

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

Spooktacular Reads @ the Columbus Public Library!

I am blessed to have three amazing children that have provided my wife and me with 16 years of heartfelt memories and laughable moments. Some of those times center around Halloween. I recall when Brennan, four at the time, now 16, attended my parents' annual grandkids' Halloween party. Brennan was dressed in a green and orange clown suit and wanted to participate in bobbing for apples. When his turn came around, Brennan dove headfirst into the water. Though he came up empty handed, Brennan emerged with the biggest grin.

I can picture Alena, four at the time, now 13, walking from house to house through our neighborhood on First Street. She was dressed as a princess and carried a large bag of candy. That bag of goodies was so heavy that it tilted her to one side; however, no amount of coaxing would convince Alena to give up her "tandy."

I remember Bekka, four at the time, now nine, wearing a brown bear costume that must have been twice her size. Bekka independently navigated her way to every house on our block, stopping only to hoist the enormous bear head up so she could see the Halloween festivities going on around her.

These memories come flooding back to me every time the Columbus Public Library (CPL) displays its collection of Halloween picture books. The holiday colors of orange, purple, black and green along with titles like "Trick or Treat, Smell My Feet" by Diane De Groat often take me back to those times when my kiddos were engaged in Halloween fun. One of my favorite All Hallow's Eve texts is "Mouse's First Halloween" by Lauren Thompson.

In this story, readers encounter Little Mouse, a curious and easily frightened creature, who goes out "[o]ne spooky night when the moon [is] bright" and encounters some strange and unusual objects. At first, Mouse perceives these findings as terrifying. Upon further inspection, however, he soon realizes that they are "not so scary after all." For example, when Mouse notices flickering in the distance he assumes the worst, when in reality, it is merely a friendly jack o' lantern smiling at him.

If you have little ones who will be experiencing the fun of Halloween, stop by CPL and treat them to a boo-tiful tale like Thompson's "Mouse's First Halloween." I am sure no matter what title you select, they will be amused. If you would like other Halloween recommendations, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR...

- October 24, StoryART at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
- October 24-DBA Trick or Treat event at Frankfort Square from 4:00-6:00 p.m. CPL will be at the square with a craft for children to enjoy!
- October 28, Monday Night Book Adventures at 6:30 p.m.

Don't forget that the library's children's department offers a monthly calendar highlighting the many events that take place in the Children's Room. To have this agenda sent to your inbox, email me at bhruska@columbusne.us.