

The Scoop

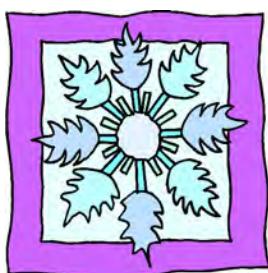
Fun, inspiring and innovative ideas for library youth services



Vol. 7 No. 4 – February 25, 2011

Published monthly by [Read to Me](#), a service of the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL)

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Welcome!

Winter is back! Those robins Stephanie saw as she was working on *The Scoop* last issue are long gone now! As I write, it is snowing outside and it looks like winter is here for just a bit longer. So grab a great book and cuddle up in front of the fire. Here are the top ten bestselling children's picture books from the February 27 edition of *The New York Times*:

1. *Silverlicious*, written and illustrated by Victoria Kann
 2. *A Sick Day For Amos Mcgee*, by Philip C. Stead
 3. *Of Thee I Sing*, by Barack Obama
 4. *I Broke My Trunk!*, by Mo Willems
 5. *Interrupting Chicken*, written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein
 6. *Lego Star Wars*, by Simon Beecroft
 7. *Love, Splat*, written and illustrated by Rob Scotton
 8. *Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night*, by Joyce Sidman
 9. *When I Grow Up*, by Al Yankovic
 10. *Wherever You Are, My Love Will Find You*, written and illustrated by Nancy Tillman
- ec



Dates and Deadlines

Click on each for more information:

- March 11, 5 p.m. MST: [2011 "You Are Here" Video Challenge](#)
- March 18, 2011: Deadline to [apply for Bright Futures Programs](#)
- You can apply anytime to participate in the [Jump Start Program](#)
- April 8, 2011: Deadline to apply for [El Día de los Niños Program](#)
- May 12, 2011: Deadline to apply for [Read to Me First Book](#)



Library to Library

➤ How To Get A Book Trailer To Show Up In Your OPAC

Mary Nate from the Bear Lake County District Library learned how to add videos to OPACs and was kind enough to create a short tutorial so anyone can do it. This is such a cool way to showcase books in your collection with book trailers! Click [HERE](#) for the tutorial.

Check out what the final product looks like by going to the Bear Lake County District Library website [HERE](#) and clicking on the **Teen Book Trailers** link on the left hand side of the page under "What's New."

Mary cautions, "I should note that when adding book trailers created by others it is wise to watch the video in its entirety to make sure it truly is what it says it is and not something weird." She continues, "I am asking our consortium libraries to add a 449 field with "teen book trailers" in subfield "A" in the MARC record so that we can keep a link to them all together."

Mary mentions that if the library is a SirsiDynix Horizon customer, there are a few simple steps to set up in the HIP so the links will be visible in the OPAC. Contact Mary at blkcolib@dcdi.net if you have any other questions.

For those who are participating in the 2011 Teens and Technology Course, this is a perfect way to show off the great book trailers that your teens will be creating for the course project. Please keep us posted on any book trailers you add to the record so we can view the results!

➤ Gooding Elementary Showcases Book Fair Success

Gooding District Librarian Cora Caldwell found another use for the Digital Photo Frame she received from the ICfL; showcasing school events. Photos such as this one taken at the Scholastic Book Fair extravaganza can help promote events in order to increase attendance or celebrate success after the event is over. It looks like



Gooding Elementary went all out for their Book Fair, raising much-needed funds to help build their school library collection. We've heard from some other school librarians that they began displaying book trailers from featured books on the frames a few weeks before the Book Fair in order to build excitement and promote attendance. To learn more about Scholastic Book Fairs go to www.scholastic.com/bookfairs.

➤ February Fun at Jerome Public

Darbie Chocker, **Jerome Public Library's** Children's Program Director, provided some information and photos of their fun-filled February events. "We held a Valentine's Party on February 11th that was geared toward children/tweens/teens. We had a wonderful turnout of 40 kids! Eleven of those were teens and they had a blast. The room was split into two stations. One station was cookie decorating, where they decorated sugar cookies with all kinds of yummy treats and either got to eat them or put them in a pretty package to take home as a gift. The second station was a „create your own Valentine' station where there were piles of all kinds of craft supplies the children could use to create Valentines for their friends or family," Darbie said.



The busy Jerome staff hosted a "Fancy Nancy Ooh La La Soiree" for little girls the week after their Valentine's Party. "Girls were encouraged to dress up in their fanciest attire. We had a „Posh Spa Boutique' where the girls got manicures. We had posture practice -- girls practiced their posture with bananas on their head. And then there was the tiara fashion show, where the girls made their very own fancy tiaras and then modeled them around for everyone to see. We read the original *Fancy Nancy* story and snacked on cookies and pink lemonade. There were 17 girls in attendance. It was fabulous!"

Thanks, Darbie for sharing these great ideas and photos. We love to hear and see what libraries are doing!



Young Adult Corner

➤ Gaming in the Library

From The Librarian's Guide to Gaming: An Online Toolkit for Building Gaming

"Gaming services epitomize library as *third place*, creating a community gathering spot between *home* and *work/school*. That third place encourages play, socialization, and cultural enrichment. Libraries looking for ways to reach beyond their traditional patron base are turning to gaming."

"Board games, card games, and videogames are, in essence, *information, and the human act of telling stories, presented in new formats that involve the player*. Games may fulfill a library's mission to provide cultural, recreational, and entertaining materials; to provide academic curriculum support; or to provide resources and support their industry or profession."

More resources to check out:

- [American Library Association. \(2010\). Advocacy webpage.](#)
- [American Library Association. \(2010\). Books for Gamers webpage.](#)
- [American Library Association. \(2010\). Gaming and Literacy webpage.](#)

➤ **Teens, Tweens, and Social Networking Webinar ARCHIVED [here](#).**

We often have assumptions about how teens and tweens use the Internet. But:

- Are those assumptions true?
- Should your library have a MySpace or a Facebook account? Both?
- How about Twitter?
- What about cell phones?

Learn the answers to these questions and many more, as well as discovering how your library can effectively engage with young people in social media.

At the end of this one-hour webinar, attendees will be able to:

- identify the main social networking sites being used by young people
- name at least one obstacle to reaching this age group via social media
- identify at least three tasks for which young people use their cell phones



School Zone

LearningExpress Library is now available through the LiLI portal at
<http://lili.org>

Resources

Students can use the LearningExpress Library's interactive skill-building courses in reading, writing, and math as well as more than 50 multimedia computer-training tutorials. And many resources are in Spanish. The courses are self-paced study, with immediate feedback, practice quizzes, and instant test scoring. LearningExpress Library also has study guides for academic tests such as the GED, SAT, ACT, and GMAT and CLEP and a wide array of career certification preparation and practice exams in fields such as education and health care.



Find more information about LearningExpress Library on our [website](#), including a list of available [Computer Skills Tutorials](#) and a list of [other courses and resources](#) in English and Spanish.

LearningExpress Library:

1. Go to <http://lili.org>. Click on the LearningExpress icon in upper right hand corner of screen
2. Click on "Launch LearningExpress Library."
3. Create a personal account
4. Explore

The two-year statewide subscription to LearningExpress Library is available through the Idaho Commission for Libraries "online @ your library" program funded through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP),

"Get Your Students Blogging" Challenge from Teacher Challenge

This "30 Days to Get Your Students Blogging" challenge guides you through the process of blogging with your students. The challenge is open to anyone, wherever you are in the Web 2.0 learning process. The site provides step-by-step weekly tasks to increase skills and provides mentors who'll support your learning. The work-at-your-own-pace assignments are easy to follow, and lots of great examples of student blogs are provided.

If you decide to take this challenge (or help a teacher at your school take the challenge), send your student blog to The Scoop editors, along with a short description of the project, and we'll send you a thank-you book for your collection!



Upcoming Events

- **First Book applications available.** Libraries interested in becoming a First Book site for 2011-2012 can complete an application any time between now and May 12, 2011. Applications can be found at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/first-book>.

Read to Me First Book provides underserved children the opportunity to read and own their own new books. The program provides a book a month for nine months for each participating child. First Book parents also receive a monthly newsletter, "[The Bookworm](#)," which suggests tips and strategies to support early literacy skills at home. In addition to providing children with books, a goal of the Read to Me program is to encourage contact between at-risk families and librarians in order to promote local library services.

- **St. Patrick's Day program ideas:**
Storytime (books, rhymes, fingerplays, songs):
www.thebestkidsbooksite.com/storydetails.cfm?TopicID=220
Crafts: www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/stpatrick/

- **Teen Tech Week - March 6-12, 2011**
Teen Tech Week is a national initiative sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association and is aimed at teens, their parents, educators and other concerned adults. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure that teens are competent and ethical users of technologies, especially those that are offered through libraries such



as DVDs, databases, audiobooks, and videogames. Teen Tech Week encourages teens to use libraries' nonprint resources for education and recreation, and to recognize that librarians are qualified, trusted professionals in the field of information technology. Teen Tech Week began in 2007 and has a general theme of Get Connected @ your library. The event is held annually during the second week of March.

Please let us know if you host a Teen Tech Week and send us a summary and/or pictures of your event(s). We enjoy sharing your great ideas with the Idaho library community.



Tips & Tools

- **The Idaho Community Foundation's** application process is open to organizations in eastern Idaho. The grant cycle opened February 1 and runs through April 1. Grants are awarded in September, 2010. Grants are limited to \$5,000. See www.idcomfdn.org for more information.
- **Target provides Early Childhood Reading Grants.** Reading is essential to a child's learning process. That's why Target awards grants to schools, libraries, and nonprofit organizations to support programs such as after-school reading events and weekend book clubs. Together we're fostering a love of reading and encouraging children, preschool through third grade, to read together with their families.

Early childhood reading grants are \$2,000. Grant applications are typically accepted between March 1 and April 30 each year, with grant notifications delivered in September. Check <http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031821> on March 1 to apply for these Early Childhood Reading Grants.

➤ **Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation Grant Application**

The Foundation makes grants to any qualified tax-exempt Idaho nonprofit organization. Particular grantmaking priorities include rural healthcare, educational programs for children, and programs in underserved communities and for underserved populations. The Foundation does not limit giving to a certain type of program or need (i.e.: programs, equipment, bricks and mortar, salaries and benefits), however administrative costs are not preferred. We are interested in organizations run in a cost-effective manner and serving large numbers of people who are truly in need.

The Foundation has only one grantmaking cycle per year. **Applications must be postmarked by May 15.** Grants will be announced and disbursed by August 31. The Foundation only accepts unsolicited grant applications from tax-exempt organizations within the State of Idaho. Unsolicited applications from outside the State of Idaho, from individuals, or from organizations not providing proof of current tax exempt status will not be reviewed or acknowledged. Find the application at the bottom of the page [HERE](#).

- **TeachingBooks.net Showcases 2011 ALA Award Winning Authors**
You might enjoy listening to the authors and illustrators who were recently recognized by various ALA committees (specifically the winners of the Newbery, Caldecott, Sibert, Printz, CSK, Pura Belpré, and Geisel awards). The folks at teachingbooks.net spent the past few weeks calling these amazing authors and illustrators, and compiling quality online resources so that everyone can have the opportunity to learn about the craft of book making (and the creation of these award-winning books) directly from these book creators. Enjoy this free collection (you don't need to subscribe to TeachingBooks.net to enjoy).
www.teachingbooks.net/Awards2011
- **Idaho School Libraries Diigo Group** is a place for Idaho teacher-librarians to promote the use of Educational Technology and infuse Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills into the curriculum through collaborate with classroom teachers. Check it out [HERE](#).
- **Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration - Craft Ideas from the preschsvcs@ala.org listserv:**
 - Make a Horton: <http://www.dltk-holidays.com/valentines/melephant.htm> TIP: Have volunteers cut out the pieces in advance and put them in plastic baggies for the little ones to put together.
 - Daisy Head Mayzie headbands: Strips of paper to make the band, then attach flowers to pipe cleaners and wrap the pipe cleaners around the band. You get a nice springy head band.
 - Make a crazy birthday hat in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Get the directions [here](#)
 - Make *Horton Hears a Who* elephant ear headbands! Cut out large ovals and glue, tape or staple them to a strip of paper sized to the child's head
 - Make the truffula trees from *The Lorax*.
 - Make Thing 1 and Thing 2 characters.



Summer Reading News

News from CSLP:

- **Correction to Children's Manual:** Please refer to page 203, "Where in Africa Is..." game and map. The map includes the country of Zaire, which has not been a country since 1997. That area is now the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- **Call for slogans and ideas:** Here is your chance to have a say in the CSLP themes and slogans! The committee is looking for suggestions for:
 - 2013 Underground Children's Slogan

- 2013 Underground Teen Slogan
- 2013 Underground Adult Slogan
- 2014 General Theme

Please send your ideas to Staci by March 11!

- **Call for ideas for illustrators:** It is time to submit names for artists/illustrators for the 2013 Youth and Teen programs. The general concept for 2013 is "Underground/Journey to the Center of the Earth". If you have suggestions for illustrators/artists please send them to Staci by Friday, March 4, along with the reasons you like them and examples/links of their work. Staci will compile your suggestions and send them to Karen Yother, head of the Vendor Committee for CSLP. She will add them to the other committee member suggestions and present them to the general assembly at the April CSLP meeting.
- **Rules of Use clarification:** During our fall training workshops, we shared that libraries could allow their Friends or other non-profit organization to purchase CSLP promotional items and re-sell them for a profit, as long as the profit went back to the library. I received some correspondence that was inconsistent with what we had originally been told, so I contacted the ROU Chair at CSLP. Here is the official policy:
Any CSLP member or a 501(c)(3) organization that is associated with a CSLP member may resell items purchased from CSLP's exclusive vendor solely for the purpose of supporting the charitable or educational purposes of the CSLP member.

This means that member libraries (in Idaho that means "publicly-funded public libraries") **can re-sell** the items themselves. Please see www.cslpreads.org/about/rules-of-use.html for more Rules of Use.

Programming Ideas

- Aaron Shephard's World of Stories: Folk, fairytales, legends and more. This is really a great site! Check out the page where you find short tales by age...

Department of Labor Seeks Partners for 2011 Idaho Youth Corps Summer Jobs Program
 Need Staff for Summer Programs? The Idaho Department of Labor is seeking partners for its 2011 Idaho Youth Corps summer employment program. The program requires matching resources from federal, state or local government and private employers. The combination supports work experience wages for eligible youth enrolled in the department's Workforce Investment Act job programs. Idaho Youth Corps participants are assigned jobs ranging from outdoor conservation projects to indoor office work for government agencies, schools, libraries, land managers, nonprofits and other organizations and are paid the minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. For some, it means a paycheck that helps keep their family going. Potential partners must be identified by March 18. [Read more...](#)

Meet Kimbre Chapman



Kimbre Chapman just celebrated her fourth year anniversary as the Children's Librarian at Caldwell Public. Kimbre (pronounced Kim + bree like brie cheese) describes her library as very busy and a nice size – small enough to still feel intimate and large enough to be able to offer a lot of programs and services. Caldwell Public has a separate teen department. Kimbre says she is lucky to have a very supportive director, Elaine Leppert, and a fabulous youth services assistant, Cori Avara-Sanchez, who helps develop creative programs and art projects.

Kimbre spent many years working in journalism and doing freelance photography before finding her calling as a youth services librarian. While she enjoyed writing features on interesting people and topics, she found herself wanting to do something that would allow her to be more multifaceted and to have the chance to work with kids. She did some volunteer work in public library youth services, found she had a passion for it and

moved to Tallahassee to obtain her MLS degree from Florida State University. While there, she worked as one of six students who ran the College of Information's library under an instructor librarian while continuing to volunteer in youth services at the main branch of the local public library. "I was lucky to have some wonderful mentors at the university and at the public library who guided me and provided a great experience," she said.

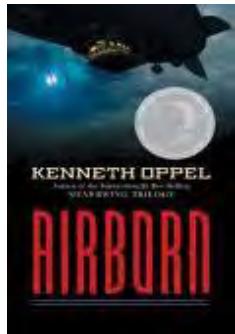
After landing the job in Caldwell, Kimbre has tried many different projects and has had some successes and challenges. "I just keep trying different things to see what works and what doesn't. I don't see anything as a failure. The only thing that fails in that category is doing nothing and not trying things out. I've learned a lot by trying new things," she said. "I like constant change and a lot of movement, and this profession fits that bill. I really like that aspect."

Her favorite and most rewarding program so far has been the bookclub she started for home school children. Now in its third season, the program has been split into two different age groups to allow new students to join and retain those who have been attending since it started. Kimbre just presented that model at the SWIRL library conference and said although you're not going to get huge numbers with a program like this (she limited each age group to 16 per club), the rewards are immense. "Being able to watch these kids grow and develop mentally and emotionally has been so rewarding to me. The impact a program like this makes is huge." She has divided the group into one for ages 8–10 and one for 11–14 year olds; the group for younger kids is now run by Jennifer Riebe, a home schooling mom who has been her liaison into the homeschooling community and who presented with her at the conference. Age 11 may choose between the two clubs.

In addition to the homeschool bookclubs, Kimbre does the library's toddler and preschool storytimes (they contract with someone to do the babytime programs), coordinates Saturday and regular afterschool programs, and Reading with Rosie, part of a "read to dogs" program. That program is designed to give children ages 5 – 8 confidence with their reading. She has been working on a multi-year project to assist an underserved school and

build students' reading skills by using volunteer educators. "That's been going reasonably well. We keep working on aspects to make things better as we go along." Kimbre also enjoys performing, particularly with puppets, and often can be seen with her tour-guide puppets showing groups how to find things in the children's department or engaging all ages of children in a variety of programs.

Caldwell has a large Spanish-speaking population and Kimbre says that providing bilingual services continues to be a challenge. She has been studying Spanish in Boise and is now at the intermediate level "so I can have actual conversations with Spanish speakers," but she would still like to do more to meet the needs of these families. She has found a new partner to help with bilingual programs and has some exciting plans for the near future.

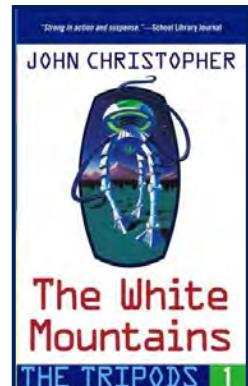


As a child, Kimbre enjoyed a variety of books, but the Narnia and Wrinkle in Time series stand out the most in her mind. "They were just so pure and real. I enjoy books that have a lot of twists and turns and depth to them." She recently finished *Airborn*, by Kenneth Oppel and said that reminded her of these other types of books. "It just was a joyful read. I think that's why I like a lot of the middle-grade titles that aren't as dark as some of the upper YA books are."

She also recommends *Door into Summer*, by Robert A. Heinlein, *Sterkarm Handshake*, by Susan Price (a richly-textured love story), and *The White Mountains*, and others in The Tripods trilogy, by author John Christopher. "One of my mentors still to this day is Annette Goldsmith, chair of the Batchelder Committee for international books translated into English. She turned me on to international books and the role they can play in understanding other cultures. One of my favorites is *Samir and Yonatan*, by Daniella Carmi, a Batchelder Award winner. It is about Samir, a Palestinian boy, who is sent for surgery to an Israeli hospital where he has two otherworldly experiences and makes friends with an Israeli boy, Yonatan. It's a beautiful story of magical realism, finding peace, acceptance and understanding. Another favorite is *Camel Rider*, by Prue Mason. That story is about two expatriates living in a Middle Eastern country, twelve-year-old Adam from Australia and Walid from Bangladesh. They have to rely on one another when war breaks out and they find themselves in the desert, with no water, little food, and no common language," she said.

When she's not reading in her spare time, Kimbre enjoys hiking and being in the mountains without any electronic devices! "I grew up in the wilderness with mountain lions and wolves almost in my backyard and I love being outdoors," she said. She's also a fan of the theatre and enjoys Boise's Shakespeare Festival, Celtic music, traveling -- especially overseas, and spending time with family and friends.

Kimbre said there aren't many other jobs where all of the little things that we do actually matter and have such an impact on children and families. She adapted a poem by Salvadorian poet



David Escobar Galindo that reflects her beliefs about how we encourage children to grow and learn. (The original poem is called "A Short Story"), and we thought we'd pass it along:

The ant climbs a trunk
carrying a petal on its back.
If you look closely that petal is as big as a house
compared to the ant that carries it.

You ask me: Why couldn't I carry a petal twice as big as my body and my head?

Ah, but you can
But not petals from a flower,
rather with books full of thoughts and magic stories
and a wagon of clear dreams
all the petals that form the soul of the child who speaks and speaks.



CE News You Can Use

- **One World, Many Stories: Summer Reading Program 2011**
March 2 from 9-10 a.m. MT

Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services at the Nebraska Library Commission, will give brief book talks of new titles pertaining to the 2011 Summer Reading Program themes: "One World, Many Stories" (children's theme) and "You Are Here" (teen theme). This is a free webinar, but registration is required at www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/training/eventsshow.asp?ProgID=10279



News Beyond Idaho

Storytime Emergency Kits

[Here's an idea that was posted this week on the ALSC Blog, www.alsc.ala.org/blog/, by Angela from Nova Scotia, Angela is Head of Youth Services for a rural library system in Nova Scotia. The blog is good source for youth services librarians]

If you've ever had a surprise class visit, an unannounced child care group show up, or a staff member who regularly does storytime call in sick half an hour before showtime, you'll know why I created the Storytime Emergency Kits. They are useful in situations other than emergencies, as well. Our library system is small, with 11 branches serving a mainly rural population of around 100,000. We have many single-staffed branches; our largest branch has five employees.

As Head of Youth Services, I try to make storytime planning and implementation as easy as possible. We have several resources based at Headquarters for library staff to use, including planning books, a puppet collection, and theme-based storykits. I've recently been working on Storytime Emergency Kits to be stored at each branch. Each kit has at least 10 storytime books, a resource notebook filled with early literacy ideas & checklists, fingerplays and rhymes, and two flannel-board stories.

The books were chosen by polling some of my favorite librarians, and those that, from my own experience, have always worked well. Some of those favorites (like Virginia Walters' *Hi Pizza Man!*) are unfortunately out of print or impossible to get. I'll not include the whole list here, but here are a few of my favs:

- *There are Cats in this Book*, by Viviane Schwartz – fun to read, with cut pages and lots of possibility for audience participation!
- *Let's Count Goats*, by Mem Fox – a new book from the Mistress of Read-alouds. Silly illustrations engage the kids, and you can be quite silly with the reading.
- *Ugly Pie*, by Lisa Wheeler – another new title that I really enjoy reading. Bear's refrain about Ugly Pie is just delicious.
- *Tanka Tanka Skunk!* by Steve Webb – This is one of my favorites to read, and a great way to demonstrate phonological awareness.
- *Higher! Higher!* by Leslie Patricelli – This one is all in the reading, as there are only a few words. You'll have your audience chanting Higher! Higher! in no time.

Do you have some favorite titles you'd include in your Emergency Storytime Kit? If so, pass them along to your colleagues via The Scoop. We'll print all responses in an upcoming issue. And thanks to our new friend Angela in Nova Scotia.

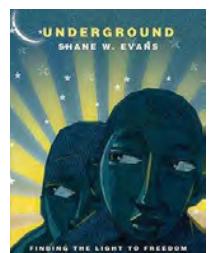


Book Look

A few titles to look for this spring, from Booklist's "Spring into Books: Terrific New Titles for Youth" webinar, February 22:

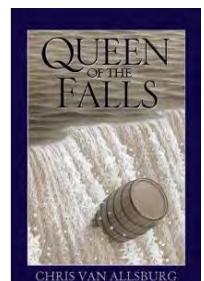
Picture books:

Underground, by Shane Evans. A picture book telling of one slave family's escape to the North, and ultimately, their freedom. Starred review from Publisher's Weekly. Available now.



Shout, Shout It Out, by Denise Fleming. Mouse invites the reader to shout out what he or she knows as they review numbers, letters, and easy words. Available March 29.

Dog in Boots, by Greg Gormley. After reading "Puss in Boots," an adventurous dog sets out to find the perfect pair of shoes to suit his every need. Starred review from School Library Journal. Available now.



The Loud Book, by Deborah Underwood. Companion to *The Quiet Book*.

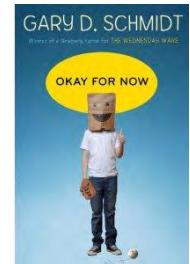
Available now.

Queen of the Falls, by Chris Van Allsburg. The true story of charm-school teacher Annie Edson Taylor, who at age 62 decided on a whim to fund her golden years by being the first person to go over Niagra Falls. Starred review from Publisher's Weekly. Available April 4.



Middle chapter books:

The Children of the Lost (volume 2 of the Agora trilogy), by David Whitney. Banished from Agora, the ancient city-state where absolutely everything must be bartered, Mark and Lily are happy to find the apparently perfect land of Giseth except that the inhabitants seem fearful, something strange lurks in the surrounding forest, and a mysterious woman keeps appearing in their dreams urging them to find the children of the lost. Available now.



Okay for Now, by Gary Schmidt. Companion to the Wednesday Wars. A coming of age masterwork with equal parts comedy and tragedy from a two-time Newbery Honor winner. Available April 5.

Young Adult:

Lost Voices, by Sarah Porter. The first book in a trilogy about a tribe of damaged girls who are transformed into mermaids. Available July 4.



Held, by Edeet Ravel. Seventeen-year-old Chloe's summer vacation in Greece comes to an abrupt end when she is suddenly bound, gagged and whisked away to an unidentified location. Waking up from a drug-induced sleep, she finds herself in a squalid warehouse awaiting her kidnapper. A psychological thriller. Available now.



The Never Werers, by Fiona Smyth. Graphic Novel. Late in the next century, the human race is on the verge of extinction. A mysterious virus has resulted in no births in almost a generation. Despite the impending doom, three urban teenagers try to live their lives with hope. Available now.

[See complete book list...](#)

[View archived webinar...](#)



March Birthdays to Note

March 2 – **Theodor Seuss Geisel aka Dr. Seuss** (1904-1991). Some of his works include: *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, *Fox in Socks*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. See www.catinthehat.org/index.html

March 3 – **Patricia MacLachlan** (born in 1938). MacLachlan is best known for winning the 1986 Newbery Medal for her book *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. Read more at www.kidsreads.com/series/series-sarah-plain-author.asp

March 4 – **Dav Pilkey** (born in 1966). Pilkey is a popular children's author and artist, best known as the author and illustrator of the Captain Underpants book series. Find out more at www.pilkey.com/

March 4 – **Peggy Rathmann** (born in 1953). An author and illustrator of many children's books, including: *Ruby the Copycat*, *Bootsie Barker Bites*, *Goodnight, Gorilla*, *Officer Buckle and Gloria* and more. Go to <http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/rathmann.htm> for more.

March 5 – **Mem Fox** (born in 1946). Fox is the author of over 35 children's books including *Possum Magic*, *Time for Bed*, *Koala Lou*, *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*, and *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes*. Read more at www.memfox.net

March 7 – **Jane Dyer** (born in 1949). An illustrator of numerous books for children, including: *Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal; *Time for Bed* by Mem Fox; *I Love You Like Crazy Cakes* by Rose Lewis. See www.friend.ly.net/users/jorban/biographies/dyerjane/index.htm

March 8 – **Kenneth Grahame** (1859-1932). Grahame was a British writer, most famous for *The Wind in the Willows*, one of the classics of children's literature. He also wrote *The Reluctant Dragon*; both books were later adapted into Disney films. Read more about Grahame.

March 11 – **Jacob Ezra Katz aka Ezra Jack Keats** (1916- 1983). Best known for *The Snowy Day*, he authored and/or illustrated more than 85 books for children. Read more at <http://aalbc.com/authors/ezrajack.htm>

March 12 – **Virginia Hamilton** (1936-2002). Hamilton wrote over 35 books, including *M. C. Higgins, the Great*, for which she won the National Book Award in 1974 and the 1975 Newbery Medal. Find more about Virginia at www.virginiahhamilton.com/home.htm

March 13 – **Thomas Rockwell** (born in 1933). Rockwell is the son of the American artist Norman Rockwell and the author of a number of books for young readers. Some of his works include: *Rackety-Bang and Other Verses*, *How to Eat Fried Worms*, and *How to Fight a Girl*. See www.walden.com/walden/read/worms/thomas_rockwell.php

March 16 – **Sid Fleishman** (born in 1920). Some of his works include *The Whipping Boy*, *Bandit's Moon*, *Jingo Django*, *McBroomb's Ghost* and more. For more go to www.sidfleischman.com/biography.html

March 17 – **Keith Baker** (born in 1953). Baker is the author and an illustrator of books including *The Worlds of Dungeons & Dragons Volume 1 HC*, *Potato Joe*, *Lucky Days with Mr. and Mrs. Green*, and *Meet Mr. and Mrs. Green*. Go to www.keithbakerbooks.com/ for more.

March 20 – **William Ivan Martin Jr. aka Bill Martin, Jr.** (1916-2004). Author of *Brown Bear*, *Brown Bear, What Do You See?*, *The Ghost-Eye Tree*, *Barn Dance*, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and many more. See www.billmartinjr.com/bill_martin

March 20 – **Lois Lowry** (born in 1937). Lowry is best known for her book *The Giver* along with the two others in the trilogy – *Gathering Blue* and *Messenger*. Read more at www.loislowry.com.

March 22 – **Randolph Caldecott** (1846-1886). Caldecott was a British artist and illustrator. He exercised his art chiefly in book illustrations and transformed the world of children's books in the Victorian era. Children eagerly awaited the two books illustrated by him, priced at a shilling each. Read more at www.randalphcaldecott.org.uk/who.htm

March 26 – **Anne Elizabeth Campbell Bard aka Betty MacDonald** (1908-1958). MacDonald is best known for her book *The Egg and I*. She also wrote the *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* series of children's books. See www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=156 for more.

March 27 – **Ronald Gordon King-Smith** better known by his pen name **Dick King-Smith** (born in 1922). Best known for writing *The Sheep-Pig*, re-titled in the U.S. as *Babe the Gallant Pig*, upon which the movie *Babe* was based. Find out more at www.randomhouse.com/kids/dickkingsmith/interview.html

March 29 – **Sucie Stevenson**. She is best known as the illustrator of the popular *Henry and Mudge* books by Cynthia Rylant. Some of her works include: *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *The Twelve Dancing Princesses*, *Jessica the Blue Streak* and more. See www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai/stevenson.html

March 30 – **Anna Sewell** (1820-1878.) Sewell wrote *Black Beauty*. For more go to www.online-literature.com/anna-sewell/



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