



Focus: Elementary Reads, *part 6*

This feature will focus on learning and reading development for different age groups, beginning with birth to five and eventually going through age 19.

This last article in the Elementary Reads series—research on learning and reading development for children ages 6–9 and how libraries can best serve them and their parents—will present an overview of the Common Core, particularly the English–Language Arts standards, and how public libraries can help support the transition to the standards.

The Common Core in Elementary Schools and Public Libraries

Prior to this decade, each state in the U.S. had its own educational standards and benchmarks. In 2009, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Initiative—a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers—began. The initiative’s mission: “The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are

expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.” In short, the standards emphasize that students become college and career ready and develop strong problem solving and critical thinking skills for the 21st Century.

Released in 2010, the CCSS are national guidelines that states can choose to elect or not. They currently cover math and English–language arts for K–12 grades, including guidelines for incorporating reading and literacy into social studies and science classes. According to the initiative’s website, “The standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and

Welcome to the 12th issue of YS News!

This newsletter will feature articles on learning development, summer reading updates, timely tidbits, children’s and teen literature news, and an exchange of what’s happening in CO libraries.

Would you like to see a topic covered in the newsletter? Want to share info about your programs? Or perhaps contribute an article? Let me know!

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“To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.”

— Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*

2013 SRP: News & Ideas

Meet the Artists

(the CSLP adult artist will be featured in the next issue)

Duncan Long—Teen Illustrator

Duncan Long is a freelance writer/illustrator who has written 13 novels including the Spider Worlds trilogy and the Night Stalkers series. He's also written over 80 technical books and how-to manuals (including some used by the CIA, Marines, and FBI); his non-fiction subjects include everything from chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons to small arms manuals. He has also ghostwritten over a dozen titles for TV, radio, and stage celebrities. His artwork appears in national magazines including *The Sun* and *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, and on CD covers.



Long has been a public school teacher and has a background in music, including a Masters in Music Composition. His true calling, though, is illustrating and writing. Long's illustrations are noted for their often whimsical, dreamlike quality.

For more:

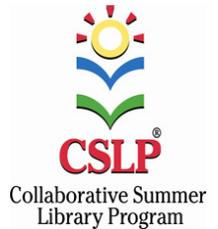
- [Long's website:](#)
- [Interview with Long](#)

CSLP Webinars

Check out 2 upcoming webinars direct from CSLP and Upstart! The SRP manual editor, Patti Sinclair, will lead the webinars to provide ideas and enthusiasm for your 2013 SRP. The

webinars are free but [advance registration is required](#). Two programs will be offered:

- Dig Into Reading (children's program)
Thursday, January 31, 12–1 MST
- Beneath the Surface (teen program)
Thursday, February 28, 12–1 MST



CSLP on Facebook

CSLP now has a [Facebook page](#)! It's still pretty basic, but the PR Committee will be adding more content to it in the coming month. If you have a Facebook account please be sure to "like" it and share with other librarians as well.

2013 Teen Video Contest

Reminder: The 2013 Colorado SRP Teen Video Contest has launched! Go to [this webpage](#) to find out all the details. And let me know if you'd like to be a contest judge!

Adult SRP Webinar Archived

The [interactive webinar](#) on adult SRPs hosted by the CO State Library on December 5 is now archived, along with related materials.

May is Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month

Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month (AHPM) is a celebration of our state's heritage. The month highlights preservation projects and archaeological sites and projects. Events include lectures, preservation initiatives, workshops, demonstrations and public displays. And it's a great time to highlight archaeology to help promote and get people registered for your SRP!

If you have an event you would like added to History Colorado's AHPM Events calendar, please submit it to the [Calendar of Events Information form](#).

One Book 4 CO 2013

Infographic Available

Check out this new [OB4C infographic](#)! It's a great PR tool to help promote the program by showing how successful it was in 2012.



Voting Starts Soon!

All CO residents will be able to vote for the book that will be given away to 4 year olds across the state from January 7–27. Though the website is currently under construction, voting will be online at the [program's website](#) starting on the 7th. More info and PR materials coming soon!

Book Nook

Morris & Nonfiction finalists announced

Five finalists were announced for both the [Morris](#) (honoring a YA book written by a previously unpublished author) and [Nonfiction](#) award, both YA book awards sponsored by YALSA. One winner, from each of the five finalists, will be named during the Youth Media Awards at ALA's Midwinter Meeting. Did you know that you can [purchase seals](#) for the nonfiction nominees? It's a great way to help teens in your library identify the best nonfiction available!

If you are not able to attend the Youth Media Awards, you can watch a live web cast. More info about the web cast, including login information, will be available on the [Youth Media Awards web site](#). In addition to the Morris and Nonfiction winners, YALSA will announce the winners of the Alex Awards, Edwards, Odyssey, and Printz.

NPR's Best Books of 2012

A few categories in National Public Radio's 2012 book lists focus on children's and YA books:

- [2012's outstanding backseat reads for ages 9–14](#). NPR's Backseat Book Club held an informal poll to identify the best-loved children's books of 2012. They asked booksellers and one librarian to find out which books bowled them over this year.
- [Five YA novels you'll never outgrow](#). This list, from YA author Maggie Stiefvater, includes books she thinks adults will love as much as teens.

Scholastic Picks Top 10 Children's Book Trends for 2013

The end of the year is always a good time to predict trends for the coming year, and who doesn't love lists? The editors of Scholastic Book Clubs and Scholastic Book Fairs, along with editors in the Trade Publishing group, [present their list](#) of the top ten trends in children's books for the coming year.

Timely Tidbits

SPELL Website and Webinar

The SPELL project—Supporting Parents in Early Literacy through Libraries—is well underway. Check out the [project's website](#) for lots of background info and the progress to date.

There was a project webinar entitled “A dialogue on engaging parents in early literacy” earlier this month; it included 4 excellent panelists detailing their organization's programs that reach and serve low-income parents with an early literacy message. The webinar and many related materials are [now available archived](#).

American 4th Graders among Top Readers in Global Study

The United States has gained ground against countries that are top performers in 4th grade

reading, outscoring all but four in a widely watched international assessment, according to results released this month. [Read more here.](#)

Communicating with Children on Trauma

The U.S. Department of Education, in response to recent events, [released an article](#) “Resources for Parents following Traumatic events.” The article contains useful tools and documents to help parents and educators alike talk with children about grief and trauma.

Apps Collect 'Alarming' Amount of Data about Kids

Despite government warnings, app makers are failing to provide parents with adequate information about how their apps collect and distribute information about children, according to [a new report](#) by the Federal Trade Commission. Mobile apps are siphoning an “alarming” amount of data about kids without disclosure.

Vocab ⇌ Reading Comprehension

A new test has confirmed the link between vocabulary and reading comprehension and created a systematic way to assess students' grasp of word meaning, according to [new data](#) released by the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Colorado outpaces nation in vocab tests

Speaking of vocabulary, Colorado's 4th- and 8th-graders outscored the national average in vocabulary, according to 2009 and 2011 national assessment [results released this month.](#)

Colorado Collaborative for Girls in STEM (CoCoSTEM)

CoCoSTEM brings together organizations throughout Colorado that are committed to informing and motivating girls to pursue careers

in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). CoCoSTEM recently held a successful kick off event featuring keynote speaker Violeta Garcia, STEM Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Education. Check out [CoCoSTEM's website](#) for resources and CO programs, and to subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter.

World Book Night, April 23

Each year in this book giveaway program for adults, 30 books are chosen by librarians and booksellers. Individuals apply to hand out 20 copies of a particular title in their community, donated by the publishers. The selected givers choose a local participating bookstore or library that has signed up for the program from which to pick up the books. On April 23rd, givers give their books to those who don't regularly read and/or people who don't normally have access to books. Find out more on [their website.](#)

News from YALSA

- [National Forum on Libraries & Teens](#)

The Forum is a year-long grant funded effort that will bring together key stakeholders from libraries, education, technology, adolescent development and the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to explore the world of young adults and library services to this population, and produce a white paper providing direction on how libraries need to adapt and potentially change to better meet the needs of 21st century teens. YALSA will host a Teens & Libraries Summit Jan. 23-24, 2013, in Seattle as part of the Forum. There will also be 3 virtual town hall meetings on March 19, April 16, and May 21, 2013.

- Get Ready for Teen Tech Week™ (TTW)!

When: March 10 - 16, 2013

What: the theme is: Check In @ your library

How: [registration is open!](#)

- Full STEM Ahead, a contest sponsored by YALSA, will launch during Teen Tech Week™. How are teens and tweens in your area using the library to check in on STEM? What great opportunities are you offering during TTW to energize your patrons about STEM? YALSA is asking you to share your success stories! Awesome programs, innovative partnerships, cool gadgets, new discoveries, and powerful outcomes--we want to hear about it all!
- Learn about the World of Apps during YALSA's January webinar. What apps should youth librarians be using and why? How can we coordinate smartphones and technology into programming, and readers' advisory? Join Erin Daly, tech guru and Young Adult librarian, to learn about apps in libraries [in this webinar](#). Attendees will uncover the best apps for use in their library plus a rundown of apps recommended for teens and tweens! January 17 at noon MST. Cost: \$39 for YALSA members, \$49 for non-members.
- 365 Days of YA. YALSA's 365 Days of YA Task Force is charged with creating a calendar of easy to implement ideas for programs, services, and activities for teens. These are simple ideas that can be used by anyone working with youth in libraries. Please send all ideas to 365daysofya@gmail.com.
- The STEM Resources Task Force is working on several key projects to help library staff more effectively engage teens using STEM-based programming. A [STEM wiki](#) was launched in November and encourage you to explore the resources and add ideas of your own. The task force is also working on a STEM toolkit, to be released in time for TTW. The toolkit has everything that a busy librarian needs to implement STEM Programming, from planning and marketing to evaluating and sharing their story.

Register Your 2013 Día Event



ALSC invites you to submit your 2013 El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) programs in the [2013 National Día Program Registry](#). By registering your Día program, you're helping to build

a national database that showcases all types and sizes of Día programming. The information will display on the website, in both the map and database format, allowing you to share program information with other librarians and the public interested in learning more about Día programs happening around the country. Libraries that register will also receive Día stickers and bookmarks (while supplies last). Learn more planning your celebration at the [official Día website](#).

Digitally Driven to Distraction

An eye-opening [article in eSchool News](#) outlines recent studies on how easily students can be distracted by the technology that surrounds them, and the detrimental effect this lack of focus and constant multi-tasking has on their studies.

NASA Education launches new Clubhouse for K-4 students

A new room awaits kids on the NASA Kids' Club website: [The Clubhouse](#), accessible from the mission control console on the [NASA Kids' Club](#) page (click on the center image of the space station), includes games and interactive features designed for K-4 students. Students can look through the porthole in the floor to see pictures of Earth taken from space; read about why NASA explores; play a game about what astronauts eat in space; discover what their age and weight would be on a moon or another planet; and more.

Save the Date: PLA Virtual Spring Symposium

Mark March 20 on your 2013 calendars for the [PLA Virtual Spring Symposium](#). We'll have a full-day of online education that includes eight programs divided into four unique tracks—administration/management, youth services, technology, and marketing/customer service, interactive opportunities and a dynamic closing keynote. Registration opens in mid-January, so stay tuned!

Reading Habits in Different Communities Featuring E-Reader Ownership & Library Usage

The Pew Internet and American Life Project has released [a new study](#) on the "Reading Habits in Different Communities." The report includes sections on general reading habits, e-reader ownership, and library usage, revealing interesting variations among urban, suburban, and rural communities in the way their residents read and use reading-related technology and institutions.

In the Digital Wild West: Empowering Parents and Educators

[This report](#) from the Campaign for Third Grade reading tackles the ever-growing world of digital apps designed to teach young children to read. It will help parents and educators understand what's available and what's next for early literacy and technology.

StoryCorps @ your library

Deadline: January 18

The ALA Public Programs Office, in partnership with StoryCorps, is accepting applications from public libraries and library systems interested in hosting "StoryCorps @ your library" programs. Funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to ALA, "StoryCorps @ your library" seeks to bring StoryCorps' popular interview methods to libraries while developing a

replicable model of oral history programming.

Nominations for the 2013 Sullivan Award

It's not too late to consider nominating yourself or a colleague for the [2013 Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children](#), especially since the deadline has just been extended to February 15!

The annual award honors an individual who has shown exceptional understanding and support of library services for kids. Nominees should have management, supervisory, or administrative experience that has included public library service to children. The 2012 winner was Colorado's own Lynda Freas from Anythink Libraries!

Library of Congress Intern Program

The Library of Congress [Junior Fellows Summer Intern Program](#) enables undergraduate and graduate students to experience the integrated analog and digital collections and services of the world's largest, all-inclusive library. Applications accepted through January 25, 2013.

Digital devices engage tots, but some experts discourage use before age 2

This [Washington Post article](#) provides an overview of the controversial issue of exposing children under 2 to digital devices.

Literacy Mini-Conference

The [Annual Mini-Conference](#), produced by the Literacy Coalition of Colorado with support from Red Rocks Community College and the Colorado Department of Education, will include sessions on Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, GED preparation, general teaching tips, and more. The conference will be held Feb 8 – 9, 2013, at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood. Registration will open in January.

Colorado Receives Race to the Top Funding

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia [announced this month](#) that the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded Colorado a \$29.9 million grant from the Race to the Top: Early Learning Challenge.

Colorado will receive the \$29.9 million in federal funding over the next four years to help accelerate the state's plans to improve school readiness. The grant money will increase access to high-quality early learning programs and help develop the capacity of those people, programs and places serving children with the highest needs.

CO Libraries in the Press

Summit County Library's Adult Fall Reading Program

The library thanks its Friends group, community supporters, and participants in [this shout out](#) in the local newspaper.

Jefferson County Public Library make gains despite budget

Through budget cutbacks, [this library system](#) has increased the percentage of library card holders in the county, maintained the number of storytimes, radically increased SRP numbers, and more.

Littleton's Bemis Library to expand teen area with LSTA grant from the CO State Library

[The expansion](#) will triple the amount of space, and new technology and furniture will be purchased, to meet the increasing demand of teen readers. Circulation of teen materials at the library has gone up 26% over the past five years. The grant also will allow the library to

consolidate the nonfiction and the fiction areas in one space.

Student artwork displayed at East Morgan County Library

Comprised of 100–150 pieces of 2D and 3D works from students in grades 1–12, [the exhibit](#) debuted with an opening reception on December 6. The Brush School District has organized the bi-annual art show displaying student talents for over five years now at EMCL and will also continue the tradition in the spring.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

[Kerr Foundation Grants](#)

Deadline for proposals: January 18, 2013
The Kerr Foundation, Inc. supports new or enhanced opportunities in the areas of education, health, cultural development, and community service, particularly for the young. Favorable consideration of a proposal will normally be in the form of a challenge grant, meaning that the applicant must first raise or secure funding in a total amount equal to that specified in the Kerr grant.

[Do Something Disaster Grants](#)

Deadline: applicants accepted continually
Do Something and the Dunkin Brands Community Foundation have partnered to offer \$500 Disaster Grants to young people across the US and Canada. The grant program will help support young people with ideas for community service projects around the themes of disaster preparedness and emergency response. Possible project ideas include rebuilding homes in New Orleans, planning an emergency coat drive for families in crisis during the winter months, or collecting toys for kids who have been through a natural disaster. One \$500 grant given **each week!!**

Elementary Reads *cont.*

experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.” In August 2010, the Colorado Board of Education elected to adopt the CCSS; to date, a total of 45 states and 3 territories have adopted the standards. Colorado is set to implement the standards in the 2013–14 school year.

While these new standards are primarily affecting schools, teachers, school librarians and school curricula, public libraries need to be aware of them and how they can support the changes coming to Colorado schools.

What changes do the CCSS bring to education?

In brief, the English–Language Arts (ELA) standards, which address reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language, call for students of all ages to read more complex text and a higher percentage of nonfiction; in elementary school, the ELA standards call for students to read at least 50% nonfiction material. The standards also call for students to think analytically, synthesize and apply what they read to real world situations, and stress that literacy applies to everything in school and life, not just English class.

There are 6 main shifts in ELA standards with CCSS:

- **Balancing Informational and Literary Text (PK–5):** Elementary school classrooms will be places where students access the world – science, social studies, the arts and literature – through text. Students will read at least 50% informational text.
- **Building Knowledge in the Disciplines (6–12):** Content area teachers outside of the ELA classroom will emphasize learning through text. Students will build knowledge about the world through text rather than the teacher or activities.
- **Staircase of Complexity.** Students will read the central, grade appropriate text around which instruction is centered. Teachers will create more time and space in the curriculum for this close and careful reading, and provide appropriate and necessary support for students reading below grade level.
- **Text–based Answers.** Students will engage in rich and rigorous evidence based conversations about text. Instead of answering, “How do you feel about this book and can you relate to it?” students will answer, “What does it say?” “What’s its evidence?” “Where does the conclusion come from?”
- **Writing from Sources.** Writing will emphasize the use of evidence to inform or make an argument rather than writing personal narratives. While the narrative still has an important role, students will develop skills through written arguments that respond to the ideas, facts, and arguments presented in the texts they read. There’s an emphasis on examining multiple sources, including primary sources and information in several formats (books, articles, websites, photos, audio, etc), to gather and synthesize information. Research—both short, focused projects (such as those commonly required in the workplace) and longer term in depth research—is

emphasized throughout the standards but most prominently in the writing strand.

- Academic Vocabulary. Students will constantly build the vocabulary they need to access grade level complex texts.

Student collaboration is another emphasis with CCSS. To help prepare students for teamwork in college and the workforce, this skill will be taught and assessed. Collaboration includes discussion, partnering to answer questions and solve problems, online exchange of comments, etc.

CCSS includes speaking and listening standards, with a focus on academic discussion in one-on-one, small-group, and whole-class settings. Formal presentation is one aspect, but so is the more informal discussion that takes place as students collaborate to answer questions, build understanding, and solve problems.

Skills related to media use (both critical analysis of media and production of media) are integrated throughout the standards. Students will learn to make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding.

What can public libraries do to support CCSS?

- Develop a list (print and/or online) of CCSS resources for educators, students, and parents. The National PTA has developed [online resources for parents](#).
- Collaborate with your local elementary school library to begin conversations early. Find out how both your and the school library can support educators, parents, and students with your collections, programs, technology, and other services. *School Library Journal* recently published [this related article](#): “The Public Library Connection: The new standards require that public and school librarians pull together.”
- Invite an elementary school librarian, curriculum developer, or administrator to speak to your staff about Common Core, or ask to attend a session they are offering to school staff. The more you know, the better equipped you’ll be to position your library as a partner.
- Let schools and school librarians know what your library has to offer. Hold a meeting, offer a teacher in-service, or have an open house for educators.
- Beef up your nonfiction collection, starting with books for pre-kindergarten children; students of all ages will need more nonfiction books to complete homework assignments, and teachers may seek out more nonfiction for their classes from the public library. Increase the frequency of nonfiction book displays as well, and create nonfiction book lists on many topics, including for SRPs.
- For libraries using Dewey, this is a great time to teach young elementary students the Dewey system as they spend more time in the nonfiction collection of their public and school libraries.
- This is a great opportunity to prepare tutorials and classes for elementary students on databases your library subscribes to; they’ll need these resources more than ever with the new ELA standards. Offer similar resources to teachers as well.

- Information literacy is more crucial than ever with CCSS. Offer classes and tutorials for elementary students on how to find and select the best sources for their school research needs—and for life.
- Include nonfiction texts in book clubs for elementary-aged children, or have an entire book club devoted to nonfiction books.
- Integrate a variety of topics into children's programming—math, science, the arts, history—to reinforce CCSS's goals of bringing literacy and reading more closely into all school subjects and of fostering higher-level thinking. Include book displays of both fiction and nonfiction related to the program topic.
- Offer a station in your kids' area or at a program with a picture or primary document, thought-provoking text and a mystery question for them to solve based on the document or text. The topic is up to you—a library program that week, your town's history, an event in the news. This helps get them thinking, inferring, connecting, and drawing evidence. Include a short booklist on the topic.
- The Library of Congress has unveiled an extensive website for teachers with primary sources, lesson plans, and more that tie with CCSS and state standards: www.loc.gov/teachers/
- The blog, Uncommon Corps: Champions of Nonfiction Literature for Children and Young Adults, offers book lists, CCSS updates, and more for librarians and teachers: nonfictionandthecommoncore.blogspot.com
- Education Week offers 8 free articles on Common Core and literacy: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/marketplace/products/spotlight-literacy-common-core-standards.html?cmp=ENL-CM-SPTLT>

Resources for More Info

- Become familiar with the terminology and standards themselves: www.corestandards.org/
- Booklist Online has a wealth of free bibliographies, webinars, and tips on Common Core for public and school libraries: booklistonline.com/commoncore