



YS NEWS



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Colorado State Library

Focus: Tween Scene, *part 2*

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 second article in the Tween Scene series—research on learning and reading development for children ages 10–12 and how libraries can best serve them and their parents—will discuss how parents can continue to help their tweens improve their reading.

Parental Involvement ⇒ Tween Reading Improvement & Motivation

As children get older and enter middle school, most are reading fluently, have ever-increasing vocabularies, and must read fiction and nonfiction in school regularly. So, a parent may think, they're doing pretty well with their reading and they have great teachers, so maybe they can pull back from being so involved in their reading from now on.

There are still many critical reasons for parents to continue to be actively involved

in their middle schoolers' reading, and many methods for doing so.

Why stay involved?

- [Research shows](#) that many children read less for pleasure as they get older, especially boys. These older children are spending more time with friends, and some, particularly those boys, value reading less than they used to. Parents of middle schoolers can help motivate children to read, find reading materials that will engage them, and instill a lifelong love of reading.
- This is an important time for children to continue to build vocabulary and reading comprehension skills as they read more difficult material in school. Involved parents can help with this transition as well as watch for signs of reading struggles, motivate their kids to read for pleasure, and maintain high standards for their children.

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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...as parents, we have to find the time and the energy to step in and help our children love reading. We can read to them, talk to them about what they're reading, and make time for this by turning off the television set ourselves. Libraries are a critical tool to help parents do this.

--Then--senator Barack Obama

Please see *Tween Scene* on page 8

2013 SRP: News & Ideas

CO Teen Video Contest

We held a Teen Video Contest in CO to encourage teens to produce videos that promote SRP for other teens. We had 21 entries—a great showing for the contest's first year! We'll announce the winner and runners up in March—stay tuned!



Teen SRP Website Launched

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) is launching the [2013 Teen Summer Reading Programs website](#). As the hub for teen summer reading and summer learning, the Ning site offers a place to share ideas and brainstorm with fellow teen services librarians and library workers. The website will be updated throughout the spring and summer and a great.

New 2013 SRP Pinterest Board

This [Pinterest board](#) is by the Children's and Early Literacy Manual Committees of the Collaborative Summer Library Program.

Colorado Experience TV Series



Tune in to Colorado Experience, a 13-part television series produced by Rocky Mountain PBS and

History Colorado dedicated to preserving the people, events, and places that have shaped Colorado. Several segments are on history topics directly related to the 2013 SRP theme of underground, including the Ludlow massacre, Bent's Fort, and the original Coloradans. [Click here](#) for details and series schedule.

One Book 4 CO 2013

The Title Revealed!!

In case you missed the webinars, the title of the book that we'll give to 4 year olds is:



Duck on a Bike by David Shannon!

There are many fun programming ideas around this book; you'll find out some in the webinar. Some that were mentioned include:

- Animal noise apps: there are many, but include:
 - [Musical Flash Cards](#)
 - [I Hear Ewe](#)
 - [AudioZoo](#)
- Websites featuring sounds animals make in other languages; again there are many but include:
 - [Hear What? Animal Sounds in Other Languages](#)
 - [Bow Wow Meow – Animal Sounds in Different Languages](#) (video)

OB4C Webinar Archive

If you missed the recent OB4C webinars, catch an archived one [at your convenience here](#) (the actual content starts at about 2:48; technical difficulties have prevented us from editing the video). The slides are also available, on the [OB4C PR Toolkit](#).

Girls Scouts of Colorado

The Girl Scouts of Colorado are very interested in partnering with libraries and clinics around the state to help with OB4CO. This could involve anything from having assistance unpacking and sorting books to handing out books or early literacy materials, doing crafts and story time activities, or providing other programming

support. (This could also be an excellent resource for your summer reading programs and as a continuing community partnership.) If you are interested in contacting your local Scouts, please contact [Cortney Healy](#) or email [Ashley Conatser](#) at the State Library with questions or ideas.

Migrant Education Program (MEP)

[MEP](#), a program in the CO Department of Education, will be involved in OB4C this year. The statewide program works to reach migrant families and give and lend them educational resources. We are pleased to have the program distributing about 200 books this year to 4 year olds in this hard to reach population.

Book Nook

Colorado Blue Spruce Awards Announced!

[The Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award](#) recognizes the most popular books among middle and high school students in the State of Colorado. Teens nominate their favorite titles and select the winner – adults do not vote.



And the 2013 winner is....

The Lost Hero by Rick Riordan!

- Second Place: *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyle
- Third Place: *Matched* by Ally Condie

[Two presentations](#) were made at the recent CCIRA (CO Council for the International Reading Association) conference on the Blue Spruce 2014 Award nominees. [The 2014 nominated titles](#) have been posted, and voting will close in mid-January 2014. But there's no time like the present to start pushing these titles and your tweens and teens to get reading! [The 2014 ballot](#) is already available.

Timely Tidbits

Reforma CO Conference

Reforma Colorado is hosting Cuentos: a mini-conference!

Date: Thursday, March 21, 1:00–5:00 pm

Cost: \$10 for in person attendance, \$5 for virtual attendance

Location: Denver Public Library Central Branch, B2 Conference Center, 10 W. Fourteenth Ave

Program Sessions:

- Language Acquisition and Cultural Connection
- The Program for Migratory Children and Youth in Colorado
- Play Write Edit Repeat: Make Great Lesson Plans for Instruction in Any Language



[Register here today!](#) Questions about the conference or registration? Let us know at reformacolorado@gmail.com.

2013 LSTA Grants

The goal for next year's LSTA grants has been selected! Do you have a project idea that will provide library services to people with disabilities, ethnic populations, institutional residents and those underserved by libraries? If so we encourage you to apply! We will distribute at least \$250,000 to libraries throughout Colorado. The grant application will be posted at www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LSTA/ by May 3.

CLiC Spring Workshops

The CLiC Spring Workshops are just around the corner! If you're able to attend the workshops in Grand Junction, Pueblo or Fort Morgan, there are many great youth and teen sessions to attend! [Check out](#) the schedule and registration info.

Congratulations to CATS!

The Children and Teen Special Interest Group (CATSIG) of the CO Association of Libraries (CAL) just became a full division of CAL! It lost a few letters along the way—it's now officially CATS (Children and Teen Services Division). CAL members can join anytime at the [new CAL website](#). And check out this month's extensive series on gaming in libraries in the [CATS blog](#) by Hillary Dodge of Clearview Library District.

Apps in Storytime

Andrea Cleland at the Clearview Library District noted a recent excellent discussion on the [PUBYAC listserv](#) about using apps in storytimes. She contributes these great resources on the topic that cover pros and cons:

- [KidTech: Early Literacy & The Evolving Role of the Librarian in Today's Digital Media Landscape](#), blog post
- [Little eLit: Early Literacy in the Digital Age](#), an entire website devoted to the topic
- [Media Use by Children Younger than 2 Years](#), a recent article in the journal *Pediatrics*

Early Literacy Programming in the Digital Age Webinar

Explore the previous topic in more depth during this PLA webinar on April 17 from noon–1:00 MST. The webinar will explore mobile apps and e-books for children and learn practical techniques for integrating these tools into traditional early literacy programming. Fee ranges from \$28 to \$35 depending on PLA and ALA membership status. [Click here](#) to register and learn more.

Celebrate Science and Women's History Month

NASA science education partners are celebrating [National Women's History Month](#) in March with the *NASA Science4Girls and Their Families* initiative. The theme for this year's celebration is

“Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.” Contact us before March 15 to partner with NASA science education programs that are hosting webinars this spring to support participating libraries in offering this programming in 2013 and 2014. Please visit the [support for libraries page](#) to learn how you can participate.

Girls in IT: The Facts Infographic and Report

On a similar note, [this infographic shows](#) that girls are not nearly as engaged as boys are in computer science. [The full report](#) is also available.

Repackage, Rebrand, Relaunch: Making Old Programs Look Like New

How can we attract new faces to our regularly scheduled programs? It is all about the packaging! Check out [this article](#) to learn more.

Moving the Classroom Outdoors

[This CO Public Radio piece](#) outlines a new state environmental education plan with the goal to expose a lot more kids to the outdoors and the lessons they can teach. Find out [more about the plan here](#).



Prison and Libraries: Public Service Inside and Out

[This Library Journal article](#) details the growing realization that public, prison, and jail libraries can better identify and serve the needs of inmates or those prisoners who are returning to their communities. Not only are some libraries providing books, they are providing innovative

programs and services, helping inmates and returnees to learn about work and employment opportunities, the arts, and to develop job-seeking skills. It features CO's own Institutional Library Development program.

Everyday Book Club Features Kids Books

[This TV feature](#) highlights 2 books on CO through great interviews with Kitty Migaki, author of *Alphabet Denver*, and Megan Ellis from the Aurora Public Library.

Education gender gap now favors girls

The [gender gap in education](#) is not what it used to be. Girls are now more likely to get into college and graduate than boys, and new research shows the gap may start as early as kindergarten.

School and Public Libraries and Expanded Learning Opportunities

[This article](#) explores the important role that school and public libraries play in empowering student learning and voices through expanded learning opportunities after school and during the summer.

Join in a Facebook Forum with author John Rocco

John Rocco will participate in the 75th Caldecott Facebook Forum at 11:00 am MST on Wednesday, March 6th. Rocco won a Caldecott Honor in 2012 for "Blackout." For more information on how to attend this free Facebook Forum, please visit the [Caldecott 75th Anniversary page](#).

Ebook Resources for Children

Looking for resources on ebooks and digital content for kids? Check out resources from a presentation at the 2013 ALA Midwinter Meeting. You'll also find a PDF list of resources from the ALSC Children & Technology Committee. They're located in the [Professional Tools section](#) of the

ALSC website under Ebooks and digital content

Online Content and Games Boost Math Learning



A new study has found that engaging low-income parents and their preschool children with PBS KIDS content and games boosts math learning and helps prepare children for entry into kindergarten. [Click here](#) to read this and studies on other PBS shows.

PBS LearningMedia

[PBS LearningMedia](#) is a powerful new on-demand media service developed especially for PreK-12 educators. It provides instant access to thousands of classroom-ready, curriculum-targeted interactive games, videos, images, and audio clips from PBS and public media partners. Use PBS LearningMedia to enhance your activities with interviews, historic images and videos. Best of all, it's free!

Summer Bootcamp for STEM Educators

US Air Force Academy teams with the Colorado Consortium for Earth and Space Science Education and other Federal agencies and national organizations to bring to teachers in Colorado top-quality STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) [training programs](#) from around the country. Two separate offerings of three-day sessions for elementary, middle, and high school educators. Choose one: July 11-13, 2012 or July 16-18, 2012; Time: 8:30AM to 4:30PM. US Air Force Academy, CO Springs

Colorado Collaborative for Girls in STEM: The 411 on STEM Education Partnerships and Funding

Lakewood, CO
March 7, 2013; 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Participants will focus on developing and

sustaining effective partnerships, and working together to secure funding. Several cross-sector partnerships will share their experiences. Interactive networking activities will help you identify potential partners for your organization. The forum will conclude with a workshop that will provide participants with the information needed to apply for a STEM mini-grant. An optional tour of the USGS rock and ice core labs will take place from 1:00–2:00 PM. [Click here](#) to register.

Students Must Learn More Words

Children who enter kindergarten with a small vocabulary don't get taught enough words—particularly, sophisticated academic words—in kindergarten to close the gap, according to the latest in a [series of studies](#).

Teen Tech Squads

Some libraries across the country are offering Teen Tech Squads to help patrons with computer and device questions; some even help fix patrons' computers. These libraries have found that the approach saves staff time and gives patrons more one-on-one tech help time. Check out [this video interview](#) about one program, and [this Overdrive tutorial](#) that a different Teen Tech Squad created for their library's website.

Ten facts about K–12 students' technology use

The nonprofit [Project Tomorrow](#) has released these [highlights of 10 facts](#) from its annual Speak Up survey of students' and parents' technology use, as well as their attitudes and opinions about educational tech. They include:

- 38% of students say that they regularly use Facebook to collaborate with classmates on school projects.
- 29% say they've used an online video to help them with their homework.
- Three-fourths of students in kindergarten through 2nd grade are using computers and

mobile devices to play educational games on a regular basis.

Colorado ranks in top 10 for scores on Advanced Placement Exams

The annual AP Report to the Nation, released by the College Board, reports that [Colorado ranks ninth](#) in the nation for the percentage of the class of 2012 students scoring a three or higher on Advanced Placement (AP) exams. AP exam scores are reported on a five-point scale. Students receiving a three or higher earn a qualifying score to apply course work for college credit.

News from YALSA

- YALSA is offering 2 spring webinars:
March 21: [Low-Stress Strategies for the After-School Crowd](#)
April 18: [Easy-to-Implement Teen Programs](#)
Both are from 12:00–1:00 MST. Fees vary depending on membership and student status
- Virtual Town Hall on Libraries & Teens
March 19, 12:00–1:00, www.ala.org/yaforum
This is the first of 3 Virtual Town Halls that are part of YALSA's year-long National Forum on Libraries & Teens.
- March 10 – 16 is [Teen Tech Week](#), with the theme "Check In @ your library"

Connected Learning and Teens

A recent report, "Connected Learning: an Agenda for Research and Design," discusses connected learning, which happens when a young person is able to pursue a personal interest with the support of friends and caring adults, and is in turn able to link this learning and interest to academic achievement, career success or civic engagement. Libraries provide connected learning opportunities every day! Use this report to help administrators, potential partners and funders understand the work you do and why it's so important. [Access the full report](#).

CO Libraries in the Press

Lavenia McCoy Public Library Expansion

[The Lavenia McCoy Public library in Bayfield](#)

celebrated a re-opening after an addition of 4,000 sq feet, including a bright and friendly new children's area.

Vail Public Library Remodel Complete

[The Vail Public Library](#) celebrated a major remodeling, complete new murals in the children's area and new programming for children and adults.

Sterling Public Library: 1,000 Books and Fancy Nancy

The Sterling Public Library wants parents to know it's never too early to start reading to their child, so it's starting a [1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program](#).

The library also recently hosted a [Fancy Nancy party](#), featuring cupcakes and kids all dressed up, having fun.

Storytimes for Special Needs Kids at Longmont Public Library

To help increase access to its library services, the [Longmont Public Library](#) has added Sensory Storytimes and special access browsing for special needs kids and their families in the Children and Teens Services area.

Engineering in Broomfield

The Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library recently hosted [a hands-on lab](#) in which kids explored the basics of building live circuits with transistors, resistors and capacitors. As part of the library's focused science programming, the class aimed to introduce children to the world of engineering and inspire kids to take initiative when learning about science topics.

The library's [brick campaign](#), with funds going in part to teen programs, was also featured in the press this month.

Boulder Public Library seeks public input on renovation

Boulder library officials [want to hear from the public](#) as they begin the design process for a major renovation of the main branch. Those ideas will be incorporated into the plans for the renovation, which includes a redesign and remodel of the children's and teen areas.

SweetNight Fundraiser supports Loveland Public Library's SRP

The Friends of the Loveland Public Library hosted [a 3-hour gala](#) with live swing music, desserts, and a silent auction; the proceeds will benefit the library's SRP.

Cortez Public Library on the Radio

Starting in March, the Cortez Public Library will offer [half hour storytime program](#) on a local radio station. The library encourages listeners to request stories they would like to hear.

Upcoming Grant Opportunity

[YALSA's Books for Teens Program](#)

Deadline: applications can be submitted year round

Books for Teens' mission is to empower the nation's at-risk teens to achieve more by providing them with free high quality, new, age-appropriate books. Funds raised through Books for Teens will be distributed to institutions in communities with a high level of poverty, where librarians and library workers will purchase and distribute new books, encourage teens to get library cards and provide teens with reading-focused events and activities. The amount of the financial award may vary based on donations received, but are expected to be in the range of \$500 to \$1,000.

Tween Scene *cont.*

- In middle school, children are busier than ever, just as their school work is getting more demanding with separate classes and multiple teachers. It can be challenging for tweens to keep up with it all. Parents can help their middle schoolers stay organized and keep up with classwork.
- No matter what the family income or background, [parents that are highly involved](#) at their child's school tend to have children with higher grades and test scores, that are more likely to graduate, and that have better social skills.
- Having students of all ages read during the summer [has been shown](#) to have a significant benefit on their long term academic success. Parents that encourage and facilitate their middle schoolers reading over the summer and participation in library summer reading programs can have a crucial impact on their child's reading and learning success.

How can parents stay involved?

Here are some tips for parents:

- Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read. Keep books, magazines, and e-readers readily available.
- Help your child see that reading is important. Set a good example for your child by reading books, newspapers, and magazines. Talk about what you are reading.
- Show an interest in what your child is reading, both for school and pleasure. When appropriate, read the same book at the same time and discuss it as you both progress.
- Visit public libraries regularly to find materials for leisure reading for both of you. Encourage your child to also visit her school library.
- Let your child know that sometimes adults have "homework" too and that your own work involves reading and writing every day (i.e. reading reports and charts, doing performance appraisals, taking meeting minutes, etc.). This will allow your child to see the connection of reading to real life.
- Take reading materials with you to shared outings. Encourage your child to read while riding in the car, waiting at the doctor's office, passing time between activities.
- Read aloud to your child, especially if he's struggling with reading, or just having trouble with a particular passage. It's also a great opportunity to discuss what you're reading.
- If you have younger children, encourage your middle schooler to read aloud to them.
- Sometimes reluctant tween readers just haven't found reading material that really grabs their interest, so they may find reading boring. So, encourage your child to explore a wide range of reading material, in a range of formats: fiction of all genres, nonfiction, graphic novels, magazines, e-zines, audiobooks, e-books, blogs—it's often hard to tell what will spark a positive reaction to reading (of course public and school libraries are a great place to do this!). [A recent study](#) found that reading improved in tween boys when they read on

- an e-reader for the first time (girls in the study, however, preferred print books).
- Connect with teachers and get involved at school. Attend parent nights and, if your child seems to be struggling with reading or subject matter, arrange a meeting with a teacher or two. Ask teachers what study skills and reading strategies they are teaching, and how you can reinforce them at home.
 - Many middle schools have extracurricular activities and special events that promote reading and literacy and that welcome parent involvement, such as working on a year book or school newspaper. Find out what's available, and encourage your child to join one that suits his interests, and volunteer for a reading event or service yourself if you're able.
 - [Talk to your child about school](#). Ask specific questions to start a conversation. Don't push for information if your child is reluctant to talk about a problem. This is an age when children may become more resistant to parental involvement. Although it's a difficult balance, it's important to respect your tween's growing desire for autonomy and solving problems on his own while being available to help when needed.
 - Use social media to help motivate your tween to read more. Sites like [GuysRead](#), [Bookwink](#), [ReaderGirlz](#), [Teen Ink](#), [Goodreads](#), publisher and author websites like [Random Buzzers](#), and interactive fiction sites like [The Amanda Project](#) are great for hooking some tweens into the reading scene with their peers and getting some excellent book recommendations. Watch out—these sites can be addictive!
 - Encourage teens to share their thoughts on specific books with their peers. Some public library and school blogs have a space for tween book recommendations; some will put brief book reviews from tween patrons with the books in a display.
 - Similarly, ask your child's friends what they are reading for fun. Suggest they exchange books with your child.
 - Book clubs for tweens, through school, a public library or a community or homeschool group, can be another great source for interaction that may really attract some tweens to reading. Look for parent-child book clubs, too!
 - Encourage reading over the summer and get your middle schooler signed up for the SRP at your local library. When possible, connect your summertime family activities with reading materials, and vice versa.
 - Encourage your child to volunteer at your public library in a fun literacy activity, such as reading to younger children or helping with a read to the dogs program.

