



## In This Issue

Welcome to the **Letter G**. In addition to news of activities ongoing in our busy organization, we are happy to feature reviews of books, field tested and recommended by both our young learners and tutors. We continue to develop and acquire new learning materials for our volunteer tutors to share with their young learners. Families are welcome to borrow these as well. Read further for more exciting news!



**G** is for Gutenberg who invented the printing press in 1439. With the use of moveable type, books could then be reproduced and so more people learned to read and treasure books. In 2010, Project Gutenberg is gathering a public domain collection of free books to access

## Opening Hours for Literacy Office

Tuesday through Friday: 9 AM to 5 PM

Other times by appointment.

## Celebrating our Learning Library

In fostering a love of learning, we need exciting and accessible hands-on materials for our tutors to share with the young learners. We are proud of our Learning Resources which continue to grow with the generous support of many donors. Books and games are carefully selected for their appeal and education value. We also create our own with the assistance of volunteers and our advisor, Elizabeth Hahn.

We are building our collection of Levelled Readers for gently accelerating the young learner's reading ability. A wonderful Canadian edition, the Fluffy and Charlie series by Pat Harrison, has many enthusiastic fans. Our volunteer tutor, Pat Carson, has shared this review written by her young learner, who is graduating up the levels and strengthening her reading skills. Brooklynn is learning the love of reading!

### Book Review by Brooklynn F.

I like the books about Fluffy and Charlie because they do funny things! Charlie is a really really huge shaggy blackish-brown dog and his best friend, Fluffy, is really really white like snow. Most people like dogs so it doesn't matter how old you are if you like dogs you'll like these books. Fluffy and Charlie are cute! Sometimes they dress up in clothes or costumes. They have adventures like going camping, going to Grandma's House and even going to school. My favourite story is the one about going to Grandma's house.

## The Barcoding Project

We are grateful for the support of the Hanover & District Rotary Club & Rotary International for funding the acquisition of software and barcode scanning equipment so we may improve our loaning system of materials to the community.

## We're on Facebook!

Our JDSS co-op student Samantha Becker has placed us on Facebook. Become a fan of the South Grey Bruce Youth Literacy Council - keep up to date with our news and events!

## The Canadian Citizenship Test

Occasionally, we have the opportunity to assist special projects with adults. Our volunteer tutor, Sylvia Tegler, is currently assisting Geeta, new to Canada from India, to study for her Canadian Citizenship. We are proud to guide their learning pathway.

Wise Saying on a Fortune Cookie:  
*The best teacher is also a student.*

## THE LETTER

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### SGB Youth Literacy Council

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The editor welcomes submissions of news, facts, links or articles written by community members on topics of interest. Please send submissions by email to:

[info@sgbyouthliteracy.org](mailto:info@sgbyouthliteracy.org)

View our website [www.sgbyouthliteracy.org](http://www.sgbyouthliteracy.org)

Our next issue will be **The Letter H**.

We welcome contributions from everyone to share:

*"What is your favourite children's book?"*

## Tutor's Tool Bag

*Nathan Carey, one of our amazing volunteer tutors, is an animator and organic grower living near Ayton. He shares his enthusiasm for the value of graphic novels in motivating young readers.*

I was not reading a lot of books when I was younger but it was comic books that transported me from the printed page to other worlds. Imagine my surprise when later in life, as a Youth Literacy Volunteer, I found myself dusting off old comic books as a tool to teach reading and comprehension. My student is a young man and I found it very difficult to engage him in any prolonged reading. Whether I read it out loud with (what I thought were) funny voices or whether I had him read alone, it was incredibly difficult for him to stay engaged in the act of reading! After trying different genre's, styles and some of my own favourite's I brought what was, and still is, my most beloved comic book - Bone, by Jeff Smith. To my great surprise and delight my student not only enjoyed hearing and looking at the story but was interested in participating with me by reading as a number of the characters!

The story itself is very long spanning over 1,300 pages! It is a fantasy epic in the same vein as Lord of The Rings and Harry Potter but with a lot of charm and humour. The content of the story is very archetypal with an unlikely hero pitted against a much larger, powerful, evil force. One thing I really appreciate about this story is the strong role that women play in it. Women are the strongest of all the characters in the story which I find really refreshing in an adventure story and I think is great to reinforce with young readers. Beyond the tight story and constant humour the illustrations are very well crafted and are among the best comic book images I've come across. Bone has been around for a while, initially published as a monthly black and white comic book that was available only in specialty comic shops. Luckily its popularity increased to the point where there are now mass market full colour editions readily available.

What is it about comics that lend themselves so well to teaching literacy? While lots of kids have trouble with reading words on a page they are well versed in the 'language' of film and television; the pacing, sequencing and clichés that come along with those media. The comic book form is something that's in-between literature and film and can act as a bridge for struggling readers from their media saturated world to the simple, written word.

There isn't too much text on a comic book page normally so the prospect of finishing a whole comic book or graphic novel isn't daunting and leads to early feelings of success. Comics are excellent at encouraging feelings of success. Comics are excellent at comprehension as the reader has to create connections between the dialogue bubbles

and the images being portrayed to get a full sense of the story. Ten years ago I wouldn't have recommended comics as a literacy tool for a broad audience because there was very little diversity in the content and appeal of the comics in general. Thankfully comics, now referred to as 'Graphic Novels,' have grown-up and represent a very broad selection of genres and difficulty. They are also becoming much more readily available in both books stores and public libraries.

*Bone by Jeff Smith [www.boneville.com](http://www.boneville.com) is available for loan from the Youth Literacy Council. Comics, once considered the scourge of educators, have grown up to become respected as graphic novels. Also of interest: [The Ten-Cent Plague](#) by David Hajdu. As a creative learning experience, tutors Susan Lindsay and Nathan Carey have each encouraged their young learners to create their own comics.*

*Cecelia Brown, has succeeded in assisting her young learner to significantly raise his reading level and his self esteem! She recommends the book [Why Johnny Can't Read](#) by Rudolf Flesch.*

This is an excellent book, written for parents whose children are not learning to read well at school. Flesch says, "Teach the children the 44 sounds of English and how they are spelled. Then they can sound out each word from left to right and read." It seems so obvious. For example: If a child knows the sounds of the consonants, and then learns that 'ai' sounds like a long 'A', he can automatically read 50 more words!

So, Flesch says, teach the sounds of the letters, and the letter combinations first. There are, he says, almost 200 patterns to learn and in the last section of the book he gives teaching lists for each pattern. Learning 200 patterns is much more efficient than memorizing 20,000 words!

I differ with Mr. Flesch on two points, however. First of all, it is not as simple as it sounds. I do believe that he did teach his six year old grandson to read in six weeks, but I am not so sure that most children would be able to memorize 200 spelling patterns in such a short period of time. However, this is just a minor point. We are not primarily interested in teaching quickly.

The second observation is more critical. He seems to imply that knowing how to read a word results in knowing how to spell it. I beg to differ in that knowing how to read English and knowing how to spell it are

two different skills. In other languages where each letter has one sound, and each sound has one letter, spelling and reading are synonymous. English is not like that. It is probably safe to say that everyone (not only children!) has a list of pesky words that they can not confidently spell correctly. Every pattern has its exceptions.

Why are bees, sneeze, and tease spelled differently? Why are reed and read spelled differently? How about wood and would? Learn, fern, burn? Where and wear? Write and right? The list of examples seems endless. How many words have silent letters? Why does lamb have a 'B' but ham doesn't? Is train spelled trane or train? Why isn't they spelled with '-ay'? It can be impossibly confusing for some children.

Flesch acknowledges that 13% of English words have irregular spelling. Many of them are very common words. How is a child supposed to remember which words are spelled according to a pattern and which are not? This is where exposure and repetition is essential and explains why the look/say method seems to have an advantage.

But teaching phonics-first provides a superior solution to this dilemma. When a child has learned to read in a relatively short period of time, and reading is associated with fun, learning, and reality, the child is more likely to read for pleasure. The more he reads the more exposure he has to written words and he becomes familiar with how the words are spelled.

Understanding this principle of teaching reading to a child who is experiencing difficulty, is nothing short of inspirational. Your child can learn how to read!

Our tutors actively share good suggestions for new additions to our Learning Resources. Joe Macartney recommends *The History of Reading* by Alberto Manguel, now in our collection, which links nicely to the recent TVO broadcast, *The Empire of the Word*, available to view free online.

**Students Help** The Youth Literacy Council is an excellent learning situation for volunteers and we thrive on their wonderful energy. Our current JDSS co-op student, Samantha Becker, is actively assisting with tutoring, our Learning Resources and the smooth running of our office.

### Family Literacy Day January 27

The South Grey Bruce Youth Literacy Council is keeping Family Literacy on the map! The Municipal Councils of Brockton and Hanover each issued official proclamations to regard January 27 as Family Literacy Day. Our high school co-op student, Kayti Jeffery, created a Family Literacy display at the Hanover Library where we distributed free children's books donated by Frontier College. This gesture was given additional spotlight by The Post, Walkerton Herald-Times and Hanover Honda.

**Millennia Books** in Hanover welcomes patrons to redirect their book purchase points to the Youth Literacy Council, enabling our organization to utilize these purchase points to buy new books for our Learning Library.

## **Friends of Youth Literacy** **Contributors in Kind**

Doug Abell	Hanover Friends of Library
Kristan Anderson	Hanover Public Library
Back Eddies Café	Elizabeth Hahn
Bluewater Radio	Frontier College
Samantha Becker	Bruce Iserman
Holly Bowen	Dianne Joyce
Brick Books	Susan Lindsay
Bruce Telecom	Merri Macartney
Maryanne Buehlow	Mosaic Magazine
Chesley Public Library	Randy Martin
Chicory Common	Harvey McFadden
Colour Jar	Mudtown Pottery
Paul Coyne	Heather Murray
Christine Forand	Millennia Books
Craig, McDonald, Reddon	Mischa Radovkovic
Durham Art Gallery	Mandy Sproat
Jennifer Dimeck	Scholar's Choice
Freddie's Antiques	Victoria Jubilee Hall
Theresa Filsinger	Isaiah Walters
Garafraxa St Bookstore	Mandy Rhody Zuk

### **Donors**

ARTicles Artists	Michael Martin
Auditory Health Care	John McPhee
Colour Jar	Municipality of Brockton
BDO Dunwoody	Municipality of West Grey
Liz Barningham	Nature's Millworks
Anne & Fred Black	Neustadt & District Lions
Maryanne Buehlow	New-Life Mills Ltd
Pat & Leigh Butler	Queen's Bush Pub
Paula Butterfield	QUILL Learning Network
CWL Holy Family Parish	R.C. Legion-Women's
	Auxiliary Chesley
CFUW members	Sandra Stewart
John Ernewein Construction	Saugeen Credit Union
Ilse Gassinger	Saugeen Music School
Elizabeth Hahn	Sphereworks
Hanover Honda	David Sugarman
Hanover Rotary Club	Town of Hanover
Anne Ingham Memorial	Rachel Walters
Dyan Jones	Catherine Vassiliadis
Walter Kuz	Wayne Schwartz
Susan Lindsay	Construction
Cheryl D. Lindsay	Walkerton Rotary Club
Marlene Markle	Liz Zetlin
Joan Martin	

### **Sponsors**

Bruce Power	Meridian Credit Union
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Community Foundation	Gore Mutual
Grey Bruce	
Rotary Children's Fund	United Way of Bruce Grey

### **Affiliate Organizations & Working Partnerships**

ABC Canada, Bluewater & District School Board, Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board, Bruce County Public Libraries, Community Living, Durham Art Gallery, Edge Hill Country School, Frontier College, Hanover Public Library & Friends of the Library, Keystone Child Youth and Family Services, League of Canadian Poets, Ontario Early Years Centre-Hanover, Ontario Literacy Coalition, Project Canoe, QUILL Learning Network, Walkerton & District Community Living, West Grey Public Libraries, Victoria Jubilee Hall, Words Aloud Spoken Word Festival, Youth Roots.

## Fundraising Activities and Support

### Community Contributions

We are thankful for many independent fundraising efforts made on behalf of Youth Literacy. We must acknowledge the many artists, volunteers and patrons who contributed to the stellar art exhibition, ARTicles Shadow Box Show for Youth Literacy, held in Durham last October. Due to popular demand we are planning another show for 2011!

We are honoured to be the 2010 sponsored Youth Organization of the Colleen Lantz Memorial Run 4 Youth in Neustadt, Aug. 6 & 7. There are many rewarding ways to participate in this major event. [www.run4youth.ca](http://www.run4youth.ca)

### Word Play CD Gala Launch 🎵 (Applause!!!)

The amazing musicians and singer/songwriters appearing on our CD fundraising project, *Word Play*, will perform live at the beautiful Victoria Jubilee Hall in Walkerton on Saturday, October 16. The audience is invited to dress up in their best fanciful finery for this top event of the social season. Recorded at Track 6 Studio by Randy Martin, sixteen original songs have been contributed by regional artists to comprise an outstandingly beautiful compilation of music.

### Words Aloud 7 Spoken Word Festival Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm Victoria Jubilee Hall

The Family Presentation for the Words Aloud Festival will feature the Quebecois folktale, *The Flying Canoe*, brought to the stage with live music, puppets and film projection by Rag & Bone Theatre from Ottawa. Stay tuned for details!

### Writing Contest for Youth

Our third annual poetry and short story writing contest flies with the theme of **Wings**. Supported by the Bruce County, Hanover, West Grey and Owen Sound & North Union Public Libraries, we are able to give cash awards and the opportunity to present the winning entries at the performance of *The Flying Canoe*, October 23, Victoria Jubilee Hall. Set flight to your imagination!

### Mark Your Calendars!

- April 15** – Scrabble Tournament for Literacy 7pm  
Adult Learning Centre, Walkerton, 7pm 881-3858
- April 18** – Precious Film - Paramount Theatre Hanover 2pm
- May 5** - Spring Into Learning, Parent & Tutor Workshop  
Saugeen Room, Hanover Library 7pm
- May 29** - Queens Bush Pub Spring Poker Run for Youth Literacy [www.queensbushpub.com](http://www.queensbushpub.com)
- June 10** – Youth Literacy Council AGM & Garden Party  
Further details to be announced.
- Aug. 6 & 7** – Colleen Lantz Run 4 Youth in support of Youth Literacy – Neustadt [www.run4youth.ca](http://www.run4youth.ca)
- Oct. 16** – Gala Launch of *Word Play CD*  
Victoria Jubilee Hall, Walkerton
- Oct. 23** - Words Aloud 7 Spoken Word Festival  
Family Theatre Presentation – *The Flying Canoe* & **Wings** Victoria Jubilee Hall, Walkerton 1pm

## The ABC's of Life

ACCEPT DIFFERENCES **B**E KIND **C**OUNT  
YOUR BLESSINGS **D**REAM **E**XPRESS THANKS  
**F**ORGIVE **G**IVE FREELY **H**ARM NO ONE  
**I**MAGINE MORE **J**ETTISON ANGER  
**K**EEP CONFIDENCE **L**OVE TRULY **M**ASTER  
SOMETHING **N**URTURE HOPE **O**PEN YOUR  
MIND **P**ACK LIGHTLY **Q**UELL RUMOURS  
**R**ECIPROCATE **S**EAK WISDOM **T**OUCH  
HEARTS **U**NDERSTAND **V**ALUE TRUTH **W**IN  
GRACIOUSLY **X**ERISCAPE **Y**EARN FOR PEACE  
**Z**EALOUSLY SUPPORT A WORTHY CAUSE

### ☀ Tutor Enrichment Session ☀ Spring Into Learning

**Wednesday, May 5, 2010 7pm** Reading and math will both receive a good spring cleaning with fun teaching activities offered for tutors and parents to enliven young peoples' learning. Thank you to the Hanover Public Library for providing the Saugeen Room for our free public workshop. All are welcome.  
R.S.V.P. 364-0008 [info@sgbyouthliteracy.org](mailto:info@sgbyouthliteracy.org)

### Our Patron, Elizabeth Zetlin

Patron, poet and filmmaker extraordinaire, Elizabeth Zetlin has created both the DVD documentary of the Words Aloud 4 Spoken Word Festival and an educational DVD set for teaching Spoken Word with free online study guide. These will soon be available through our website. Proceeds from these sales are generously donated by the artist to support our volunteer tutor program.

### United Way Backpack Program

We are proud to be a member agency of United Way of Bruce Grey. In preparation for school each fall we distribute new backpacks full of school supplies to families free of cost, upon request, as part of the United Way Backpack Program. Contact our office before school lets out for the summer if your family wishes to participate. 519 364-0008

### Tutor-Learner Matches

We are currently supporting 23 tutor-learner matches, and have a steadily growing waiting list of young learners. We support English as a Second Language and provide Family Literacy support. Help us grow!



THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION  
TRILLIUM  
DE L'ONTARIO

The South Grey Bruce Youth Literacy Council, a community-based organization, will strive to assist youth, ages 6-18, who are struggling in school, in their quest to improve basic reading, writing and math skills, so that they may enjoy full participation as citizens in the community.

--Mission Statement