



The popular medieval folk belief that birds choose their mates on February 14th made doves a favorite symbol for Valentine cards. The dove was sacred to Venus and other love deities and was known for choosing a lifelong mate.

Libraries & Ideas

This article was written by our Children’s Librarian Brad Hruska, and was published in the February 6th edition of the Columbus Telegram.

Learning the alphabet is one of the first fundamental skills that children must master before beginning to read. A firm understanding of this important letter arrangement is vital because these components are the primary building blocks for words.

Throughout the years, I have had numerous parents come to the library in search of alphabet texts. Most of them begin their hunt in the picture book section of the Children’s Room, commonly referred to as the Easy section. They are surprised, however, when I guide them over to the juvenile nonfiction area, which also contains a multitude of beautifully illustrated and well written alphabet books.

The alphabet texts found in the nonfiction collection are authored about specific subjects like animals, trucks, and dinosaurs. Each has a catchy title like Mary Anne Reihle’s “A is for Airplane,” Janis Campbell’s “G is for Galaxy,” Helen Wilbur’s “M is for Meow,” Steven Layne’s “P is for Princess,” and Marie Smith’s “Z is for Zookeeper.” Though these texts feature specific letters in their titles, it is important to note that all of the letters of the alphabet are equally represented because these books are indeed alphabet texts. So should a child happen to pick “C is for Cornhusker” by Rajean Shepherd, they will not only acquire an understanding of the letter that begins the name of the world’s greatest football team; they will also learn that N is for the Niobrara, P is for “Powwow...a cultural celebration of the native American Nations,” U is “for the Union Pacific with their cars and freight and crew,” and “R is the Red of

the Husker's team and the football fans who cheer 'Go Big Red!'"

The primary advantage to selecting fun, nonfiction texts is that parents can choose books that will appeal to their little ones' interests and hobbies, which is a guaranteed way to keep the attention of active youngsters. Nonfiction books also provide young readers with facts about their favorite topics, in addition to helping them learn their alphabet.

Parents can also use the nonfiction alphabet books to help children improve their phonetic skills. A great way of doing this is to have little ones repeat the names of the letters and the sounds which these particular letters make. In no time at all, adults will notice their children easily associating the letters of the alphabet with their appropriate sounds. Parents may even assist their children in reading by helping them sound out the words on a page.

So the next time you are in search of quality alphabet books to share with your little ones, don't forget to browse through the juvenile nonfiction section at the Columbus Public Library. There are a number of great letter books in this area that will keep your children's attention and foster learning. If you have any questions regarding the wonderful texts featured or would like other quality recommendations, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 ext. 4.



Calendar Connection

**Columbus Public Library
will be closed Monday, February
15th for Presidents' Day. We will
re-open on Tuesday, February 16th
at 9:30 a.m.**



As you may know, the library is currently involved in a capital campaign to build a new library/cultural arts center at the former Gene Steffy Ford site. The architectural firm of Alley-Poyner Macchietto has been approved to design the brand new building. Now we need help from you! On Tuesday, February 23rd and Wednesday, February 24th, we will be conducting focus groups with the architects. All sessions are open to the public, and you can sit in on one, or more than one if you would like to. This is your chance to be a part of something great! Share your ideas and help design a library that the city of Columbus will be proud to show off!

Tuesday, February 23rd:

10:30 am - 11:15 am: Toddler/Parent Focus Group for 1yr-3yr olds in Auditorium

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Design Focus Group/Open Public Session in Auditorium

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm: Children/Parent/Teacher Focus Group in Children's Room

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm: Televised Open Public Session with Mayor— City Council Chambers

Wednesday, February 24th:

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Open Focus Group in Auditorium

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm: Auditorium Focus Group in Auditorium

3:30 pm - 4:15 pm: Young Adults Meeting in Auditorium

4:30 pm - 5:15 pm: Arts Focus Group in Auditorium



Calendar Connection

Find more at www.columbusne.us/library



There never seems to be a dull moment in the Children's Room! Kids have enjoyed making pom-pom puppies, collages, and especially decorating cupcakes and cookies! We have more great programs coming up during the last half of February. Also, kids participating in our Word Warriors program will be eligible to win a new book during our book raffle on February 24th, so keep reading and entering your tickets!

Story Time

10:30 a.m.-Noon & 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

February 18th– Hats/Clothing

Story ART

10:30 a.m.-Noon & 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

February 25th– School/Teachers

Monday Night Book Adventures

6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

February 22nd– Bears

There will be stories about bears, crafts, and yummy bedtime snacks!

The Teen Space has something for you to enjoy every day! Hang out with friends, check out a book (some suggestions below), use a computer or iPad, or take advantage of our free WiFi. If you're feeling crafty, check out one of our DIY craft kits and make something special for yourself or a friend. That's not all! Try out Sphero, Ozobot, or LittleBits. If you are thinking ahead to college, prep for the ACT for free with your library card! Ask Rachelle for access to the Testing & Education Reference Center.

February 24th from 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm: Plan the Future Library!

Share your ideas with architects for our brand new library building

Fall in love with these new books:

Stars Above by Marissa Meyer

Almost Midnight by C.C. Hunter

Dove Exiled by Karen Bao

Riders by Veronica Rossi

Betrayed by Lynn Carthage

Salt to the Sea– Ruta Sepetys

**TEEN
SPACE**

Calendar Connection

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On Saturday, February 20th at 2 PM the popular Nebraska native, Tom Bassett, will visit the library to evaluate your antiques and give us a show and tell! He has years of experience; for example, he helped to appraise the Pioneer Village in Minden, Nebraska. If your antique is too large to bring to the library, bring in pictures. Tom will also entertain us with some great stories! Come enjoy a Saturday afternoon with Tom Bassett in the Library Auditorium. Coffee and cookies will be served.



Your Columbus Public Library

New Releases

There have been many great books added to our catalog recently. To place a hold on any of the titles listed below, or another book, please call the library at 402-564-7116.

Malice at the Palace– Rhys Bowen

The Wedding Chapel– Rachel Hauck

House of the Rising Sun– James Lee Burke

Secret Sisters– Jayne Ann Krentz

Reap the Wind– Karen Chance

The Haunted Season– G.M. Malliet

Skyborn– David Dalglish

Cross Justice– James Patterson

Obsession Falls– Christina Dodd

Dark Corners: a novel– Ruth Rendell

Tom Clancy: Commander-In-Chief– Mark Greaney

American Blood– Ben Sanders

Vendetta: a novel– Lisa Harris

The Lost Heiress– Roseanna M. White

Connecting Readers & Writers

Happy Birthday to these authors:

Ruth Rendell– February 17, 1930

Laurell K. Hamilton– February 19, 1963

Chuck Palahniuk– February 21, 1962

John Saul– February 25, 1942

John Steinbeck– February 27, 1902



Since love is a magic, Valentine's Day is the day of magicians! Whoever loves creates a magic; whoever is loved, a magic is created– Mehmet Murat Ildan