



Teen Read Week Online Chat

Sept. 2, 2009

Carla Land: Looks like it's 8 o'clock...let's go ahead and get started. How is everyone getting ready for Teen Read Week

Robin Hohn: Hi!

Alissa Lauzon: just starting to think about it actually, now that summer has wound down

Amy Alessio: We are trying to promote a film contest for Teen Read Month

(Typing one handed while holding baby)

Robin Hohn: working on planning some events and partner with the middle school librarian

Elizabeth Burns: I'm lurking for ideas. My library doesn't really program so I'm looking at something online

Carla Land: Have you checked out the wiki yet?

Connie Urquhart: we have no money so we're telling teens we'll waive fines for reading.

Elizabeth Burns: Or doing something with resources for adaptive technology & teens

Amy Alessio: Connie, waiving fines is always the STDL teens' favorite incentive

Jamie Naylor: My library didn't participate last year but we have a bimonthly drop everything & read (DEAR) during homeroom... hoping to get ideas for it and TRW

Connie Urquhart: It's the first time we've done this so I'm really excited.

Robin Hohn: Program wise we are doing things that involve little or no budget (first year also)

Alissa Lauzon: one of our staff members is in a theater group- so I am tapping her to do some drama related workshop

Carla Land: My library district pulled a few library programs from the TRW page and tweaked them- also for budgetary reasons.

Amy Alessio: We'll have drawings for small cafe gift certificates from non-fiction reviews turned in to go with theme.

Connie Urquhart: Is anyone doing anything science fiction-y?

Elizabeth Burns: just SF booklists

Alissa Lauzon: I was toying with doing a writing contest- best entry for what the world will be like in 2109

Angelina Manfredi: What does SF even mean anymore? I mean, the line is really blurred.

Amy Alessio: anything that has no vampires, haha

Carla Land: One of our libraries is doing a "Project Runway: Alien Edition"

Jamie Naylor: I like it, Carla!

Connie Urquhart: thx everyone (need ideas for our Big Read programs -- Fahrenheit 451)

Elizabeth Burns: carla, great idea

Alissa Lauzon: that's cool Carla... I wish I could get my kids to do something like that

Connie Urquhart: Carla--take pics!

Penny Johnson: Unfortunately our state convention is the same week. So I'm going to be out of town for most of TRW

Jamie Naylor: I wonder if I could tie it in with my Scary Stories in the Library, which is the following Mon & Tues

Penny Johnson: We are doing the "Thrill the World" event on Saturday the 24th, though.

Alissa Lauzon: what are you doing for that Penny?

Carla Land: I wish I could claim ownership of that idea! But I do know the librarian who's doing it, so I'll be sure to tell her to take pics.

Alissa Lauzon: I've been thinking about a "Read to Change the World" marathon where they earn money for our local Santa Fund for each hour they spend reading during program

Carla Land: I like that idea!

Penny Johnson: It's part of an international event, trying to set a world record for the most # of people dancing the Thriller dance at the same time. Lots of zombies!

Elizabeth Burns: I love that Thriller dance idea, i remember you mentioning that this summer

Alissa Lauzon: AWESOME!!!! You have to take pictures of that!!!

Amy Alessio: Alissa, would they get their own sponsors? Love the Thriller idea too

Carla Land: Or put it on Youtube!

Penny Johnson: We're hoping to get permission to do the dance on the courthouse lawn. Very cool!

Alissa Lauzon: the Friends sponsor our charity reading, i've got left over money from the summer so I was thinking about using if there (we do charity reading during the sum)

Amy Alessio: cool

Kimberly Patton: Hey everyone! We're doing the The World Thriller day too! We're also hosting a Smash Bros tourney w/all 10 branches

Amy Alessio: Hey KP. At the same time? Hooked up?

Penny Johnson: Wow, Smash Bros. tourney would be very fun!

Robin Hohn: We are also going to have a gaming day which will include the Wii

Kimberly Patton: Yep! online.

Carla Land: Nice. Is most everyone doing their TRW programming during that week, or is anyone spreading it out more over October?

Amy Alessio: Over entire month

Penny Johnson: I've got a couple of prizes leftover from summer. So I'm looking for ideas for a great TRW contest.

Alissa Lauzon: I'm going to try to do all my October programming along the "read for the fun of it" and TRW themes

Angelina Manfredi: I am doing a lot of things the week before because Mississippi is having their state library conference that week

Robin Hohn: Over just that week because of time constraints on my part

Elizabeth Burns: I started an online newsletter (AKA blog) this summer so I'll use that during the month to highlight resources & booklists

Kimberly Patton: all month for us

Connie Urquhart: Just during the week

Amy Alessio: How do you all get teens to vote for Teens' Top Ten? My teens read those titles, but few vote.

Elizabeth Burns: at work, that is Blindness Awareness Month so that is where the bulk of our resources is directed that month

Angelina Manfredi: I had our printing department make glossy bookmarks. they are available in the teen section

Penny Johnson: I've really been promoting TTT this year, Amy, but I have no idea how many people have voted. Special display, etc.

Angelina Manfredi: the ones YALSA has available.

Connie Urquhart: Amy, we have a lot of teen followers on our blog, so I put it there. Not sure how we can monitor how many votes will come from it.

Alissa Lauzon: Bribery.... if they vote in the library they get candy

Carla Land: We're putting a link up on our teen website and I've put bookmarks everywhere for TTT. Hahaha Alissa!

Penny Johnson: I think I'm going to set up a laptop at our next Teen Tuesday and offer candy for voting!

Carla Land: I'll have to try that.

Angelina Manfredi: also, I stress that they are books that other teens have chosen. they like to see a list where there are books they recognize.

Amy Alessio: Alissa - love the candy.

Alissa Lauzon: it works wonders... they'll do just about anything for a candy bar

Robin Hohn: Amy what i'm going to do is put out a box and have the teens vote that way as well as bring my laptop to one of the after school teen groups and have em vote

Angelina Manfredi: hah, Alissa, what won't they do for candy??

Amy Alessio: Adults will do a lot for candy also

Angelina Manfredi: gummi worms! our kids would stab each other for gummi worms!!!

Amy Alessio: I like the paper voting, Robin. Good idea

Connie Urquhart: The laptop idea is awesome...going to pass that along to my colleagues.

Penny Johnson: I know the TTT books have been circulating quite a bit. I have a tough time keeping more than 2 or 3 in my display.

Elizabeth Burns: the last time i looked, not enough of the TTT was available in alternate format. i was toying with the idea of doing a retro one, with titles from lasat year

Carla Land: I have the same problem as Penny- they're checking out too fast to even really create a display...not that I'm complaining about this!

Penny Johnson: I wish we had some way of knowing if our teens have voted online. Are there any statistics with geographic info?

Robin Hohn: yeah most of ours have a hold list a mile long

Elizabeth Burns: a successful display is one that disappears because the books are gone!

Melissa Orth: good question, Penny. I'd like to know the answer too.

Linda Braun: Penny I'm looking to see if the survey software has stats like that but not sure that it does.

Penny Johnson: That would be a nice addition for the future...

Melissa Orth: Doesn't the popularity of TTT titles just shows how important teen input is?

Carla Land: I certainly think so. :)

Angelina Manfredi: I think so. The teens get REALLY excited to see books they know already. and it DEFINITELY makes them more likely to read other books.

Linda Braun: Penny - noted.

Amy Alessio: I'd like to see themed TTT in the future also on the year's theme, but I also like the current TTT lists.

Penny Johnson: Next year I'd like to put even more emphasis on TTT by asking teens to create campaign posters for the books.

Robin Hohn: if you are going to be linking from your website to the voting page talk to your web tech and see if they can track the number of people clicking the link

Penny Johnson: Oh, Robin, good idea. I do have a link from my webpage.

Robin Hohn: google analytics is a great tool for doing that

Melissa Orth: Thanks for the tip, Robin!

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Jackie Parker: We had our graphics department create a poster of the cover images of all the TTT titles. I made a voting box that I installed under that.

Angelina Manfredi: does anyone find it's easier to promote some of the "lesser" known titles (wherever nina lies or bloodline, for instance) using the fact they are on the list? with stuff like hunger games, breaking dawn, city of ashes?

Robin Hohn: welcome... i'm teen librarian and our website person (small library)

Carla Land: Do you have to have administrative rights to your website for Google Analytics to work, Robin?

Amy Alessio: I'm envious, Robin - I'd need committee permission to add something like that to the teen site.

Carla Land: I think it helps to have unfamiliar titles next to the popular ones, Angelina.

Melissa Orth: The only shelf sitter this summer for our TTT display was the audio of Melting Stones

Penny Johnson: About the only title that hasn't been flying off my display shelf is Flygirl.

Robin Hohn: you have to have the web tech install a bit of code from analytics (hides in the background) and then just have them add you to the google account

Penny Johnson: OH! LOL! I didn't intend to make a pun!

Carla Land: Gotcha- thanks! Are there any other titles people have noticed sitting and not getting checked out?

Robin Hohn: Runemarks hasn't been real popular with our group of teens

Penny Johnson: Runemarks has a boring cover, IMHO

Carla Land: Teens do judge books by their covers. So do adults.

Amy Alessio: Runemarks for my teens as well

Angelina Manfredi: I have had some kids ask why Graveyard Book is there because "my little brother/sister is reading that in class."

Alissa Lauzon: I think Flygirl will take some pushing... but it is worth it!

Penny Johnson: Yeah, I had to wrestle with the children's department to get the copy of Graveyard in the teen section.

Amy Alessio: While my teens have all read Breaking Dawn, few would vote for that one.

Carla Land: Is anyone doing a bookclub or book discussion as part of their TRW programming? Maybe using TTT books?

Melissa Orth: Hunger Games would win here.

Erin Downey Howerton: @Penny I think libraries should have a copy in each section

Angelina Manfredi: and it is hard for me to talk up Graveyard Book since I don't like it, personally. yes, Carla, I am. I am going to have a lock-in with designated "reading time" then discussion afterwards.

Penny Johnson: Erin, that's what we finally did--order a second copy!

Carla Land: That sounds like fun!

Erin Downey Howerton: @Penny it's great to be able to do that :) excellent!

Robin Hohn: yeah i'm going to do a book discussion and then show some movies that were books first

Carla Land: Are the teens each reading the same title or their own choice?

Penny Johnson: My TAB doesn't want book discussion groups. I would love to do one, but can't get any commitment.

Angelina Manfredi: their own choice, but they will get to pick from new books and TTT choices.

Amy Alessio: Same here, Penny.

Carla Land: It can be difficult to get support from teens for that.

Angelina Manfredi: our lure is author participation with our book club. we had elizabeth scott and laurie stolarz do online chats with us after we had read the books.

Amy Alessio: That is a great idea. We do pull Chicago authors to run other types of programs. James Kennedy just did a Reader Theatre.

Angelina Manfredi: they were both gracious and lovely, laurie stolarz sent all the participants autographed book plates.

Robin Hohn: see because the book discussion overlaps with teen group i'm going to have them carving pumpkins while they discuss the books

Angelina Manfredi: and we have the transcripts up at our library website.

Penny Johnson: We are having a read-in for Banned Books Week. Setting up a jail somewhere in the library, and will keep it "full of inmates" reading banned books.

Jackie Parker: I'm excited about the Skype options for author visits. I just have to convince my teens that we should do more book related programming. I may have to grow it in with the tween programs we are planning

Erin Downey Howerton: I love that TRW is near Halloween :) @robin pumpkin carving is a fun idea!

Jamie Naylor: love it penny!

Angelina Manfredi: I think Skype would get them TOO excited ;) Penny, I LOVE the jail idea!!

Connie Urquhart: for those of you who do online chats or Skype convos with authors, do you pay them?

Angelina Manfredi: nope, both elizabeth scott and laurie stolarz did it for free once I approached them.

Jackie Parker: The SLJ article recently had a whole list of authors who would do 20 minute Skype visits FOR FREE

Erin Downey Howerton: Here's the [Skype an Author network](#)

Angelina Manfredi: our friends purchased 10 copies of the books and they chatted with us for about an hour, via gchat.

Jackie Parker: [School Library Journal article](#)

Elizabeth Burns: that was a good article

Connie Urquhart: awesome! thanks! hadn't really thought about it but v excited now.

Jackie Parker: I thought so.

Penny Johnson: Okay, I'm going to see if I can lure the teens into a book discussion group with an author visit. That sounds very fun.

Amy Alessio: How many here belong to adult book clubs? (discussion groups)

Angelina Manfredi: @penny, the kids also liked it because they got to ask the author about writing and many of them want to be/are writers.

Elizabeth Burns: no -- just stuff blogs / blogging

Angelina Manfredi: so that is another possible connection.

Jackie Parker: I used to run an adult one at my old library, but I so hated HAVING to read something. Took the fun out of it.

Amy Alessio: I never have and figured that is why I have trouble getting a teen one going, but maybe not?

Penny Johnson: No time for an adult book club for me! Boohoo!

Jackie Parker: (especially adult books)

Erin Downey Howerton: @amy I have never found one that appealed to me, so I can see why a teen would have a hard time finding one they would like!

Elizabeth Burns: for adult ones, i did some good cafes where there was no one book just people talking about faves

Carla Land: I do a teen book club at my library. One of my staff and I alternate and we only do it once every three months.

Robin Hohn: @penny I hear you... no time

Jackie Parker: Amy, I think you just need to have a core group that's interested. Seek them out, ask the school librarian for help starting.

Erin Downey Howerton: @liz I think I would like a club like that. I would even read on a theme

Amy Alessio: We have 28 in the TAC; perhaps I will give this project to them.

Jackie Parker: Maybe do a joint lunch book group at the school w/ school lib.

Carla Land: We're looking into having English teachers offer extra credit to participate in our bookclub here at the public library, but that can be hit or miss.

Connie Urquhart: We don't have a lot of interest in book clubs at any age at our library, but the ones that are most successful are themed (mysteries, manga, etc)

Amy Alessio: Great input all, thanks! (We have three high schools; I'll ask them all.)

Elizabeth Burns: good idea

Penny Johnson: Oh, we do have a very active manga group. Rabid, really.

Amy Alessio: Penny, do they discuss the books?

Alissa Lauzon: I keep trying to do book clubs, but get no attendance- I might try doing one with one of the middle school librarians... good idea!

Penny Johnson: Yes, Amy, they do. I don't run the group at all. I just provide the program room and the food. The teens decide what to do each month.

Jackie Parker: I have SO MUCH more success when I work with my school librarians. Love them.

Carla Land: I've done lunchtime book clubs at middle schools here in Vegas. It's been relatively successful depending on how much the school librarian talks it up. Usually they are wonderful about it!

Alissa Lauzon: I wish I had that success... most of my schools don't have librarians :(

Amy Alessio: Very cool, Penny. I'd love to know what they do. My anime group decided to become a monthly drawing and art group, and some split into a Writing Club.

Alissa Lauzon: but I've got an in with one of the middle schools guidance counselors- so I might try and start one there

Penny Johnson: Some teens have asked me to expand the manga group to include comic books. So starting this month we will have manga on one side of the room and comics on the other. Dont' know how it's going to work!

Melissa Orth: @alissa - try that. any in with a teacher is a foot in the door. good luck

Erin Downey Howerton: @alissa that is sad!!!

Alissa Lauzon: @Melissa- thanks... I think I'm going to. It's a great idea.

Melissa Orth: @penny - do you also have anime showing in the background?

Robin Hohn: i'm just getting a Anime & Manga group going here... i just hope the teens will get into it

Carla Land: Is anyone in here working with school/public librarians to promote TRW, like a crossover?

Penny Johnson: @Melissa- the evening usually ends with at least a half hour of watching anime.

Jackie Parker: All I can say is, OPERATION ANIME. Seriously has saved my rear with the Anime Club. The teens love choosing the next title.

Amy Alessio: We do send TRW kits to the high school and junior high libraries.

Connie Urquhart: we (public) usually get more requests for booktalking that week.

Kimberly Patton: just for booktalks and to promote programs

Melissa Orth: book discussion groups were zero attendance at my library here in maine until i teamed with the schools to do after school clubs.

Alissa Lauzon: @Amy- what do you include in the kits?

Robin Hohn: i'm going to be working with our Middle school Librarian (across the street from us) and hopefully tie in her theme for that month into it all

Amy Alessio: It will be different this year with a smaller budget, but any autographed books I may have, some bookmarks, library handouts, fun leftover summer reading prizes

Penny Johnson: Last year I teamed with the high school for TRW. We did "A Taste of Teen Reading".

Elizabeth Burns: I'd like to hear about the kits, also

Connie Urquhart: Sounds great, Amy. How many schools?

Amy Alessio: Nine. We used to do all the English teachers who wanted one also, but not right now.

Penny Johnson: Last year we asked teachers, counselors, librarians, etc. to each set up a display and activity about their favorite book. We used the HS media center.

When I worked with the schools last year, I found I had a much more generous budget than they did. They were really glad to collaborate with me!

Amy Alessio: That is so true, Penny.

Carla Land: I imagine this year will be even more so.

Amy Alessio: Anyone partner with other agencies?

Jackie Parker: I'm doing an open mike night with the city rec dept. Should be interesting...

Alissa Lauzon: We are working at establishing some co-op with the YMCA- i'm thinking TRW might be a good place to do some join projects

Penny Johnson: I would love to team up with 4H or the Boys and Girls Club, but just haven't been able to find the time to connect.

Carla Land: Our library district is so large that things like that tend to happen on a higher admin level, but we do work with local area community centers sometimes.

Elizabeth Burns: on my to-do list is to figure ways to let public libraries I'm a partnering opportunity

Jackie Parker: The Boys & Girls Clubs out here (WA) are crazy difficult to really work with. They are so overwhelmed (I guess).

Alissa Lauzon: I wish I had the time to go actually visit some of these agencies in person, hard to get them on the phone

Connie Urquhart: Had the same experience here, Jackie.

Amy Alessio: Yes, Jackie - I find that with several local agencies now, too

Carla Land: A lot of those organizations have their own agendas, too.

Erin Downey Howerton: @alissa I have reached out to our YMCA afterschool clubs & didn't have a lot of luck. I should give it another try!

Alissa Lauzon: @Erin- my new director and the Y's director have been talking abt collaboration for awhile but nothing happened yet- would be a good place to start I think

Amy Alessio: Most of the local agencies do love it when I bring over the gaming equip. for an evening.

Melissa Orth: are you all attending the local school open houses?

Amy Alessio: Yes - all three high schools asked us for the same night, of course!

Melissa Orth: of course!

Carla Land: We usually wait for them to call us, but I think this year I'm going to call THEM.

Amy Alessio: I'm bringing the laptop to show off those databases, etc.

Jackie Parker: Yes - although nothing set in stone at the momento.

Melissa Orth: and usually same night for desk schedule too, right?!

Erin Downey Howerton: this year we've had schools asking us the day of or day before to come out for programs

Penny Johnson: In my dream world my community would have a teen services coordinating committee.

Jackie Parker: oh, nice, Erin. lol

Alissa Lauzon: @Penny- that would be great

Erin Downey Howerton: which seems odd, as in the past we usually get at least a week's notice... I wonder what is different about this year!

Robin Hohn: @penny i think we all would like that

Amy Alessio: Penny, we have one that goes in waves. Right now is an off time, but I hope it will heat up again.

Jackie Parker: As long as I still get to be the teen librarian, Penny.

Erin Downey Howerton: @penny I would love that too. Every organization has their agenda - it would be great if we all had the same one!!

Alissa Lauzon: @Erin - or atleast agenda's that sort of worked together, right?

Penny Johnson: Okay, let me amend that.... Let me have enough time to be an effective teen librarian AND be the community coordinator!!

Amy Alessio: Usually it's me and a couple other agencies doing all the work.

Jackie Parker: I've seen a lot more "outreach requirements" for other agencies, so that helps me meet my quota!

Erin Downey Howerton: @alissa yes, absolutely!

Carla Land: TRW is a good opportunity to do some outreach. :-)

Erin Downey Howerton: @amy this is because you are organized/effective ;) LOL

Robin Hohn: i've found that i have to do the outreach

Alissa Lauzon: definitely... I'm excited about all the possibilities I've thought of tonight

Amy Alessio: I think the word is bossy, but thanks, Erin!

Carla Land: It's usually how I get my foot in the door at the beginning of the year with middle and high schools.

Alissa Lauzon: now I just have to make it happen- which sadly is easier said than done

Erin Downey Howerton: I have been working to try & automate our more routine requests so that we can spend more time on the "unique" ones

Amy Alessio: Everyone here is following a SF theme? I wonder why I assumed it was non-fiction and went in that direction?

Penny Johnson: How many of you get to be a teen librarian full-time?

Melissa Orth: I went with NF too. I am

Jamie Naylor: HS librarian - roughly 95% :)

Amy Alessio: I am PT but dedicated, though I cover an adult/teen RA desk.

Carla Land: We don't have any teen librarians where I am.

Elizabeth Burns: youth & teen

Amy Alessio: We have one other similar to my job.

Robin Hohn: i'm youth librarian, computer class instructor, and web master lol so about 35-30% of my time

Jackie Parker: I'm Full-time. Teen.

Angelina Manfredi: nope, children and teen and supervisor, with teens and tweens being my preferred focus.

Carla Land: @Angelina- that's the same as me. :)

Jackie Parker: We're making ugly monsters as a TRW activity. I'm curious to see how giving them needles will go.

Penny Johnson: I spread my 30 hours between teens, children's circulation/reference desk, and youth services acquisitions/cataloging.

Carla Land: My library district has been really great about making sure teens get their own sections, their own collections and their own programming.

Erin Downey Howerton: @jackie one of my favorite craft accessories is a hot glue gun :)

Amy Alessio: Bring band aids

Melissa Orth: use a stapler

Carla Land: Have them sign waivers first

Connie Urquhart: Jackie--i've been wondering about that. the needles. want to do some of those crafty crafts but....

Jackie Parker: lol. All great ideas! especially the band aids! You can get thicker, duller (blunt) needles that will work for this.

Amy Alessio: Sadly I have to use band aids at many teens programs where no crafts are made...

Connie Urquhart: if no one loses a finger, i'm doing it.

Angelina Manfredi: @carla, yes, my library hired me because they knew they were drowning and needed help with teens, so, I have pretty free reign. oh, needles would make me too nervous! :)

Penny Johnson: Since I have to be gone on Teen Tuesday during TRW, any ideas on something the teens can do without my presence?

Jackie Parker: The cool thing about the ugly monsters is they can be sloppy and more perfect b/c of the messiness.

Sarah Strahl: I'm FT Teen Librarian but I'm also part of the Readers' Desk etc.

Erin Downey Howerton: @penny set up a bulletin board or table where they can vote on something

Carla Land: @Penny You could try a bookmark contest..

Amy Alessio: Design An Alien contest

Penny Johnson: @Amy- In youth services we have 1 fulltime, 4 PT

Connie Urquhart: @penny quizzes and personality tests are always a hit

Jackie Parker: I'm kind of amazed at how crafty my kids are. That said, I can't call anything "CRAFTS" it has to be DIY or they are full of scorn.

@amy. LOVE THAT.

Penny Johnson: I am amazed at how many GUYS come to our craft activities. They love them!

Angelina Manfredi: @Jackie, well, crafts sounds a little baby-ish and gendered too, I think. our kids also like "project" "make stuff" etc.

Amy Alessio: I've had requests for guys only crafts. Same projects

Jackie Parker: My system has had a poster contest based on the TRW theme for years. I'm really interested to how this theme turns out.

Carla Land: Duct tape crafts are always popular with guys around here.

Jackie Parker: Interesting.

Erin Downey Howerton: @angelina yes, "make stuff" is a more neutral description

Connie Urquhart: Gross science is good for boys too...kinda crafty but not really.

Jackie Parker: Also, whomever came up with colorful duct tape must be rolling in the cash.

Carla Land: How does your system run that contest, Jackie?

Penny Johnson: Just don't let them put duct tape in anyone's hair. Yep, I had to give a guy a lopsided haircut one night!!

Amy Alessio: Your next class was on hairstyles, right?

Melissa Orth: thankfully LL bean sells plaid duct tape.

Carla Land: @Penny That's hilarious. (Not for him, of course!)

Elizabeth Burns: plaid duct tape??

Melissa Orth: yup

Jackie Parker: Each branch has physical entry forms at every library, plus downloadable PDFs on the website (and blog, and social networking). Then the Teen Coordinator and

Penny Johnson: Plaid duct tape!! Where do I get it???

Jackie Parker: impartial judges judge it. The Camo duct tape was mad popular a few weeks ago.

Amy Alessio: Jackie - do you run that now and post the posters in Oct?

Angelina Manfredi: oh and "upcycle" we've been using that term too as part of our "get green" and "don't buy useless junk that just breaks" pitch.

Melissa Orth: @penny [plaid duct tape](#)

Jackie Parker: @Carla, was that what you were asking for?

Carla Land: Yup. Thanks Jackie. That sounds cool. We have a Visual Poetry photography contest every year that's done similarly.

Amy Alessio: Love that idea.

Jackie Parker: @Amy, we overlap with the end of summer and they have to the end of Oct to enter, winners in NOV

Carla Land: @Amy You can see last year's winners [here](#)

Penny Johnson: How do you get your teens to do anything outside of regular library program time? I tried to run several contests, etc. this summer, and no submissions!

Amy Alessio: Very cool!

Jackie Parker: @Carla, ooo Visual Poetry, that sounds AWESOME!

Sarah Strahl: Penny, I'd like to know that as well. We gave away an iFlip in a "make a movie" contest and we had 3 whole entries.

Jackie Parker: @carla, very cool!

Carla Land: It's hard. We have a book mark contest over the summer, and the winning bookmark gets distributed to all the libraries in the district....

Connie Urquhart: @penny involve schools

Elizabeth Burns: @sarah, that's always so disappointing

Connie Urquhart: (unless you're at a school)

Elizabeth Burns: that's why I stopped doing any big contests/giveaways at the library

Alissa Lauzon: I got a lot of entries for contests when I sent the contest information to teachers that did art/photography/english- whatever the contest was. some of them made it extra credit to enter

Connie Urquhart: our most popular contest is always poetry, for the exact reason Alissa said.

Amy Alessio: Sometimes it takes a couple runs for a contest to catch on. The winners re enter and bring friends, etc.

Carla Land: We've been doing our visual poetry contest for...I think 9 years now.

Penny Johnson: As part of "Xpress Yourself" this summer we had a logo contest, photography bingo, and a film festival, all with no entries.

Sarah Strahl: I love the Visual Poetry site...it is great.

Penny Johnson: No, wait, we had three entries for the film festival.

Amy Alessio: Maybe too much time competition in the summer.

Carla Land: This sounds like a topic that might make an excellent chat in the future.

Amy Alessio: Good idea, Carla.

Penny Johnson: Definitely a good idea.

Alissa Lauzon: @Penny- do you keep running press releases about the contests? I've found that I have to keep the word out there in the papers cause sometimes they or mom and dad miss it the first time in addition to all the in library promotion and promotion I do in teh schools at the end of the year

Penny Johnson: Press releases, twitters, posters all over town, website coverage, school visits in May....

Amy Alessio: We had a colored pencil drawing contest for NLW theme and had a class in that technique which helped a little.

Jackie Parker: Have a great night, everyone, I have to jet!

Penny Johnson: We had a really fun photography class, then I introduced photography bingo. Nothing.

Carla Land: Well, it looks like it's 9 o'clock...or 6, where I am :)

Elizabeth Burns: good night; talk to you next chat!!

Alissa Lauzon: thanks for a great chat Carla!!!!

Penny Johnson: Oh! I need to go!

Carla Land: Thanks so much everyone!