

Greetings everyone—here is a brief recap of some ideas that I presented at the YS/SRP workshop. Many refer to the CLSP manual and the handouts that were in the folders attendees received. Those who could not attend should have received these packets in the delivery by now. If you have any questions please let me know.

We talked about supporting all types of learning during the summer and incorporating the books and activities featured in the “Build STEAM with Dia” brochures included in the folder and the Read! Build! Play! Storytimes that incorporate LEGO activities available at http://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org/alsc/files/content/Read-Build-Play_Librarian-Toolkit.pdf or readbuildplay.com

We also talked about the need to be inclusive in our book selection and activities to reflect the bigger world around us. We Need Diverse Books offers a wonderful books pairing at <http://weneeddiversebooks.org/summer-reading-series/> that leads readers from their favorite books to similar titles that feature diverse characters.

Finally, we discussed ways of engaging kids and their families who have not participated in the past, from offering online registration to outreach of reading in parks by volunteers or staff, (dressed in a cape?!?!), to teaming up with summer school and recreation programs to reach kids in different setting. Many people promote the SRP through school visits. (Wouldn't it be great to be in cahoots with a real lunch lady to do a skit on the Jarrett Krosoczka books?)

CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES

- Capes/masks. Extra-large T-shirts make excellent capes when you cut off the sleeves, (save them and cut eyeholes for ready-made masks) and follow the instructions in the manual. Look for shirts which are blank on the back, or you can flip them over (as the jersey is reversible) and let kids decorate with glitter squeeze paints...or look for shirts with something fabulous on the back, (e.g. a great big yellow smiley face on a black background). Be sure to use Velcro to fasten the neckband for quick release and remember to position the prickly part of the Velcro pair facing up to avoid coming in contact with skin or other garments. T-shirts are pretty easy to come by...and remember that Wednesday is ½ price day at the Salvation Army. It doesn't matter what is on the front of the shirt as that part gets discarded
- Photo booth/changing station. Libraries can collect these capes, masks and other accessories for kids to change into for photo opportunities. The Penguin giveaway has huge cardboard boxes (4'x4'x4') that could be transformed into an old fashioned phone booth/changing station for dress up and dramatic play areas. Let me know if you want me to snag one of the boxes for you. Also backdrops can be painted to make it look as though the kids are flying or scaling the wall, (by turning the camera on its side).

- Some superheroes wear a tiara in place of or in addition to a mask. I included templates for 2 styles in the folder. Kids could decorate to express the “theme” of their heroes’ power or origin. Or get teens or adults to design really snazzy ones from stiff felt and exhibit them or raffle them off. This also provides a terrific photo-op.
- I made up a superhero song (included in the folder) that can be sung with actions or with a finger puppet kids can make by gluing a fabric scrap “cape” on a head made by cutting the fingers off those stretchy gloves, (this is the perfect time of year to snap them up for super cheap). Add some wild hair with fake fur or yarn and a snippet of felt for a mask and use tiny googly eyes or mark them on with a Sharpie.
- Traction Man (from the books by Mini Grey) is a wonderful superhero that models dramatic play for preschoolers. I included several printouts from the author’s website and a recipe for “kinetic sand”—(very expensive @ craft stores, but easy and cheap to make, plus it has baby oil in it, so it’s good for your hands, too).
- Traction Man’s sidekick is Scrubbing Brush. The manual has a cool section on sidekicks (p. 246). Inanimate objects can be easily transformed into a sidekick with press-on googly eyes. Put eyes on everyday objects around the library and see who notices.
- Pop-up puppets are also excellent for sidekicks that are always ready to appear when needed. I made a prototype using a plastic water bottle, a wooden spoon and the sleeve of an old sweater...but there are plenty of patterns/directions on the Internet.
- Sidekick puppets that go everywhere with their superheroes could be made from egg cartons like the cute critters featured In Family Fun Magazine: <http://www.parents.com/fun/arts-crafts/kid/simple-craft-projects-for-kids/#page=3>
- In addition to a sidekick, a superhero needs a super signal (like Batman’s beacon). The manual has instructions for creating one out of a toilet paper roll, plastic wrap and a cut out paper shape. It works great with the flashlight app of a cell phone.
- Also, kids could design their own signal logos and display them in the small square paper envelopes with a clear round window that come on CDs. The paper background could be decorated like the night sky and the signal can “shine” through the clear plastic window.

- *Sneaky Art*, by Marthe Jocelyn (Candlewick: 2013) is full of inspiration for making and displaying crafts. This book is a wealth of great ideas and inspiration—here are some ideas that came to me:
 - p. 5 Make paper plates faces of a superhero using magazine photos for collage. Post them around the community, (old phone booths would be a natural.)
 - p. 13 What would be on a superhero’s clothes line? Cape? Tights? Make your own Teensy –Weensy (superhero) Washing Line. Mini-clothespins are available in a multitude of colors at craft stores.
 - p. 21 Bend brightly colored pipe cleaners into your superhero’s signal/logo and wrap around public phones, park benches, etc.
 - p. 37 Make *superhero* Stick Pixies and place in pencil jars, etc. You could also use pencils for the “sticks” to do double duty. Super pencils make super writers!
 - p.39 Glue on felt capes to make superhero Cork Critters, (or use clothes pegs) and position them around the community for a surprise appearance. You could even have people report on where they have seen them, or have a sticker that requests that people return them to the library, (maybe even give a prize for their “return”).
 - p. 41 Library Shouts are perfect for this theme and for our environment! Graphic novel-style speech bubbles entice readers.
 - p. 45 Substitute superheroes for birds and spread the super-presence of the library by clipping these characters around your community. Again, there could be a message on the back inviting the “finders” to come into the library.
- The public positioning of these projects calls to mind another superhero, *Art Dog*, by Thacher Hurd. In this book Art Dog anonymously leaves behind works of art, and further proves his secret prowess by thwarting art thieves. There are several Art Dog themed activities included in the SRP folders from 4CLS and we have an adult-sized costume that you may borrow for parades or other events.
- Fly Guy is not usually a superhero, but he is in *Super Fly Guy*, by Tedd Arnold. Kids can make Fly Guy “hand” puppets with 2 styrofoam balls a black pip cleaner and sparkly fabric wings.
- *CriCTOR*, by Tomi Ungerer is the story of a snake that not only knows his ABCs, but also becomes the hero of his town in France. Act out the story with a big snake puppet and have the kids help you make the letters. After, kids can make their own Crictors by gluing pompom eyes and felt tongues onto loopy chenille or

large scale pipe cleaner “snakes”. They can practice making letters with them to extend the literacy value of the activity.

- There are two books that feature super chicken heroes; *Super chicken!*, by Rebecca Purcell, and *Extraordinary Warren, a super chicken*, by Sarah Dillard and for slightly older readers there is the crime-solving Chicken Squad from the books by Doreen Cronin I demonstrated the squawking chicken drinking cup craft from the manual which would be a perfect complement to these stories.
- *Flora and Ulysses* , by Kate DiCamillo brings us another unlikely hero. Ulysses the squirrel is inadvertently sucked into a vacuum cleaner and emerges endowed with super powers. It would be great for a book discussion group and sparked an idea for a creative program that employs the formula for superheroes. Kids could bring in their own stuffed animal or could draw one out of a “mystery” bag, (or could draw magazine pictures out of a box/bag) and create their own superhero profile beginning with these prompts:
 - Where did you come from?
 - How did you get your power?
 - What is your power?
 - What is your cause?
 - What is your vehicle?
 - Who are your friends?
 - Who are your enemies?
 - Where do you live?
 - How do you hide your powers?
 - What is your secret identity?
- Kids could write and/or draw their creation. They could be recorded in a tiny stapleless book to carry with them. Template is available at: <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/stapleless-book-30010.html>
- Preschoolers can practice their superhero powers in storytime by vanquishing a monster with *Go Away Big Green Monster*, by Ed Emberly.
- Villains also have a rich background—and their own rituals and requirements. *Vordak the Incomprehensible: How to Grow Up and Rule the World*, by Scott Seegert is a rich resource for exploring the dark (and funny!) side of supervillainy. There are instructions for creating one’s supervillain name in the SRP folders. Again the stapleless book above could be a profile or handbook of a supervillain. If you don’t want to glorify villains, (even silly ones), much of this could be flipped for creating superheroes.
- Many libraries are celebrating local heroes. If you are inviting the police, and especially the K-unit, *Officer Buckle and Gloria*, by Peggy Rathman is the perfect book complement. The endpapers feature stars with Gloria acting out a myriad of

- safety tips. Kids can make their own safety stars with card stock and the 4CLS die cut machine. After the stars are decorated they can be covered with scraps of book laminate or clear contact paper and a small piece of magnet tape on the back will turn them into a refrigerator magnet reminder of the day and of safety.
- For celebrating farmers as heroes, *Sparrow Girl*, by Sara Pennypacker is a wonderful story of a girl from China who saves the crops in her village. Other “planting” (fiction and nonfiction) stories from a variety of regions are:
 - *Miss Rumphius*, by Barbara Cooney
 - Books on Wangari Maathia (there are several excellent picture books about her)
 - *The Tree Lady : the true story of how one tree-loving woman changed a city forever*, by H. Joseph Hopkins
 - *Seed by Seed : the legend and legacy of John "Appleseed" Chapman*, by Esmé Raji Codell Lynne Rae Perkins beautifully illustrates the principles by which Chapman lived in variety of media. Kids could create their own motto or use one of the principles from the book to make their own sign/plaque.
 - Investigating local heroes is a great opportunity to show off your local history collection to families and to engage with your local museum and/or Historical Society. There are many nuggets to be found. Here are three books that highlight heroic women and reference Binghamton:
 - *Wheels of Change*, by Sue Macy
 - *Susan B. Anthony*, by Alexandra Wallner
 - *Ruth Law Thrills a Nation*, By Don Brown. Pair with picture books on Bessie Coleman and incorporate local aviation innovations, (e. g. the Link simulator), from this region.
 - The Southern Tier was home to several people who became astronauts. Last year Suzanne Johnson at Endicott arranged for a Skype session with a Vestal grad who answered questions for a room full of kids who were on the edge of their seats.
 - Real life heroes abound, from our local communities and around the globe, from the past and the present. The manual suggests that libraries designate a “Hero Wall” where people can post their heroes name and story. That person could be a parent, such as in *My Dad, My Hero*, by Ethan Long, or *Hazel’s Amazing Mother*, by Rosemary Wells, or kids who have been heroic, such as the children who marched in Selma, which have been featured in several wonderful books for young people.
 - For a list of female American heroes you could start with the candidates proposed to replace Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill at: http://www.womenon20s.org/the_process and if you are inclined, you could vote for one of the four finalists, or ask your patrons who they would like to see on currency.

- For real live young heroes check out author T.A. Barron's site: <http://tabarron.com/young-heroes/the-heros-trail/> and his newly revised and updated edition of *The Hero's Trail: true stories of young people to inspire courage, compassion, and hope*. Also, *Kids Who Are Changing the World*, by Anne Jankéliowitch offers profiles of 45 young environmentalist heroes.
- DIES for SRP—I have ordered lots of new dies to support this year's theme.

From Ellison: a set of 4 superheroes, wristband components, mask with embellishments, goggles with embellishments, superhero bookmark. They may be viewed at:

<http://www.ellison.com/catalog#facets=theme~2015-collaborative-summer-library-program-cslp&page=4> and
<http://www.ellison.com/catalog#facets=theme~2015-collaborative-summer-library-program-cslp&page=2>

From AccuCut (they finally went on sale for ½ price): Community helpers set + farmer, soldier and superhero add-ons. Large superhero bookmark. They may be viewed at:

<http://www.accucuteducation.com/2015-Summer-Reading-Program-CSLP-C510.aspx>

Contact Ann at aziemba@4cls.org to borrow the dies and the cutting machine. Please copy me on the email in case Ann is out.

And finally, remember that librarians *are* heroes, out to save the world, and we have lots of role models, in books: Library Lil for a start, and there's a reason Daniel Pinkwater's crazy as a bat librarian character wears a cape—she has a purpose “to amaze, astonish and astound. Those are things librarians do well.”—and in real life because I am continuously amazed, astonished and astounded by the things you all do so well.

Here's to a super summer!

Starr