy); "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; "Sweet Music in Harlem" by Debbie Taylor
- Grades 4 to 6: "The Birchbark House" by Louise Erdrich; "American Tall Tales" by Mary Pope Osborne; "On the Wings of Heroes" by Richard Peck; "Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule" by Harriette Gillem Robinet; "The Captain's Dog: My Journey with the Lewis and Clark Tribe" by Roland Smith
- Grades 7 to 8: "The Life and Death of Crazy Horse" by Russell Freedman; "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" by Washington Irving; "La leyenda de Sleepy Hollow" by Washington Irving (translated by Manual Broncano); "Across America on an Emigrant Train" by Jim Murphy; "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain
- Grades 9 to 12: "Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation" by Joseph J. Ellis; "Restless Spirit: The Life and Work of Dorothea Lange" by Elizabeth Partridge; "Travels with Charley in Search of America" by John Steinbeck; "Viajes Con Charley – En Busca de América" by John Steinbeck (translated by José Manuel Álvarez Flórez); "Democracy in America" by Alexis de Tocqueville
- Bonus: "Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out" by The National Children's Book and Literary Alliance; "1776: The Illustrated Edition" by David McCullough



## 6 Free Web Conferencing Tools

by  
Ellyssa Kroski

Web conferencing applications which enable a presenter to host a Webinar or meeting with live video and audio, text chat, whiteboards, shared files, and even desktop sharing offer countless opportunities for collaboration, online training, and remote assistance. While many of these sophisticated programs are costly, a new crop of free Web conferencing applications has emerged which offer amazing alternatives to traditional online meeting programs such as WebEx and GoToMeeting.

Librarians could use these free applications for holding office hours, reference consultations, library instruction, hosting their own Webinars, conducting live interviews, or collaborating with remote team members on projects.

**VRoom** by Elluminate is “three for free Web conferencing”. Elluminate lets users sign up for their own virtual meeting room (vRoom) in which they can hold Web conferences with live Webcam, two-way audio, application sharing, IM chat, whiteboard, and file transfer with up to 3 simultaneous users.

**Yugma** is a Web conferencing application which allows a presenter to share their desktop with conference attendees in order to demonstrate, share, or collaborate on projects. The free, personal version of Yugma enables conferencing with up to 10 people along with an IM chat interface within sessions. Professional accounts can record sessions, share files, change presenters, and share mouse and keyboard controls. The Skype edition integrates with the VOIP application and includes the users’ Skype contact list.

**WiZiQ** is a completely Web-based education platform which lets teachers present to up to 25 students from within a virtual classroom through live video, audio, and text chat. WiZiQ allows content sharing, provides a whiteboard and records sessions. They have a module which integrates with the Moodle LMS.

**Dimdim** is a free, open source live meeting software which offers audio and video conferencing and lets hosts share their desktop with attendees. This application requires no download or installation for meeting participants and can be used with up to 20 people with the free version. Dimdim offers whiteboards and both public and private chat options.

**PalBee** enables members to conduct video conferencing sessions complete with whiteboards, text chat interface, file sharing capabilities, and free recording of sessions. Presenters can hold unlimited sessions with up to five people for up to one hour, and also can pre-record sessions and then share them

**Vyew** is a fully Web-based conferencing and collaboration application which features white boards, audio and video support, and an integrated chat client. Hosts can share their desktops, take screenshots, conduct conference calls with up to 150 others, and hold conference sessions with up to 20 participants with the free version.





## Reading & Writing Online Activities for Kids!



Take your class on a reading adventure by visiting the RIF Reading Planet (<http://www.rif.org/readingplanet/>). Encourage your students to try some of the following activities that they can do at school, home, or anywhere.

### \* Poetry Splatter

Kids can create silly poems by splattering words onto the screen and dragging them to blank spots in a poem. They'll have lots of fun building poetry.

### \* Super Sorter

Kids just answer a few questions, and the Super Sorter will tell them what kinds of books and activities they might like to try.

### \* Writers' Blocks

Kids join together to build a story block by block. In this monthly feature, students are given a "story starter," and they are asked to finish the story by adding their own ideas.

### \* Story Maker

Students can make their own personalized story! They can choose a setting for the story and drag different objects onto this setting. Then students enter information about themselves, and we create a story that's unique to them!

### \* Illustrate a Story

Students simply print out the book of their choice, illustrate it, and create a fun book they can read again and again.

### \* Send a Postcard

Students can choose from eight different designs and send a postcard to tell friends or family members all about their reading adventures!

### \* Word Builder

Students can choose a word list and make their very own word search puzzles.

### \* Book Zone

Students can publish their own book reviews. Once a child has read a book, he can go to the Book Zone and search for it by title or author, or browse for it by category. Once he's found the right book, he can click on it to rate and review it.

## Computer Training Website

This website features a collection of free, easy-to-follow illustrated tutorials for software and computer subjects such as Microsoft Office, Dreamweaver, Photoshop Elements, HTML, CSS, Perl and PHP. Check this site out at: <http://inpics.net>.





### Copyright Guidelines

by  
Phyllis Brunken

In the copyright law, the amount that cannot be legally used is stated "more than small amount". No specific percentages, number of pages, or amount of time are in the copyright law. However, guidelines (which are not law) have been developed through case law. The Nebraska Library Commission Copyright Handbook ([http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/pilot/pubs/copyright\\_hndbk.pdf](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/pilot/pubs/copyright_hndbk.pdf)) has an abbreviated list:

- Text -- 10% or 1000 words whichever is less
- Music -- 10% or 30 seconds whichever is less
- Video -- 10% or 3 minutes whichever is less
- Illustrations/Photos -- Entire work – no more than 5 by one artist
- Numerical Data -- 10% or 2500 fields whichever is less

These guidelines apply when an educator is preparing instructional materials for use with their students. The public librarian can also use these guidelines when preparing materials to be used with patrons. Be sure to cite any materials that are used. Remember, if Fair Use cannot be applied, permission may be requested from the copyright holder to use the material.

Hall Davidson's Copyright Chart summarizes the guidelines for teachers in a reproducible chart. <http://www.halldavidson.net/chartshort.html>

For an excellent overview of guidelines for fair use check out the Fair Use Guidelines for Educational Multimedia (<http://www.lib.jmu.edu/org/mla/Guidelines/Other%20Guidelines/Fair%20Use%20for%20Multimedia.aspx>) developed by the Music Library Association along with over 50 agencies and associations that included the American Library Association, U. S. Copyright Office, Recording Industry Association of America, and the National Educational Association

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](mailto: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.

Autumn is a second  
spring when every leaf  
is a flower.  
— Albert Camus

CAPSTONE HEINEMANN LIBRARY COMPASS POINT	ROURKE PUBLISHING CO. LERNER PUBLISHING CO. FACTS ON FILE
COMPLETE LINE OF LIBRARY BOOKS L.B.S.S.	
<b>Duane Munson</b>	
2315 29TH STREET, BOX 624, COLUMBUS, NE 68601 TELEPHONE 402-564-3073 FAX 402-564-9730 CELL PHONE 402-910-0772	
ECONO-CLAD CHILD'S WORLD REFERENCE BOOKS	MARSHALL/CAVENDISH SALEM PRESS COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA



## Youth Grants for Excellence Applications Due Oct. 10, 2008

The Nebraska Library Commission announces that grants are available to accredited public libraries and state-run institutional libraries for special projects in the area of children's and young adult services. These grants are awarded to encourage innovation and expansion of public library services for youth and their parents or caregivers. Applications will be accepted for projects in the two areas of focus: Boys and Reading, or Early Childhood Reading Programs; as well as other listed areas of service to youth. The Youth Grants for Excellence require a 25% match, of which at least 10% must be a cash match, the same as the Continuing Education and Training grants. The minimum amount that will be awarded per grant is now \$250, which means the minimum total project cost will be \$333, with your library providing at least \$83 (cash and in-kind) for the 25% match required.

Once again this year there are two different application forms. For projects requesting \$250 - \$1,000 in grant funds use the abbreviated, or short form. Applications requesting more than \$1,000 must use the long form. Please be sure to use the correct form for your project.

Applications and support materials must be received by the Nebraska Library Commission with the postmarked date no later than October 10, 2008 or submitted electronically by 11:59 P.M. CDT on October 10, 2008. Faxes will not be accepted. You will be notified by December 3, 2008 if you are awarded a grant. The forms and information for the Youth Grants for Excellence are now available online at the following sites:

Introduction: Information and Guidelines [www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/youthgrants/youthgrantsintro.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/youthgrants/youthgrantsintro.html).

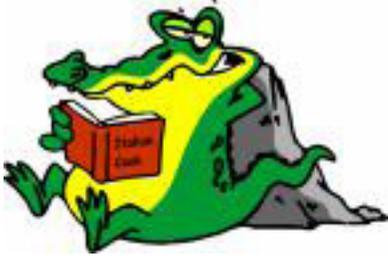
Application Forms and Instructions for Applying (online and print):

- \* Online short form: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/youthgrants/youthgrantsapplicationonline-shortform.html>
- \* Online long form: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/youthgrants/youthgrantsapplicationonlinelong-form.html>
- \* Print short form: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/youthgrants/youthgrantsapplicationprintshort-form.html>
- \* Print long form: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/youthgrants/youthgrantsapplicationprintlong-form.html>

If you can't access the necessary forms and information online, contact Sally Snyder at the Nebraska Library Commission at: [ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us)



**Atkinson Public Library** hosted its Annual Fun Run/Walk and had over 74 participants taking part!

**THE REVIEWER'S CHAIR****Leaping Lizards**

By Stuart J. Murphy

This fun book teaches the math concepts of counting by 5's and 10's. The colorful illustrations of lizards coming to participate in a lizard show using every possible kind of transportation is a fun added bonus.

This is great for early elementary kids to read alone and is perfect for practicing skip counting with that same group. Recommended for every school library and would be good in a public library too.

-Heather Reid, home school parent/teacher, Omaha, NE

**What To Do About Alice?**

By Barbara Kerley

This delightful biography describes enthusiastic, full of life, adventurous, Alice Roosevelt, daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt. Each page is filled with wild adventures and retro-style illustrations. The story line is fast paced and the reader just can't help themselves from flipping quickly from page to page to see what Alice is up to. The story line is from Alice's younger years through her marriage to her Congressman husband. Added author notes

in the back fill the reader in on more details of Alice's life and the contributions she made to her country and father.

Written for 3rd grade and up this volume will delight any age of reader and I can enthusiastically recommend this book for school, public or private collections.

-Pat Thompson, WSC

**Fisherman and His Wife**

By Rachel Isadora

This book is a retelling of a Brothers Grimm story about greed. It is appropriate for grades in lower to middle elementary.

I think it would fit nicely into a fables unit or when teaching about greed. Compared to other books this book was written in a format that would be appealing to children and easy to understand. The illustrations are very interestingly done.

I recommend this book as a worthwhile purchase for a children's collection.

-Sharon Kinnan, Oakdale, NE

**Let's Get Lost**

By Sarra Manning

Let's get lost caught me from the very beginning and never let go. This book is set in England and the main character is a sixteen year old teen. After Isabel's mum dies, everything gets turned around. Isabel turns into a bully and she wouldn't let anyone into her head. But when she finds

Smith, the lies come out and the secrets get hidden...

I would recommend this book to teens 14 and up. I enjoyed this book very much and couldn't put it down!

-Felicia Keiser, Wayne High School

**Lock and Key**

By Sarah Dessen

Rudy and her alcoholic mom are forever on the move. Now just months before Rudy turns 18 and can be on her own her mom takes off leaving her alone in the old yellow house. She is getting by until her landlords find out the situation. Now she's living with her sister Cora who took off when Rudy was 8. Cora and husband Jamie have a fancy house and put Rudy in a private school.

Everything is so different that Rudy doesn't know where she fits in. She is determined not to let anyone get close. But the more she tries the harder it becomes. Next door neighbor, Nate, gives her a ride to school each day and against her will she finds herself becoming friends with him. She also discovers that other people, namely popular Nate, have not so perfect lives as well. When given an assignment to describe what family means she discovers that there are many definitions for the simple word and it's not always what you expect.

This book is appropriate for grades 9th and up.



Here is a TRUE young adult book. Readers won't want to put it down and will be recommending it to their friends.

-Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library

**Football hero**

By Tim Green

Ty Lewis has had a lot to cope within the last few months. His parents were killed in a car accident, so he now lives with Uncle Gus (a beer drinking loser, always looking for a get-rich-quick scheme), Aunt Virginia (who is constantly yelling) and cousin, Charlotte. Ty is given a bare mattress to sleep on in the side porch, bare minimum of clothing and food. Uncle Gus gets a job cleaning bars and restaurants, but he makes Ty and Charlotte do all the work.

The only bright spot in Ty's life is his big brother Thane, who is a professional football player. Ty likes to play football also, but Uncle Gus won't let him have the time off to be able to play, until Ty sees a way to get what he wants and supposedly help Uncle Gus get rich.

This story gets into betting on sports, bullying, and believing in oneself. This is a story boys will really like, has plenty of action, and provides a story that illustrates how the right thing is to do is not always the easier, but it is the best thing to do for all involved.

I enjoyed the book and would recommend it for any library that provides stories for football

fans.

-Marilyn Quance, WSC

**A Curse Dark as Gold**

By Elizabeth C. Bunce

In this twisted Rumpelstiltskin-like story set in a mill town on the verge of the industrial revolution, Charlotte Miller, the orphaned miller's daughter, struggles to run her father's woolen mill in the face of ill luck and a family curse that she refuses to believe in.

Those who know the original Rumpelstiltskin story can look forward to a unique spin on the characters and story facets with whom they are familiar. Regardless of whether or not you know the original story, you'll find your-self caught-up in the story as fantastical elements intertwine with the ordinary problems of life, love, and business at a quaint old mill that can't quite keep up with the changes of a new world. What is an ordinary/normal problem? What is a supernatural problem? Who is Jack Spinner? Is anyone who they appear to be? You'll be guessing until the end.

With a reading level for 7th through 12th grades, this book will make an excellent addition to any high school or public library collection.

-Valerie Knight, WSC

**The Joys of Love**

By Madeleine L'Engle

It was a magical summer for

Elizabeth Jerrold in the 1940's. She had a chemistry major in college in Virginia, but being involved in the theater was her love. She was working as an apprentice on a scholarship in a summer theater.

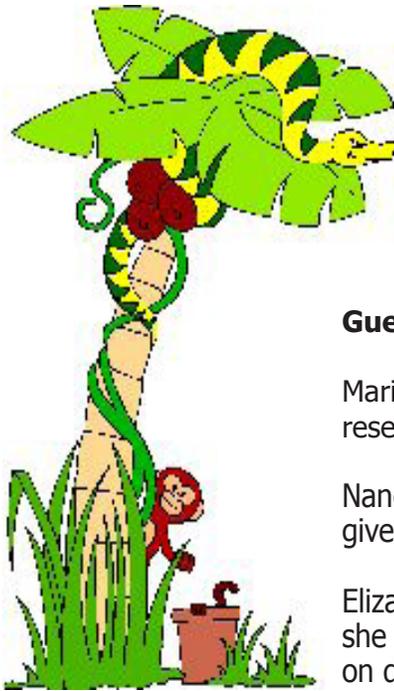
She thought that she was in love with the charming director, Kurt Canitz. But, then there was affable Ben, who buys her hamburgers when she was hungry and couldn't afford them and knew the mother that she never had known.

Her father had died and she was being raised by her no nonsense Aunt Harriet. Her aunt does not approve of Elizabeth being there, stops paying the room and board and tells her to come back to Virginia right away. What can she do to stay and finish out this wonderful summer?

The introduction by her granddaughter, Lena Roy, states that Madeleine L'Engle wrote this book in 1978, shared it with her granddaughters and didn't publish it. The granddaughters recently uncovered that old copy and decided to share what they call "this sweet novel about coming of age at a summer theater." It may be an "autobiographical portrait" of the author.

- Claudette Wielechowski, North Platte, NE





### It's a Jungle Out There!

NNNC Media Workshop  
September 24, 2008

Northeast Community College  
Life-Long Learning Center

#### Guest speakers are:

Marie Krohn, author of *Grace Pound*. Marie will discuss her books and the research to write her works.

Nancy Larimer, Staff Media Specialist for Lincoln Public Schools. Nancy will give a keynote on using Web 2.0 tools in the Media Center.

Elizabeth Reinhardt works for the Nebraska Department of Education where she presents workshops for educators on video production. She will present on digital video projects.

Other presentations include Power Media Plus and much more!

#### Schedule of Events

8:30 - 9:00	Registration	
9:00 - 10:15	Nancy Larimer	Suite C/D
10:30 - 11:30	Breakouts	
	Blogging Safari	Suite E
	Delicious Safari	Suite D
11:30 - 12:00	Lunch	Suite C/D
12:00 - 12:30	Virtual Zoo tour	Suite E
12:45 - 1:45	Marie Krohn	Suite C/D
2:00 - 3:00	Breakouts	
	Elisabeth Reinkordt	Suite E
	PowerMedia Plus	Suite D
3:15 - 3:45	ESU Meetings	Various Suites



#### Don't forget to register!

You can Register online:  
<http://www.esu7.org/home/events.htm>

Cost for the workshop: \$20.00 payable to ESU7.

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"You must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself."  
— Sam Levenson

**Check out our web site at: <http://Northeastlibrary.westpaint.com>**



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