

The Scoop

Fun, inspiring and innovative ideas
for library youth services



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DATES & DEADLINES

- Apply now for **Bright Futures** summer outreach programs:
School Partnerships: Feb. 1
School Visits and Reaching Underserved Children: March 31
- **February 25** is the deadline for **Idaho Elementary School mini-grant applications.**
- Apply to participate in **EatPlayGrow™** any time.
- Apply to participate in **Jump Start** as soon as you know kindergarten registration dates!
- Apply to host an **Idaho Child Care Reads** workshop by **Feb. 15**

WELCOME

By Stephanie Bailey-White

Happy New Year! We hope 2016 is a great year for all of you, filled with great books, new ideas for advancing literacy, and some fun times too. Many people in the Idaho library community have had the pleasure of knowing Tammy Hawley-House, our new member of the Read to Me team, through her connections to the Idaho Library Association and the youth services work she has done in Boise-area public libraries. If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting her, keep reading for a little more about her.

ICfL Welcomes Tammy Hawley-House!



Tammy Hawley-House has worked in public libraries for over 20 years. She has a master's degree in library science and over 17 years' experience as a children's librarian working with early literacy programs. Before libraries she worked in accounting and has an undergraduate degree in education.

Other parts of her life include cooking, traveling, dreaming of travel, reading about travel, hanging out with kids, gardening and reading. This time of year, you can find her perusing "best of 2015" booklists and seed catalogs.

Because this introduction takes place in *The Scoop*, she was asked to share her favorite flavor of ice cream. "That is kind of like naming your favorite book, it changes each week. I am fond of peanut butter, salted caramel gelato and vanilla."

She is very excited to join the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Providing service to dedicated library staff across the state in an early literacy capacity is a dream come true.

(We love this picture of Tammy when she was a kid and had to include it too. ☺)



LIBRARY TO LIBRARY

Idaho Libraries Encouraged to Participate in Community Building Summit

The Libraries Building Community Summit, hosted by the Idaho Commission for Libraries, will provide up to 10 public libraries with the opportunity to develop a road map to success. Libraries will create a team, identify a specific community need, and work on a collaborative plan guided by experts in the field. If you've got a youth services area that you'd like to work on, this is a great opportunity!

The 2016 Libraries Building Community Summit will be held April 27 and 28 in Boise. If your library would like to participate, please contact [Shirley Biladeau](#) to learn more about the expectations. **Applications are due February 28, 2016.** More information and the application can be found at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/community>.

Ada Community Hosts 15th Annual Caldecott Tea

Library staff from Treasure Valley libraries and the Commission for Libraries attended the Ada Community Library's annual Mock Caldecott Tea in December. *Mother Bruce*, by Ryan T. Higgins was their top choice, and *In a Village by the Sea*, by Muon Van, came in second. The event was a fun way for staff from many area public and school librarians to get together to look through hundreds of great books, eat some cookies, drink tea and talk about children's books.



The picture at the right shows Caldwell Public's Youth Services Director Fiona May sharing her table's top picks during the tea.

The 2016 ALA Youth Media Awards will be announced January 11 at ALA Midwinter. See how to watch or find out the winners [here](#).

Does your library hold a Mock Caldecott, Mock Newbery, or other Mock Awards? Post your winners on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/readtomeidaho/>.



ICfL Seeks State Support for STEM

ICfL's Board of Library Commissioners submitted budget enhancement requests (requests for new funding) to the State of Idaho Division of Financial Management (DFM) for the next fiscal year, July 2016–June 2017. The requests include \$183,700 in funding to substantially increase our support for the implementation of hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programming in Idaho libraries.

[Learn More](#)

Idaho Child Care Reads Workshops

The deadline to apply to host a workshop is **February 15, 2016**. Last year 11 libraries hosted workshops, and staff feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Boise Public Library youth services librarian Cherie Bussert told us, "It was so worthwhile being able to share this vital information to the people who are involved in early childhood education! It also helped for these child caregivers to know that the library is a great resource for them and their students. I hope to see many of these caregivers again, either coming with their classes for storytimes at the library, or checking books, music, etc. out to use in their classrooms. I look forward to doing this again!"



Tamra Hawley-House facilitates an ICCR workshop for providers working with the Agency for New Americans.

We often hear that libraries don't think there are enough caregivers in their area who would be interested in attending a workshop. However, as we attend regional early childhood workshops and talk with providers about this workshop, we've found a substantial interest in even the smaller rural communities. "I had never hosted a workshop before, and we were really glad we did," said Larsen-Sant's Teresa Rasmussen. "There were more providers in the community interested than I expected... the workshop gave some great resources to our providers that will be a great boost to literary skills for our preschoolers in the community. There was more of a need to train the providers than I expected."

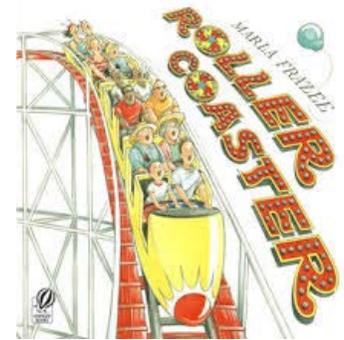
Quick Facts:

- ICfL can provide a trainer for you. Your library just needs to provide the space (either at the library or an alternate location in the community).
- Workshop is free and is three hours.
- Participants receive a literacy kit full of books and resources (provided by ICfL). Optional IdahoSTARS credits are available.
- Host library assembles literacy kits from materials provided, and submits a short summary report.

[Learn More/Apply](#)

Borrow these Great Program Ideas

Our friends at the Library of Virginia recently shared two great science-based program ideas that looked really fun and educational. The "**Make a Musical Instrument**" program allowed kids to explore and create while learning how sound travels. Many of the ideas came from *The Picture Perfect Science* book. Another Virginia library offered a Science Saturday with the theme of "**Let's get ready to Roll, Slope and Slide: Ramps & Inclined Planes.**" The program began with a reading of Marla Frazee's *Roller Coaster*. Six stations, constructed mostly from common household items, were set up and participants had a quick tour of each hands-on activity before being set free to explore. More detailed scientific explanations were posted on the wall near each of the stations.



To find out more details about both programs, check out [this issue of the Library of Virginia Youth Services Notes](#). And thanks, Enid, for sharing!

Little Libraries Can Be a Big Asset

Starting a Little Library program has proven to be a big asset for Idaho libraries who have given them a try. Little Library bins provide free, fingertip access to quality books for children from birth to 18 years old. They can easily be inventoried and transported, which results in unlimited opportunities to place them where they are needed. The ICfL Read to Me Program has been helping public libraries get these programs established in Boys and Girls Clubs, afterschool centers, teen parenting sites, juvenile corrections sites, and other places in communities.

Little Libraries are collections of gently used and new books that are housed in sturdy bins. Bins can hold 50-75 books and include a variety of genres and age levels. The contents can be customized to the needs of the children and youth who will be reading them, but there is a general formula that is used for most bins. It includes board books, picture books, easy readers, chapter books, nonfiction, bilingual, young adult, comics and Manga, and magazines. Occasionally books are included that would benefit parents, such as parenting books, cookbooks, and educational books.



Books for Little Libraries are collected by a variety of means, including book drives, partners such as Book it Forward and Boise Rescue Missions, and purchasing through the First Book Book Bank. When books are received at ICfL they are cleaned and stickered with a Read and Return label. The label helps children and parents know this is a book that's been borrowed, but not from a library collection. The return rate for books at the Literacy in the Park program is about 20 percent. Children are encouraged to take a book even if they don't know if they can return it because providing opportunities to read is the goal of the program.

Libraries have been creative in how and where they use Little Libraries. They have been placed at hop farms, low-income apartments, taken to lunch programs in the park, and at other venues. "We love to see them placed in areas where children and families congregate so opportunities are optimized for book borrowing. The key is to make them manageable for library staff to monitor and replenish them," ICfL Coordinator Julie Armstrong said.

If you are interested in having a Little Library to use for outreach, email [Stephanie Bailey-White](#) and describe your need and plan for using it. Requests can be accepted any time throughout the year. You can also develop your own bins with help from your Friend's group or community partners. Where can you place a Little Library in your community that will provide books to those children who may not be walking through your library doors?

YOUNG ADULT CORNER

Get Ready for the 2016 Teen Tech Week™

YALSA has everything libraries need to plan great TTW activities for March 6 - 12 at www.ala.org/teentechweek. Visit the site to sign up for a free webinar on Dec. 15th. Join YALSA in celebrating the A in STEAM with the "create it at your library" theme.

Free Teen Tech Week™ Webinar Dec. 15 & TTW Grants!

Visit www.ala.org/teentechweek to apply for grants and sign up for a free webinar on Dec. 15th about how to plan project-based learning activities for and with teens. Join YALSA in celebrating the A in STEAM with the “create it at your library” theme March 6 – 12, 2016. Apply by Jan. 1 for one of twenty \$1,000 grants to help you implement programs to support digital literacy skill development with underserved teens.

YALSA Webinar

YALSA is sponsoring a webinar on “Making the Leap from Summer Reading to Summer Learning” on February 18. See www.ala.org/yalsa/webinars for more information.

SCHOOL ZONE

Happy New Year and Penciling In!

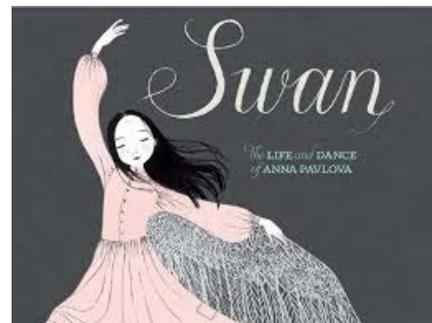
Happy New Year to you all – hope your break was fun and restful! Now that we’ve turned the calendar to 2016, there are a few dates you might want to save:

July 19-21, 2016: Summer Summit 2016 in Coeur d’Alene! Registration will open in early spring so keep an eye on The Scoop, libraries.idaho.gov, LibIdaho, and the ICfL School Libraries Facebook page for more news. Our keynote speaker this year is Tiffany Whitehead; check out her blog at www.mightylittlelibrarian.com/.

January’s Nonfiction Book of the Month is *Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova*, by Laurel Snyder.

[Learn More](#)

Low Hanging Fruit: Check out the January edition of Low Hanging Fruit about Idaho Day at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/low-hanging-fruit>. While you are there, peruse the back issues, too!



UPCOMING EVENTS

ALA Youth Media Awards



The American Library Association (ALA) Youth Media Awards will be announced **Monday, January 11 at 8 a.m. EST**, during the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibition in Boston. Join ALA for a **live webcast** of the press conference or follow I Love Libraries on **Twitter** and **Facebook** to be among the first to know the 2016 winners. The official hashtag for the 2015 Youth Media Awards is **#ALAyma**. For more information, visit

www.ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/presskits/youthmediaawards/alayouthmediaawards.



TIPS AND TOOLS

Two Grant Cycles Now Open for Northern Idaho

The Idaho Community Foundation (ICF) has two grant cycles open for the north Idaho counties of Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce and Shoshone. The deadline for both is **January 15**. The **Idaho Future Fund grant cycle** is beginning its second year and will provide \$100,000 in north Idaho grants in 2016, three times as much as in 2015! Idaho Future Fund grants are available for: preschool scholarships, charter schools, public schools and public school libraries.

In 2015, the Idaho Future Fund provided almost \$13,000 to the North Idaho STEM Charter Academy in Rathdrum to create a biology and genetics lab, and nearly \$20,000 to Orofino Joint School District #171 to buy computers for the library for junior and senior high school students.

For more information about the Idaho Future Fund eligibility and application, go to ICF's [homepage](#) under Deadlines or [email](#) ICF Donor Services Director Elly Davis or call her at (208) 342-3535.

The second ICF grant cycle is the **Northern Region Competitive Grant Cycle**, which provides grants of up to \$5,000 to nonprofits in the areas of: Arts and culture, education, emergency services, libraries, conservation/environment, health, recreation, social services, and public projects. In 2015, ICF awarded more than \$173,000 to 78 organizations in north Idaho through the Northern Region Competitive Grant Cycle.

For more information or to apply, go to ICF's [homepage](#) under Deadlines.

SLJ Top Ten Apps of 2015

A little something for everyone, from preschool to high school, and even Spanish!
www.slj.com/2015/11/reviews/best-of/top-10-apps-2015/#_

Video on Motivating Reluctant Readers

Children's book author Andrea Davis Pinkney, who has children with learning and attention issues, shares fantastic tips about how to motivate young people to read [here](#). (Produced by Understood.org, found via AdLit.org)



SUMMER READING NEWS

Register for Free CSLP Webinars

The editors for the CSLP early literacy and teen program manuals will share insightful tips for building excitement for the 2016 program and get your planning off to a great start!

On Your Mark, Get Set... READ! Early Literacy Webinar

In this hour-long webinar, Editor Amanda Struckmeyer will highlight age-appropriate books, fingerplays, songs, and activities from the early literacy manual that will inspire your youngest library patrons to develop a love of learning.

Date: January 12, 2016

Time: 1 p.m. Mountain Time, noon Pacific Time

Register



Get in the Game...READ! Teen Webinar

In this hour-long webinar, you'll hear programming and display ideas to inspire a fun and active summer. These highlights from the manual will help you discover ways to motivate teens to get in the game and keep their minds and bodies healthy.

Date: January 28, 2016

Time: 1 p.m. Mountain Time, noon Pacific Time

Register



Bright Futures Applications

Strengthening School Partnerships: Application due February 1

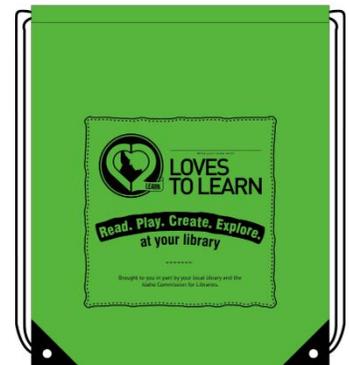
School Visits and Reaching Underserved Children: Applications due March 31

If you missed the **Info to Go** session on January 4 you can watch it on our summer reading website: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading>. The session explained each program, the requirements, the materials libraries receive, and the application process. Remember, Bright Futures programs are OPT-IN, and you must apply. Please first check with others in your library to see if anyone else already applied, then check the Participant Chart to see which schools other libraries in your area might be serving.



Three important things to consider before applying:

- 1) Every library that participates in a Bright Futures program must **formally evaluate** their summer reading program.
- 2) Libraries that agree to track the number of children/teens who read at least **10 books or 10 hours** will have priority if materials are limited.
- 3) Materials for School Visits are being privately funded this year. **Drawstring backpacks** and Summer of Code flyers will be provided; in addition to elementary schools, libraries can also distribute backpacks at **junior highs and middle schools**.



2016 CSLP Program Manual: Examples of Crafts

State Library and local library staff in Iowa created each craft in the upcoming summer reading manual for their annual workshops. See examples of those crafts here: www.pinterest.com/merrimonks/2016-collaborative-summer-library-program-crafts/. Thanks to Merri Monks, Youth Services Consultant for the Iowa State Library, for sharing!

CSLP soliciting slogans for 2018 and general theme for 2019

It is that time of the year when the Collaborative Summer Learning Program begins its search for slogans and general themes for the upcoming years. They ask for your help and participation in developing the slogans for each of the age groups for the 2018 program year (general theme of “music”) and the general theme for the 2019 program year.

Please send your ideas by **January 30, 2016** through this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cslpjan2016>. The survey may also be accessed by logging into your CSLP account at www.cslpreads.org. There, you will find it on the main homepage.

Note: The upcoming **2016 theme** is exercise/fitness/sports, and the slogans are “On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!” (children’s); “Get in the Game—Read!” (teen); and “Exercise Your Mind. Read.” (adult). The upcoming **2017 theme** is building/making/architecture, and the one slogan for all ages is “Build a Better World.”

If you like the one slogan-for-all-ages approach, you might want to put the same slogan on all the age groups in the 2018 survey.

FEATURED:

Idaho Families Curled Up with Classics in 2015

Classic children’s books are classic for a reason. They have stood the test of time because they are well-written and enjoyable to read. Taking the theme of “Curl Up with a Classic” to guide their planning, 114 school and public libraries held Idaho Family Reading Week events in November. Around the state there were 10,280 participants reported by the 81 libraries who submitted a summary of their event. Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) sent over 2,800 classic books to participating libraries to use in their programs.

Libraries took a variety of approaches in hosting a Family Reading Week event. Some school and public libraries collaborated on programming, and others partnered with community agencies and partners. These included:

- High School Reading Clubs
- PTO/PTA
- Peace officers- police, border guards, Fish and Game wardens, firemen
- Local restaurants
- Local authors and illustrators
- Mayors and other city government agencies
- Local weathermen
- Preschools and daycares

Several libraries had special literary guests such as Alice in Wonderland or Curious George attend. Programs ran the gamut of incorporating the theme in established storytimes to having treasure hunts that required traveling through the community. Some programs planned



Camas County School District had a costume contest for staff to celebrate their World Cultures event.

events throughout the week, and some were a one-time celebration. Librarians took the opportunity of having parents at their programs to share tips on helping children be better readers.

The classic books from ICfL were used in a variety of ways:

- Raffle or door prizes
- Every child who attended got a book
- Every child who completed an activity or activities (ex. filling out a passport of activities) got a book
- Books were included in the food backpacks that go home with students over the weekend

Larsen-Sant Public Library in Preston had 1,050 people attend their 'Cookie and a Book' event, and every child received a book. They partner with a community reading program and plan for this event far enough out that they can get books for everyone. It has become a tradition in their community and has the largest attendance of any of their programs. Other libraries worked with Parent Teacher Organizations or Friends of the Library groups to get more books into children's hands. Some libraries gave away library cards for nonresidents, backpacks, or prizes like Kindles.

This was the 19th anniversary of Idaho Family Reading Week and we hope to recruit more new library participants in 2016. Many libraries reported their patrons enjoyed themselves so much they have asked for more of these types of activities. We are thrilled with the number of children and their families that were impacted by the hard work and effort put in by library staff for Family Reading Week.

Next year's theme is Laugh It Up! Be thinking about ideas that incorporate humor and laughter into your library programming or events. We'll be sharing tips throughout the year on acquiring books, marketing, and opportunities to partner to help your Idaho Family Reading Week event be successful.



Children from Ms. Alvarez' class listen intently as Mr. Higin (left) and Ms. Butcher (right) from U.S. Customs and Border Protection read *Curious George* to them.

(Photo courtesy Valley View Elementary School)

CE NEWS YOU CAN USE

Webinars Worth Watching

Explore, Create, Engage: HSTRY in the Classroom!

This free webinar on January 20 from 5-6 p.m. (MST) is sponsored by AASL (American Association of School Librarians) and features Shannon McClintock Miller, Teacher Librarian and technology integration specialist, who will explore the AASL Best Website, www.HSTRY.co, along with Claire Varner, the Chief Academic Officer at HSTRY. Using real examples from classrooms around the world, Shannon and Claire will show participants how schools are increasing student engagement by creating and sharing timelines on HSTRY. It will be a fun presentation which will leave you with tons of ideas to take back to your students, teachers, and school community. For more information and to register for this program, visit www.ala.org/aas/ecollab/upcoming.

Community Engagement: Serving Diverse Communities Where They Are

This free webinar from WebJunction will be held January 28, 2016 from 1 – 2:30 (MST). In this interactive session, we will explore what it means to provide inclusive outreach to and engagement with members of your local community. How do you identify the needs of the diverse communities your library is serving? What are effective approaches for community engagement, and how do you apply what you learn along the way to improve your practice? Come prepared with a challenge or opportunity from your own community that you would like to discuss with your peers during the webinar. You will also leave with a framework and action plan for cultivating partnerships for successful community engagement.

Presented by: **CiKeithia Pugh**, Early Learning Program Manager; **Hayden Bass**, Outreach Program Manager; and **Rekha Kuver**, Youth & Family Learning Manager, all of Seattle Public Library.

[Info / Register](#)

Explore and Discover: Nature-Based Spaces and Activities at your Library

This free webinar from WebJunction will be held February 2, 2016 from 1 – 2 p.m. (MST). When children have regular contact with nature, they learn and grow better. Children who play, build, climb, grow, splash and read are developing their observation, visual-spatial, social, and literacy skills. Nature Explorium, a nature-based program at Middle Country Public Library (NY), encourages children to explore, discover and connect with nature. Learn about best practices and resources that you can use at your library to create outdoor spaces, along with indoor and outdoor nature activities. It's a unique way to connect literacy, learning and appreciation for nature as a regular part of the library visit.

Presented by: **Tracy LaStella**, Coordinator for Youth Services, Middle Country Public Library, NY, and 2015 *Library Journal*/Mover & Shaker.

[Info / Register](#)



MULTICULTURAL CONNECTIONS

20 Years of the Pura Belpré Awards

Reposted from www.ilovelibraries.org

A love affair between a cockroach and mouse and the chance hiring of a library assistant were among the fortuitous factors that spawned an enduring cultural legacy and a monument to the commitment of one special librarian to the spread of Latino children's literature.

Established in 1996, the Pura Belpré Award honors the works of Latino/Latina writers and illustrators whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. The award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library, and is given during the American Library Association's Midwinter Meeting during the annual Youth Media Awards celebration. It is co-sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), and an ALA affiliate, REFORMA (the National Association to Promote Library and

Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking). Read more at www.ilovelibraries.org/article/pura-belpre-award-celebrates-20-years-outstanding-latino-childrens-literature.

Best Multicultural Books of 2015

The Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature (CSMCL) has chosen the [Best Multicultural Books of 2015](#). They also have some great information on their Pinterest Page at <https://www.pinterest.com/csmcl/best-multicultural-books-of-2015/>.

"Best Of" Diverse Children's Books List Released

Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, an assistant professor of literacy at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education (Penn GSE), has released her list of **top children's books published in 2015**.

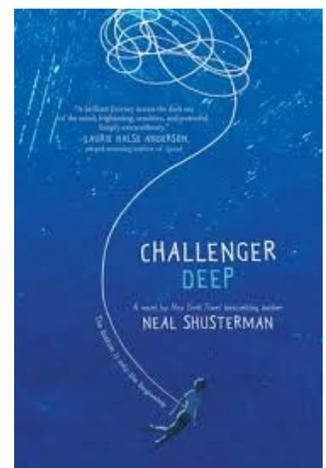
Throughout the year, Dr. Thomas reads dozens of books written for children and young adults as part of her research on how race, class, and gender are portrayed in children's literature, and how those portrayals affect children. She regularly reviews children's books for the *Los Angeles Times*. With this list, Thomas highlights the best storytelling of the year that deals with issues like gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, and socioeconomic class in ways that are real and empathetic. "Children's literature shapes the terrains of our imaginations from our earliest years," Thomas said. "If today's children grow up with diverse books and media, they will create a more just and equitable world in the future."

Top 10 Picture Book Picks for 2015

- [The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch](#) (Chris Barton; illus. Don Tate)
- [Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music](#) (Margarita Engle, illus. Rafael Lopez)
- [In a Village by the Sea](#) (Muon Van; illus. April Chu)
- [Jake Makes a World: Jacob Lawrence, a Young Artist in Harlem](#) (Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts; illus. Christopher Myers)
- [Last Stop on Market Street](#) (Matt de la Pena, illus. Christian Robinson)
- [Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation](#) (Edwidge Danticat, illus. Leslie Staub)
- [The New Small Person](#) (written and illustrated by Lauren Child)
- [The Night World](#) (written and illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein)
- [Sidewalk Flowers](#) (JonArno Lawson; illus. Sydney Smith)
- [Water Is Water](#) (Miranda Paul, illus. Jason Chin)

Top 10 Young Adult Fiction Picks for 2015

- [Challenger Deep](#) (Neal Shusterman)
- [The Game of Love and Death](#) (Martha Brokenbrough)
- [Ink and Ashes](#) (Valynne E. Maetani)
- [More Happy Than Not](#) (Adam Silvera)
- [None of the Above](#) (I.W. Gregorio)
- [The Rest of Us Just Live Here](#) (Patrick Ness)
- [Shadowshaper](#) (Daniel José Older)
- [This Side of Home](#) (Renée Watson)
- [Tiny Pretty Things](#) (Sona Charaipotra & Dhonielle Clayton)
- [X: A Novel](#) (Ilyasah Shabazz & Kekla Magoon)



Top 10 Comic & Graphic Novel Picks for 2015

- [Awkward](#) (Svetlana Chmakova)
- [Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans](#) (Don Brown)
- [Little Robot](#) (Ben Hatke)
- [Lumberjanes](#): Beware the Kitten Holy (Noelle Stevenson, Grace Ellis, Shannon Watters & Brooke Allen)
- [The Lunch Witch](#) (Deb Lucke)
- [March, Book 2](#) (John Lewis, Andrew Aydin & Nate Powell)
- [Ms. Marvel, Vols. 2 & 3](#) (G. Willow Wilson, Jacob Wyatt & Adrian Alphona)
- [Nimona](#) (Noelle Stevenson)
- [SuperMutant Magic Academy](#) (Jillian Tamaki)
- *Special Mention*: [Unflattering](#) (Nick Sousanis)



Dr. Thomas' research is focused on children's and adolescent texts, the teaching of African American literature, history, and culture in K-12 classrooms, and the roles that race, class, and gender play in classroom discourse and interaction. A former high school teacher, Thomas is co-editor of *Reading African American Experiences in the Obama Era*. She currently serves on the National Council of Teachers of English Conference on English Education's Executive Committee.

KNOW THE NUMBERS

A Look at Library Visits by Kindergarten Students

According to a recent Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) [study](#), "only 36 percent of children with the lowest socioeconomic status visited libraries in their kindergarten year, compared to 66 percent of children in the highest" (IMLS, 2013).

STEAM

LearnStorm Coming to Idaho!



Idaho libraries and other afterschool programs and organizations are encouraged to help promote LearnStorm -- a free math challenge that celebrates student progress and hustle on Khan Academy. Over nine weeks, students in grades 3-12 master math skills to earn rewards for themselves and their school.

LearnStorm is powered by Khan Academy, a not-for-profit on a mission to provide a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere. LearnStorm is coming to the state of Idaho with help from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation.

The challenge kicks off on January 29, 2016. See learnstorm2016.org or view the December 9 LearnStorm webinar hosted and recorded by ICfL at <http://icfl.adobeconnect.com/p4hcbfj9a1z/>. If you have questions about how libraries can help promote the challenge, please contact [Stephanie](#) at the Idaho Commission for Libraries.

BOOK LOOK

Booklist / Book Link Editors Choose Their Favorites

The Editors of Booklist and the companion publication Book Links, pick their favorite titles from 2015. Check them out and see if you agree!

- [Adult Books for Young Adults, 2015](#)
- [Books for Youth, 2015](#)
- [Audio for Youth, 2015](#)



Each January, *Book Links*, publishes a partner list to the Books for Youth Editors' Choice selections. These "[Lasting Connections](#)" highlight the top 30 choices for the K–8 classroom, all published in the previous year and all selected for their natural connections across the curriculum and to the Common Core State Standards.

More Lists to Look At

- Chicago Public Library's 2015 Picks: www.chipublib.org/news/best-of-the-best-2015/
- Denver Public Staff pick their [Best & Brightest Teen Books of 2015](#)
- BuzzFeed's [25 Ridiculously Wonderful Books to Read With Kids in 2015](#)

Some New January Sequels

Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics, by Chris Grabenstein. Release Date: January 5

The much-anticipated, puzzle-packed sequel to the New York Times bestselling, award-winning *ESCAPE FROM MR. LEMONCELLO'S LIBRARY*.

Rise of the Wolf (Mark of the Thief #2), by Jennifer A. Nielsen. Release Date: January 26



Talk Back: *We welcome your feedback on anything in The Scoop. Just email [Stephanie](#), [Staci](#), or [Tammy](#) and we'll print your comments in The Scoop.*

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