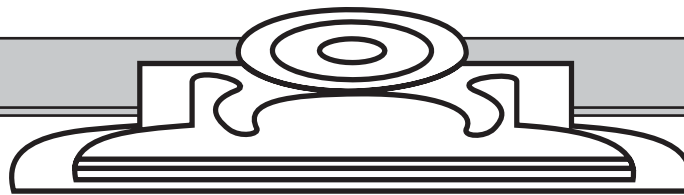


By the Parents & Reading
Committee, Colorado
Council, International
Reading Association

Nancy V. Fox, Editor

Fall, 2003



Parents' Clipboard

ELEMENTARY LEVEL



Visit www.ccira.org for
Parents' Clipboards and
Parent Brochures

Raising a Reader

It seems that the deck is stacked against parents who want to spark interest in reading. There are so many other blockbuster entertainments seeking kids' attention. How can parents make sure that their kids don't miss out on the wonderful world of books?

When it comes to reading, parents should think of themselves more as coaches than teachers. According to Linda Gambrell, director of the school of education at Clemson University, "parents create the climate and context to support and nurture reading by making it pleasurable, and should avoid any intense tutoring at home." Parents can demonstrate the importance of reading and writing in your everyday life as you make lists, compose letters, and read the newspaper. Because words are all around us, parents can prompt their kids to read anywhere, anytime. An example is to have them help you read road signs. These are everyday visual flashcards which allow parents to use the time they have for reading help, not a matter of making extra time.

There are other ways to make writing and language part of a child's life. If you have reluctant readers, try some of these creative tricks:

- * Make reading a game, such as searching for words in the newspaper. Or dazzle your toddler with rhyming words, and challenge them to come up with simple rhymes.
- * Buy books on tape or read a book together and then rent the movie. Discuss them as the more you engage your child in the story, the more internalized the learning will be.
- * Reluctant readers may find fast-paced, humorous books with short chapters less intimidating.
- * Encourage nighttime reading by allowing your intermediate schoolers to read an extra 30 minutes after their usual bedtime.
- * Watch for announcements that children's authors are visiting your local library and bookstores. Getting to know a writer may trigger interest in reading his or her book. Explore the internet for favorite authors' websites.
- * Continue the habit of reading aloud to your kids even when they can read on their own. This feeds the reading habit, and brings the family together.

Colorado Kids Favorite Books

Each year the children of Colorado vote for their favorite Picture Book and Junior Novel. Votes are received from over 68,000 students and the winning authors and illustrators are presented with special awards at the annual Colorado Council of the International Reading Association's Conference. Some recent winners include:

PICTURE BOOKS:

2002 - *David Goes to School* by David Shannon
2001 - *Hooaway for Wodney Wat* by Helen Lester
2000 - *Psst! It's Me the Bogeyman* by Barbara Park
1999 - *Parts* by Tedd Arnold

JUNIOR NOVELS:

2002 - *Ghosts of the White House* by Cheryl Harness
2001 - *Bunnicula Strikes Again* by James Howe
2000 - *Saving Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
1999 - *The Adventures of Captain Underpants* by Dave Pilkey



Q: What is Intergeneration Day/Activities Week and how can my family and I become involved?

A: The fourth annual Intergeneration Day/Activities Week, held on the first Sunday of October, Oct. 5, 2003, is sponsored by the Intergeneration Foundation, a non-profit public charity founded in 1997 in Colorado Springs with the mission of connecting generations through communication, celebration and education.

Their website suggests that families can participate in the following ways:

- Connect with family members of a different generation in person, or by phone, letters or e-mail.
- Host gatherings, reunions and celebrations
- Reach out to a neighbor of a different generation
- Give gifts and donations with an intergeneration memory or message

For more information, go to www.intergenerationday.org.

By Mary E. Fanyo
and Ericka K. McDaniel
CCIRA Parents and Reading Committee

"The man
who does not
read good books has
no advantage
over the man who
can't read them."

- Mark Twain