

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

### Library Brings Readers and Stories Together

Since closing the library in March in response to COVID-19, Columbus Public Library staff have been hard at work to bring you information and entertainment online. Adult and youth services staff have adapted services to be delivered in an online format to help you stay connected. Their hard work and creativity has ensured our summer reading program tradition would not be interrupted by social distance. Visit <https://columbusne.beanstack.org> to register for our free programs and read to win great prizes this summer!

The library continues to offer curbside service. Use your library card and PIN at [www.cplconnect.us](http://www.cplconnect.us) or call the library at 402-564-7116 option 2 to place holds on items that are currently on the shelf. When your items are ready, library staff will call to schedule a pick-up time and give further instructions. We encourage you to keep your items until the library reopens to the public. If you would prefer to return them, the book drop in the alley is open.

Detailed instructions for our summer reading programs and curbside service are available at [www.columbusne.us/library](http://www.columbusne.us/library).

You might be familiar with our downloadable audio and e-book services by now. Did you know that we also offer a service that can help you decide what to read next? It's called NoveList Plus and one of my favorite NoveList Plus features reminds me of a show I watched once upon a time, when I was a child.

"Once Upon a Time" was a television program for children that was produced for Nebraska Public Television decades ago. In this show, a story-loving witch had run out of stories. Believing that librarians made all the stories in the library, the witch kidnapped a librarian. In an effort to appease the witch and regain her freedom, the librarian used the witch's "Once Upon a Time" machine to crank out stories based on objects the witch supplied for her.

In the first episode, the librarian puts a gingerbread man, a song about him, and a toy fox into the machine and churns out a story to share with the witch and the audience. Check out the library's Facebook page for a link to this episode and let me know if you remember watching this program. Also, do not kidnap librarians. We do not actually make all the stories in the library.

The "Appeal Mixer" on NoveList Plus is similar to the witch's story-producing theme. Instead of a book, you will get a list of novels to try. To start, choose from the following categories: character, illustration, pace, storyline, tone, and writing style. Then pick the characteristic you most enjoy for each of the selected categories.

For instance, if you enjoy courageous characters in an action-packed, fast-paced story, NoveList Plus has 87 suggestions for adult novels. If you are unsure which characteristics you are looking for, look up a few of your favorite books on NoveList Plus and use their listed characteristics to produce your own blend.

As always, if you have questions about this or any of our services, give us a call. Follow us on Facebook to get the latest updates on library services. We look forward to seeing you again in person. Until then, please enjoy these resources from home, stay healthy, and remember that we are here to help.