



## Focus: Elementary Reads, *part 5*

*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 third 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 discuss how librarians, parents/caregivers, and other adults can help motivate early elementary school children to read.

### **Motivating Elementary Students to Read**

Some children ages 6–9 take to reading like fish to water. Parents sometimes have trouble getting these kids to *stop* reading long enough to get some exercise and a good night's sleep. But other children are reluctant readers, for whatever reason. Here are some research-driven ways for library staff, parents and caregivers, and anyone that works with children in the younger elementary grades to help motivate kids to read (there's much more research on this subject; this is but a small sampling).

Let me tell you, if you don't know it from your own experience, that reading a good book, losing yourself in the interest of words and thoughts, is for some people (me, for instance) an incredible intensity of happiness.

--Isaac Asimov, *It's Been a Good Life*

### **Give 'Em Access**

In 2010, Reading is Fundamental and Learning Point Associates [took a look](#) at 108 relevant research studies and found that giving kids access to books really does motivate them to read. The study showed that increased access to books:

- leads children to read more and for longer lengths of time.
- produces improved attitudes toward reading and learning among children. The review found that more positive attitudes resulted from children having greater access to books and other print materials through either borrowing books or receiving books they could keep.
- is instrumental in helping children develop basic reading skills such as letter and word identification, phonemic awareness and completion of sentences. Better reading skills can lead to more confidence and interest in reading.
- increases motivation and interest in reading.

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### Welcome to the 11th 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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## 2013 SRP: News & Ideas

### Meet the Artists

*(the CSLP teen and adult artists will be featured in upcoming newsletter issues)*

#### Scott Nash—Early Literacy and Children’s Illustrator

Nash has a varied career as an artist, creating works for children in the diverse worlds of publishing, on-air media, consumer products, and entertainment. His clients have included PBS, American Girl, Disney, MTV, Mattel, Microsoft, and the Boston Children’s Museum, among others.



*One of Nash’s illustrations for the 2013 CSLP early literacy program*

Images are copyrighted. Contact the CSLP at 1-866-657-8556 or info@cslpreads.org for more information.

He has illustrated over 30 children’s books, including *The Bugliest Bug* by Carol Diggory Shields, *Over the Moon* by Rachel Vail, *Betsy Who Cried Wolf!* by Gail Carson Levine, and the Flat Stanley series by Jeff Brown. He also has written books of his own, including *Tuff Fluff* and his most recent, *The High Skies Adventures of Blue Jay the Pirate*, just published in 2012.

Nash lives in Maine with his wife, also an artist, and dog Zephyr, who sometimes makes appearances in his drawings.

For more info:

- See p. vii of the CSLP Manual
- [Visit Nash’s website](#)
- [Read an article about Nash](#)

### Workshop Wrap Up

Thanks to those of you who attended the fall Youth Services Workshops! A total of 150

attended the 6 sessions. Each session held a different presentation or tour of the venue, each related to the underground SRP theme; here are some highlights:

- At the [National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum](#) in Leadville, we marveled on our tour of the sheer size of the museum and were impressed by the variety and quality of exhibits and interactives.
- Our tour of the [Western CO Botanical Gardens](#) in Grand Junction offered a wide range of plants both inside and out, and a fun castle for kids.
- Next up: A staff member at the [Crow Canyon Archaeological Center](#) in Cortez, located in a beautiful area, showed a fascinating activity that demonstrates how artifacts are buried in different cultural layers in archaeological sites.
- During the session at beautiful [Lathrop State Park](#) (CO’s first state park) in Walsenburg, a former local miner gave a presentation about coal mining in southeast CO, complete with lots of excellent historic photos (from the Denver Public Library’s Western History Collection!).
- Staff of the Education Department at the new [History CO Center](#) in Denver demonstrated hands-on activities related to the underground theme that librarians can do, as well as showed resources from the museum that libraries can use.
- Last but not least, attendees at the session at the [Western Museum of Mining and Industry](#) in CO Springs



received a fascinating tour of the museum, complete with huge machines from steam engine days that still run and the arrival of the museum's new donkey. (And check out the [Cookie Mining event](#)—a great idea for a library, too!)

### CSLP and Copyright

Each year, the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) contracts with nationally known artists to produce unique artwork that complements the program's theme. CSLP also contracts with an exclusive vendor, Highsmith, to produce the items available for purchase each year. In addition, the manual itself is copyrighted. Here are highlights of copyright info for all CSLP items:



You can:

- use artwork from the DVD in handouts, bookmarks, newsletters, etc. that you produce in house
- use artwork on library websites and social media either with a copyright statement or using the Copyright Embedded files on the DVD
- use the slogan wording without restrictions
- sell SRP products from Highsmith, but only for the purpose of supporting your library (not for profit or by an outside agency)
- for quantities less than 10,000, create your own reading logs and certificates if printed in house or by a local printer
- have a vendor create products using the SRP slogan, but NOT the artwork
- purchase SRP items from Highsmith, such as t-shirts, and have them customized

locally with the logos of your library and program sponsors, library name, etc.

Do not:

- alter the artwork in any way except changing its size
- display online, copy, or give to outside individuals or organizations the manual or DVD (exception: Activity pages, Calendars, and Handouts)
- supply 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor with CSLP artwork to put on the vendor's products
- contract with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to produce products that are similar in function to those offered by Highsmith (like t-shirts)

Get permission to:

- create one-of-a-kind items (such as a cake or quilt or an item not similar to one that Highsmith offers) with CSLP artwork; submit a [Customized Product Proposal](#) to receive a copyright release.

For details, see the CSLP's [Rules of Use](#) (also on p. 245 of the 2013 manual).

### Adult SRP Webinar

Join me for an [interactive webinar](#) on adult SRPs on December 5, 12:30–1:30. Can't make it? The session will be archived at the above link.

### SRP Ideas on Pinterest

Here are some great Pinterest boards all about ideas for the 2013 SRP:

- [Connecticut State Library](#)
- [State Library of Louisiana](#)

## One Book 4 CO 2013

### Nomination process

Thanks to the 98 of you that nominated titles for the 2013 One Book 4 CO program! We're taking

your excellent recommendations and working with publishers to narrow the list to 3 finalists. We'll let you know the 3 picks very soon. In January all of CO will get to vote on the winning book!



### Logo and PR Materials

We WILL use the [same logo](#) as we had last year. Also, we're reviving the [PR Toolkit](#) to help arm you with PR materials you can use to publicize the program; we'll be filling it up soon.

## Timely Tidbits

### SPELL Website, Survey and Webinar

The State Library's SPELL project—Supporting Libraries in Early Literacy through Libraries—is well underway. Follow our findings at the [project's new website](#).

Also, please join on December 13, 10:00 to 11:00 am for an [interactive webinar](#) to share your experiences with early literacy programs. This discussion will help us determine best practices and develop a blueprint for supporting parents in early literacy through libraries. If you can't make it, the webinar will be archived for later viewing.

And there are a few days left (deadline: Dec. 5) to give us your input via [our survey](#) including examples of practices, programs and partnerships with other agencies that you've found to be successful (or not successful) in engaging and supporting parents in their role in building early literacy.

### CATSIG's Mock Newbery Awards

Reminder: check out CATSIG's (Children and Teen Services Interest Group of the CO Association of Libraries) [Mock Newbery Awards info](#). Try to

read at least 4 of the 8 books on this list to vote. There will be a discussion and official voting at the CATSIG meeting in January (they're also trying to devise a way to accept virtual votes). For now, read and comment and review!

### STEMgirls hands on programs are now being offered in Lafayette!

STEMgirls Mars Rover and STEMgirls Cupcake Wars programs offer fun learning opportunities for 10 – 15 year old

girls at the Lafayette Rec Center. These workshops offer enlightenment and



informal schooling in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Please call 303-665-0469 to register your STEMgirl or see p27 in the [Lafayette Winter/Spring Recreation catalog](#).

### CCIRA Conference, with Authors' Festival for Kids

The CO Council International Reading Association (CCIRA) is holding its [annual conference](#) February 6–9, 2013, in Denver. It has the fun—and very appropriate—theme of Heroes for Literacy, with the mascot Dewey the Decimal Dog. There's an impressive array of speakers and authors lined up.

The conference will include an [Authors' Festival](#) for kids in grades 3–8, which will be a writing mini-conference, on Feb 9. There's a fee for the kids of \$25. Keynote: Melissa Della Panna, Douglas County Libraries!

### CO Teen Literature Conference—Save the Date!

In other CO conference news, the excellent [CO Teen Lit Conference](#) will be held April 6, 2013, in Denver and will feature Jay Asher and Lauren Oliver! The fee is \$50 for adults, \$25 for students. Registration starts Jan 1. This is a great conference for you and for teens alike!

### CLiC Workshops—More Dates to Save!

CLiC—the CO Library Consortium—is holding its spring workshops in 3 places in 2013:

- Grand Junction, March 4th & 5th
- Fort Morgan, March 29th
- Pueblo, April 4th & 5th



### Library Outreach Webinar

Hear the [Tech-a-la-Carte Story](#) presented by Irene Romsa and Alba Williams of the Poudre River Library District through TechSoup. With this small mobile computer lab, the library takes technology training into the community... sometimes right into the homes of community members!

### Bugscope

The Bugscope project provides free, online, interactive access to a scanning electron microscope so that students anywhere in the world can explore the microscopic world of insects. Bugscope allows the kids to propose experiments, explore insect specimens at high-magnification, and discuss what they see with scientists—all from a regular internet connection. Check out the [Bugscope website](#) for more info and to apply for the program.

### Online Book Cover Creator

[The Book Cover Creator](#) allows users to type and illustrate front and back book covers and full dust jackets. Children can use the tool to create new covers for books that they read as well as to create covers for books they write on their own or with family and friends. There are a variety of templates to choose from. It's free!

### Second Annual Colorado Literacy Policy Summit

Saturday, December 8, 8:30–11:00 AM  
The Tivoli, Auraria Campus, Denver

In CO there continues to be lots of legislative and policy-making activity around education in general and literacy specifically. Recent legislation about 3rd grade reading proficiency raised awareness and generated conversation about early childhood literacy. Students, parents, and educators are wondering how changes in standards and assessments will impact reading and writing in schools. Get answers from people in the know [at this summit](#). It's free, and you don't need to register.

### Preschool Education Deserves Expansion

In a [recent brief](#) (scroll down to Preschool Education), the National Education Policy Center urges policymakers to invest in high-quality preschool education, citing its universally acknowledged economic and social benefits. The brief states that, in inflation-adjusted dollars, overall funding per child is lower than a decade ago, despite the fact that high-quality preschool education for at least two years has been found to close as much as half the achievement gap.

### Research on Students' Online Research Skills

[This article](#) on eSchool News summarizes several recent studies about students' digital research habits and how to help improve those skills.

### News from YALSA

- YALSA will select up to 25 innovative teen programs from all types of libraries to feature at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference and to include in a 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *Excellence in Library Service to Young Adults*. Successful applications will focus on programs that address teen needs or interests in an innovative or unique way. The top 5 will receive cash awards of \$1000 each. Up to 20 "best of the rest" applications will receive cash awards of \$250 each. [Click here](#) for more info and to apply. Deadline: Dec 17.

- 2013 Summer Reading Mini Grants**  
 --YALSA encourages innovative proposals inclusive of underserved teens, including teens with disabilities and teens who speak English as a second language. The \$1,000 grant, made possible by Dollar General, is to be used to support a reading/literacy focused program. 20 grants are available.  
 --YALSA, with funding from Dollar General, will provide 20 libraries with \$1,000 each to recruit, train and compensate teen assistants to help with summer reading programs.  
 --For both grants: Individual library branches within a larger system may apply.  
[Applications](#) are due January 1, 2013.
- Reach your Reluctant Readers during YALSA's December webinar**  
 December 13, 12:00–1:00 pm  
 Heather Gruenthal will share her tips on how to draw non-readers in through reading displays, genre lists, gateway books, Just like Me books and programming with book hooks. Join us for this discussion! [Registration](#) is \$29 for students, \$39 for YALSA members, and \$49 for all others.

## CO Libraries in the Press

### Naturita Library earns a gold medal at the White House

Congratulations to Naturita Library, a branch of Montrose Regional Library District, for being [named one of 10 winners](#) of the National Medal for Museum and Library Services! The library was selected for making extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental and social contributions to the community it serves. The library offers everything from a community garden and compost bin to computer classes for adults and science field trips and literacy activities for children. [Click here](#) to see the

medal ceremony (the Naturita folks show up at 18:28).

### Denver Public Library taps into teen market with digital center

Denver Public Library will install [ideaLAB](#), a digital center for teens complete with computers and a studio capable of recording music or whatever the teen wants, in its main location in downtown Denver in the spring. There will also be a mural on one of the walls that will be designed with input from an advisory board of teens.

### Thompson School District and Read Aloud Day

While not a library, [this Read Aloud Day event](#) in Loveland, held in schools, is a great way to involve the community in reading to children.

## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

### [American Honda Foundation Grants](#)

Deadline: February 1, 2013

This foundation engages in grant making that supports youth education with a specific focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, the environment, job training, and literacy. Grants range from \$20,000 to \$60,000 over a one-year period.

### [Joseph Bruno Foundation Grants](#)

Deadline: March 15, 2013

This foundation focuses on education, specifically preparing children for success in school; early childhood development and early intervention; and working with families and youth service organizations to ensure academic success and prevent school dropout. Organizations and programs that show collaboration and sharing of ideas and resources are strongly supported.

## Elementary Reads *cont.*

Public and school libraries of course specialize in this already! School libraries are also of course an exceptional source for access to books.

Parents and caregivers can give their kids access to print by, of course, bringing them to the library, as well as developing a home library. Reading is Fundamental provides [tips for parents](#) on creating a literacy-rich environment at home, including building a family library. Libraries can help with developing home libraries by giving books as incentives for summer reading programs and other events.

### Ask 'Em!

For [a study](#) appearing in the February 2006 issue of *The Reading Teacher* (Vol. 59, No. 5), researchers interviewed elementary students what motivated them to read. Though the article, entitled “What teachers can learn about reading motivation through conversations with children,” is geared toward teachers, there are many lessons for public and school librarians as well as parents. Based on their interviews with the children in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, the researchers created these recommendations:

- Self-selection. Allowing the students to select the books they wanted to read led to increased reading motivation. The study suggests a bookmark activity: “give students bookmarks with a checklist of ideas and suggestions for reading choices by categories based on genres and personal interests. Students can take these bookmarks to the library and use them as a reminder of the types of books they might want to ‘discover’ and check out.”
- Provide a variety of books that have different characteristics that children will desire to read—books that are scary or funny or have good illustrations, as well as fiction and nonfiction.
- Provide books a large variety of topics. Students reported that reading books about topics that interested them was a significant factor in wanting to read.
- As in the above study, provide lots of easy access to books, through public and school libraries and at home.
- Active involvement of others. The students revealed that they were motivated to read when people read to them and when people shared what they were reading with them. Thus, teachers, librarians, parents and other adults should give, recommend and share books routinely with elementary students, along with read to them. Students also said peer recommendations motivated them to read, so the researchers suggest allowing children a guided but open time to discuss and share the books they’re reading and why they like them, as well as write short book reviews to share with each other.

### Give 'Em Magazines

Magazines [have been shown](#) to spark kids’ interest in reading because many students enjoy the shorter, more “adult” format with colorful pictures and high-interest, current topics. Reluctant readers and those who have reading difficulties may find magazines less intimidating to read than books, and these readers may be motivated to read more by a sense of pride in having completed magazine articles.

### Give 'Em Time and Freedom to Read

Stephen Krashen is a strong proponent of “free voluntary reading” (or FVR for short)—“FVR

means reading because you want to. For school-age children, FVR means no book report, no questions at the end of the chapter, and no looking up every vocabulary word. FVR means putting down a book you don't like and choosing another one instead." (p. x) His research shows that many aspects of FVR help motivate children to read (not to mention significantly increase their reading skills). In one of his books (amongst his other books and numerous journal articles), *The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research*, second edition (Libraries Unlimited, 2004), Krashen finds that:

- access to books at home, public and school libraries, and classrooms increases reading time and frequency. This access tends to be lacking in lower-income neighborhoods and households. Also, many kids prefer paperbacks to hardbacks, so paperback access specifically is important as well.
- providing a quiet and comfortable place to read also lead to children reading longer and more often.
- children that are read to read more on their own. The vast majority of children enjoy being read to and then associate reading and books with enjoyment.
- reading itself promotes reading. Students that participate in FVR programs are more likely to continue to read after the program than non-participants.
- children that have one special, very positive reading experience are more likely to get hooked on reading than those that don't connect deeply with a book or other reading material. The reading material hook varies widely, so it's best to allow kids access to a wide range of materials.
- children read more when they see others reading (a great reason to have adult reading programs at your library!).
- simply giving children time for FVR encourages them to read more.
- suggesting reading as an activity and directly encouraging kids to read fosters more reading. This includes providing attractive book displays.
- kids are encouraged to read when they discuss their reading in pairs or small groups.
- children often read what their friends recommend.
- light reading material—comic books, graphic novels, magazines—can help some children develop an interest in reading.

Public libraries excel already in these activities that motivate reading for 6–9 year olds, but it's good to know they're backed up by research, and that's a good reason to consider evaluating your services to early elementary aged-children along these research findings. These are also excellent tips to pass along to parents, caregivers, other educators, and community leaders, so the community as a whole can get involved in getting kids reading.