

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Denver
January 23-28, 2009**

Topic: Request for Board Action: Readers’ Advisory Interest Group

Background: At the 2008 Annual Conference a group of YALSA members interested in establishing an official YALSA Interest Group met for the first time (as permitted by YALSA policy). Provided below are the notes from the first meeting as well as a petition with the names of 19 current YALSA members who have requested that the Board move to establish the YALSA Young Adult Readers’ Advisory Interest Group. As per YALSA policy, a minimum of 15 member signatures are required to petition the Board to establish an Interest or Discussion Group.

Action Required: Action

Notes from the first meeting:

In attendance: Cara Kinsey, Stephanie Reynolds, Lorraine Squires, Holly Ambrose, Janet Marnatti, Jessy Griffith, Di Herald, Laura Jewell, Sasha Matthews, Sallie Barringer, Kristine Mahood.

At our first meeting, at ALA Annual in Anaheim, there were 11 in attendance and we spoke about what we hoped to accomplish as an interest group and how we can supplement what YALSA already does.

We spoke about the need to provide reader’s advisory beyond lists, and how many people are frustrated by a list with no guidance. We spoke about how many people in the branches are doing RA with no library school background, no teen background, or an insufficient training in RA in general or YA RA in particular.

We spoke about the RA interview and about how knowing the lists is good, but knowing your own collection is better and realizing that RA goes beyond the lists.

PLA has an RA committee, but it feels that its area is NOT teen or Children’s, and even if it did, school librarians need YA RA as well, and we need to make sure we think about such things as we proceed. That’s the joy of YALSA, that it brings different types of librariansing together. Teen RA is done a vast amount in schools as well as public libraries. Concern of school librarians in using lists is that the YALSA lists are for the public community with a lot of hot books. With tight budgets, there is no room for collection development mistakes, how do you get the word out about things. What age are they really appropriate for? Can you recommend it to a 14 year old? Choosing books for a school booktalk. The intended audience of books. Looking for the right book for the right kid or audience. Talking one on one with a kid is really different from approaching a group.

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We spoke about having an online place for people to meet (hopefully DRUPAL) but also making sure that non-members can see what we produce and contact us for advice.

We spoke about the collaborative model of learning and trying to teach that everybody, no matter their specialty, can do Teen RA. Everyone shares, everyone contributes. If you read, you can probably recommend. Teens don't just read teen books.

Program ideas: How to use the lists, expanding on lists. Reading a book in 5 minutes, how to tell a book by its cover. Read a book as a group in 10 minutes (tear it up everybody reads a part). Any program we do we want to be as hands on as possible.

Since the preliminary meeting, there have been a couple of questions that have been posed to the group on RA. If nothing else, this IG provides a group of passionate Reader's Advisors who are willing to answer questions. But we hope to do more.

Other talking points:

web 2.0

TRAINING RA WOULD BE GREAT!

Building relationships, non-teen people don't know enough.

Cross-over with children's and with adult.

Collaborative model of learning, everyone shares, everyone contributes. If you read, you can probably recommend. Let's do stuff where everyone can contribute and learn from each other.

Don't just be another talking head. Share what we know from all levels.

CARGYS- meeting in swan Ohio, sharing books, booktalks, etc.

Program or discussion on utilizing YALSA lists or awards in RA. They're not enough.

PROGRAMS. Training. What are the books about, who would they appeal to. read alike, companion books. Expanding on the list.

"how to use the list"

Anecdotes, what might you expect from various situations? Going to schools. Parents questioning books?

How to create read-alikes.

Too often, people present on what they've done, but don't do a good enough job of teaching it. Let's make sure that we hand things out, have actual hands on activities and things like that with our group.

Use people from popular paperbacks.

If you like this book, here's this movie.

Reader's advisory based on TV shows.

We love books. Here's a few of our favorites from the last month.

Sally B. - Inda by Shorewood Smith

Sasha M. - Dead and Gone, Life as we knew it, Susan Beth something.

Cara - The Possibilities of Sainthood

Laura-Before I die audiobook, the reader makes the difference.

Stephanie- Adoration of Jenna Fox

Diana- Graceling by Kristin Cashore

Jessy- Skin hunger (Hogwarts as a Gulag, alternating chapters)

Holly- A curse as dark as gold by Elizabeth Bunts (retelling of rumpelstitskin, not for reluctant teens)

Janet- My most excellent year by Kluges.

Things to know

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What are some of the annoyance factors that people might really hate? Books in verse, alternating viewpoints.

Appropriateness of books and how do you tell? Appropriateness can change with location.

How to find out when people want bibliotherapy, and when they want a trashy book. We get information on what's trash and what's high quality, but not always enough about what comes in between. There are a lot of books on the shelves that never make lists. Don't win the awards, and aren't the banned or trashy books, but just have a good story.

Convener: Cara v. W. Kinsey

If you are interested in and willing to participate in this new Interest Group, please sign below.

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