
A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



On October 30th and 31st the Children's Services Section of North Carolina Library Association sponsored its Biennial Retreat in Brown Summit, North Carolina. Our retreat was titled "Storytelling and Beyond: Incorporating the Arts Into Programming." Our goal was to offer sessions on various art forms and techniques for including them in programs.

Our first session featured **Laura Boosinger** and provided tips for incorporating music and dance into children's programs. Ms. Boosinger's presentation was first rate and the majority of our participants gave her an excellent rating on the evaluation sheet. She discussed how music and dance can easily be incorporated into programming and gave participants the opportunity for hands on experience.

Following Ms. Boosinger, **Susan Adams** presented the session "Teen Theater on a Shoestring." Susan's session discussed her successful Teen Theater program at the Southeast Regional Branch with Wake County Public Libraries.

We also included a session on programs for babies, which were skillfully presented by CSS Board Members **Sue Mellott, Carol Laing and Hannah Owen**. Each of them discussed successful programs for babies that are currently being presented in libraries in Hickory, Raleigh and Winston Salem.

Our evening session "Children and Storytelling" was presented by **Brian Sturm**, Professor of Library Science at the University of North Carolina. Brian's session discussed tips and techniques for successful storytelling. Afterwards we all enjoyed a little wine, cheese and conversation.

The final session on October 31st was "Using Puppets in Storytelling" presented by **Hobie Ford**, the award-winning artist in puppetry performance. This session included useful information on incorporating

A Message From the Chair....continued

puppets into children's programming. In addition, Mr. Ford gave the group some tips on making puppets and using them successfully.

We are very excited about this successful retreat. We had over 80 participants and the majority of our evaluations were returned with an excellent rating. If you were not able to attend this retreat, I hope you will consider coming to the next one in the Fall of 2002. We strive to offer useful workshops with pertinent information and this year we did just that!

SAYING GOODBYE TO RON JONES.

For the past 20 years **Ron Jones** has supported children, librarians and libraries in the state of North Carolina. He began his career as a storyteller and is responsible for developing the Wake County Public Library Storytelling Festival. This festival celebrated its 18th year in September with an attendance of over 4,000 adults and children. In addition, he has served on the Executive Board of the Children's Services Section for the last 15 years and was the Editor of Chapbook in the early 1990's.

Ron came to Wake County Public Libraries in the early 1970's. and worked as a shipping and receiving clerk. However, it was not long before his background in theater provided him with the opportunity and experience to work in Children's Services Department of the Olivia Raney Library as a Children's Programmer. He received his master's degree in Library Science from North Carolina Central University and with his diploma was promoted to Children's Services Coordinator for Wake County Public Libraries. Throughout his tenure he provided leadership and guidance, which resulted in an excellent children services program in Wake County Public Libraries. In 1995 Ron left Wake County Public Libraries to accept a position as Media Specialist at Durant Elementary School in Raleigh. In 1997 he became Youth Services Consultant for State Library Of North Carolina.

Throughout his career Ron has been a support and inspiration to libraries and children's services staff throughout North Carolina. His dedication and hard work has resulted in quality library service to children in libraries all over the state. We will miss him and wish him the best in all his future endeavors!

Ann Burlingame



FROM THE STATE LIBRARY...

Well...the campaign slogan couldn't be more appropriate! Our North Carolina libraries- both public and school libraries- are **The Very Best Place to Start**. With all the programs and activities going on this year we are preparing to connect more and more children and young adults with learning and discovery!



Libraries received the first edition of ***The Starting Point***, the monthly newsletter for the **Very Best Place to Start** campaign in October. The newsletter is just one of the valuable tools for libraries to use in promoting what their programs and services have to offer children and their caregivers. The first issue announces upcoming grant opportunities for libraries, information on a digital camera give-away in each issue to the library submitting the most creative idea of how they have used the campaign logo and tag line to promote the library, and others articles and PR and Marketing tips. There will be workshops announced later this year for next spring. For more information or for information and resources libraries can download about the campaign go to:

http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/ld/youth/ysap/very_best.htm.

The *Quiz Bowl Workshops* were held a couple of weeks ago for libraries participating in the Public Library *Quiz Bowl Competitions* this year. Local competitions will be held between December 4th and February 10th. The District Competitions will be March 17th and the State Finals will be on April 21st. PLQB manuals are available as PDF's at <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/ld/youth/quizbowl.htm> .

The Summer Reading Program Workshops are coming up in a couple of weeks and libraries will get a peek at the **2001 Books for Seekers and Dreamers...at the Library** program materials. NC native and award winning children's illustrator James Ransome has created the colorful graphics depicting all sorts of creatures enjoying a good book for the younger children and galactic, book surfing teens for the older kids. The program committee has planned a fun filled and informative workshop with great ideas and resources for program planning. See the materials at

<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/ld/youth/sumart01.htm>.

From the State Library...continued

In September the **LSTA Powerful Partners Workshops** were held in Lenoir and Chapel Hill and more than 60 school and public libraries participated. Those libraries that attended are eligible to apply for Powerful Partners Mini-Grant to fund participation in the Advance Powerful Partners Workshops and qualify to apply for 2001-2002 grants. For a list of the LSTA Powerful Partners Collaboration Grants awarded for 2000-2001 visit http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/lsta/AwardsPPHisp00_01.htm.

The winter Youth Services Mailing will go to all public libraries in early December. The mailing will include more information about the on-going programs mention above, as well as announcements about upcoming activities for 2001-2002. Information in the Youth Services Mailing is always posted to the **NCKIDS** Listserve. If you are not subscribed to the list serve- you should! The listserv is hosted by the State Library and is used to provide the opportunity for public and school librarians to post questions, make announcements and discuss issues related to library services to children and young adults in North Carolina. To subscribe to the listserv send an email message to: majordomo@ncsl.dcr.state.nc.us . Leave the subject line blank and in the body of the message type Subscribe nckids. You will receive a confirmation email message with instructions for posting to the listserv, as well as unsubscribing.

This is another opportunity for me to say a goodbye to all the incredible folks I've had the opportunity to work with over the past 28 years in North Carolina public and school libraries. While I'm leaving the State Library, it's only a transition. I'll still be around and looking forward to seeing many of you as I pursue my storytelling and writing interests. As I say at every opportunity, children's and young adult librarians are the most creative, dedicated and energetic group of people who impact the lives of North Carolina children every day! And as I also say...don't content yourself with being a plain, ordinary person...tell stories!

Ron Jones, State Library Youth Consultant



ROCKET EBOOKS AT PLCMC

By Robyn Bryan/Information Technology /PLCMC

Imagine checking out one book that is really 60 books!! It allows you to read in the dark, look up words you don't recognize, and underline your favorite passages! Welcome to the wonders of the Rocket eBook, the electronic book created by NuvoMedia. The Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County began circulating these units in July. We currently have 10 Rocket eBooks, 2 each at 5 locations, each pre-loaded with the same 60 titles.

The Rocket eBook is a 22 ounce, portable electronic "book". It can hold between 10 and 100 titles (depending on the memory), and has a battery life of 20 hours. The screen is backlit, and page orientation and font size can be adjusted to suit each reader. Pages are turned by the click of a button. The Rocket eBook combines the traditional format of a book with the advantages of digital text, such as searching and using electronic bookmarks. Not to mention being able to switch between multiple titles!

Rocket eBooks are being offered to patrons at many libraries across the country, including the Chicago and Dallas Library systems, and North Carolina State University. Electronic books, like books on tape and CDs, offer people new ways to read books. These devices fit right in with the library role of offering access to new technology to the public and students.

Although most libraries are circulating NuvoMedia's Rocket eBook, there are other electronic books on the market. The term ebook may refer to the text of a book, or the device people use to read the text. Electronic books may be read on a PC (Glassbook, Microsoft Reader, netLibrary), a dedicated hand-held reader (SoftBook, Rocket eBook), or a combination (Microsoft Reader on a Pocket PC). Some ebooks can be read on a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant). There are also new products under development. For more information on these products, please refer to the following website, compiled by the Electronic Book Evaluation Project in Rochester, NY <<http://www.rrlc.org/ebook/ebookhome.html>>.

This site has information on PC-based software and hand-held electronic book readers, as well as links to other sites for further information, including a list of libraries that offer ebooks.

EBooks...continued

Electronic books have been in development for a while (Project Gutenberg has been putting classic literature into HTML format for years),

but hand-held devices or PC based software for reading books is only two to three years old. Publishers are slowly responding to this new medium, which was helped greatly by Stephen King's publishing of his short story *Riding the Bullet* in March as an electronic book only.

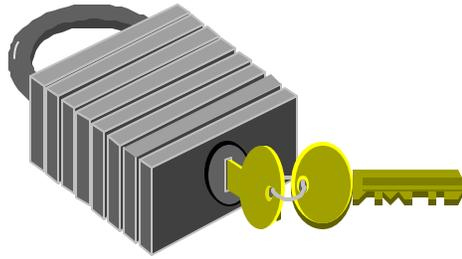
Barnes and Noble, a major distributor for Rocket editions, has an ebook section on its website (www.bn.com). It is a good place to see what is currently available in Rocket eBook format.

How will electronic books be accepted and used by children and young adults who have grown up with new technology? Currently, there are more questions than answers. At PLCMC, young adults may check out a Rocket eBook, as long as there is a parent's signature on the user agreement. Unfortunately, there is very little young adult or children's literature available in electronic format. For the Rocket eBook, the selection is mostly classics, no popular young adult authors. We hope that our young adult patrons will be interested in our classic titles such as *Dracula* or *Sense and Sensibility*, as well as the three *Star Trek* titles in our collection.

Some Bruce Coville titles (*My Teacher Fried My Brains*) are available in Microsoft Reader format, which is a step in the right direction. These titles require the Microsoft Reader software, which can only be used on a PC or on a Pocket PC. Publishers need to recognize ebooks as a viable market, as they are starting to with adult titles, and then we will begin to see more choices available for young people.

One area that is being explored is using ebooks to carry textbooks. If this proves popular, it makes sense that juvenile and young adult fiction titles will be easier to market. Picture books will be the last to evolve into ebook form, due to the special copyright issues of double page illustrations.

Electronic books offer exciting new reading options for both adults and children. Hand-held, PC, or PDA, color or black and white, reader's needs as well as their likes and dislikes will eventually determine the formats that will be the most popular. Libraries can play an important role in determining the future of ebooks by introducing them to people who might not otherwise have access to this new technology. Libraries can only wait and see how ebooks evolve, and become active participants in the development of this exciting new reading tool.



NORTH COUNTY REGIONAL LIBRARY LOCKIN (SLEEPOVER)

Three years ago North County Regional's Children's Services department was approved to host the first sleepover for the PLCMC system. Since then they have all been successful. North County can say that we have the recipe for having a great sleepover.

The following suggestions are needed to present a Library Sleepover:

- 1.) Decide on the grade and number of students that will be allowed to participate. We accepted students in grades 3 – 5 with 30-35 children.
- 2.) Make the sleepover an incentive - We registered children who attended the regular school age programs that year.
- 3.) Budget - Program costs included: the evening and late night snack and breakfast meal, honorarium for special speaker, and special gifts for the students. The first year our budget was \$400.00, the second year \$600.00 and the third year \$100.00.
- 4.) Donations – Area merchants have been very generous with donations of food and gift certificates. Fast Food chains and grocery stores contributed pizza, chicken platters, breakfast biscuits, milk, sub sandwiches, and cinnamon rolls.
- 5.) Adult Supervision - All of the Children's Services staff as well as staff from other branches and responsible family members participated. Thirteen to fifteen adults stayed overnight including a nurse to handle any medical problems.
- 6.) Special forms - There are three forms we asked parents to complete allowing their child to stay : Parent/Guardian Permission, Liability Release and the Health form.
- 7.) Schedule – Plan and make a schedule for the entire evening with activities. Allow **No** free time. Activities included: a mix and mingling game, science experiments, scavenger hunts, magic, math games, storytelling, making a scrapbook,

Lock-In...continued

readers theater, square dancing, limbo, visit from the Fidget, author visit and autographing, taeko, etc.

One of the activities is autographing a posterboard for each merchant who donated items with pictures of the various activities included. These posterboards are delivered to the merchants who receive them with a great deal of enthusiasm. Some are displayed on their walls all year.

We do not show videos or allow the computers to be used during these activities. Students are encouraged to select books for check out.

8.) Bedtime – 12:00 - Students take sleeping bags and sleep in the stacks. Students may read awhile or visit until they drift off to sleep. Usually around 2:00 a.m. every one falls asleep.

Children and adults have thoroughly enjoyed the lock-in. We have had the same adults offer to stay each year due to the fact that the schedule is planned and there are little or no discipline problems. I would encourage any Children's staff to consider this special program.

For more information about getting started please email.
jrodgers@plcmc.lib.nc.us

By Jo Ann Rodgers, Manager of Children's Services at North County Regional Library, PLCMC

MEL'S FAVORITE LOCK-IN JOKES

What is the only question you can't answer "yes" to?
Are you asleep?

What do you call a bull that is sleeping?
A bulldozer!

Did you hear about the boy who thought he was a muffler?
He woke up exhausted!

Did you know the man who was so lazy that he got his wife to snore for him?

...and Mel will tell you that "Old librarians never die, they just check out!"



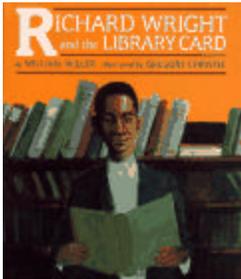


2000-2001

North Carolina Children's Book Award

JUNIOR BOOK CATEGORY NOMINEE REVIEWS

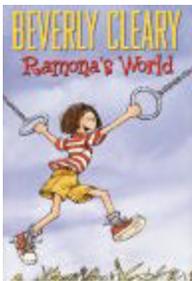
RICHARD WRIGHT AND THE LIBRARY CARD BY WILLIAM MILLER (ALTERNATE SELECTION) ILLUSTRATED BY GREGORY CHRISTIE



(This book has outstanding illustrations)

Richard Wright loves to read. He was first taught how to read by his mother from a newspaper. This book is based on a scene from his autobiography *Black Boy*. In the 1920's, African-Americans were not allowed in libraries. If they were caught reading they were severely punished or even killed. Richard borrows a white man's library card and begins reading while hiding. But as time progresses, he does not care who sees him reading. This story is a touching account from Wright's life.

Reviewed by: Beverly Grimes/LA II / North County Regional Library/PLCMC



Ramona's World by Beverly Cleary

In this most recent book which features the Quimby family, Ramona is going into fourth grade, Beezus is going into high school, and there is a new baby sister, Roberta. The main character, Ramona, shows often that she's no saint—she thinks her teacher's nice until Ramona's spelling is corrected and she wants to leave someone out when birthday guests are being decided upon. All in all, even when things don't go right, Ramona learns from the experiences. She learns about making new friends, that there may be more than one side to a person, and how difficult it can be to take care of a baby.

Alan Tiegreen's line drawings illustrate the book. Except for their size you might think Beezus and Ramona were twins since there is practically no differentiation in the drawings. Cleary has continued her standards from previous books and children who have read others in this series will certainly want to read this one.

Reviewed by Mel Burton, Children's Information Specialist/
North County Regional Library/PLCMC

Junior Book Category...continued...

Beautiful Warrior: the Legend of the Nun's Kung Fu



Stories and pictures by Emily Arnold McCully

This is the legendary story of Wu Mei, “Beautiful Warrior.” Wu Mei lived in seventeenth century China; a time when girls born at court had their feet bound, lived lives of idleness, and never left the palace grounds.

The girl who grew up to be a Buddhist nun excelling in Kung Fu, was actually named Jingyong by her father. Her name meant “quiet courage”. Jingyong became Wu Mei after being accepted by Buddhist monks at a monastery and actually defeating one of them in a King Fu challenge. It was Wu Mei’s calm inner strength and not force that made her so formidable.

Her meeting and subsequent lessons with a young female bean curd seller named Mingyi is the focus of this inspiring story. After Mingyi finds out that she is to be forced into an arranged marriage with a brutal Chinese bandit, she turns to Wu Mei for help. Wu Mei trains her in the art of Kung Fu and teaches her how to “flow like water, yield like bamboo.” How Mingyi learns to marshal her own inner strength is a story of inspiration and triumph.

Emily McCully has written an amazing story about an extraordinary woman. The author’s beautiful and delicate illustrations are in the traditional Chinese panel style. She includes an author’s note at the end which explains how the Kung Fu, popularized by Bruce Lee, is related to the story of Wu Mei, “Beautiful Warrior”.

Reviewed by Beverly Swanson, LAII/North County Regional Library/PLCMC



OTHER N.C. BOOK AWARD NOMINEE REVIEWS CAN BE READ AT WWW.BOOKHIVE.ORG...

And the website for activities for the books can be found at:

www.lib.co.rowan.nc/i.us/KidsStuff/html/bookaward.htm/book_award_1999.html



Chapbook----FYI--
...

by Loretta Talbert, ...Editor.....

“In the store of little volumes carried up and down England by the chapmen of the time, we begin to see indication of an attention to children’s interests, rather than to the forming of manners. The chapmen liked to be called the “running stationers” and for the improvement of the young they cared very little.

Although small and meagre, the eighteenth century chapbooks fell into these classifications: Religious, Diabolical, Supernatural, Superstitious (interpretations of dreams and charms), Romantic, Humorous, Legendary, Historical, Biographical and Criminal.

Nothing there was composed actually for children, none the less children had their own favorites...Some available to English children of that time were: Jack and the

Giants, The Seven Champions of Christendom, The History of the King and the Cobbler, The History of Sir Richard Whittington, Thrice Lord-Mayor of London, the Babes in the Wood, the Friar and the Boy, The Famous and Renowned History of Guy, Earl of Warwick, The Famous History of Johnny Armstrong of Westmoreland”

Some other titles we might recognize include: “Reynard the Fox, Valentine and Orson, Fortunatus, Jack Horner, Robin Hood Ballads, Tom Thumb, Robinson Crusoe, and St. George.

The books were greatly abridged from the original narratives, poorly printed, and with strange and distorted pictures. They filled a need in their time and they went their way to oblivion when something better offered.”

.....A CRITICAL HISTORY OF CHILDREN’S LITERATURE, under the Editorship of Cornelia Meigs

SOMETHING BETTER.....

I invite our readership to submit articles to the Chapbook. Please share interesting projects, current or upcoming events whereby all may be informed or even motivated to try something new. **THERE IS NO DEADLINE.**

Send to:

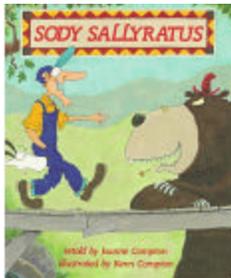
Loretta Talbert, Chapbook Editor
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Or:..(*preferably*)...

www.ltalbert@plcmc.lib.nc.us

**North Carolina Children's Book Award
Picture Book Category Nominee Reviews**

Sody Sallyratus....Retold by Joanne Compton and illustrated by Ken Compton

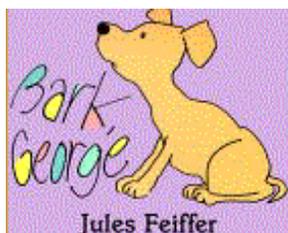


Remember the story of “Jack and the Beanstalk?” Well ol’ Jack was such a hero in those European folk tales that when the settlers came to the Appalachians, I guess Jack up and followed ‘em too! Now, this is one of those tales that occurred once Jack was up in the Appalachia, called Sody Sallyratus .

Jack had just come from one of his many adventures and was visiting his kin early one morning. Now his Ma was in the kitchen getting breakfast ready when all of a sudden the fellows hear, “Lands Sake! I done run out of sody sallyratus and without my sody sallyratus I can’t be baking biscuits.” She looks out on the porch and there are those three boys of hers. She asks each one of them to run down to the store and pick up some sody sallyratus. They head on down the path to the rickety ol’ footbridge that crosses over Cold Water Creek. On the rickety ol’ bridge they meet an ornery bear that decides each will become a tasty morsel. At last, Jack has to go and find out what has become of his family. When Jack meets the bear, it is a test of luck and wits that will please all.

Joanne Compton’s retelling of Richard Chase’s version of Sody Sallyratus embodies what folktales and storytelling is all about: taking it along, making it your own, and then passing it on. The comical illustrations of Kenn Compton add so much more than words, especially with the bear gaining a new piece of the family’s attire as he gobbles them up. This is one of my storytelling favorites and hopefully soon to be one of yours too!

Reviewed by Jim McGaha/LAII/North County Regional Library /PLCMC



Bark, George written and illustrated by Jules Feiffer(outstanding illustrations) When George, a puppy, is told to bark; he meows, quacks, oinks, and moos. His worried mother takes him to the vet who knows just what to do. The surprise ending and the illustrations will make everyone laugh. This is a

“must” for creative dramatics or reader’s theater. It is successfully presented to preschool as well as to school age children.

Reviewed by Loretta Talbert/LAII/North County Regional Library/PLCMC

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