



Focus: Teen Zone, *part 4*

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 4th article in the Teen Zone series—research on learning and reading development for children ages 10–12 and how libraries can best serve them and their parents—will outline ways that parents and other adults can stay involved in their teens’ reading.

Teen Reading Guide for Parents and Caregivers

According to a [2012 survey](#) by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 19% of 17-year-olds reported that they read for fun on their own time almost every day. That is the lowest percentage since NAEP began asking that question of elementary, middle and high school students. Back in 1984, the figure was over 30%. The same trend is true for 13-year-olds with 27% reading on their own now, compared with 35% back in 1984.

Well-meaning adults can easily destroy a child's love of reading: stop them reading what they enjoy, or give them worthy-but-dull books that you like, the 21st-century equivalents of Victorian "improving" literature. You'll wind up with a generation convinced that reading is uncool and worse, unpleasant.
--Neil Gaiman

The decline in teen reading for pleasure matters. A lot. According to NAEP, the students with the highest test scores in reading also report reading on their own the most. Those 17-year-olds that read often for fun, for instance? They score, on average, 11% higher on reading tests in school.

The good news? Parents and caregivers can make a positive difference in helping to instill the love of reading in the teens in their lives. It’s never too late! Here are some tips adapted from [YALSA](#), [Reading is Fundamental](#), and [I Love Libraries](#).

Ways to Encourage (but not pressure) Teens to Read

Set an example. Let teens see you reading for pleasure and using the library. Research shows that teens who see adults in their lives reading frequently (books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, etc.) are more likely to read for pleasure themselves.

Welcome to 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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SRP 2014: News & Ideas

The 2014 program has the overall theme of science and features these fun slogans:

- "Fizz, Boom, Read!" (children)
- "Spark a Reaction!" (teens)
- "Literary Elements" (adults)



Update on 2014 SRP Manuals & "Kits"

The manuals this year are later than usual but we are sending them out. Please remember that once you've completed your 2013 SRP report, you're automatically registered for the 2014 program and will receive one manual per branch. (Haven't submitted your 2013 report? [Please do so here online!](#))

We'll also be ordering 2014 SRP "kits" for kids and teens soon; again, once your library completes your 2013 report, you'll be automatically registered to receive the kits. They should arrive sometime in January.

Each children's kit will contain:

- 2 small early literacy posters
- 5 small kids' posters
- 1 pack bookmarks (200)
- 1 pack stickers (250)
- 1 rubber stamp

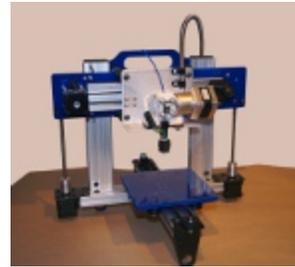
Each teen kit will contain:

- 5 small posters
- 1 pack bookmarks (200)
- 1 rubber stamp
- 1 pack mini-buttons (5)



2014 SRP Mini-Grants

The State Library will offer SRP mini-grants again this year, with a new focus. To go with the 2014 SRP theme, libraries will be able to purchase books for their collections (**not** to give away as incentives) about STEM topics for any age, and/or to purchase STEM-related equipment to keep at the library for programs or to circulate (think telescopes, microscopes, 3D printers, science kits, safety goggles, etc.). The grants will total \$250, with a required \$60 match from your library, Friends groups, another grant, etc. Each library branch may apply for its own grant. Watch for more info in December; the application will be available all of January, with a submission deadline of January 31.



Bedtime Math this Summer

CSLP (the Collaborative Summer Library Program) is excited to announce a new partnership with Bedtime Math, a nonprofit spearheading a nationwide movement to help kids love math. Beginning with the 2014 SRP, CSLP will offer Bedtime Math's Summer of Numbers, a companion to the "Fizz, Boom, Read" SRP theme. Kids can log onto www.bedtimemath.org or download its app for iPhone or Android to get zany daily math riddles – all for free. Kids can track their progress using Bedtime Math's constellation map and shiny star stickers, which will be available thru the CSLP website. Ordering information will be available beginning December 1 at www.cslpreads.org. It's your big chance to make math fun for kids!

Fall Youth Services Workshop Wrap to Date

We've had some great workshop sessions so far, with a few more to go. The staff at each venue have been so accommodating and very informative. Here are highlights from our first 3

venues that you might want to check out, as they are relevant no matter where you live:

[RAFT \(Resource Area For Teachers\), Denver:](#)

RAFT is an amazing resource for all types of educators. Besides a huge warehouse of really inexpensive items for crafty projects and all types of educational programs (anything from carpet squares for a quarter to solar cells for \$4), it is a giant warehouse of ideas as well. Can't get there in person? They have loads of excellent [Idea Sheets online](#) for you to print out that align with CO school curriculum standards, most of which use commonly found items, searchable by topic and grade level.



We also had the opportunity to engage in the traveling exhibit *Cultivate the Scientist in Every Child* from the Hawkins Centers of Learning. Check out the [exhibit content online](#) and ponder how this approach to engaging children in exploring their curiosity and science concepts might work in your library. Karen Alfino, leader of [STEMGirls](#), also led the group in a fun, hands-on engineering program to create greeting cards by assembly line ([find the activity here!](#)).

[Rifle Gap State Park, Rifle](#)

This beautiful state park was a lovely setting for our northwestern session. The warm weather allowed us to have lunch and blow bubbles outside. The park's naturalist presented



an excellent program on figuring out characteristics of local animals from their skulls that you might find in a park or elsewhere, such as whether the animal is a predator or serves as prey based on placement and size of eye sockets and snouts.

We learned a tip great for all CO libraries: CO's state parks have a mission to provide outreach programs for free, so contact the state park nearest your library to schedule a naturalist to present programs this summer or anytime.

[Wilkinson Public Library and the Pinhead Institute, Telluride](#)

Our western session in Telluride was a bit snowy in the morning but what a beautiful setting! Many thanks to the staff at the lovely Wilkinson Public Library for hosting this session so graciously. We had a great presentation from the Pinhead Institute, a Smithsonian Affiliate and international network of leading scientists that supports many educational outreach programs in the area. Pinhead staff led us in a fun engineering activity in which we created a vehicle with squares of fabric, a balloon, and other easy-to-find items to safely cushion an egg as it drops to the floor in its vehicle.

Pinhead has created 2 types of science kits, called Pinhead Packs, that are available to libraries for sale (a great use of mini-grant funds!). [Check out the contents](#) of the Rockin' Rocks and The Science of Snow packs online and [contact Pinhead](#) for info on purchases.



Book Nook

Voting is Open for the 2014 Colorado Blue Spruce Award

The Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book



Award recognizes the most popular books among middle and high school students in Colorado. Teens nominate their favorite titles and select the winner – adults do not vote. All the materials needed to participate in the Blue Spruce Award can be found [on its website](#) and may be freely printed and distributed. All votes must be submitted by January 15, 2014. Don't have time to read all the titles? Use the [award committee's booktalks](#) to recommend these books to your teens! Check out [this year's list of nominees](#) and promote the contest to teens in your community!

Multicultural Books

Check out Reading Is Fundamental's [latest list](#) of recommended multicultural books for elementary-aged kids.

One Book 4 Colorado



OB4CO 2014 Ramps Up

Voting for the selected 2014 OB4CO title will be open from November 1–30! Anyone is welcome to vote [on the project's website](#) for our 2014 title from amongst these 3 finalists:

- *Pigsty* by Mark Teague
- *How Do Dinosaurs Learn Their Colors?* by Jane Yolen
- *Grumpy Bird* by Jeremy Tankard

This month, Rocky Mountain PBS is filming Colorado “celebrities” reading each of the 3 titles. Celebrities reading in English are Governor John Hickenlooper, K-LOVE Radio DJ Amanda Carroll, and VP of Research and Collections & Chief Curator at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and host of the PBS children’s series *Dinosaur Train* Dr. Scott Sampson. Spanish readers are Emmy-winning journalist, former Telemundo anchor and *Hablemos Hoy* radio host Rodolfo Jose Cardenas, Colorado Rapids head coach Oscar Pareja, and Denver Police Department public information officer Detective Raquel Lopez.

Stay tuned for more info and PR materials about the voting period coming November 1! And you can follow One Book 4 Colorado on Twitter and Instagram @OneBook4Co, as well as on the [project's Facebook page](#).

Timely Tidbits

Nominate Titles for 2014 CLEL Bells

There’s still time to submit your favorite titles for the 2014 CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards! [Visit the CLEL Bells web page](#) to learn more and submit your nominations online. Deadline for submission is November 15.



CATS Conference & Mock Awards

CATS—Children and Teen Services Division of the CO Association of Libraries (CAL)—is holding its first conference! Save the date: Wednesday, January 23rd from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Sam Gary Branch of the Denver Public Library. Our theme is “STREAM into the New Year” (STEAM being an acronym for Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art,



and Math) and there will be some excellent presentations!

CATS is also hosting Mock Printz and Mock Caldecott Awards! We have narrowed down the titles and YOU are on the selection committee. If you're interested in voting, please read all 25 of the nominees on the Mock Caldecott list and at least 3 of the 5 on the Mock Printz list. [See the lists here](#). The winners will be announced at the CATS Conference on Jan. 23!

New Listserv about Makerspaces

The State Library recently began a listserv (create@cvl-lists.org) for library staff to share ideas, information, resources and questions regarding creation and makerspaces in libraries. It's quickly growing and has attracted a national audience! [Click here](#) to subscribe.

Congrats to the Montrose Regional Library District!

The Colorado Association of Libraries awarded the Montrose Regional Library District its Library Project of the Year Award for the Explore Your World Summertime Badge Quest! From the conference program:

In December 2011, Montrose Regional Library District's Head of Children's Services Janet Oslund was inspired by an innovative approach to the traditional summer reading program: badges. The badges program encourages young readers to read and participate in learning activities to earn badges across many areas of interest, like arts and science. Oslund and her staff loved the idea and were curious if the program could also help improve reading scores among local school children. In addition to the reading improvement goal, the program also aimed to prevent summer learning loss and increase family involvement in reading and learning. Staff also wanted to increase patron use of the juvenile nonfiction collection. The

Badge Quest included ten themes, guidelines to support the overall goals, and a handbook and badge tracker card unique to their program. The outcomes were dramatic: 574 badges earned; increases in circulation of juvenile nonfiction (including a 93% increase in the 700s!); a 7% increase in children's materials circulation, and a 7% increase in the local school district's TCAP reading test scores. A parent involved in the program wrote, "In my humble opinion, any program that inspires children to try new avenues...and brighten their ambitions, is a program that deserves a round of applause."

Can reading aloud to children limit tantrums?

According to a new study in *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, it can. Researchers found that toddlers who have a spoken vocabulary at 24 months show more ability later on to control their emotions and self-regulate. The rationale behind the findings: children that can verbalize their frustrations are able to more



effectively control their own behavior. And, as talking and reading aloud frequently with young children improves their language skills, these simple activities can help limit tantrums.

And More Proof for the Benefits of Talking with Young Children

[The first trial](#) of the 30 Million Word Trial has occurred in Chicago, with promising results. In this study, researchers train low-income parents of very young children how to talk very frequently with their children, and why it's so important, during a home visit. Then the child wears a device that records the number of words spoken in close proximity to her. Over the course of 12 weeks, home visits continue

once a week with more training and to measure progress. The full results haven't been published yet, but individual participants' data show dramatic increases in parent-child interaction, which previous research has shown has a significant positive impact on children's language development and early literacy skills.

Changes in Children's Media Habits

Children's use of mobile devices and mobile apps has jumped dramatically in the past two years, doubling and tripling in some cases, according to results from a large national Common Sense Media study entitled *Zero to Eight: Children's Media Use in America 2013*. Key findings from the research:

1. Children's access to mobile media devices is much greater today than two years ago.
2. About twice as many children use mobile media today than in 2011; the amount of time using the devices has also increased. Today, 72% percent of children ages 0-8 have used a mobile device.
3. "Traditional" screen media use, such as tv and video games, has decreased by more than 30 minutes per day. Children ages 0-8 spend 1 hour, 55 minutes on "screen time" a day, compared to 2 hours, 16 minutes in 2011.
4. Half of children's daily screen time is spent watching TV on a TV set.
5. Poor and minority children have more access to mobile devices and apps than they did two years ago, but a large access gap still remains. Access to high-speed internet has remained about the same, but access to smart phones is increasing.
6. Television is the most common platform for children's educational content.



Using Staff to Market your Library

[This article](#) from Programming Librarian, entitled "Getting Personal: How Public Libraries' Best Resource for Promotion Always Has Been and Always Will Be Library Staff," describes how effective staff can be at marketing their library services.

Common Core standards rolling out in Colorado schools

[This recent article](#) in the *Denver Post* gives an overview of the new national Common Core school standards as they roll out this year in Colorado schools.

Wonderopolis

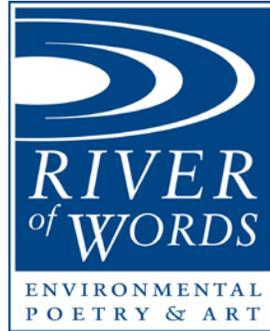
This website is designed to prompt children's questions and exploration about the world. Videos, articles, vocabulary words, photos and questions let you and your child explore an interesting idea, as little or as long as you like.

Youth Writing & Art Contests

Colorado Humanities is offering two annual contests for kids and teens:

[Letters About Literature](#). In this writing competition, students write a personal letter to an author, poet or playwright, living or dead, from any genre, explaining how their ways of thinking about the world or themselves have changed as a result of reading the author's work. Winners receive cash awards at the national and state levels. The work of CO winners is published in Colorado Humanities' annual Student Literary Awards Anthology. National winners win a Reading Promotion Grant for a community library of their choice! Submission deadline for Levels 1 and 2 (grades 4-6 and 7-8): January 10, 2014. Submission deadline for Level 3 (grades 9-12): December 10, 2013.

[River of Words](#). This poetry and art competition for students focuses on the theme of watersheds and the environment to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of the place they live, and to express what they discover in poetry and visual art. Winners are published in the annual Student Literary Awards Anthology and receive prizes from local businesses. River of Words winners are also published in the CO Foundation for Water Education's *Headwaters*.



Submission deadline: December 1, 2013

Free Resource Guide for Health for K-12

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has some great resources in the area of health and sciences for K-12. [This resource guide](#) introduces them and explains how they can support the curriculum and homework help.

Is your library a National Library of Medicine Network Member? There's no cost, and it's a great way to stay current on all the NLM databases. Not sure if your library is a current member, or you want to join? Contact Dana Abbey, Health Information Literacy Coordinator, dana.abbey@ucdenver.edu, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, UC Health Sciences Library.

Help prevent SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)

The National Institutes of Health released a statement asking all organizations who reach families and health care providers through media, print, and education to show infants sleeping alone, on their backs, and in a clutter-free crib, bassinet, or play yard. [Click here](#) to see the full statement.

Teens: Twitter More Popular than Facebook

[Two new studies](#) find that Twitter is now the social media of choice for teens. 26% named Twitter as their "most important" social site, while 23% said Facebook was most important, down from a high of 42%. Instagram has rocketed in popularity with teens, with 23% reporting it as their #1 choice, up from 12% a year ago. Great info for marketing and communicating with teens in your library!

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

[Día Family Book Club mini-grant](#)

Submission deadline: November 30

Intended as an expansion of El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día), the Día Family Book Club is a reading program that engages children and families in the shared reading and discussion of contemporary children's literature that reflects our common plurality. Up to 15 mini-grants will be awarded at \$2,000 each to public libraries that demonstrate a need to better address diversity within their communities through Día Family Book Club programs.

[ALSC/Candlewick Press "Light the Way" Grant](#)

Submission deadline: December 1

The award consists of a \$3,000 grant to assist a library in conducting exemplary outreach to underserved populations through a new program or an expansion of work already being done.

The Colorado READ Act and Testing

[This article](#) from EdNewsColorado details how the CO READ Act will work and what assessments children in early elementary grades will be required to take in order to measure their literacy proficiency. The act, in its first year, aims to improve early childhood literacy programs.

Early learning and children's literacy: Game changers for Latinos

In more early literacy news, Colorado Lt. Governor Garcia recently spoke on the state of Latino education, and was interviewed [in this article](#) specifically on the importance of early learning for Latinos.

YALSA's Great Books Giveaway Competition

Each year the YALSA office receives 1,200 newly published books, videos, and CDs, targeted primarily towards young adults, submitted for selection committees to review for awards. After the award winners have been selected, YALSA gives the materials away to libraries that best demonstrate need and good use of the items. School and public libraries are eligible. [Click here](#) for application instructions.

STEM Corner

Successful STEM Programs Blog Post

Check out [this blog post](#) at Programming Librarian showcasing several successful STEM programs in libraries across the US, along with links to some great online resources.

Water Science and Tech

The Environmental Protection Agency has some [great classroom resources](#) for water science and technology for elementary, middle, high school, and adults.

Injecting Art and Creativity into STEM

[This recent article](#) from School Library Journal explains the history and philosophy behind the concept of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math), how and why to incorporate STEAM programming in libraries, and resources to learn more.

CO Libraries in the Press

GED Program Moves to Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, and Other Great Programs

The Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library in Pagosa Springs recently became the site of its county's GED program, with GED classes offered at the library. [This article lists](#) lots of other great programs at the library as well, including teen gaming afternoons, a LEGO contest, tween science programs, and more.

Crowdfunding and Spiders at Denver Public Library

For the first time, Denver Public Library is using the crowdfunding method to raise money for ideaLAB – its digital media lab for teens. The #1 "wish" is a 3D printer. The teen participants created [this video](#) for the campaign; check it out.

Also, recently [giant \(paper\) spiders](#) started appearing at the Park Hill Branch, just in time for Halloween!

Teen Zone *cont.*

Have lots of reading materials in your home, in a variety of formats—books, audiobooks, magazines, graphic novels, newspapers, ebook readers, etc. The more reading material in your house, the more likely your teen is to pick up the habit. (And studies have shown that more books in homes mean greater achievement in several subjects on standardized tests.) Check to see what materials disappear for a clue to what interests your teenager.

Make a habit of giving books, magazine subscriptions, or bookstore gift certificates as gifts to friends and family of all ages. This shows teens that reading is an enjoyable, lifelong pursuit.

Keep an open mind about reading formats. When your teen follows blogs, devours graphic novels, listens to audiobooks, or can't get enough of teen magazines, that's great! All are valid forms of reading, and reading anything for pleasure has positive outcomes for teens.

Talk to your teens about what you read—and ask them about what they're reading. Talking about what you've read may provide a bonding moment for you and your teen; it also shows you're interested in what they're reading, and may spark a discussion about an important topic one of you found in your reading material.

Ask your teen's friends. When your teen's friends are visiting, ask them what they're reading for fun and why they like or don't like the titles. Again, this demonstrates your interest, and encourages your teen to exchange good titles.

Empower your teen to choose her own reading material. Browse in a library or bookstore with your teen. Go your separate ways and make your own selections. A bookstore gift certificate is a nice way of saying, "You choose."



Build on your teen's interests. Give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine, suggest books and articles on favorite topics, and encourage your teen to explore interests through reading materials.

Read some popular YA novels and graphic novels. They can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by teenagers. You may find that these books provide a neutral ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.

Make reading aloud a natural part of family life. Share an article, poem, letter, comics, or a blog post—without turning it into a lesson.

Do your civic duty. When library levies are on your ballot, vote for them. Contact your legislators and ask them to support legislation that helps libraries. Ask your neighbors and friends to support libraries as well.

Acknowledge your teen's mature interests. Look for ways to acknowledge the emerging adult in your teens by suggesting some appropriate adult reading.

Make sure your teen has regular transportation to the library, and of course has a library card. Keep up to date with your library's program offerings for teens—there may be a great event, book club, blog, or other services that will really engage your teen. And enroll your teen in your library's Summer Reading Program!

Listen to audiobooks when traveling by car. Choose titles together, or let each member of the family take turns selecting a title.

Provide a quiet space for reading in your home and set aside time each day for everyone to read.

Keep the big picture in mind. For many reasons, some teenagers go through periods without showing much interest in reading. Don't panic! Time, and a few of these tips, may help rekindle their interest.

And a few things for parents NOT to do:

Pressure, nag, or bribe your teen to read. Encourage teens to read, but don't force them.

Criticize what teens read. Forbid as little as possible. And whenever you can, accept differences of opinion as just that.

Lavish too much praise or give incentives for reading. If you catch your teenagers reading, show interest, but don't make a big deal out of it. Teens need to know that they're reading for their own pleasure—not for your approval.