

checkitout

FALL 2012

a movie licensing usa publication

for the professional librarian

NEUTRAL HOLIDAY DÉCOR

Why you need it and how
it's anything but bland

PAGE 8

TOP WORST Holiday Gifts in Movies

Some of the weirdest gifts
on the silver screen

PAGE 10

Calling Sister Libraries

How to tap into the power
of your fellow libraries

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The National Day of Listening

Programming ideas for the
alternative to Black Friday

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the **HOLIDAY** *issue*

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Greetings and welcome to another issue of *Check It Out* magazine – a Movie Licensing USA publication focused on the latest library news, trends and creative ideas to try out in your library. With the busy season of summer reading finishing up, now is the time to get back into holiday mode. In this issue,

we've compiled many great ideas for your library to try out this fall and winter season.

As with all issues, we've also included articles that are relevant to your library and the population you serve. For kids who will soon be off school for winter break, turn to page 16 for tips on how to bring your story hour to life, or page 22 for some new book-to-movie club ideas. For information on how to get help in times of need, be sure to read our article "We Are Family: How to Utilize Sister Libraries" to possibly find a new source of assistance.

Finally, to add an extra dose of fun to this issue, we've included a feature on unique ways libraries are delivering the latest reads. Read about how there are still a large number of libraries taking an unconventional and convenient approach to helping people read the old fashioned way on page 13.

It's our hope that this magazine adds value to your license, and provides you with inspiration and ideas. Feel free to contact your Movie Licensing Manager at 1-888-267-2658 if there is something you'd like to see in a future issue, to ask for copies of previous issues or to ask about additional *Check It Out* subscriptions. As always, thank you for your patronage!



CHAIRMAN



Sister Libraries, page 18: Liverpool Public Library (USA) and Lantarang Kunda Starfish International Library (West Africa)

Incipit

"One afternoon, when Bruno came home from school, he was surprised to find Maria, the family's maid – who always kept her head bowed and never looked up from the carpet – standing in his bedroom, pulling all his belongings out of the wardrobe and packing them in four large wooden crates, even the things he'd hidden at the back that belonged to him and were nobody else's business"

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
by John Boyne

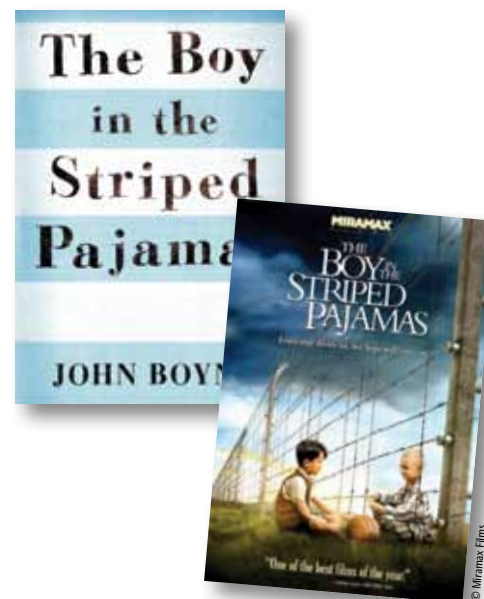


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Cloud Atlas

David Mitchell



FEATURE STORIES

Planning for Holidays at Your Library

This issue of *Check It Out* is designed to make holiday planning a little easier as you organize this year's festivities. Since this time of year is known as the season for giving, we've included some budget friendly ideas on how to organize activities to help the less fortunate on **page 6**. If you're looking for an alternative for Black Friday madness, encourage your patrons to embrace family on the Friday following Thanksgiving with the programming ideas from the article "Library Programming Ideas for the National Day Of Listening" on **page 4**. For decoration tips, turn to "The Library's Case for Neutral Holiday Décor" on **page 8** for some ways to deck your shelves while welcoming everyone. Lastly, for a bit of holiday fun, be sure to read **page 10** for the "Top Ten Worst Holiday Gifts in the Movies!"

For a full list of holidays coming up this fall and winter, check out: www.holidayinsights.com/everyday.htm



Library Programming Ideas

for the National Day Of Listening

As your patrons carve their juicy turkeys and polish off their pumpkin pies, chances are they're buzzing about Black Friday, also known as the biggest shopping day all year. However, for those who are more concerned with continuing their family celebration than finding the best deals, the National Day of Listening might be something to celebrate at your library. This alternative holiday encourages family bonding, giving thanks and sharing memories.

All interviewers are encouraged to share their stories on StoryCorps Wall of Listening or send them to those who've encouraged them, post them to social media accounts or preserve them for future generations as part of an audio scrapbook. In 2011, thousands of people made interviews with over 200 people posting on the Wall of Listening.

StoryCorps national day of listening

The Origins of the Holiday

Partnering with the ALA, National Public Radio, the Smithsonian and the United States Olympic Committee, the National Day of Listening was created as a new holiday in 2008 by former radio documentary reporter Dave Isay. Set for the day after Thanksgiving each year, the National Day of Listening encourages Americans to take an hour out of their day to record an interview with a loved one using readily available equipment like computers, smartphones and tape recorders.

The main message behind this holiday, according to StoryCorps National Day of Listening website www.nationaldayoflistening.org, is to emphasize to people that their lives matter and they will never be forgotten. It's a way to honor loved ones, those you've lost or even someone who touched your life just briefly.



How Your Library Can Participate

As “one of the largest oral history projects of its kind” according to the Library of Congress, libraries are a huge part of the National Day of Listening’s success. The ALA suggests celebrating library-style by incorporating reading and books. For example, you could encourage patrons to ask their parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters about their favorite childhood book and stories, how libraries have made a difference in their lives and what advice they would give to future generations about the importance of libraries, books and reading.

For this year’s theme, StoryCorps is asking that everyone take a moment to thank a favorite teacher. Participants can show appreciation with a tweet on Twitter™, a Facebook® post, a short YouTube™ video, or even by sending a handwritten “thank you” card – anything to let teachers know that they matter, their hard work is appreciated and they have made an impact on your life. However, you can still celebrate the day by recording an interview with anyone you want.

“By listening closely to one another, we can help illuminate the true character of this nation reminding us all just how precious each day can be and how great it is to be alive.”

– Dave Isay, StoryCorps Founder and President

An educational programming idea to support this day is to teach patrons how to use the recording equipment in your library. This includes using the recording devices on computers, tablet computers and other electronic devices. You could even invite a reporter from the local news to go over the basics of a good interview and what kinds of questions work best when creating a story. Urge participants to submit their stories as part of a contest with a series of categories and offer small prizes for the winners.

Your library could also honor this holiday by recording stories for your patrons to share. One idea is to create an oral history of your community by inviting different members of the community to talk about your town’s

Download the Do-It-Yourself Guide

StoryCorps provides anyone who is looking to celebrate the National Day of Listening with downloadable instructions on how to record interviews in hospitals, senior centers, homeless shelters and other community centers.

Visit nationaldayoflistening.org/participate to get these valuable resources:

- Advice on selecting recording equipment
- Simple step-by-step instructions on how to interview
- A list of favorite StoryCorps questions to ask participants

growth over the years. You could include the testimonials of someone who has lived in your community for decades all the way up to someone who has only lived there for a few years. This would be a great piece to keep for grant funding video submissions, fundraisers or other community projects.

Lastly, you could also host an open recording session for anyone who wants to tell their story. Participants could either bring someone to interview or tell their story themselves. Provide free copies of participants’ tales on CDs for them to take home and share for an easy way for grandparents to record stories to pass down to their grandkids and for adults to interview their kids. 📖



Easy Holiday Charity Ideas for Your Library

When the holidays make their yearly appearance, helping those in need truly captures the epitome of the holiday spirit. However, these tough times make it difficult for many, including libraries, to pitch in through donations or financial contributions. This holiday season, consider paying it forward by putting an emphasis on low-cost giving within your library. Here are some unique ideas for libraries on a tight budget that want to give without going bankrupt:



Lend Your Support to Volunteers

During this time of year, volunteers can become overworked and overstressed trying to organize, plan and contribute to various community causes. Even non-profit organizations are overwhelmed with requests for assistance, meaning longer hours for volunteers. How about doing something to show your appreciation of all their hard work? This could be as simple as asking your Teen Advisory Board to make “thank you” cards, hosting a free cupcake reception one afternoon or even organizing a free hot chocolate table for volunteers at a non-profit organization.

Craft Your Way to Brighter Holidays

'Tis the season to break out the glitter and hot glue! The holidays offer the creative and the crafty a chance to show off their skills and spread holiday cheer while doing so. Homemade Christmas ornaments, wreaths and other decorations can be made in your library and donated to brighten the halls of a nursing home, hospital, shelter or even a daycare center. Craigslist and Freecycle.org are great places to pick up crafting materials for cheap, and Pinterest is a fantastic resource for crafting with every day materials like buttons, popsicle sticks, paper, felt and string.



Hold a Wrapping Drive

Organizations that give out gifts during the holiday still need all the trimmings to make it feel like Christmas for those who are less fortunate. Gift labels, tape, bows, ribbon and paper are all items that many patrons may have left over from last year and could be willing to recycle for a good cause. This saves the donating organization hundreds of dollars in wrapping costs, since there is a large number of gifts going toward a huge group of people.

Another spin on this idea would be to invite a gift-wrapping expert to teach a class on holiday wrapping at your library. Ask those in professional gift-wrapping roles at your favorite stores or boutiques to donate their time to host a workshop. Tell patrons to bring some gifts and supplies to learn how to properly prep a present and ask for a suggested donation from patrons who participate. A third idea is to set up a wrapping station on the weekends in your library. Ask your library groups to volunteer to wrap gifts for a suggested donation.

Collect Anything that Helps

You've heard of and possibly participated in a canned food drive event, but how about a toiletries drive or winter clothing collection? Organizations that help the less fortunate need way more than just food, and are often looking for baby items, personal care items (such as toilet paper, shampoo, feminine hygiene products and toothpaste) winter clothing, prepaid phone cards and more. These practical items are often something your patrons can pick up during a weekly shopping trip and will certainly make a difference for a needy family. Let your library know you are collecting these items and drop them off at any local food bank that helps those in need. 📌

Guidelines for Finding a Reputable Charity



You want to ensure any organization that you're donating to is a legitimate charity. Here are some tips on how to make sure your donations go toward those who need it:

- Check with the American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP). This group hosts a database of charities and features advice on which charities to trust and which to avoid. For more information, check out www.charitywatch.org.
- Become familiar with the charity. This means doing your research before you write a check. Review the charity's website, look for links to the board of directors, review their mission statement and pay attention to any financial data. Charities that make this available are using transparent, reputable business practices.
- Understand what is going where. Find out how much of your donation is actually going to those in need and how much will go to operational costs of the organization. The AIP defines a reputable charity as one that donates at least 60% to the programs or groups being sponsored.
- Keep records of your contributions. The IRS requires tangible proof of donations in excess of \$250, so be sure to obtain the necessary paperwork. For smaller donations, keep canceled checks or credit card slips.

The Library's Case for Neutral Holiday Decor



Creating a warm, inviting and festive atmosphere in your library is a fun challenge that accompanies the holiday season. However, with patrons of varied backgrounds, religions and cultures, and often a tiny budget, it's hard to incorporate everyone's favorite decorations, keep the mood inclusive and create a pretty holiday look. Check out the reasoning behind keeping your decorations neutral and ways to get into the holiday spirit without breaking the bank.



2

While we urge you to go ahead and deck your halls, keep an eye on how you're doing it. Steer clear of anything that takes on a religious tone and stick to common decorations like trees, gifts, ❶ snowflakes, stars, reindeer, snowmen and a few Santa ❷ decorations.



1

Why Keep Trimmings General?

The goal of neutral decorating is to make everyone feel welcome. As the Fair Housing Institute claims in an article titled "Are Holiday Decorations Making You Miserable?", displaying religious items in common areas of apartment complexes may offend some individuals, leading them to believe that the management prefers one belief system over another. The same risk exists in government-run organizations like public schools and libraries.

The distinction between religious and secular decorations can be tricky. This has been the subject of many court cases, including the court case of the *County of Allegheny v. American Civil Liberties Union* that traveled all the way up to the United States Supreme Court. The question in these cases is whether public displays of symbols are in violation of the Establishment Clause located in Amendment 1 of the United States Constitution.

Popular Ways To Get Festive

Keeping your decorations simple will enhance your library instead of overwhelming it. Lights are an easy way to add warmth and add a special holiday touch. Stringing lights on your shelves, draping them over windows and winding them around posts can create a cool glow when the weather's frigid.

Greenery like poinsettias, wreaths, garlands and small topiaries are great ways to keep holiday décor fuss-free, yet appealing. Since a real Christmas tree may not be an option, try adding a pine scented air freshener near an artificial tree for the

same effect with no maintenance. You can even make use of all the holiday cards your library has received to create some card garland with just a stand of fishing line.

Also, choosing a certain color scheme helps your library from looking too overwhelming. In an article titled "Our Favorite Christmas Decorating Ideas" on BetterHomesandGardens.com, author Chelsey Bowen suggests using just one color to make a statement. "Any metallic like bronze and silver adds sparkle, while a more colorful choice, like red, blue or lime green, makes for a bold, eye-catching display," she writes. ③



Before You Shop

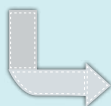
Get a good idea of what direction you're heading in before you step foot in a store. Websites like Pinterest, ④ MarthStewart.com and RealSimple.com, in addition to magazines like *Family Circle* and *Better Homes and Gardens* are prime sources to check out for inspiration. It's also wise to take inventory of what you've already got on hand and keep an eye out for things that can be repurposed. Get creative with the donations and give them an upgrade with spray paint, hot-glued accents and more. ⑤



A great way to keep the decorating budget in control is to ask to borrow items from employees. This way, you'll get the look you want for much less and the employees can take home their items at the end of the holiday season. Lastly, don't be afraid to ask for help. Ask if patrons have any ornaments they'd like to contribute to your tree or trimmings like pine cones, garland, baskets and wreaths. ⑥ Craigslist and Freecycle.org are other great places to get holiday stuff for a fraction of the cost. 📖

Look To Holiday Movies for Inspiration!

Check out these scenes for neat takes on holiday decorations!



© M. & © Paramount Pictures Corporation
It's a Wonderful Life's timeless accents



© New Line Cinema
Elf's winter wonderland



© Walt Disney Pictures
The Santa Clause's North Pole



© New Line Cinema
Four Christmas's subtle display



Top Ten
WORST
HOLIDAY GIFTS
in Movies

Here are some of the weirdest, discouraging and most interesting gifts in some of your favorite holiday movies.

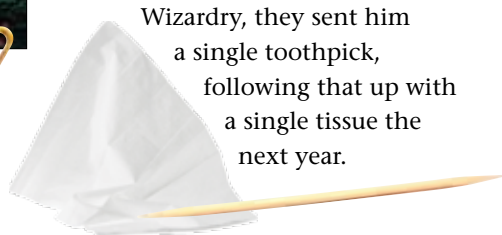
Visit www.checkitout-magazine.com to tell us more of your favorite holiday movies.



© Warner Bros.

The Harry Potter Series

Young wizard Harry Potter was lucky enough to escape from his horrible aunt and uncle's house, but the terrible gifts didn't stop. For his second Christmas at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and



Wizardry, they sent him a single toothpick, following that up with a single tissue the next year.



© Warner Bros.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Clark Griswold is having the holiday he never expected. His idea of a "good, an old-fashioned Christmas is quickly dashed when his kooky cousin Catherine, her sloppy husband Eddie and their two kids show up uninvited from Kansas.



Clark manages to navigate through disaster after disaster until he receives what he thinks is his Christmas bonus check. However, instead of money for a pool he has decided to put in, he receives a subscription to the "Jelly of the Month" club.



© Touchstone Pictures

The Nightmare Before Christmas

After opening a portal to Christmas Town, Jack Skellington decides to play Santa this year. Even though he's received warnings of the impending Christmas doom, Jack sends a trio of mischievous children to kidnap Santa as he delivers shrunken heads, Christmas tree eating snakes and more to terrified recipients on Christmas morning.



© Hollywood Pictures

The Santa Clause

Santa Claus accidentally falls off Scott Calvin's roof while attempting to deliver presents on Christmas Eve, urging Scott's son Charlie to urge him to put on Santa's suit to finish the job. Charlie has been told there is no Santa Claus by his step-dad Neil, who stopped believing in Santa after he never received his Oscar Meyer wiener whistle as a child.



Once Scott fully assumes Santa's role, Neil finally gets his wiener whistle as proof that Santa is real and is now Charlie's dad.



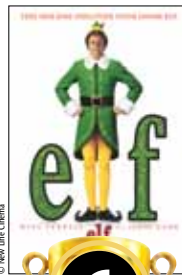
T.M. & © Paramount Pictures Corporation

Scrooged

Frank Cross is a successful, but cynical television programming executive that has traded



work for the love of his life. After firing one of his coworkers on Christmas, Frank shoves old ladies from cabs, downs vodka for breakfast and even gives those on his gift list a corporate logo towel for Christmas. He gets a serious wakeup call when ghosts start paying him visits.



© New Line Cinema

Elf

Buddy the elf sets out to find out who his father is after being raised by elves at Santa's workshop in the North Pole. Papa Elf reveals that his father is Walter Hobbs and that he lives in New York City. Buddy travels to the Big Apple, and sends his father some racy Christmas lingerie thanks to a department store sign urging him to get it for "someone special."





© MCA/UA

A Christmas Story

Imagine that you're a kid again. It's Christmas morning and you're excited to get down beneath the tree to see what kind of loot you've got. Ralphie felt the same way, hoping to get a Red Rider BB gun. He opens his Aunt Clara's gift and is annoyed to find a set of pink bunny pajamas, furthering his belief that his Aunt thinks of him as a four-year-old girl.



© NBCUniversal

Love Actually

You've always been told not to snoop for your Christmas gifts, but sometimes stumbling upon one accidentally happens. Such is the case for Karen who discovers a jewelry box with a ruby necklace inside tucked in her husband's coat pocket. When she is allowed to open one gift on Christmas



Eve, she chooses the one shaped like the jewelry box, only to find a Joni Mitchell boxed set inside.



© Miramax Films

Bad Santa

Willie T. Stokes, a mall Santa who robs malls during the Christmas season, meets a small, pudgy kid while working a shift one day. Willie nicknames him the Kid and moves in with him and his elderly grandmother, "borrowing" their money and car. As Willie and the Kid become closer, the Kid crafts an unusual Christmas present for Willie – a wooden pickle.



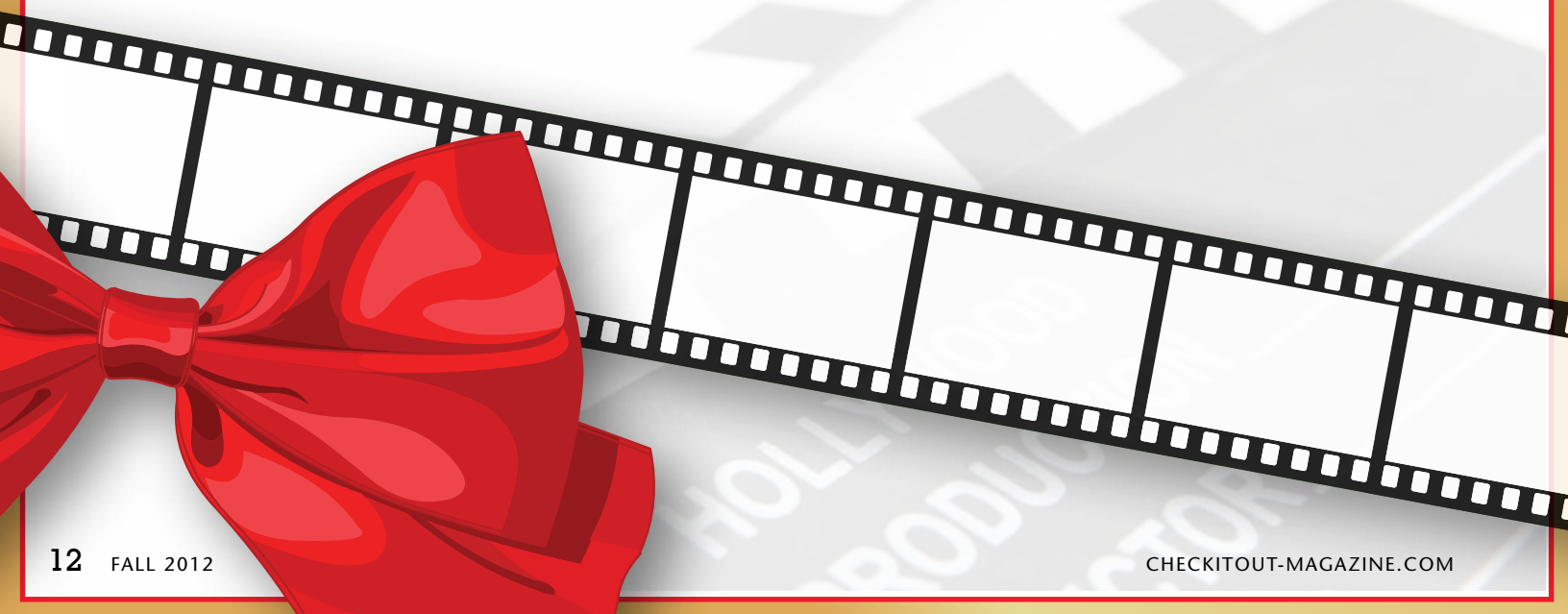
© NBCUniversal

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

The Grinch, a bitter green creature with a heart "two sizes too small", lives on a snowy mountain high above the town of Whoville with his dog Max. One Christmas Eve, he devises a plan to steal every ornament, present and tree associated with the holiday. When the



Whoville residents wake up the next morning, not only are their presents gone, but their Christmas feast is missing as well! 🍷



Now Trending: Alternative Ways to Deliver Books

Investigating bookmobiles, The Little Free Library Project and book vending machines

Libraries are now taking their services out on the road with more ways to conveniently deliver great books into patrons' hands. The unique methods help libraries spread the joy of reading and encourage them to remember that great stories are found on pages as well as screens.



Books on Wheels: Novels at Your Door

Held each year during the Wednesday of National Library Week in April, **National Bookmobile Day** celebrates the direct-delivery outreach services in helping accomplish the library's mission. The next National Bookmobile Day will be held on April 17, 2013.

A GLANCE AT THE NUMBERS

1905

The first bookmobile service by Mary Lemist Titcomb in Washington County, Maryland to increase access to homes in rural counties. Initially the service delivered to 66 locations including general stores and post offices via the library's wagon.

\$200,000

The average cost of a bookmobile

\$1.6 Billion

The average cost of a library building

THE NUMBER OF BOOKMOBILES IN USE TODAY*

*According to the National Center of Educational Statistics and the ALA

KY – 98	GA – 23	NY – 11	NM – 3
CA – 69	WA – 20	VT – 9	AR – 3
OH – 66	MI – 18	NE – 8	NH – 2
NC – 41	AI – 17	SD – 8	DE – 2
IN – 37	MN – 16	MA – 7	MS – 2
PA – 37	MD – 15	CT – 7	RI – 2
SC – 35	TX – 14	WV – 7	TN – 2
VA – 34	ND – 14	ID – 6	HI – 1
FL – 33	AZ – 14	IA – 6	AK – 1
MO – 30	NJ – 13	KS – 5	DC – 1
IL – 29	CO – 12	MT – 4	OK – 1
LA – 28	WI – 11	NV – 4	
UT – 24	OR – 11	WY – 3	

FIRST MOTORIZED BOOKMOBILE:

The first motorized book mobile was acquired in Washington County, Maryland in 1931.

ON THE RISE:

The number of bookmobiles is on the rise: increasing from 825 in 2005 to 930 in 2008.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

As more bookmobiles become specialized, their new names are reflecting their specific purposes. Examples include Technomobile, JobLink, Kidmobile and the Cybermobile.

Low-Tech Tiny Libraries: The Little Free Library Project

The Little Free Library Project delivers a new take on how patrons get their books. Community members can simply pick up or drop off books for free at tiny, accessible community book boxes around town, without due date or late fines. Library users are even encouraged to take any book they want and keep it, according to an article by Meg Jones titled “Thinking Outside the Box with Little Libraries” in the *Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel*.



“Take a book, leave a book.”

THE SAYING POSTED ON EVERY LITTLE FREE LIBRARY BOX

A GLANCE AT THE NUMBERS

400

The number of Little Free Libraries that have popped up across the country and overseas

\$350

The cost of building kits for a Little Free Library as sold by littlefreelibrary.org

24 & 8

24 states and eight countries now host Little Free Libraries

\$0

The cost of a set of building plans for a Little Free Library at littlefreelibrary.org

THEMED ON LOCATION:

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY BOXES OFTEN CONTAIN BOOKS RELATING TO THEIR LOCATION LIKE DOG-THEMED BOOKS NEAR DOG PARKS AND NATURE BOOKS NEAR GARDENS.

GOT A NEW IDEA?

A century ago, lighthouse keepers traded small cases with trinkets and hardcover books, while traveling libraries were located in general stores and post offices for places without a brick and mortar library.

MATERIALS USED

Donated Dollhouses
Recycled Building Materials
Hurricane Katrina Debris
Woodworking Scraps

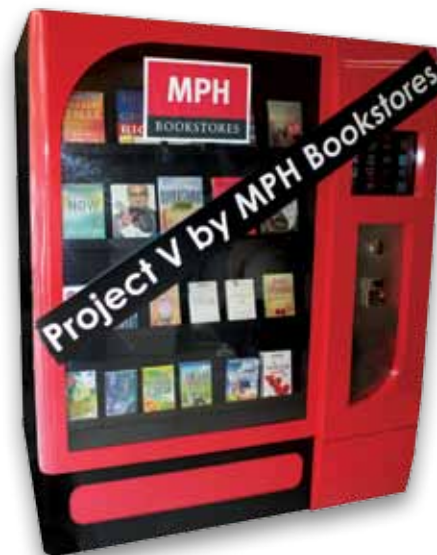
FIND ONE!

Parks & Bicycle Paths
Neighborhoods
College Campuses
Hospitals

“Our experience is when we get two, we get four and then we get eight. People constantly say to us, ‘Look, I love books. They’re part of my soul, they’re part of my heart. I just can’t see selling them for a quarter at a garage sale, but I can give them to my neighbors.’” – TODD BOL, CO-FOUNDER OF LITTLEFREELIBRARY.ORG

Book Vending Machines: A Treat for Your Mind

Book vending machines make it possible to pick up a good read in the grocery store, the mall, airports or even hotels for those who can't make it to the library and don't have an ereader, smart phone or tablet computer. 📖



“Our biggest vending machine sellers are ‘The Wok Cookbook’ and a French-English dictionary,” said Chambon, who added that poet Charles Baudelaire’s “Les Fleurs du Mal” — “The Flowers of Evil” — also is “very popular.”

— XAVIER CHAMBRON, PRESIDENT OF LOW COST PUBLISHER AND BOOK STORE VENDING MACHINE CHAIN MAXI-LIVRES

A GLANCE AT THE NUMBERS

1949

LIFE magazine debuts images of a Book-O-Mat machine that costs 25¢ per book

20 Degrees

The tilt needed to tip a vending machine, a surprisingly small angle

880 Pounds

The average weight of a fully stocked vending machine

1 in 112,000,000

The odds that a person will die in a vending machine accident in one year

2,000,000

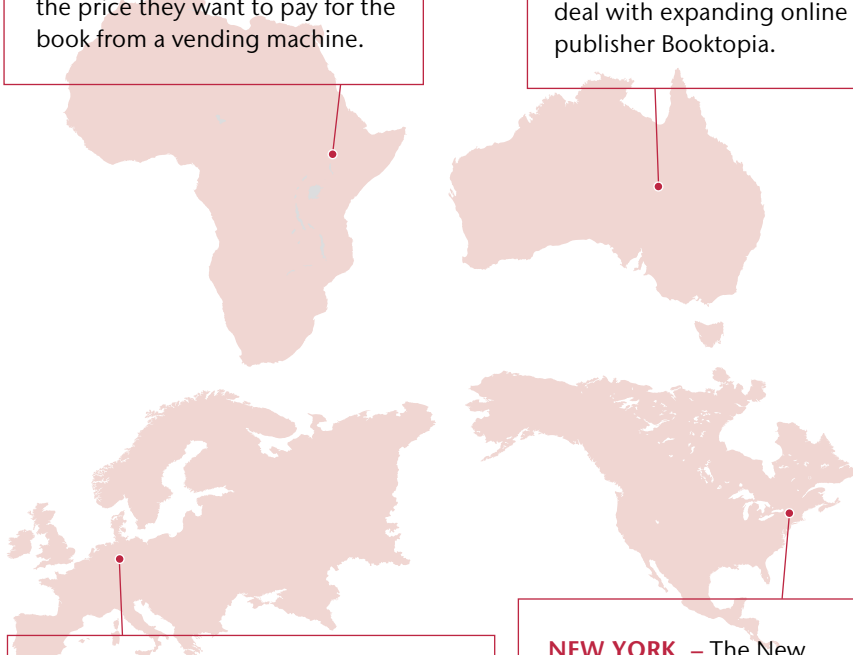
The most number of vending machines in one country – Germany

BRAZIL – Company 24x7 Clutural recently installed book vending machines that let patrons choose the price they want to pay for the book from a vending machine.

AUSTRALIA – Company Novel Idea installs over 200 machines while inking a deal with expanding online publisher Booktopia.

GERMANY – Old cigarette vending machines are repurposed into book selling machines, dispensing poetry, travel guides, comics and more that are wrapped to look like cigarette packs.

NEW YORK – The New York Public Library installs a machine named Espresso that prints and binds a paperback book in a matter of minutes for free.



Make Story Hour Come Alive

How to prepare for and captivate your audience

When you're entertaining a group of squiggly and energetic little ones, it can be tricky getting and keeping their attention. Here are some tips on how to perfect your story hour so it's a smooth, headache-free enjoyable hour for you, parents and the kids.

How To Prepare

Story time can be a great break for parents, an exciting social activity for kids and a tactful way to introduce the perks to the library to readers of all ages. However, it can also be a nerve-racking experience, especially if you're just winging it. Instead, think about what you want your story hour's structure to look like, what you'll need to do before your patrons arrive and what books you want to read.

Walter Minkel, former supervisor and primary programmer at the Early Childhood Center of The New York Public Library and assistant manager of the North Village Branch of the Austin Public Library, urges children's librarians to not feel constrained by themes. "Reading books, chanting rhymes and singing songs that you enjoy are critical – if you don't like what you're doing up there, the kids can tell," he writes on his blog titled "The Monkey Speaks."

Practice reading your book to get the emphasis, character's voices and phrasing right. You may also want to choose an opening routine that your group will use every time you

meet to release some energy before you start reading.

Farida Dowler, professional storyteller in Seattle, Washington, suggests starting the opening song or activity just a little bit late, after you've given caregivers your rules

(like please turn off cell phones). For those who arrive on time, start with a

warm up song like "The Farmer in the Dell" or "The Wheels on the Bus", make your announcements, then officially kick off story hour.

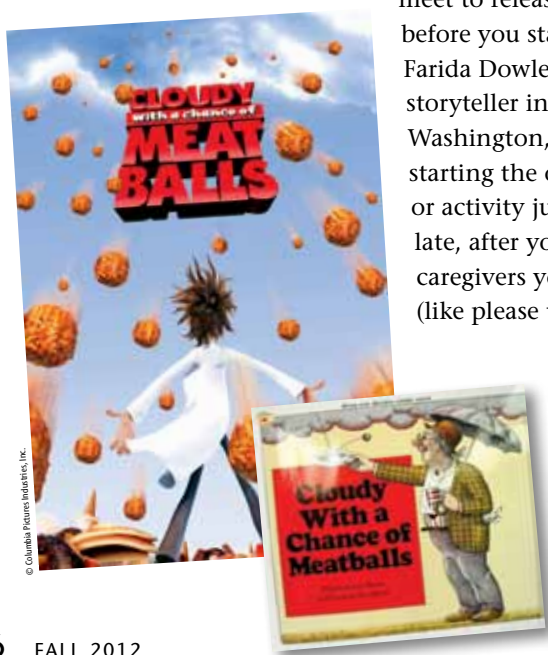
What To Do While Reading

The first thing you'll want to do is introduce yourself, followed by the book's title, author and a sentence or two about why you chose this particular story. Next, getting to know your group will help everyone feel more comfortable and relaxed. If you have new participants, you might also want to introduce them to the rest of the group.

When you're reading to your group, holding the book correctly makes a difference in the kids' attention span. When they can't see the pages, getting restless is a lot easier. Virginia Tebo, staff member of the Flower Memorial Library in Watertown, NY recommends holding your book with your hand at the top or bottom of the spine so that you cover as little of the pictures as possible. If you have a large group, slowly rotate the story from side to side and leave time for kids to appreciate the images. Try to keep eye contact with your audience to keep them engaged and use your voice to reflect special parts in your story. You can also use different voices for different characters, ask kids to make sound effects or clap at certain parts, or ask them to repeat rhyming sections.

Story time can be a great break for parents, an exciting social activity for kids and a tactful way to introduce the perks to the library to readers of all ages.

In a *New York Times* article titled, "5 Tips for Better Storytelling," author Marci Alboher talks about Rick Partick and William Lee, Co-creators of "Talkingstick", a performance series that is helping drive the story telling movement. She writes that both storytellers reiterated that, "Openings and closings are very important. When Master



Lee and Mr. Patrick organize their shows, they make sure to begin and end the evenings with their strongest material since this is often what stays with the listener.” Include time for a quick chat at the end of each story to help the children reflect on what they’ve just heard. Since research has shown that children learn more from a story when they are given the chance to talk about it, ask some questions.

Good examples of what to discuss are familiar words, predictions of what may happen next, favorite parts or characters and whether or not the story could really happen.

When Times Get Tough

For those times when practice and confidence just aren’t helping, it pays to have a few diversions up your sleeve. Children’s librarian of the Denver Public Library Melissa Depper urges that “You don’t have to follow your plan to the letter, but thinking a sequence through in advance and planning some transitional comments can save you time and lessen your distraction during story time itself. Part of your thinking about story time is running through possible situations ahead of time – what will you do if no one wants to get up and dance? What will you do if you have a super-chatty three-year-old?” This will help you avoid being caught off guard.

“You don’t have to follow your plan to the letter, but thinking a sequence through in advance and planning some transitional comments can save you time and lessen your distraction during story time itself ... this will help you avoid being caught off guard.”

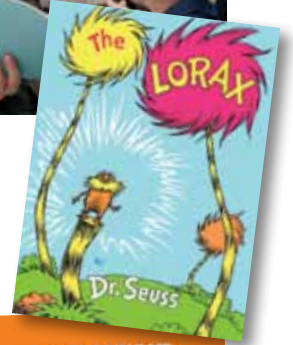
When the whole group seems wiggly, invite your group to move in between stories. By using music, movements or a combination of the two, kids are more likely to sit still during the next book. If just one child is energetic, speak directly to him or her and make eye contact with the adult, Tebo recommends. She recommends saying something like “Jacob, could you please try to sit down like a rock for a minute while I finish the story? Thank you!” Most of the



time, parents will get the hint to step in to make the child behave. Phrases like these will also work when there is a child obstructing the view of the story for others or someone is being chatty.

If you’re worried about the adults being a little noisy, warn them beforehand to remain quiet while you read. Before you start, ask parents to set a good example for the kids while you read or ask the kids to point out any adult who isn’t listening quietly. This will keep the situation light instead of accusatory.

Lastly, master teller of 23 years K. Sean Buvala urges storytellers to always learn, take classes and be a listener. He urges those creating story hours to “regularly search the web, scan new books, read blogs about professional story telling and keep developing new ideas”. This will keep your story hours fresh and always fun. 🍀



We Are Family: How to Utilize Sister Libraries

Tapping into the helping power of libraries both near and far

Next time your library needs a source of support, why not try a fellow library? Libraries both near and far can form a strong safety net to help one another reach their full potential. According to Sara Ann Long, former president of the ALA, “Libraries build community, but today’s community is a global one. Many of today’s library users have immigrated from other countries. Many routinely travel for pleasure and conduct business abroad. Becoming a Sister Library is an opportunity to help build relationships with libraries in other cultures that can help us learn, understand and better serve our own community.”

Why Reach Out to Other Libraries?

There are many, many benefits to using a fellow library’s assistance. Reasons include exchanging books and electronic materials, sharing resources, promoting programs, connecting with other communities and to ensure each library is doing its absolute best. According to April Ritchie, founder of the Kentucky Sister Library Project and author of *American Libraries* magazine article titled “O Sister, Where Art Thou”, “Traditionally, libraries have had a healthy appetite for friendly competition. This congenial competitiveness keeps us on our toes and helps us take pride in our work, and that is good for everyone.”



Most libraries tap into sisterhood potential by connecting with a

On ALA’s Sister Library Initiative, you can read success stories, read over their advanced planning checklist, browse through the directory of libraries looking for sister libraries and more.

library outside of the United States. However, sometimes a more local approach is needed to be used to ensure that a library is maximizing its full potential. Some libraries like the Kentucky Sister Library Project (KSLP) have chosen to pair up with a library within the same state. This helps share assets between libraries with a lot of funding and those with little funding. One of the things that helps partnerships like these work so smoothly is the Sister Libraries Agreement Form. While not a contract, this form outlines the terms and expectations of each library to be reviewed by each library board.

“Libraries build community, but today’s community is a global one. Many of today’s library users have immigrated from other countries. Many routinely travel for pleasure and conduct business abroad. Becoming a Sister Library is an opportunity to help build relationships with libraries in other cultures that can help us learn, understand and better serve our own community.”

How Can I Find a Sister Library?

ALA’s The Sister Library Program gives a few suggestions on how to find a Sister Library. Most of these tips are applicable to a statewide, national and international sister library program. Among their tips are finding personal or business ties to other countries within your community, making contact with libraries while traveling, meeting with



Sister Libraries: Liverpool Public Library (USA) and Lantarang Kunda Starfish International Library (West Africa)

international students within collegiate library programs nearby, fostering relationships with librarians met during library conferences and building on existing relationships with international organizations within your community.

How Can I Get Started?

The ALA recommends first analyzing your library's needs and figuring out how you could benefit from a Sister Library relationship. Identify the things you can offer another library, figure out how much you could spend on this program and determine the level of commitment that you will be able to make. Present these to your board and get your community involved, via a local committee. Cooperation and flexibility are two key traits in working with an international library, especially when working with different languages. Try to answer each email promptly to keep the relationship running smoothly. 📧

Activities for Sister Libraries

Sister Libraries can be a blessing in disguise for splitting programming costs, trading materials and helping lift each other to new levels of success. Embrace your Sister Library partnership with these ideas from the ALA.



- Organize a pen pal email-based program to help your libraries learn from your Sister Library. Discuss concerns, display inspiration, programming ideas, issues you're facing and more.
- Create a cultural exchange using staff newsletters, newspaper articles, scrapbooks, pictures of your library and more to get to know this library.
- Arrange a visit to your Sister Library to learn about how to offer your library's perks and to see what you could borrow from their library.
- Set up an evaluation scale to help you and your Sister Library learn from both your successes and mistakes.

Tips on Selecting Books for Your Shelves

Suggestions for choosing books for kids, teens and adults

Book purchasing is just one of the many responsibilities of librarians. Between eclectic preferences spanning from children's books about talking cheetahs to historical autobiographies of the founding fathers, librarians must mix great literature with popular novels to meet the needs of their community.

As budgets continue to get smaller, public librarian Abigail Goben of La Crosse Public Library in La Crosse, WI explains, "Librarians need to be able to justify the materials that tax dollars are being spent on. Libraries don't have the resources to buy mediocre books, where there is not the demand of a big author or a classroom's worth of little girls asking for it." So just how can you sort through the thousands of book released each month to know what's good and what to skip? Try some of these suggestions.

Choosing for Children

Kids' reading interests subtly change as they age. For infants and toddlers under the age of two, non-profit organization Reading Is Fundamental, Inc, (RIF) recommends choosing durable books with big, bright, colorful pictures of familiar objects. For Preschoolers, select stories with simple, fun plots with lively rhymes and repetition that kids can repeat and remember. Encouraging stories about everyday activities help smaller patrons to want to explore their world. Books with similar aged characters, talking animals and basic concepts like letters and numbers will also hold a child's attention, according to RIF.

For young readers, aged six to 11, chapter books with clear easy to read text encourage reading over several days. Books with colorful illustrations can bring text to life, while familiar stories are great to help children start reading on their own. Those who are 12 and up may prefer novels that help them cope with the challenges of growing up or introduce them to new experiences. This is the age many kids become interested in trivia books, world record books, biographies, folk tales and historical fiction.

Catering to Teen Tastes

One of the best places to find out about popular young adult literature is from book lists and awards. YALSA and ALA's Booklist have dozens of lists that feature hit titles for teens and come out several times a year. Another good website to know is Goodreads.com. Organizers of this site take book lists created by users and from around the web, and combines them into one easy to use site. Once you become a member, you can browse thousands of book lists, connect with other book lovers, create your own lists, read recommendations and much more.



Common Sense Media, a non-profit organization designed to give rating ideas on books, apps, movies, TV shows and other media that is new to the market, can also help you determine what's appropriate and what's trending right now in the teen market. Their website, Commonsensemedia.org lets users rate books, shows and more, giving you further insight into what's hot and what's not.



Picking for Adult Patrons

Staying on top of what's relevant is crucial in choosing new books for adult patrons. A weekly glance at a few best-seller lists can easily help you learn what's popular. There are tons of popular best-seller lists out there including ones from Amazon, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times* and the American Booksellers Association.

Bookbrowse.com is another timesaving resource for choosing new books. Staff members read hundreds of publisher's catalogs, early reviews and book buzz to find the diamonds in the rough that promise to entertain and inform. According to Davina Morgan-Witts, founder and editor of the company, the BookBrowse experience promises to tell you what the recommended

book is about without spoiling any plot lines, offers in-depth recommendations, gives you access to exclusive book lists and much more for an annual membership fee of \$35.

As a librarian, you've also got a golden opportunity to read books first thanks to NetGalley. Open to ALA members, NetGalley is a site for people who love to read and recommend books. Once you register and are approved, you have access to a digital galley that you can read on your computer or have titles sent directly to your Kindle. There's no better way to find out what's good than reading it for free! 📖

One Library's Solution to Popular Titles and Pesky Wait Lists!

Librarians at the Eugene Public Library have introduced a "Lucky Day" program to help patrons skip the wait list when requesting popular titles. This program lets patrons check out bright blue-labeled Lucky Day books for 21 days without a renewal options. "For really popular titles, unless you get lucky and are the first in line with the hold request, it could take months before you could have the chance to read the book," says LaVena Nohrenberg, customer exchange manager.

READ IT. *SEE IT.* LOVE IT.

START A BOOK-TO-MOVIE CLUB AT YOUR LIBRARY! ENCOURAGE PATRONS TO READ A SELECTED BOOK, THEN PLAN A MOVIE EVENT AROUND THE MATCHING FILM. THIS PROGRAM WORKS WITH ANY AGE GROUP AND OFFERS A CHANCE TO DISCUSS SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO.

CHILDREN



The Lorax
Based on *The Lorax*
By Dr. Seuss; Rated PG



Tangled
Based on *Rapunzel*
By the Brothers Grimm; Rated PG



A great movie to show when kids are off for holiday break!

The Polar Express
Based on *The Polar Express*
By Chris Van Allsburg; Rated G

YOUNG ADULTS



The Hunger Games
Based on *The Hunger Games*
By Suzanne Collins; Rated: PG-13



The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 1
Based on *Breaking Dawn*
By Stephanie Meyer; Rated PG-13

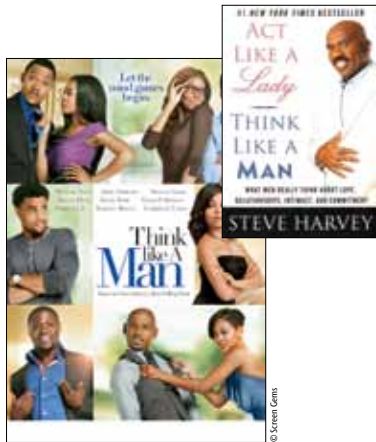


Freedom Writers
Based on *The Freedom Writers*
By Erin Gruwell; Rated PG-13

ADULTS



Angels and Demons
Based on *Angels and Demons*
By Dan Brown; Rated PG-13



Think Like a Man
Based on *Think Like a Man*
By Steve Harvey; Rated PG-13



November is Child Safety and Protection Month!

What to Expect When You're Expecting
Based on *What to Expect When You're Expecting*
By Heidi Murkoff; Rated PG-13

HOLIDAY FEATURES



Christmas With the Kranks
Based on *Skipping Christmas*
By John Grisham; Rated: PG



A Christmas Carol
Based on *A Christmas Carol*
By Charles Dickens; Rated: PG



How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Based on *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
By Dr. Seuss; Rated PG

6 The number of voices Tom Hanks played in *The Polar Express*.

The address spoken by the conductor in the film is the actual address of the director's childhood home.

THESE MOVIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FALL AND WINTER PROGRAMMING!

For more information, programming ideas and to view additional ideas for your book-to-movie club, visit www.movlic.com/library

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

WHETHER IT'S BIG OR SMALL, RURAL OR URBAN, NO TWO LIBRARIES ARE QUITE THE SAME. HERE WE INTERVIEW LIBRARY WORKERS TO FIND OUT WHAT PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES THEY ARE PROUD TO PROVIDE.

SHREVE MEMORIAL LIBRARY Shreveport, LA



Peggy Evans – Acquisitions Librarian

Number of Cardholders? 167,000

Number of Books in Circulation? 824,947

What are your library's holiday plans?

Beginning with Halloween, we've created a teen theme of "It Came from the Library," our scary story day that incorporates movies, face painting, costumes and acting.

For Christmas, "Spice Up Your Holidays" is the theme. Different spices will be used to meld with genres of literature and activities. An example would be mystery and spices, and cookbooks will be heavily used in the programs. Different films with food as part of their theme will also figure into these activities. Children will have several spice themed programs as well this Christmas, including Barbie's Sugar-Plum fairy films, a visit from the Shreveport Ballet company program and evening storytelling.

Do you attract volunteers? What programs have they helped with?

We have a Friends of the Shreve Memorial Library group. Their annual book sale provides branches with special funding for programs and activities for our patrons. The Summer Reading Program began with a library-written and sponsored play which was seen by all second graders in Caddo parish. The actors were volunteers from area high schools who learned the play in the morning to perform it for the children.

www.shreve-lib.org

TIMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY Tumwater, Washington



Tim Mallory – Reference & Adult Services Coordinator

Number of Cardholders? 342,560

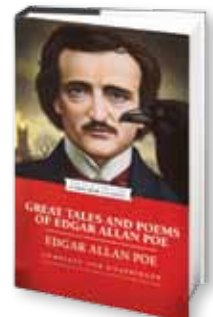
Number of Books in Circulation? 1,650,269

What was your library's best program or event?

We have a program called "Timberland Reads Together" and have featured a local author's work, *Highest Tide*, by Jim Lynch. Our current program, "Edgar Allan Poe," is all about his poetry and short story works along with showing the corresponding movies: "The Murders in the Rue Morgue", "The Raven", "The Fall of the House of Usher", "The Pit and the Pendulum", "Phantom of the Rue Morgue", "Tales of Terror" and "Mask of the Red Death."

How does your library create community? Our "One Book, One Community" program is special and unique. It covers over 7,000 square miles, including 27 other libraries! We also hold district-wide programs three to four times a year. Another community favorite is our "Passport to Timberland" program. The TRL Foundation created a 78-page book that resembles a passport and each community with a library gets a two-page spread. Members of every community visit each library over the summer and get a stamp in their passport book for each library they've visited.

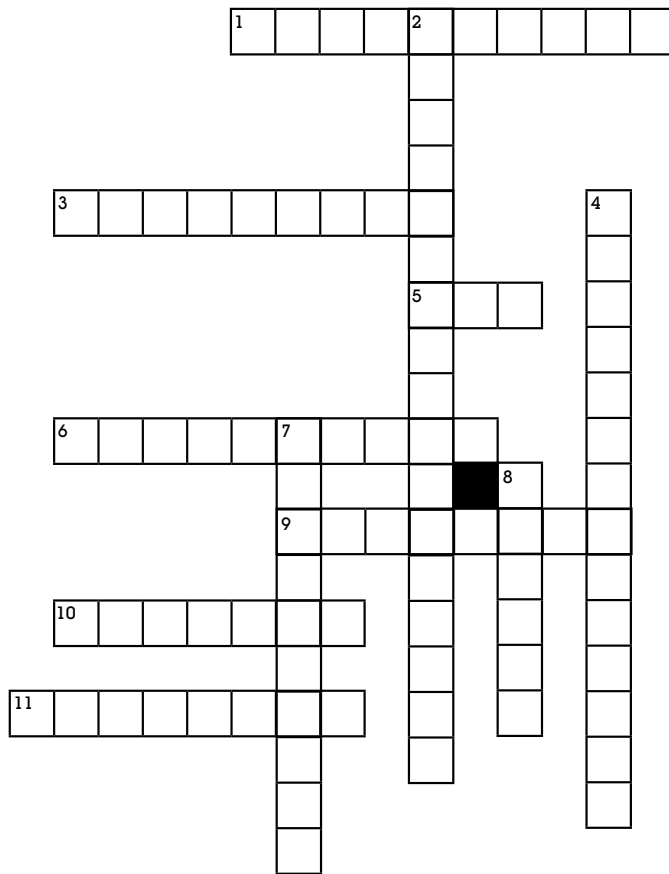
www.trlib.org



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The New York Times *Best Seller List*

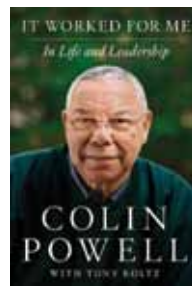


ACROSS

- 1 The book *The Perks of Being a _____* is now a major motion picture.
- 3 Heidi Murkoff and Sharon Mazel's book tackles this life changing topic.
- 5 *A Game of Thrones* is a book turned T.V. series on this premium cable network.
- 6 *It Worked For Me* is the title of a book on leadership by this four star general.
- 9 Adam Carolla's latest book references this fast food restaurant.
- 10 Author Nora _____ has spent more than 861 weeks on the *New York Times* Bestseller List.
- 11 The latest book number in Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series.

DOWN

- 2 The racy book that is currently being challenged in libraries across the country.
- 4 This book by Seth Grahame-Smith turns a historical figure into a work of gory fiction.
- 7 Series by Eric Litwin that has two titles on the *New York Times* Best Seller List.
- 8 Little boy's novel that describes the afterlife, _____ is *For Real*.





DREAMWORKS

MADAGASCAR 3

EUROPE'S
MOST WANTED



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