

Volume 71 Spring 2011

C hapbook

Quarterly Journal of the Youth Services Section

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Have a great idea for an article for a future issue?
Contact Melissa Davison at davisomb@forsyth.cc

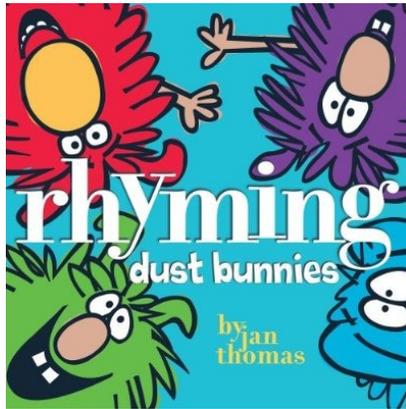
Message from the Chair
Cindy Dye
Greensboro Public Library

I am waiting for the warm, sunny days of summer. No wait, I'm not ready for Summer Reading. Maybe I just want the balmy days of spring with buds popping out and birds singing. I know I am ready for this sickness to be gone. Just about everyone in the office has had something lingering and a few are on their second helping of sickness. Sunshine, bring on the health and wellness, warmer days and budget talks.

Speaking of budgets, hopefully your system is coming up with some creative ways of dealing with this recession. We are wheeling and dealing with our county friends. You see, we are one of the few municipal library systems in the state, so we not only serve our city but the entire county, and all adjacent counties too. Being a city library can be difficult but I think we serve all our patrons well. We are learning to deal with short staff and pinched pennies. By the way, NCLA is also struggling to balance the budget, but they too are pinching pennies and learning to deal with funding necessary line items in creative ways. One way in which you can help both your system and NCLA is to encourage those you work with to join our state's professional organization. NCLA helps to keep North Carolina a library friendly state. Just ask Carole Walters who escorts a bus load of NC librarians to Washington every year to press palms and speak out to our representatives and senators. Last year we were the second largest delegation on Library Legislative Day. Next year come be a part of the movers and shakers in North Carolina.

I do have some good money news. When you attend conferences, workshops and retreats in the future there will be a price break on registrations for all members of NCLA, plus a further price break if you are a member of the hosting section. Also, NCLA now has a members-only section of the NCLA website which lists job opportunities. We are always looking for interested children's specialists and librarians who would like to serve NCLA, either as a board member or on a committee. If you are interested in joining the board please contact me at cynthia.dye@greensboro-nc.gov.

NORTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD PROGRAM announces the 2011 winners!



Picture Book Winner:
Rhyming Dust Bunnies, written by Jan Thomas

Junior Book Winner:
The Lemonade War, by Jacqueline Davies

There were 109,520 votes cast this year by children in the State of North Carolina. *Rhyming Dust Bunnies* won with 20,501 of the 96,916 votes cast in the Picture Book category. *The Lemonade War* won with 2,134 votes of the 12,604 votes cast in the Junior Book category.

The North Carolina Children's Book Award Program is a children's choice program sponsored by school and public libraries in North Carolina and is designed to introduce children to current children's literature and to instill a love of reading.

The 2012 nominated titles for the NCCBA contest will be announced in at the end of May. Nominated titles will be posted to the NCSLMA site, the Bookhive site listed below, in the next issue of Chapbook, and will be highlighted at various workshops throughout our state.

For further details, please visit: <http://www.plcmc.lib.nc.us/bookhive/nccba/2011winners.asp>

For additional information, please contact Jane Deacle at: jdeacle@wakegov.com

Story Extravaganza

by Scooter Hayes

Early Literacy Consultant/Smart Start Raising a Reader New Hanover County Public Library

Smart Start Raising A Reader and New Hanover County Public Library celebrated National Library Week with Story Extravaganza on Saturday, April 16th from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. **539 people** attended this storytelling festival for children making Story Extravaganza one of the largest events ever held at NHCPL.

Emceed by Mr. Scooter, a dozen acts consisting of **nearly 50 performers** graced the stage in the Paynter Room each basing their performance on a different children's book. Performers included the likes of Music with Mr. Mark, Jocelyn Beam-Walson, Chris Moore, No Sleeves Magic, Starbucks Coffee, Memory Lane Comics, NHHS Theatre Arts, Mary Kleinfeldt, Max Nunez, Performance Club Kids, Susan Wood and Music School of Wilmington.

Meanwhile in the Watkins Room, children constructed mixed paper collages from Eric Carle's book *Animals, Animals* with Mary Ellen Boylan of the Children's Museum.

In the Children's Department, families enjoyed making paper bag puppets with Ooksbay Books from poems based on the book *Polkabats and Octopus Slacks* by Calef Brown and tried their luck navigating NHCPL's "Once Upon A Time" Maze in the Storytime Room.



Some of the day's performers

During intermission, children got the opportunity to visit with the artists, characters and vendors in the lobby such as the UNCW Basketball Team, Sammy Seahawk, Create A Face Facepainting, Starbucks Coffee, Chick-Fil-A Mayfaire, Barnes & Noble, The Friends of the Library, Smart Start and NHCPL.

\$23.83 was raised in library donations thanks to Starbucks Coffee. Approximately 24 volunteers and 7 participating Smart Start Raising A Reader families also attended this event. Thanks to all performers, vendors, staff and volunteers for donating their time, enthusiasm and artistic talent to this amazing family literacy event. Be sure to attend Story Extravaganza 2012!



Families enjoy one of the day's performers



Spider-man, Storm Troopers and UNCW basketball players

Wake County Public Libraries Student Poetry Contest 2011 by Jane Deacle **Wake County Public Libraries**

Since 2005, Wake County Public Libraries has sponsored a Poetry Contest for Wake County students in grades 6-12. This year marked the sixth Student Poetry Contest. 216 middle and high school students representing 53 Wake County public, private, charter and home schools submitted original poems. To illustrate the growth of this event, in our first year 90 students representing 20 Wake County schools submitted poems.

This year local librarians, writers, and teachers served as judges. The judges selected winners/honorable mentions at 4 levels: 6th grade, 7th/8th grade, 9th/10th grade and 11th/12th grade. The 8 winning/honorable mention poems were published in a chapbook, and winners were invited to read their poems at an awards ceremony/reception. Winners received a certificate and a book-based award, e.g., anthology of poems, and/or a writing journal. Winning

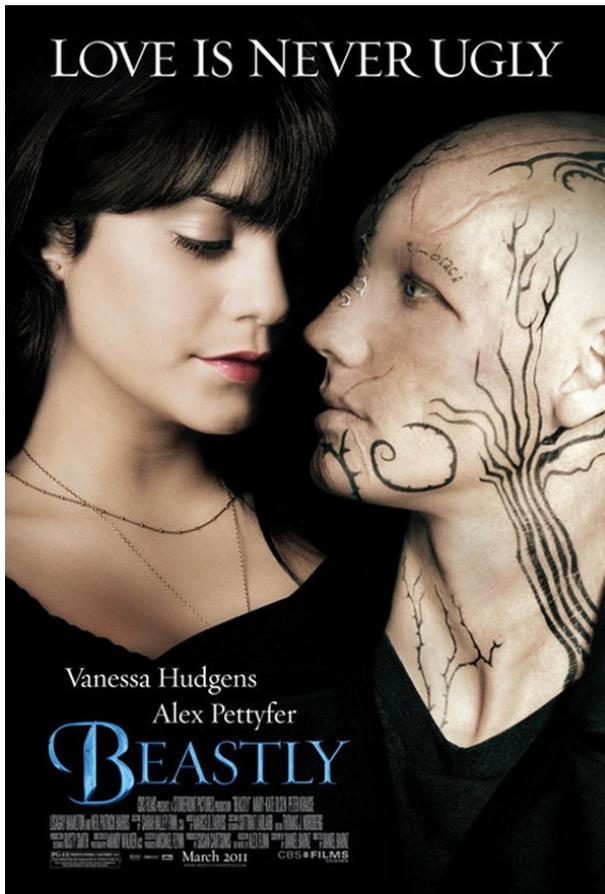
poems were also posted to the libraries' website (when a permission waiver was received from the poet and his/her parent or guardian). All 8 students presented their poems to an audience of over 45 friends and family on a Sunday afternoon at Cameron Village Regional Library in Raleigh.

The Student Poetry contest is a wonderful venue to reach young adults and has continues to grow in popularity. Audiences including family, friends and teachers of the winners have commented on how pleased they are that the library offers this venue for young teen poets.

For additional information, please contact Jane Deacle at: jdeacle@wakegov.com

Beastly

A review by Claire Ramsey (c) May 2011



"Everyone knows that story," says Lindy to Kyle, still darting her head as she looks for Hunter, the boy with whom she has fallen in love. It takes another minute and a cell phone ringing in Kyle's pocket for her to realize that Kyle and Hunter were, or are, one and the same.

Lindy is right. The story she and Kyle/Hunter share is better known as 'Beauty and the Beast.' In fact, Lindy's comment could be used about several movies forming a new trend recently - no, not the vampire movie trend. I mean the trend of retelling fairy tales in new settings.

Other examples: 'Tangled,' (Rapunzel) and the horror retelling of 'Red Riding Hood.' They were both in the theater with 'Beastly.'

'Beastly' features Vanessa Hudgens and Alex Pettyfer in the story's title roles Beauty and Beast (Lindy and Kyle in the movie.) Lindy is an outsider who crushes on Kyle when he, in a rare generous moment, gives her the corsage that his cheerleader girlfriend rejected. That Kyle has a blond bombshell girlfriend that perfectly matches his persona is no surprise, since everyday Kyle is a selfish pretty-boy who believes, like his news-anchor father, that good looks and popularity can buy anything. After he chooses her for the butt of a practical joke, Goth witch Kendra (Mary Kate Olsen) sets out to show him otherwise and transforms him into what no doubt is Kyle's idea of a beast. She gives him one year to find someone who will love him in his new guise, and gives him a rosebush tattoo that marks the passage of the time by its roses growing, fading, and wilting as real roses would do.

The movie is pleasant, the actors unexceptionable, and the story is what we could anticipate if we, like many, have read or seen more traditional retellings. What sets this retelling apart are the following features to look for, both positive and negative.

First, to elaborate on something I already touched on. Kyle must be transformed into his idea of a beast rather than everyone (i.e., teenage girls') else's, because as attractive as he is with his wavy blond hair, he is almost equally attractive as a 'beast.' Sharper, yes - scarred and tattooed, but he is by no means hideous. At least I give the director and makeup designers full marks for creativity - he could be said to be hard to recognize as the 'beast.' At least no one is just sticking on a pair of thick glasses, ala Clark Kent...

Also to do with Kyle/Hunter - I guess if you are suddenly changed from the center of social life at your school to being rejected by everyone, including your father, you might not know how to approach a girl. You never needed to - they swarmed all over you. That is the only excuse I can give him for what is in effect stalking Lindy. I was a little unnerved, since the stalking is treated as normal behavior, even understandable, for someone who is an outsider. Having been an outsider myself, I might find it understandable, yes, but I wish it had

not been presented as quite so normal, even natural behavior. Kids are going to watch this movie, y'know...

Quite apart from things which I was not so fond of, there was Neil Patrick Harris as Kyle/Hunter's witty blind tutor, Will. Kyle's father wants him to continue his education but is terrified that anyone will see him. Hence, Will. There is not really much to say that wouldn't give too much away, but if there is a reason to see this movie beyond a fun evening with friends and popcorn, his name is Will.

Lastly. That father. I am not sure whether it is just good story writing or political correctness run amok, but I am fairly sure that, whether it was in the book or not, Hollywood did not want to leave Kyle fully to blame for his terrible behavior. It was not quite as obvious as Roald Dahl's poetic blaming of Veruca Salt's parents in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory:

"a girl can't spoil herself, you know. ...
They are (and this is very sad)
Her loving parents, MUM and DAD."

But it is definitely there. When Kyle and his Dad are trying to talk in the kitchen - Kyle's dad on his Bluetooth all the while - we get our first sympathetic glimpse of Kyle as he texts his dad to try to get a word in edgewise. The attempt succeeds - for approximately ten seconds, after which we hear Kyle mutter that they last time they really talked was when he told his father he was dying of brain cancer. A little humanizing, even before his 'treatment' as a beast, will help a young audience like Kyle enough to care about the story, but an adult audience might find it overdone. And just in case we didn't catch it the first time, the last seconds of the movie imply that absentee, looks-obsessed Dad is about to get a witchy comeuppance...

A nice popcorn picture, good for middle schoolers or teens. For the younger set, rent Disney again or, better yet, READ them a good retelling (Robin McKinley's Beauty is an excellent evening chapter-by-chapter read.) Or take them to a library storytelling program.

Programs That REALLY Worked
Beyblade Battle
by Tanika Martin
East Regional Children's Librarian
Durham County Library

What you need:

Volunteers

Space

A great programming flyer

Snacks (Capri Sun & Chips)

Children who love Beyblades

Kids Bop music cd

*If you provide all of the items listed above, the children will work the program

To learn more about Beyblades visit the following links

<http://www.beyblade.com/splash.aspx>

http://www.hasbro.com/beyblade/en_US/

This program yielded about 45 children on a Saturday afternoon. I hosted the program after lunch and children, mostly boys and one girl attended. Prior to the program I received many calls from callers who wanted to confirm the time because "my child has been excited all night!" many of them indicated.

When the battle began, it continued way beyond the designated 2 hours for the program. The children did not want to leave, this is a great way to engage the children and meet them where they are in terms of their interests. Further, it will help the children see the Library as a cool place. The children checked out books too!

If you have any questions, please let me know. You can email me at tmartin@co.durham.nc.us