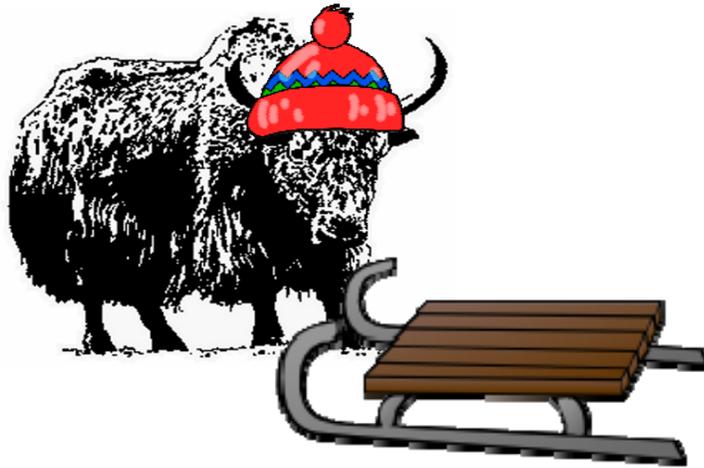


# YAACING

The Newsletter of the Young Adult & Children's Services Section of BCLA  
Winter 2011



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## Message from the Chair

Brrrr... Anyone want to read *Bear Snores On* with me and have a nap?

You may have heard that BCLA is losing its fabulous Executive Director, Errin Morrison, due to the fact that she has resigned and is expecting her third child (just thinking about that is making me more tired... Hot chocolate should do it!). We have all been lucky to have Errin doing such great work advocating for the interests of BC libraries –and she’s done everything in just 3 days a week, too! The successful candidate for the Executive Director position will be announced shortly.

Another new rep for YAACS: Julianne Mutimer of Surrey Public Library now acts as our LTAIG Rep and has jumped into the association with both feet. Welcome to Julianne!

Vice Chair Tara Williston is a busy woman right now! She is wading through everyone’s conference proposals, including some great children’s and youth sessions submitted by you! On a budget? Keep in mind that you can volunteer at the conference to keep your expenses low either as a speaker or an attendee (one half day of service = one half day of free conference attendance).

Also premiering at the 2012 conference is our YAACS Award for outstanding children’s and youth library worker. We now have a committee to figure out all of the criteria and I’m sure you can all think of someone worthy of nomination in the New Year.

And in case you were trying to become the kind of person who gets nominated for prestigious awards, you will be glad to know that a BCLA mentorship program is in development to help you along on your career path. The new mentorship program is inspired by LTAIG’s own mentorship program and is set to launch for the 2012 conference.

Did you miss our first webinar, *Redefining Reluctant Readers* with Jeanine Lillian? Don’t worry as there will be more where that came from.

Thanks to everyone for keeping April and Pam busy with their wonderful submissions to YAACING – keep up the awesome work! I’m also looking forward to another *Vintage YAACING* feature!

- Darby Love  
YAACS Chair  
[darbynil@gmail.com](mailto:darbynil@gmail.com)

## Message from the Editors

It is the time of year when sleet and hail pound on our windows, as we lie curled beneath our blankets. But on those nights when you are awakened by the natural elements, feel not alone because fellow YAACers are thinking, creating, reviewing and writing about their experiences in and around the library. Look out in this edition for Amy Dawley’s ever-informative teen column with which many of us can commiserate. Thank you for your honesty and for opening the dialogue on the difficulties you encounter while programming for teens. We are pleased to be publishing Robert Bittner’s annotated bibliography on “*Censorship and Picturebooks*” in anticipation of Freedom to Read Week (February 26 – March 3, 2012). Also, Look out for the ever-popular “*Vintage YAACING*” and “*Who’s on the Felt Board?*” columns.

This blustery fall Pam had the pleasure of attending two enticing extra-curricular library events. The wondrous storytime signing workshop, facilitated by Sharon Cooper, will be brought back in the new year by YAACS’ Lower Mainland Continuing Education Coordinator Chris Conroy, so read all about it on page 2!

Pam also had the pleasure of attending the annual Vancouver Children’s Literature Roundtable’s boisterous Fall Breakfast, where Jo Ellen Bogart and Barbara Reid were celebrated. They shared with their keen audience the passion and humor involved in the creative adventure of illustrating and writing for children.

It is time to turn the page over to the rapidly approaching holiday season.

“Now Dasher, Now Dancer, Now Donner Now Blitzen...!”

Can you believe it is only a few weeks away?

- April Ens and Pamela Fairfield  
YAACING Editors  
[yaacing@gmail.com](mailto:yaacing@gmail.com)



## Continuing Education Update: Signing Storytime Workshop

On a blustery November 2<sup>nd</sup> 25 library folks gathered at the new Surrey Centre Library for the Signing Storytime Workshop. Facilitator Sharon Cooper quickly had us signing and following along with her, while she told us about herself and what we would be doing. Sharon has over 30 years experience working with children and families, and it showed. It was a great workshop!

Sharon is energetic and approachable in her style. We covered a lot of ground; yet participants weren't overwhelmed. At one point I remember thinking to myself, "How will I remember everything we're doing today?" But Sharon continuously circled back to words and phrases so that we would remember things later on. Not to mention that she had prepared a series of handouts for us to take home with the signing alphabet, numbers, pictures, and even stories.

At one point we were all standing in a semicircle signing and singing the things we loved. It was a wonderfully impromptu moment that served to illustrate how we can remember and incorporate certain signs in our storytimes.

YAACS hopes to organize another Signing Storytime Workshop early in 2012. It's not just me who highly recommends it. Everyone who attended found it to be an enriching experience and a great resource to use in their storytimes. And...it was loads of fun!

- Chris Conroy  
YAACS Continuing Education Coordinator  
(Lower Mainland)

## Red Cedar Update

The new websites for the 2011/2012 season of the Red Cedar Book Awards [www.redcedaraward.ca](http://www.redcedaraward.ca) and the Stellar Book Awards [www.stellaraward.ca](http://www.stellaraward.ca) are now up and ready to be used. Please remember to register your Red Cedar group for this season if you haven't done so already. All group leaders need to create a new account; even if you had an account last year, you'll need to register for a new one.

The Red Cedar Award is B.C.'s very own Young Readers' Choice book award. Between November and April, students in grades 4-7 read and review at least five nominees and vote for their favourite in April. Winners are announced in May.

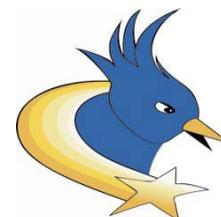
The Stellar Award is B.C.'s teen readers' choice award. This program is run completely online and teens can register themselves directly via the website. From November to April, teens read, rank, review and discuss the nominated titles; voting for a favourite happens in April.

There are two Red Cedar PDF posters available: one for the fiction nominees and one for the information book nominees. The link to the PDF is located on the BOOKCASE page in the upper left hand corner, or you can click on the following link [http://www.redcedaraward.ca/Red\\_Cedar\\_2011.pdf](http://www.redcedaraward.ca/Red_Cedar_2011.pdf).

A PDF version of the Stellar nominees is also available on the homepage of the Stellar website. Near the bottom this page, click on the link to download this year's poster, or click on this link [http://www.stellaraward.ca/2012/Stellar\\_2011.pdf](http://www.stellaraward.ca/2012/Stellar_2011.pdf)

Check out the websites for further details. And, let the reading begin!

- Noreen Ma  
Red Cedar Secretary/BCLA YAACS Liaison



## Strange But True SRC 2012!

Next summer, kids throughout the province will devour facts and fiction about all things surprising, puzzling, wonderful, and weird. The theme is “**Strange But True!**” - a terrific vehicle for promoting non-fiction that also opens the door to all manner of amazing stories.

We've created seven weekly themes to illustrate the scope of the overall theme and to inspire your programs, events, displays, and contests:

- **Wild wild life** | Weird creatures and extreme environments
- **Biggest, fastest, first** | World records and incredible feats
- **It came from outer space** | Space exploration, astronomy, alien life, and sci-fi
- **Weird science** | Strange physics, cool chemistry, and crazy inventions
- **True story!** Surprising history, amazing biography, and remarkable real-life kids
- **Trick or truth?** | Magic tricks, illusions, hoaxes, and mysteries
- **You don't scare me** | Monsters and the unexplained

The art is coming along really well. The poster has a cool new format – long and skinny so it will fit on pillars, stack ends, etc. And the innovative reading record features a short comic strip where kids can fill in the captions themselves.

By the time you read this article, you will already be able to see “hot off the press” drafts of the art, illustrator information, and more on the **SRC 2012 librarians' website** at <http://kidssrc.bclibrary.ca/>. Visit this site often, as the **2012 SRC librarians' manual**, full of book lists and program ideas, will appear there in February grow over the late winter months.

The **SRC 2012 kids' website** will launch early in June 2012 and feature recommended reads, quizzes, colouring pages, and more, at <http://www.kidssrc.ca/>.

Strange but (we're thrilled to say) true: **Mike Deas is the SRC 2012 artist.**

A native of Saltspring Island, Mike studied animation in North Vancouver before work in the video game industry took him to England and California. He now lives and works in Victoria. He's the author and illustrator of the weird-and-wonderful graphic novel *Dale and Golen: Scandal in Port Angus*. He illustrated Orca's Graphic Guide Adventures series, written by Liam O'Donnell, as well as *Adventures at Camp-Lots-o-Fun*, written by Marilyn Helmer. We envy kids who are members of Greater Victoria Public Library, for whom Mike created the multitasking purple octopus that appears on GVPL's children's library card. See Mike's work at <http://deasnutz.com/blog/>.

Summer Reading Club is sponsored by the British Columbia Library Association and local public libraries, with funding assistance from Libraries and Literacy, Ministry of Education, George Abbott, Minister.

The BC Summer Reading Club Committee includes Els Kushner, BC SRC Coordinator; Randi Robin, Chair; and Hilary Russell, Past Chair.

We salute all those coordinating the development of materials for the 2012 manual: Allison Knights of Burnaby Public Library, Anne Martin of Vancouver Public Library, Susan McCowan of Thompson Nicola Regional District Library, Randi Robin of North Vancouver City Library, Hilary Russell of Fraser Valley Regional Library, and Genevieve Valteau of Richmond Public Library. We applaud illustrator Mike Deas and graphic designer Roger Handling for their creative brilliance, and Neil Firkin and Jeannette Duguay (Jentekk Web Solutions) for working web wonders. Our special thanks for assistance go to Jacqueline van Dyk, Director, Libraries and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

**Questions or comments?** We'd like to hear from you!

- *Randi Robin, SRC Committee Chair*  
[rrobin@cnv.org](mailto:rrobin@cnv.org), and

- *Els Kushner, SRC Coordinator*  
new email address: [bcsrc@bclibrary.ca](mailto:bcsrc@bclibrary.ca)



## Swan Song for TeenRC

As you may already know, this past month, I helped to conduct a survey for teen librarians to express their thoughts about the TeenRC program. The future of the program will still be determined within the next month or so, with further conferral between Public Library InterLINK and the TeenRC member libraries it serves. Regardless of how that plays out, however, my role as student coordinator and moderator of the site will end with my graduation from SLAIS. That means, sadly, that the TeenRC website will be suspended until further notice on **Friday, Dec. 9th, 2011**.

Thank you so much for all of your support for this program since I began helping out with it back in mid-May. I just wanted to say that it has been a pleasure working in partnership with you on TeenRC, and that your libraries have amazing, talented teens who have enriched the program, and surely will continue to keep you on your toes with their curiosity and their endless potential.

Here are some of the highlights of TeenRC this year:

-Three live author chats with John Wilson, Pam Withers, and Sarah Ellis.

-Fantastic teen authors donated books and answered teens' questions on the TeenRC blog. The authors included wonderful BC wordsmiths such as James McCann, Susan Juby, Shelley Hrdlitschka, Eileen Cook, and Wendy Phillips, as well as a UK author (Philip Reeve) and US authors, such as Gene Yang, Chris Crutcher, and M.T. Anderson.

-A readers' choice short fiction competition took place over the summer.

-We gave away two Kobo Touch e-Readers to a BC and non-BC teen

-We awarded six Chapters gift cards as prizes throughout the summer.

-TeenRC distributed over 80 teen books donated by Canadian publishers to teens who'd answered a user survey, and many TeenRC branded prizes to the rest when the books ran out!

-A postcard story competition (micro-fiction!) with the winner to be announced in early December.

-Five TeenRC mystery chats took place over the fall, and six over the summer, attended by astute teens with great powers of detection.

-Finally, the connections over books, creative writing, and the support and insight (and good humour) amongst the teens on the forums was a joy to behold.

Perhaps not surprisingly, I think I ended up learning more from the teens more than I can ever say. Keep up the amazing work you do with your library's teens, and thanks for letting me a small part of that over the past seven months.

- *Ellen Wu*  
*Signing off as TeenRC Coordinator*

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## YAACS Outstanding Librarian Award

A committee has been formed in response to Susan Redmond's call-out in the Fall issue of YAACING. Over the winter we will be drafting up criteria and nomination forms for a new YAACS award for an outstanding children's or teen services librarian or library technician.

Stay tuned, and start thinking about which of your fantastic colleagues you'll be nominating.

- *Alicia Cheng, April Ens, Darby Love, and Barbara Jo May*  
*YAACS Award Committee*



## Teens Only

### Teen Services Fail, or, How I Realized I Wasn't The Only One

By Amy Dawley

January 2012 will mark the start of Year 4 for me as teen librarian here in Prince George. During this time, I've seen the ups of my programs and services, and I've seen the downs. But I wouldn't say I've seen any failures... until now. This, my faithful library colleagues, is the tale of a Teen Services Fail.

In library school I had studied programs and services for youth and I remember vaguely how my professors would talk about "trends" in library programming and services, and how some programs will be super popular for a while and then will quite suddenly drop off. It wasn't until very recently that I actually got to experience this first hand. Starting a position from scratch is both incredibly freeing while at the same time extremely stressful. On the one hand, I didn't have to follow in anybody else's footsteps—the ideas I had for constructing the suite of teen services and programs in Prince George were brand new and were exciting and fresh to its population. On the other hand—I succeeded and failed all on my own. I am a one woman teen programming show and if I offered a program that flopped it was basically my fault (okay, it's a little more complicated than that, but you get the general picture).

At the end of all these successes and flops, however, was the comforting knowledge that yes, there was a general upward trend happening with my programs. I started out very small in early 2009, with a smattering of teens faithfully attending my programs, and over time it snowballed—more and more teens started showing up to programs. Even if every so often I offered a program that ended up flopping, I could always stay positive at the end of the day by knowing that I was building upward toward that shiny teen services goal: swarms of teens in the library laughing, visiting, reading, and engaging with each other and with us.

And then it happened. Numbers started dropping off. Teens stopped attending my programs. My solid, faithful, go-to programs that I had depended on for almost three years were suddenly sputtering, sad, exhausted versions of their old selves. In hindsight, part of me realizes now that I should've seen this coming—and in a way I kind of did, but I was too busy wilfully ignoring it or making up excuses as to why it would be: "Oh, it was bad weather / hockey game on / fair was in town / nice weather / etc.!" My first reaction was determination: I had seen numbers drop before (albeit on a smaller scale) and would ride

the storm—they would return. Next, I felt doubtful (what am I doing wrong?) followed closely by dread and then outright panic, defeat, and ultimately humiliation. Here I am, a librarian who was once so happy and proud that teen programs and services took off in such a big way in Prince George, now a dismal teen programming failure. Government documents, here I come (to all you gov. doc. librarians out there—my love, admiration, and eternal gratitude for the fine, excellent work you do).

For weeks I moped in and out of the library, inwardly declaring myself: The Worst Teen Librarian EVER! Crazy thoughts ran through my head: "Every *other* library has *awesome* teen programs and they manage to keep them running. *Why can't I?*" "I can't *believe* I went to *school* for this. *What was I thinking?*" "How did I ever manage to convince myself I was actually *good* at my job?! I'm such an *idiot*." Those were dark days. It wasn't until I shared my mopey-ness with my stalwart, dependable, and life-saving colleagues that I had the faintest glimmer of hope that perhaps it wasn't just me. After talking me down from the government documents ledge, they encouraged me to seek the help and advice from other teen librarians who had been at it longer than I had. "Just look and see what's out there," they said. And I did.

Turns out, my lovely youth services friends, that the phenomena I have just described is in fact a documented truth in teen librarianship. The cause? Three simple words: they grow up. The teens I had connected with all those years ago were now getting boyfriends/girlfriends, cars, jobs, etc. and simply did not have time to attend my carefully planned and delivered teen events. Their hobbies, activities, and interests had grown up with them, and I was the one left out in the cold wondering what happened. I found a lengthy thread on one of the Young Adult Library Services Association's YA list serves, where librarians from all over the United States shared stories about their own experiences as youth librarians needing to not only revitalize their services, but themselves. In general, they all agreed that one of the most challenging—and yet most enjoyable—parts of being a teen librarian was that you constantly have to change what you do and how you do it to reach that next generation of teen users. Pre-schoolers are always going to be excited about *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Red is Best*, but teens are not always going to be so jazzed about *The Hunger Games* and *Twilight*.

Suddenly (and with great relief—there might've even been some tears), I realized that I wasn't The Worst Teen Librarian EVER and that many other professionals had experienced exactly what I am dealing with now... some even multiple times throughout their lengthy careers. As I write this article, all these feelings are still



pretty fresh. I am still experiencing the downward trend in program numbers, but I am trying to stay positive. With a little help from my colleagues near and far, I have armed myself with the knowledge that a) I am not a complete failure, and b) yes, I can do this! I am shaking up the status quo and challenging myself to coming up with an entire new set of teen programs for 2012, taking on those big scary programs that I've always wanted to try but have never had enough guts to actually do.

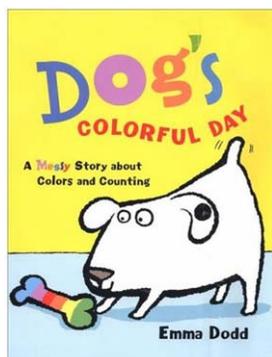
I'll let you know how it goes.

Do you have a failure story that you'd like to share? Want to commiserate with a gal who's been through it too? I'd love to hear about it and any other comments or questions you have about serving teens in your library. Drop me a line any time at [adawley@lib.pg.bc.ca](mailto:adawley@lib.pg.bc.ca).

*Amy Dawley is the Teen Librarian at the Prince George Public Library.*



## Who's on the Felt Board?



### Dog's Colorful Day: A Messy Story about Colors and Counting

Original Book by Emma Dodd  
Felt Pattern Available at:  
[http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/publishing/editions/webextras/macmillan09775/45\\_DogColorDay.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/publishing/editions/webextras/macmillan09775/45_DogColorDay.pdf)



If YAACING isn't meeting your felt story pattern fix, here's a fantastic link to many more wonderful stories. On the ALA website you can download and print dozens of felt stories from the book *Storytime Magic: 400 Fingerplays, Flannelboards, and Other Activities* by Kathy MacMillan and Christine Kirker  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/publishing/editions/webextras/macmillan09775/macmillan09775.cfm>

Dog's Colorful Day is a great story to tell to toddlers and preschoolers about a dog who stumbles into messy situations that leave him covered in coloured splotches.

The beautiful felt pictured on the right was made by Tess Prendergast from the Vancouver Public Library. I can't wait to make my own.

*April Ens is the Children's Librarian at the Kitsilano Branch of the Vancouver Public Library*



## Vintage YAACING

### Winter Stories and 1980s Humour

By April Ens

I've unearthed two gems from our newly-digitized (and hopefully soon-to-be-available) archives for round two of *Vintage YAACING*.

First, a piece published in November 1985 (Volume 2, Issue 1) written by the inimitable Bill Richardson, then a librarian with the Surrey Public Library.

For those who prefer practicality, I've also included a winter program by Joan Hanna of the Prince George

Public Library. Several of the books cited may be difficult to find, but copies are still floating around in some of our collections.

This submission may never have graced your mailboxes, as I found the original 1988 copy in the BCLA office, appearing as though it were ready to be sent to the printer. The numbering on the cover is inconsistent with the rest of the YAACING run and there is no record of an actual printing in the VPL bound copies that I consulted. I consider it the one mystery issue of YAACING.

*April Ens is the Children's Librarian at the Kitsilano Branch of the Vancouver Public Library*

### DINGY AND DRUDGERY

I am asked to speak with monotonous regularity at conferences, banquets and terribly chic parties about my ambitious and celebrated programmes aimed at luring Library Non-Users into the bibliothecal web. My accomplishments in this regard are so widely known that I need scarcely use up valuable column inches to document them here. However, you might be interested to learn that my book "Making Tracks", which chronicles my work in local opium dens, is soon to be made into a feature film. Most recently, the missionary position I have adopted towards hardened criminals has received national attention. Many have come to serve out their terms in the Lulu Cireur Room. This special collection, which houses North America's most extensive collection of works on the history of floor wax, has proved a fine alternative to solitary confinement. As well, convicts with special talents have been put to work recuperating long overdue volumes from delinquent borrowers. Why, often they have been able to retrieve them, even if the borrower was not at home. They have proved themselves most useful.

Nowhere in the social strata, however, have I found an ore more resistant to my drill than the young adult population. They are surely among the most challenging and recalcitrant group of Non-Users. I have devised many programmes aimed at breaking the headlock apathy seems to have on the pubescents among us. Some of these have been:

"Wake up little Suzie: Tips for sneaking into the house after curfew."

"Zap Zits with Zeal: Radical approaches to blemish removal."

"Sweet Dreams, Baby: Romance as a cure for insomnia."

"Hot wiring and other fun money making projects for young people."



However, by far the most successful bait has been the library's sponsoring of the fantasy role playing game Dingy and Drudgery, or D & D. D & D has swept the nation in recent years, spawning many spinoffs and ersatz imitations. It has also been at the centre of a raging controversy. In D & D, an appointed leader - the Drudgery Master - assigns the other participants roles to play. They interact with each other, following the Drudgery Master's directions, for the duration of the game. It is a complicated pastime, and an absorbing one. Some children apparently have found it too absorbing. Some, who evidently were fringe psychotics long before they started playing, have been unable to leave their roles behind at game's end. They let their fantasy take over their lives.

Take the case of the Q \_\_\_\_\_ family, who are launching a class action suit against the C \_\_\_\_\_ Public Library. Their child, and numberless others, they claim, became too wrapped up in his role as an accountant. His dementia was so extreme that he would only sleep in a polyester leisure suit, with a copy of the Canada Tax Guide under his pillow, and a pocket calculator between his knees. The only recreation he would consider, other than Dingy and Drudgery, was raquetball. His distressed mother said, in filing her complaint, "He's so boring. He used to rough up pensioners and slash bus seats. Now he only wants to stay up late into the night, locked in the bathroom with the ammortization tables."

Similarly distressing is the case of Joanne W. who, at the age of 13, abandoned her plans to become a concert bassoonist, and embraced her role as waitress. One of her neighbours told the press, "She's a real zombie. She wanders around the neighbourhood looking for ashtrays to empty, and coffee cups to fill up." Her parents have opposed her efforts to have her name changed legally to Denny.

There are other reports of teenagers who have become obsessed with the notion of becoming inventory clerks in screw factories, popsicle inspectors, photocopier repair people, macaroni and eese aficionados, and instructors at accordion studios.

Still, it must be stressed that these are the exceptions, rather than the rule. As one young man put it, "Hey! I can distinguish between fantasy and reality. Playing Dingy & Drudgery is just a kick for me. When I leave the library after a night of D & D, I don't go home and spin old Lawrence Welk platters. I mean, I do normal things. I play Russian roulette. And I work hard at school so I can achieve my greatest ambition. I'm gonna be the next King of Sweden."

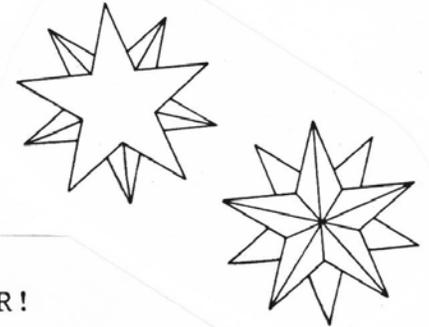
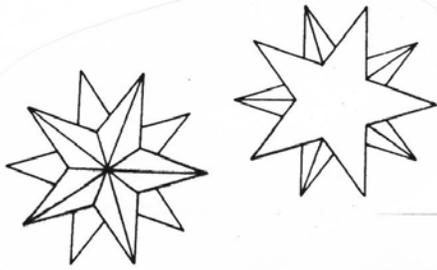
And so, I would encourage you all to try Dingy and Drudgery. It can turn a young non-user into a library fanatic fast.

- Bill Richardson

Surrey Public Library

Originally published in  
YAACING Volume 2, Issue 1:  
November 1985. Pages 3-4





### FAMILY STORYTIME CELEBRATES WINTER!

On Saturday, November 21, our monthly Family Storytime celebrated winter. (We don't wait until December 21 in Prince George.) Thirty-five children (aged 3 months to 9 years) and thirty parents joined in the festivities.

As the children entered the story castle, they each picked out a snowflake (made from a remnant of white lace). While we waited for others to come, we made our snowflakes dance to the music of Frank Mills.

Other winter stories and activities during this session included:

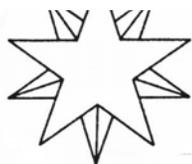
-Round Robin by Jack Kent- Told with a balloon puppet. The balloon was gradually blown up as Round Robin ate and ate and ate and the air let out as he went "Hippety hoppety boppety bump". Everyone helped Round Robin to hop by bouncing up and down.

- "Baby Birds"- A creative dramatic stretch.  
 All the baby birds are asleep in their nests  
 All the baby birds are having a rest  
 They do not even twitter, they do not even tweet  
 Everything is quiet up and down the street  
 Until along comes the mother bird to tap them on the head  
 Along comes the mother bird, and this is what she said,  
 Flap your wings, baby birds, and fly away  
 Flap your wings, baby birds, and fly away  
 Flap your wings and fly back to your nests to stay.

- "The Disappearing Snowperson"- A cut and tell story from Paper Stories by Jean Stangl. The audience joined in on the line, "Just like that".

- "Wolf's Snow Song"- An adaptation of "Coyote's Rain Song" in Twenty Tellable Tales by Margaret Read Macdonald. (We had a wolf puppet but no coyote puppet.) We all chanted Wolf's snow song together.



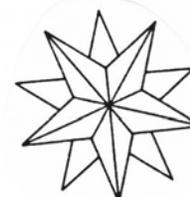
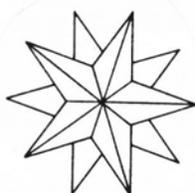


- "Snowflakes"- A creative dramatic stretch.

The snow is falling softly down  
It makes a carpet on the ground  
Then swish, the wind comes whistling by  
And sends those snowflakes dancing to the sky

Let's make a snowman with our snowflakes.

First the snowman's little, way down near the ground  
He keeps on getting taller 'til he's big and round  
Then the sun starts shining and begins to melt the snow  
Good bye little snowman, it's time for you to go



- "The Ice Puddle"- Based on The Rain Puddle by Adelaide Holl.  
(Winter had turned the rain puddle to ice.) The ice puddle was a door mirror on the floor at the front of the group. The children were given various animal stick puppets (made from construction paper and popsicle sticks) which they brought up to look into the ice puddle at the appropriate points in the story. It sounded like a real barnyard!

When Family Storytime was over, everyone took a stick puppet home to continue the celebration there.

*Joan Hanna  
Prince George  
Public Library*



Originally selected for a  
spring 1988 YAACING that  
may not have been published



## Censorship and Picture Books: An Annotated Bibliography of Frequently Challenged Titles for Children

By Robert Bittner

### Introduction and Definitions:

Many of these challenged materials were found using the *Books Banned and Challenged* resource by Robert P. Doyle<sup>1</sup> and published by the American Library Association. This resource is published yearly and lists the most challenged and banned books and publications along with the reason and location for each case. The majority of the texts I am reviewing have been challenged due to GLBT themes or same-sex relationships. Others have been challenged for sexual content, and in one case for colonialist/imperialist themes. The majority of these challenges were not upheld and the books have been allowed to circulate in most cases, at least within public library systems. Each text herein was chosen because it is intended for children and was banned or challenged at some point in the last decade for the reasons mentioned above. I believe the reasons for challenging each title are what make the books so important because children need to have access to materials that challenge the status quo and address issues that are sometimes uncommon or difficult to express while talking to a parent. Every one of these books is important and needs to be available to children. So without further ado, here are the titles:

**Allan, Nicholas. *Where Willy Went: The big story of a little sperm*. London: Hutchinson, 2004.**

This is an information book for children about the age old question of where babies come from. Willy is a little sperm who lives inside Mr. Browne and ends up inside Mrs. Browne, where he ends up fertilizing an egg. The subject matter itself has been enough to see the book challenged on a number of occasions, mostly challenges requesting it be removed from the children's section of a library. Personally, I feel the book is both tasteful and actually quite enjoyable. The illustrations are friendly and simple and are informative without being very explicit in their depictions of the human body. Willy is a cute little sperm who practices swimming and isn't very good at math, something that some children can actually relate to. There is great educational value in the book between the illustrations and text. Children can understand how they came to be without a lot of confusing terminology. As stated previously, this book has been challenged, and is therefore a resource that should be approached critically and with the knowledge

<sup>1</sup> Doyle, Robert P. *Books Banned and Challenged 2005-2010*. Chicago, IL: American Library Association, n.d. (PDFs published once per year)

that some parents will find the book inappropriate for their own children. When suggesting the use of this book for a child, parents should most likely be notified of the content that some find unsuitable.

**Brennan, Sarah. *Uncle Bobby's Wedding*. New York: Putnam, 2008.**

*Uncle Bobby's Wedding* is the story of a little girl named Chloe (illustrated by Brennan as an adorable little guinea pig) whose uncle Bobby is getting married to his friend Jamie. Chloe worries that her status as Uncle Bobby's special niece will disappear when he gets married. Brennan does a fantastic job of tackling a tough subject and manages to surpass all expectations with pleasing illustrations and text that is neither didactic nor overly simplistic. The text addresses concerns regarding how a child might react to finding her (or his) special Uncle suddenly getting married and what that will do to their friendship. The illustrations are soft at the edges and yet very colorful and aesthetically pleasing. The guinea pigs are very much anthropomorphized and show many human characteristics that children will be able to identify with. The text has been challenged on numerous occasions due to the fact that it revolves around a same-sex marriage. While some find this book inappropriate, others find it valuable, sensitive, and educational (as can be seen by the back-cover blurbs.) *Uncle Bobby's Wedding* is a fantastic resource for any child in a situation where a gay or lesbian relative might want to get married.

**Brown, Marc. *Buster's Sugartime*. New York: Little Brown, 2006.**

*Buster's Sugartime* is part of a Passport to Reading program and is intended to educate children. This particular edition is about the state of Vermont, which is responsible for a large amount of Maple Syrup production. The opening of the book gives a short list of words with a pronunciation guide and definitions, followed by a page of facts regarding Vermont and Maple Syrup. Buster, the protagonist of the story, is off to visit some family friends in Vermont and the rest of the text is composed of three main elements: the main plot following Buster; a series of postcards which Buster sends out to friends with tidbits of information of educational value; pictures of real-life people and places to ground the story in reality. While the text itself is informational and fun for children, the mix of different pictures and illustrations can be distracting and unpleasing to the eye, giving the book too much of a textbook feel. Brown does a good job of informing the reader about different aspects of Vermont and Maple Syrup production with a good balance of information and plot—mainly Buster visiting places with his Dad. The



reason that this text has been challenged is that the family friends that Buster and his Father visit are lesbians, and they have three children. This has led to a number of challenges from conservative groups advocating for traditional family values.

**de Brunhoff, Jean. *The Story of Babar the Little Elephant*. Trans. Merle S. Haas. 1933. New York: Random House, 2002.**

The classic tale of Babar is not one I initially thought would end up in this bibliography. But after reading it again, I can now see the reason that some might find it subversive and/or disturbing as a children's text. The basic story is simple: an elephant leaves the jungle after his mother is shot and killed. He comes upon an old woman when he ventures into a nearby town, and the woman takes him home to feed him and take care of him. The illustrations, based on the French poster/graphic style of the period, are simple and yet they jump out because of the intense use of white space on each page. There is not much intricate detail and so the eye flows between text and picture quite easily without distraction. While not initially disturbing in any way, there are a number of elements in the story which, upon second thought, are somewhat disagreeable. The first is that the story basically revolves around Babar, and eventually Arthur and Celeste, as they are assimilated into the culture of the city—wearing clothes, learning math, attending fancy dinners, and driving cars. After they leave the old woman, they return to the jungle where they are placed on a virtual pedestal because of their domestication, or at least Europeanization. The second disturbing aspect is Babar's marriage to his cousin, Celeste, when they become King and Queen. Most children will not notice these things, but some parents might pick up on them and find the book inappropriate reading for their own children.

**Fierstein, Harvey. *The Sissy Duckling*. Illus. Henry Cole. Toronto: Simon & Schuster, 2002.**

With *The Sissy Duckling*, Harvey Fierstien has created an elegant and hilarious book that will attract children as well as adults. It follows a little duckling who isn't like all of the others he lives with and around. The story of difference is a well-known trope, but this is a truly original approach that is both educational and just plain fun. Children who find themselves the outcast will find comfort and joy within the text and through Henry Cole's bright, fun, and silly illustrations. Elmer the sissy duckling, faces bullying and discrimination with true human emotion as well as with grace and heart. What has brought so many challenges to this book is the ability for it to work on multiple levels. As I've said, it works well for anyone who has been the outcast, but it is

also very helpful for young children who may have questions about sexuality. The sissy duckling is not simply an outcast because he is smaller, but because of the way he dresses, the way he holds his wrists, and because of what he likes to do—bake cakes, build sand castles, do puppet shows, and *not* play sports. This book is a significant addition to those books that follow the age-old trope of being different, but with a new flare and sensitivity.

**de Hann, Linda, and Stern Nijland. *King and King*. Toronto: Tricycle, 2000.**

*King & King* is a beautiful re-telling of a famous trope held together with fun, bright, and eclectic illustrations. A young prince is told he must marry, but he is not interested in any of the princesses that show up at his door. He feels nothing until the young prince shows up with his sister at the end of the tale. The two young men fall in love at first sight and live happily ever after. This is not a tale of discrimination or painful coming out. Once the prince finds his true love, there is only love, acceptance, and happiness. A wonderful fairy tale that gives children a glimpse into a hopeful future, where love can live on in many forms, whether it is between opposite-sex or same-sex couples. The tale is not didactic either, simply re-telling a familiar narrative in a fun new way. The artwork is bright and colourful, a mix of drawing, painting, collage, and paper cut-outs. The book has been challenged on numerous occasions due to the same-sex marriage aspect. Many conservative and traditional family groups have claimed that the book is furthering a homosexual agenda. I believe that this book is powerful and hopeful and a great resource for parents wishing to teach children about alternatives to heterosexual marriage.

**Newman, Lesléa. *Heather Has Two Mommies*. Illus. Diana Souza. Boston, MA: Alyson, 1989.**

Newman's book has been under fire every since its first incarnation in 1989. This story, about Heather, a little girl with two mommies, has been edited, challenged, re-written and re-illustrated many times due to challenges relating to the homosexual content. I believe the content is valuable and important, but the nature of the narrative and artwork, to me, undermine the possibility of a dynamic and accessible book. The narrative style is incredibly didactic, telling how Heather was conceived, how there are many different types of families with different parents and dynamics. While this is important information, I think this seems to fit more under the heading of non-fiction information as Heather's story is often overshadowed with an intruding, strong, authorial voice. The illustrations are also quite unappealing, to me at least. They are drawn and shaded in pencil, with



no colour except on the front cover illustration. This book was an important story to start the trend of books with same-sex parents for children, but is not, in my opinion, very well executed.

**Richardson, Justin and Peter Parnell. *And Tango Makes Three*. Illus. Henry Cole. Toronto: Simon & Schuster, 2005.**

The plot of *And Tango Makes Three* is a simple one, following two male penguins (Roy and Silo) as they meet, build a nest together, and eventually hatch an egg together. This heart-warming tale of diversity was written by Richardson and Parnell in an attempt to bring forward the topic of same-sex couples to children in an accessible and (with the help of Henry Cole) adorable way. It is for this reason that the book has been challenged so greatly in recent times. The American Library Association notes that it was one of the most challenged books of 2009 and has been taken out of a number of libraries in the United States. There have been concerns over the authenticity of the narrative since the penguins are not necessarily “gay” but just acting out in a different way due to the lack of another female penguin in the zoo at the time. It is still a valuable piece of literature, but it must be looked at critically, and parents need to be ready to field questions about the penguins both in the story, and in the aftermath in real life. Richardson, Parnell, and Cole have put together a story that is rich and complex, much the way real life is. And the challenges and concerns of some groups should in no way remove the importance of what they have created.

**Sendak, Maurice. *In the Night Kitchen*. New York: Harper, 1970.**

This book is the story of a young child named Mickey, who falls through the real world into the Night Kitchen when he has trouble falling asleep. The bakers who make cake every morning almost bake Mickey into one of the cakes. He gets out and finds a loaf of bread dough that he shapes into an airplane so he can fly up and get milk out of the big milk bottle for the bakers. Then he ends up back in bed. The story is charming and a lot of fun, filled with very large drawings of a city, based on the New York City skyline, where all the buildings are containers of baking goods. The colours are bright and bold and will be pleasing to many children and adults. The book has been challenged by a few parents in North America because Mickey is drawn nude

in many of the panels. There is nothing erotic or sexually appealing in the drawings as far as I’m concerned, but there have been concerns over the idea of a nude child in a picture book. Unlike the majority of other stories here, there is no gay content, but there is a concern over sexuality since the nude child does have distinctive male sex characteristics that Sendak felt did not need to be glossed over. This raises questions over the display of the nude form in widely accessible children’s books.

**Willhoite, Michael. *Daddy’s Roommate*. Boston, MA: Alyson, 1991.**

*Daddy’s Roommate* has been criticized for its approach to a child with two fathers. Unlike Heather’s story by Newman, where she is born into a household with same-sex parents, Willhoite’s story begins with a divorce. The unnamed child narrator witnesses his father and mother split up because, as it turns out, his father is gay and has a partner named Frank. The narrator goes to visit his father and sees how the two men are much like “normal” parents and therefore decides that “Being gay is just one more kind of love.” The illustrations are friendly and pleasing to the eye, though some parents have claimed that the two male father figures are too intimate in a number of spreads—they are together in one bed; they shave together, shirtless; they rub sunscreen on each other. Obviously this is the kind of content that has raised concerns by some parents and conservative organizations that are afraid of their children being exposed to a gay agenda of sorts. The book may be appealing, but I don’t see it as one that a child would necessarily pull off of the shelf unless a parent picked it out, or an adult recommended it since the child is in a similar situation.

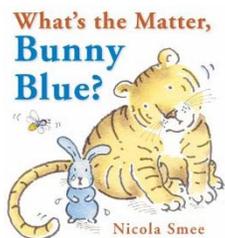
As with many of these books, they should be read, but they are best if selected along with a parent or an adult who is willing to have critical discussions with the child should there be any questions or concerns of the non-heteronormative aspects of the story.

*Robert Bittner graduated from the School of Library Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia with an MA in Children’s Literature in November 2011. The original version of this article was written for the class LIBR 520: Literature and Other Materials for Children.*



## Toddler Storytime

By Patty Montpellier



**Introduction/Greeting:** Hello My Friends

**Rhyme:** Hey Diddle Diddle...speaking of dogs, would you like to meet Rufus? (Introduce Puppet)

**Rhyme:** This is Puppy's Dog House

**Song:** If You're Happy and You Know It

**Story:** *What's the Matter, Bunny Blue?* by Nicola Smee

**Song:** When I was a Baby

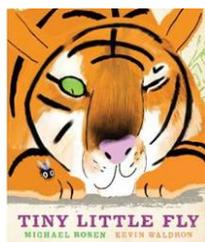
When I was a baby, a baby, a baby  
When I was a baby then, oh then...  
Waa-waa this-a-way, waa-waa that-a-way  
Waa-waa this-a-way...then oh then.

...When I was a puppy...then oh then...arf, arf  
...When I was a kitten...then oh then ...meow, meow  
...When I was a piglet...then oh then ...oink, oink  
...When I was a duckling...then oh then ...quack, quack  
...Now I am so happy...now oh now...ha, ha!

**Chant:** "The Menu"

*(Momentum builds like a train)*

Coffee, coffee, coffee, coffee (slowly)  
Cheese and crackers (x 4, faster)  
Fish and chips (x 4, really fast)  
Sou-oup (x 2, like train whistle)



**Song:** Rain is Falling Down – Splash!

**Rhyme:** Two Little Feet Go Tap, Tap, Tap

**Story:** *Tiny Little Fly* by Michael Rosen

**Songs:** Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me  
Heads and Shoulders *(Do it slowly, then quickly and then all mixed up)*

**Song:** Can You Count?

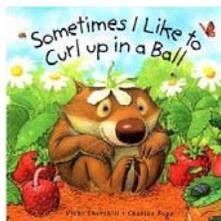
*(Tune of: "If You're Happy and You Know It")*

Can you count on your fingers?...1, 2, 3  
...Can you fly like a bird?...flap, flap, flap  
...Can you jump like a frog?...hop, hop, hop ETC

**Song:** Walking

*(Tune of: "Frere Jacques")*

Walking, walking...Walking, walking  
Hop, hop, hop...Hop, hop, hop.  
Running, running, running...  
Running, running, running  
Now we Stop! (really suddenly)



**Fingerplay:** Open Them, Shut Them

**Story:** *Sometimes I Like to Curl Up in a Ball* by Vicki Churchill

**Songs:** The More We Get Together (with ASL)  
Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, We're Going to the Moon

"Rufus" returns for Goodbye My Friends

*Patty Montpellier is an Auxiliary Librarian at the Vancouver Public Library*



## Pinterest for YAACS Librarians

By Courtney Novotny

Looking for new and exciting felt board ideas? Longing for teen space decor inspiration? Marketing ideas? Cheap, easy, and free DIY patterns?

Let me introduce you to Pinterest ([www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)).

Pinterest is a virtual pin board or bulletin board. Instead of cutting out images from magazines and pinning them to your cork board, you virtually *pin* them to your Pinterest boards. Each time you pin an item, Pinterest saves the URL, so you can click through to read the full text that goes with the image at any time. You can also download the *Pin It* application to your browser's toolbar and click that button whenever inspiration strikes to pin something to your boards.

Within Pinterest, you can create different boards to organize your inspiration. For example, you may create boards to organize library ideas, craft patterns, knitting inspiration, recipes, books to read, and more.

When you need an idea, you simply return to your boards, which are soon full of inspiration, and visually find the idea you are looking for. If you are a text-based searcher, you can also add tags and descriptions to your pins and subsequently search for them using keywords.

Pinterest is also a social site. You can follow other people's boards, like you might follow another person's Twitter or blog, and have inspiration brought to your account for you. You can also comment on and 'like' pins.

Here are a few library-centered boards and users you might like to check out and follow:

<https://pinterest.com/lnewgard/library/>

<https://pinterest.com/flannelfriday/>

<https://pinterest.com/molliekay/>

Happy Pinning!

*Courtney Novotny is an MLIS student at the School of Library Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia and a student librarian at the North Vancouver District Public Library*



## Reviews



**It's a Little Book** by Lane Smith.  
Roaring Brook Press, 2011  
Audience: Babies/Toddlers

For fans of *It's a Book*, Lane Smith has penned this follow-up featuring our protagonists in diapers. Like the original, it is about what a book is and isn't, what it does and doesn't do. But this time the focus is on activities familiar to our youngest readers, such as chewing, wearing, riding, and sleeping.

While the original reads like an in-joke for adults about all the electronic devices in our life, *It's a Little Book* makes only a single nod in that direction (emailing), and otherwise sticks with the experiences of a young child. I find this book less gimmicky and more fun for sharing with small children. And for those wondering: no, the word "Jackass" does not appear in the baby version.

Like the original, you can preview most of the story in a book trailer:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGrkACuW6YI>

- April Ens, Vancouver Public Library



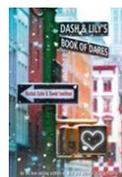
**The Crazy Man** by Pamela Porter.  
Groundwood Books, 2005.  
Audience: Intermediate Grades/Teens

Emaline Bitterman is only 12 when she loses her health, her dog and her father after she is injured in a farming accident on their Saskatchewan farm. In order to keep the farm running, her mother hires Angus, a mental patient from the nearby hospital. But this is 1960s rural Saskatchewan and the town is afraid of and prejudiced against Angus the "crazy man." Emaline's relationship with Angus helps her come to terms with the accident and explore the slow process of healing and acceptance.

Told in free verse, from Emaline's point of view, the poems are untitled – marked only by a capitalization of letters in the first line. This formatting choice encourages the feeling that the reader has gained access to Emaline's internal monologue. Her voice is perhaps the strongest feature of the book. Although, it is a compelling story pulling on the raw, emotional power of poignant images, the free verse in Porter's novel often leaves something to be desired. It frequently seems that

the writer hit enter and started a new line without thought or purpose. However, the strong plot and Emaline's moving voice will carry readers through and engage them with Emaline's personal struggles. *The Crazy Man* has won numerous awards, including the Governor General's. But the most important is the Red Cedar – a young readers' choice award that illustrates the novel's popularity with actual young readers.

- Sara Hathaway, Columbus Metropolitan Library



**Dash & Lily's Book of Dares** by Rachel Cohn & David Levithan.  
Random House, 2010  
Audience: Teen

Rachel Cohn and David Levithan have joined forces once again to bring together two quirky and likable teen characters, Dash and Lily.

When Dash comes across a red moleskin notebook in a used bookstore, his upcoming solo Christmas break begins to look up.

Lily has planted that notebook in hopes of finding a fateful connection in a boy about her age who may just so happen to frequent the same used bookstore she loves.

When Dash opens the notebook, he is challenged with a dare. He accepts the dare and promptly dares this mysterious girl right back via the notebook.

And so begins the hilarious, touching, and suspenseful correspondence of Dash and Lily. The chapters alternate between the two character's voices and readers are taken right into the drama and dilemmas of teen life in New York. Lively friends and eccentric relatives round out the scene in this entertaining holiday romance.

- Courtney Novotney, School of Library Archival and Information Studies, UBC





**Tanglewreck** by Jeanette Winterson.  
Bloomsbury Publishing, 2006.  
Audience: Teen

Tanglewreck is a tale of misbehaving time that stretches, twists, turns, and at times collapses, creating a precarious back drop where characters struggle to tame its wild cravings. The story is complete with an orphaned 11-year-old heroine Silver, who lives in a house that is centuries old and seems to be her only ally. The house—Tangleweck—speaks to her in riddles, attempting to uncover her family's past and the secret's of time's future. But it is not until Silver meets an otherworldly friend Gabriel, who lives in an underground society, that she can begin to make sense of Tanglewrecks's cryptic messages and battle her enemies: Regalia Mason, Mrs. Rockabye and Abel Darkwater. Silver must attempt to find the lost Time Keeper, decode quantum physics and undergo time travel in order to understand the inner workings of time, try to recover her past and safeguard the future of her world. Guided by Jeannette Winterson's unique writing style, the plot of this novel races with the characters on its back. Just picking up this book is a delightful adventure in itself for young teens. And don't worry, a science degree is not necessary!!!!

- Pamela Fairfield, Vancouver Public Library

## Call for Submissions

YAACING is published four times per year and is always looking for submissions that might interest children's and teen specialists in BC libraries. We accept news pieces, articles, program descriptions and ideas, conference reports, and much more. If you would like to write a regular column, send us a brief pitch.

Submissions should be no more than 2200 words, sent as .doc or text files. Please include a byline with your job title and workplace, or for students: your school, program and class information, if applicable.

YAACING invites your contributions to our Review and Felt Story sections:

**Reviews:** Please send us reviews of books, blogs, websites, or other resources. Submissions should be no more than 300 words. Longer reviews may be considered for publication as featured articles.

**Felt Stories:** Share your creativity! YAACING is looking for felt story patterns. Submissions should include a printable pattern, photograph of the finished product, and related rhyme or note about the origin of the story.

The deadline for the Spring 2012 issue of YAACING is February 15, 2011. Email your submissions to the editors at [YAACING@gmail.com](mailto:YAACING@gmail.com)

