Welcome

We appreciate all who send in ideas and information for *The Scoop*. Our *September drawing winner* is Jane Somerville, *Stanley Community Library* who won a Teen Read Week poster and package of bookmarks. Congratulations, Jane!

Would you like to see your name in print? You too can be eligible to win cool prizes by sending us an e-mail with a program description, photo, a book review, a question, or a short article on any topic related to youth services. Send to peggy.mcclendon@libraries.idaho.gov or stephanie.bailey-white@libraries.idaho.gov.

Welcome!
It's not too late to apply for the Family Reading Week incentive program. Public libraries and school libraries who partner to sponsor an event in November are eligible to receive a "celebration" banner, two great giveaway books, and a chance to be entered into a drawing for a visit from Idaho storyteller/author Joy Steiner or author Karma Wilson. See the web site http://www.lili.org/read/readtome/readweek.htm for details or call Peggy or Stephanie at 800-458-3271. Deadline is October 31st.

Meet Azam Houle

Azam Houle has been a youth services librarian at Boise Public Library since 1997. Previously, Azam was an assistant librarian at the Dana Hall School in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and also worked as a library volunteer in Iowa City, Grand Forks, Austin, and Caldwell before moving to Boise. “I have been in the library field all my life, really. My parents had an extensive library so I feel at home among books. Libraries were always the first places I visited in my many moves across the country.”

Love of reading and the desire to cultivate that love in children pushed Azam in the direction of library service for youth. “I grew up in Iran,” she said, “in a culture that prides itself on its gloriously rich literary history. It was, however, during a political era of heavy censorship and information control. I took part in numerous underground book clubs with an insatiable thirst to read and learn. As a very young girl, I came to realize that freedom to read is a sacred human right. It is my hope that we preserve this freedom and never take this right for granted.”

At Boise Public, Azam offers a weekly program for babies and a music and movement program for ages two - five. She writes and directs puppet shows and helps with programs for childcare centers and school visits at the library. Helping patrons at the reference desk is one of the most enjoyable aspects of the job for Azam, who also enjoys outreach activities - visiting schools for booktalks, summer reading promotion, human rights and multicultural programs. In addition, Azam selects materials for science and technology, foreign languages, pamphlet file, and youth fiction and nonfiction video/DVD areas.

“After catching my breath from our very successful summer reading program at BPL, I hope to tackle planning my programs for the coming year, school and community outreach, First Book, Read the Same Book events, and reading Young Reader’s Choice books,” she said. “My biggest challenge has always been fitting what I’d like to accomplish daily into a 24-hour day.”
Azam’s favorite thing about her job is the patrons. “We have the most wonderful, appreciative library patrons; it is an honor to serve them. I love working with children. Children are transparent, honest, playful and infinitely wise. A measure of our success as librarians is when our young library friends approach us on a walk or in a grocery store with a question like: ‘Do you remember me? I signed up for summer reading.’”

As a child, Azam read a lot of Persian poetry and classic literature. Her reading shifted to nonfiction as a teen – primarily history and politics. Who are Azam’s favorite children’s authors? “I especially like Philip Pullman for his incredibly powerful multi-dimensional books, granting children utmost respect and believing in their intellectual capacity for understanding complex issues. I also deeply admire David Almond for the beautiful, lyrical poetry of his language. He makes words dance gently, always leaving me with a soft, sweet feeling of a lingering, indefinable sorrow.”

Outside of the library, Azam reads! “I am a self-professed news junkie and read a lot on current events. But I also like to take long walks, play scrabble with my family, and work on 2000-piece jigsaw puzzles while I listen to the radio. I still write poetry in Persian. And I have the incredible fortune that my husband is a pianist who brings music to life in our home.”

Library to Library

At the Idaho Library Association (ILA) conference last week in Pocatello, representatives from 11 libraries gathered for a roundtable discussion of youth services. Here are some highlights from the discussion:

Outreach

• Marshall Public Library took books and library card applications to the parks this summer to reach low income children who participate in the summer nutrition program.
• Portneuf District Library visits six daycares a month, provides library cards to the day care providers and checks out and delivers a box of books for a month.
• Payette Public Library does a monthly storytime at Head Start.
• Boise Public Library does an annual Dinner and a Book program during Idaho Family Reading Week. In addition to a meal, the library provides entertainment and educational speakers.
• Caldwell Public Library hosts a monthly bilingual storytime.
• Portneuf District Library hosts a Dinner and a Book with Daddy program.

Public Library - School Library Cooperative Activities
• Payette Public shares gift materials with the high school library.
• Gooding High School share homework assignments with the public library.
• Boise Public Library: 1) has multiple copies of books that could be used for class projects, 2) goes to Back to School nights to sign up families for library cards, and 3) does YRCA booktalks at school libraries.
• Several of the school libraries provide the public library with AR book lists.
• Marshall Public has a collection of picture books for school assignments that children may use in the library.
• In Caldwell, the public library and school libraries have a monthly meeting where they plan collaborative activities for such events as El Día de los Niños, Family Reading Week, and summer reading.

All libraries agreed that keeping open communication—whether through email, face to face contact, or monthly joint meetings—is crucial.

**Young Adult Corner**

More from the Roundtable discussion at ILA as it relates to Young Adults:

**Teresa Lynch, Payette Public Library**, finds that when she visits the high school library, the kids really enjoy seeing her there. Teresa staffs the YA Cafe youth advisory group. She has a core of about 12 students and says it is a great way to get feedback on the collection and library services. Two of her most successful programs were Fear Factor Night and a Treasure Hunt using GPS devices.

**Jeanne Farnworth, Portneuf District Library**, shared details about a successful Napoleon Dynamite party. Activities included a kick ball game at the park followed by a screening of the movie. Tater tots were served as a snack.

Portneuf District also has programs as part of its Get Real, Get Fit grant (see more in Volume 8, June 10, 2005 issue). This intergenerational program has been a big hit. Kids must sign up with an adult, and they go to various fitness stations.

**Cora Caldwell, Gooding High School** librarian, has an afterschool book club. They host an annual Pumpkin Carving Contest that is very successful.

**Book Look**

The Young Reader's Choice Awards (YRCA) are sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA). To see the complete list of nominated books, visit their web site at [http://www.pnla.org/yrca/index.htm](http://www.pnla.org/yrca/index.htm). Only youth in
Idaho who have read two or more of the nominated books (published in 2003) are eligible to vote. Here are two more nominees for 2006:

**Junior Division - 4th to 6th grade**

**SAHARA SPECIAL** by Esme Raji Codell

Author Codell, who wrote a nonfiction book *Educating Esme* about teaching in an inner-city school in Chicago, draws on her experience for her first novel for young readers. The protagonist Sahara has been a special needs student who is repeating the fifth grade. Her school troubles are compounded by her home life as Sahara deals with the fact that her father has left the family. Into Sahara's life comes a new teacher, Ms. Poitier, whose creative teaching methods draw Sahara out of her shell and set her on a path of self discovery. Sahara is a character with whom children can identify, and they will be drawn to this story to see how, through writing, Sahara blooms and reveals her true self for the first time.

Read an interview with author **Esme Raji Codell** at: [http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/storycodell.html](http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/storycodell.html).

**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX** by Kate DiCamillo

This charming fairy tale is full of surprises and is brought to life through a complex plot involving four story lines. The unlikely hero is not a prince, but rather a tiny mouse named Despereaux, who lives in a castle and has fallen in love with the resident Princess Pea. When the princess is kidnapped, Despereaux must come to her rescue. We also meet Roscuro, a rat who loves soup, a food which has been banned from the royal menu due to an accident suffered by the queen. And finally, we have have the servant girl Mig's quest to become a princess herself. How the author weaves these threads into a larger story, all the while addressing readers directly through asides, is sure to bring smiles of delight to all ages.

Visit author **Kate DiCamillo's** web site to read her biography, find out about her other books, and read her online journal. [http://www.katedicamillo.com/](http://www.katedicamillo.com/)

Novelist K-8 is currently featuring books for **Hispanic Heritage Month**. Visit the site by accessing the LiLI Portal at: [http://www.lili.org/portal/](http://www.lili.org/portal/) (click on LiLI databases, then click on Novelist K-8) to find these hot linked lists, including:
"Exploring Hispanic Heritage in Children’s Literature" by Andrea Bittle, presents a selection of annotated titles.

Teaching about countries and cultures? This month, NoveList continues the "Let's Eat!" series with, "Let's Eat! Stories about Latino Foods" by Heidi Estrin.

"Traveling South of the Border: Stories Set in Mexico" by Helen Rosenberg, presents a selection of annotated titles featuring Mexico and Mexican Culture.

This month, the newest addition to NoveList's "Character Education" series is: "Think for Yourself! Children’s Books Accentuating Creativity, Imagination, Ingenuity and Innovation" by Susie Wilde.

**Upcoming Events in November**

November is **Native American & Alaska Native Heritage Month**. See [www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/Heritage/index.cfm](http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/Heritage/index.cfm) for more information.

- In honor of the celebration, read *SkySisters* by Jan Bourdeau Waboose, illustrated by Brian Deines. In *SkySisters*, as in her previous books, award-winning author Jan Bourdeau Waboose draws on her Ojibway background to create a gently-paced reflective picture book. On a cold winter's night in Northern Ontario, sisters Allie and Alex (or Nimise and Nishiimi, the Ojibway names they give themselves) set out in search of the SkySpirits which their mother has assured them will come that very night. She is also the author of *Morning on the Lake*.

November is also **Career Development Month**, designed to promote and highlight the career development of all people over the life span. It’s a great time to think about your own professional development activities, as well as those services you provide for youth in career development. See [www.ncda.org/](http://www.ncda.org/) for more information. Celebrate by checking out a book from the State Library’s professional development collection. Free shipping to and from your library is now available. See [www.lili.org](http://www.lili.org) for a list of new titles.

November 1, **National Family Literacy Day**. Sponsored by the National Center for Family Literacy. See [www.famlit.org](http://www.famlit.org)

November 8, **National Young Reader's Day**. Sponsored by Pizza Hut in cooperation with the Center for the Book. See [www.bookitprogram.com/teachers/nyrd.asp](http://www.bookitprogram.com/teachers/nyrd.asp) for more information.

in Iraq. In November, when the book will be published, all 37 of the stories from the book will be accessible from this site.

November 13 – 19, **American Education Week.** Sponsored by the National Education Association. This year's theme, "A Strong America Starts with Great Public Schools," highlights the importance of bringing together teachers, school staff, parents, students, and communities in a unified effort to build great public schools. [http://nea.org/aew/](http://nea.org/aew/)

November 13 – 19, **Idaho Family Reading Week.** Sponsored by the Idaho State Library’s Read to Me program. See [www.lili.org/read/readtome/readweek.htm](http://www.lili.org/read/readtome/readweek.htm) for more information or contact Stephanie or Peggy for a reading packet or information about getting a free banner and chance to win an author visit for your school or public library!

November 14 - 20, **National Children's Book Week.** Sponsored by the Children's Book Council. More information is at [www.cbcbooks.org/](http://www.cbcbooks.org/)

November 19, **Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address** in 1863. See a copy of the speech at: [www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/docs-pix/nov-gettys.htm](http://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/docs-pix/nov-gettys.htm)

November 24, **Thanksgiving.**

**November Author Birthdays**


November 14 - **Astrid Lindgren** (1907-2002). Author of *Pippi Longstocking, The Children of Noisy Village, The Wild Baby* and others. [www.astridlindgren.se/eng/index_1024.htm](http://www.astridlindgren.se/eng/index_1024.htm)


November 27 - **Kevin Henkes** (born in 1960). Author of *Olive's Ocean, Chrysanthemum, Jessica, Kitten's First Full Moon* and more. 

[www.bookpage.com/9609bp/childrens/lillyspurpleplasticpurse.html](http://www.bookpage.com/9609bp/childrens/lillyspurpleplasticpurse.html) and 
[www.carolhurst.com/authors/khenkes.html](http://www.carolhurst.com/authors/khenkes.html)

November 29 - **Madeleine L'Engle** (born in 1918). Author of *A Wrinkle in Time*. You can read about the author at: [www.madeleinelengle.com](http://www.madeleinelengle.com)

November 30 - **Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain** (1835-1910). Author of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Prince and the Pauper* and other fiction. 
[http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/railton/index2.html](http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/railton/index2.html)

### Summer Reading News

The 2006 summer reading manuals have been mailed this week to all public libraries. An order form from Upstart comes with the manual. Remember, the deadline for **early orders of supplemental materials is November 21st**. This guarantees delivery by March 1, 2006.

The CD that comes bundled with the manual contains dozens of graphics in various formats to use for your summer reading program. CSLP (Collaborative Summer Library Program) now has **rules which clarify copyright, restrictions and acceptable use of the graphics**. Go to [http://www.cslpreads.org/copy.htm](http://www.cslpreads.org/copy.htm) to read the rules. Keep in mind that the graphics are for use during 2005-06 to promote and implement summer reading programs by Idaho libraries. Two key points:

**Web sites:** Libraries **may** use the CLSP graphics on their web sites as long as they include a copyright statement on each page on which the graphics appear. Libraries **may not** give the graphics to partners to put on their web sites. The rule states: "Public library and library agency web pages that use CSLP art/graphics should include this copyright statement on each page where the CSLP art/graphics appears: *CSLP art/graphics are copyrighted by Upstart for exclusive use by CSLP members and are used by permission. Copying or reproducing these CSLP art/graphics in any way by non-CSLP members is prohibited.* [This statement is not needed on print materials.]

**Supplemental materials (such as t-shirts):** Libraries **may not** send any image or design on the CSLP CDs or DVDs to a third party vendor, other than the exclusive CSLP vendor, and request that it be put on any item sold by that third party vendor. Or ask a third party vendor to create an item for your summer library program that can be purchased from CSLP’s exclusive vendor.

**Questions?** Please first read the entire document on the CSLP web site. If you still have questions, contact Peggy McClendon (208-334-2150) or Jan Wall (208-882-8882) at the State Library and we'll help clarify or contact CSLP for you.
Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids


Information and activities are divided into four grade levels – K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. In addition, there is a section for parents and teachers. The resources presented teach how our government works, how to use primary source materials, and how to carry out civic responsibilities.

Ben's Guide is well-organized and easy to use. Check out the site map – it indexes and links to topics by grade level. And be sure to look at the “Parents & Teachers” page for links to other government agencies listed by both topic and agency.

Know the Numbers

American FactFinder - Fast Access to Information

How do you find out the number and ages of children under 18 in your service area? A quick and easy way is to go to “Fast Access to Information” on the American FactFinder web site, www.factfinder.census.gov.

“Fast Access to Information” is in the middle of the screen. Click on “People” and on the next screen, type your town, county, or zip code in the box at the right of the screen. (You must also select a state if choosing a town or county.) Next, click on “Go” for a list of population “Quick Tables” from the 2000 census.

Take a look at QT-P2. This table breaks down the population under 30, by sex, for each year and also include the percentage per total population. In addition to population for each year, there are numbers for age groups – under 5, 5-9, 10-14, and 15-19, and, at the bottom of the table, ages 1-4, 5-13, and 14-17.

American FactFinder is a powerful tool that makes the task of finding statistics much easier.
Peggy and I had the chance to attend Nancy Pearl’s preconference on “Mood, Appeal & Motivation in Providing Excellent Reader’s Advisory” at the ILA annual conference. And what a treat it was! Nancy Pearl is the author of two “Book Lust” titles, the Librarian Action Figure is modeled in her likeness. She’s a regular contributor to NPR’s "Morning Edition" and a regular keynote speaker for library and bookseller conferences nationwide. She is currently writing a book focused on reading for children and teens, but it is not scheduled to be printed until 2007.

Many youth services librarians we profile in *The Scoop*, say that matching kids up with great books is the highlight of their day. Nancy says it’s that one-on-one matching that distinguishes reader’s advisory from booktalking. “It’s a conversation between two people that results in someone getting a reading recommendation,” she said. In order to get good at readers advisory, three things need to be in place:

1) You have to like to read and believe that reading is a valid way to spend your time.

2) In reader’s advisory service, it’s important to recognize that it’s not about what you like to read or about your taste in reading. You need to be able to suggest books that you hate.

3) You have to read outside your comfort zone. Patrons should not know that you don’t enjoy reading certain types of books.

Nancy starts off all her reader’s advisory conversations with this question, “Tell me about a book you read and enjoyed.” She listens carefully to how the person describes the book they liked and picks up cues from their words to see if one of four book characteristics seems to be a trigger for that person: 1) Books with
character as the major appeal; 2) Books with setting as the major appeal; 3) books with story as the major appeal, and; 4) books with language as the major appeal.
If they tend to describe the book’s characters, for example, “the book was about a 16-year-old girl who loved …” then it’s possible to suggest other titles with characters as a major draw.

We spent some time during the day talking about the books we enjoy. “It’s important to know your own reading tastes – why you like the books you like,” Pearl said. We started by listing five favorite novels. Then we talked about what it was about that story we liked – character, setting, story, or language. Some books contain all four elements and some have at least two that make it a favorite. For children’s and young adult books, story really has to be a strong element to get those pages turning. Books often described as “page-turners” or fast-paced reads often have story as the major appeal. The Harry Potter books, for example, may appeal to many young readers for the characters – they want to find out what happens to Harry, Ron and Hermoine, but many enjoy them for the Hogwart’s setting and they are definitely page-turners for kids who might not tackle a 500-page book otherwise.

“Reader’s advisory is the most magical, most wonderful service we can offer,” Pearl said, but she cautioned people not to take things personally if the children and teens that we serve don’t like our suggestions. “We can only make good guesses. The more we talk and the more we listen, the better those suggestions tend to be,” she said. To avoid the “desk paralysis” that sometimes happens when a student walks up and asks for a good book, Nancy used to keep a slip of paper in her pocket with four or five titles of books from the shelves that she could pull out if needed. “I didn’t look at the ‘new book shelf.’ Those titles should be checked out quickly, but walked through the stacks to make sure what I suggest to someone is something they can check out immediately.” She looked for titles from the four appeal areas described above and tried to match them to the person based on how they describe a book they enjoyed.

Nancy also put in a plug for including nonfiction books as a big part of reader’s advisory. “Nonfiction is the next big trend in reader’s advisory.” People read nonfiction for the same reasons they read fiction – for pleasure, to escape, it’s entertaining, lifelong learning, or it’s a topic they are interested in. The same appeal characteristics that you listen for in fiction also work for nonfiction. “Nonfiction also has its own genres and story tends to be a strong appeal factor,” she said.
I asked her a few specific questions about working with children and teens and she said there really isn’t a difference in meeting the needs of our younger customers. “Working with kids is the future,” she said. “We have our work cut out for us.” Competing with so many other activities and interests for this age group seems to be the biggest challenge. And, we couldn’t let her get away without recommending a few “sure fire hits” for this age group. M.T. Anderson’s *Feed* for young adults and *Whales on Stilts* by the same author for younger students were on her list of good reads. She also listed *Luna* by Julie Ann Peters, a book that deals with transgender issues for ages 14 and up, as another new title to look for.

So watch for Nancy’s book on great reads for children and teens in 2007! You can also sign up for weekly e-mail “Book Reviews by Nancy Pearl” at [www.kuow.org/thebeat_books.asp](http://www.kuow.org/thebeat_books.asp) and her web site, [www.nancypearl.com/](http://www.nancypearl.com/), is a great resource.

### Tips & Tools

The Western Massachusetts Regional Library System has developed a series of four seasonal reading activity sheets for their librarians which has helped them produce dynamic library programs in spite of limited time, staff, or money! Inspired by the Springfield (MA) Library's "Read For Treats" reading activity sheet, these sheets not only decorate the library but also serve as great readers' advisors because kids love to see what their friends are reading. Visit this site and get copies (in Acrobat format) for your own library ([www.wmrls.org/services/youth/readingprograms.html](http://www.wmrls.org/services/youth/readingprograms.html)). Prizes can be stickers, candy or bookmarks.

*Book Links*, a magazine designed for teachers, librarians, library media specialists, booksellers, parents, and other adults interested in connecting children with high-quality books is available in full text as part of the LiLI Databases. To get there, go to the LiLI Portal ([www.lili.org/portal/](http://www.lili.org/portal/)) and search under General Topics; MasterFILE Premier.

You can take a look at the latest issue's contents by clicking on the Publications tab at the top green bar and typing in *Book Links* (*School Library Journal, Horn Book, Library Media Connection and Library Trends* are also available in full text using the same method).

A minor challenge with the journals like *Book Links* and *School Library Journal* is that they list the book review by book rather listing the whole book review
section. I'd rather see the whole list, but haven't found a great way to do that. Since the content page is set up from page one to the end, you could just go through the list by page and print each one. That's a pain, but at least wouldn't miss some or just print those pages you're interested in.

*Book Links* provides comprehensive information for using books in the classroom, including thematic bibliographies with related discussion questions and activities, author and illustrator interviews and essays, and articles by educators on practical ways to turn children onto reading. Each issue of *Book Links* focuses on a core curriculum area, including science, social studies, language arts, history, geography, and multicultural literature.

The September, 2005 issue has a list of “Best New Books for the Classroom” with curriculum connections, an article on how to celebrate Teen Read Week in middle and high school libraries, an article titled “Honoring Nonfiction” that announces the winners of the 2005 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal for nonfiction books for children, and several articles that suggests book titles for students who are interested in joining the National History Day 2006 contest. You can also browse through the March, 2005 issue and see a searchable index on *Book Link’s* web site at [www.alia.org/BookLinksTemplate.cfm?Section=booklinks](http://www.alia.org/BookLinksTemplate.cfm?Section=booklinks). Have fun! It’s also possible to set up journal alerts so you’ll get an e-mail each time EBSCO posts one of these journals. To find out how to do this, see [http://www.lili.org/portal/ebSCO/ebSCO-jnl-alerts.pdf](http://www.lili.org/portal/ebSCO/ebSCO-jnl-alerts.pdf).

Here's a few new books from the State Library's collection available for checkout by the public. Contact the State Library at 1-800-458-3271 or check out the web site at [www.lili.org](http://www.lili.org) for more information about getting a library card and getting materials mailed to and from your library for free!

*Curriculum Connections Through the Library*, edited by Barbara K. Stripling and Sandra Hughes-Hassell (2003). This book explores educational principles and research, and connects national curriculum trends to current library practice, including curriculum development, instruction, and assessment, and provides real-life examples of effective practice. (ISL 375.001 Curricu)

*Do It Right!: Best Practices for Serving Young Adults in School and Public Libraries*, by Patrick Jones and Joel Shoemaker (2001). This book discusses customer service principles and how they apply to young adult library services and suggests specific strategies readers can use to provide their young adult users with world-class customer service. (ISL 027.626 Jones)

Idaho represented at National Book Festival

Approximately 100,000 people from the Washington metropolitan area and around the country turned out on September 24th to participate in the Library of Congress’ fifth annual National Book Festival on the National Mall. One of the popular Festival areas is the Pavilion of States, which holds displays from every state, hosted by State Library or Center for the Book staff. This year, as in the past three years, State Library staff Peggy McClendon and Stephanie Bailey-White took the Potato Head family with them to greet the thousand of families who came to the Festival. It is a great opportunity to let Festival visitors know about Idaho’s book, library, and family literacy resources. The Potato Head family were a big hit with both children and adults who giggled with delight as they approached the Idaho table.

You can read more about the National Book Festival at http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/index.html.

The school district in Clinton, North Carolina, received a U.S. Department of Education grant this year of almost $350,000 for Project CLICK (Collaborative Libraries Involving Clinton’s Kids). This program connects libraries, classrooms, homes, and the community to increase academic achievement and literacy skills. The funds will go for literacy programs for the 1,500 students in pre-K through grade five, but the benefits will extend to all students in the district. Most of the money will go for books and literacy materials to help students learn to read by the third grade.

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Contact Us: The Scoop is a service of the Idaho State Library's Read to Me Program. To contribute or provide suggestions, contact Peggy McClendon or Stephanie Bailey-White at (208) 334-2150 or 1-800-458-3271.