

It's All about Connecting with Good Reading Material!

Teens have many options for entertainment, so it's important to remind them to spend time reading for pleasure: it's free, fun, and can be done anywhere! Research shows that teens who read for fun have better test scores and are more likely to succeed in the workforce. Consider the following information and events to help connect your teens to good reading material and keep them reading.

- September is **National Library Card Month**. We should all think of a library card as a passport which allows its owner to travel to other places and times through the pages of a book. Owning a library card places thousands of resources at your child's fingertips. Not only is it free, but a library card is one of the most important school supplies of all. Every child should own a card – and use it!
- Looking for books that teens want to read? Investigate this year's **Virginia Readers' Choice** nominations for all grade levels at (www.vusra.org/VRCindex.html).

Adam Canfield of the Slash by Michael Winerip
A school newspaper reporter unearths a really big story.

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel
This fantasy/adventure includes travel on an airship with pirates.

Black Duck by Janet Taylor Lisle
Fourteen-year-old friends find a link between a dead body on the shore line and rum-runners during the Prohibition era.

Blue by Joyce Moyer Hostetter
Ann Fay becomes the "man" of the house when her father goes off to fight in WWII.

Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson
After inheriting a homestead in Montana, sixteen-year-old Hattie faces unexpected problems as she tries to settle in.

Hitler's Canary by Sandi Toksvig
Two young Danish men play pranks on Hitler's soldiers occupying Copenhagen and eventually help the Underground rescue the Danish Jews.

La Linea by Ann Jaramillo
Together, Miguel and his sister Elena make a difficult journey across the desert to an illegal border crossing to join their parents in America.

The Loud Silence of Francine Green by Karen Cushman
It is 1949 and Francine, an eighth grader, finds the courage to speak out against the Un-American Committee for blacklisting those with unpopular opinions.

The Mailbox by Audrey Shafer
Gabe begins to receive notes in the mailbox linking to his missing, dead uncle.

Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083 by Andrea White
Five teens, deprived of the opportunity to continue their education, reenact Scott's expedition to the South Pole as contestants on a reality TV show.

- The **2008 National Book Festival** is September 27 on the National Mall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nearly 70 authors and illustrators will be present. The festival is free and open to the public (www.loc.gov/bookfest/).
- Take advantage of the upcoming election and encourage your teen to explore the **Presidential Libraries**. These libraries promote understanding of the presidency, as well as preserve and provide access to historical materials. Check them out with your teen (<http://www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/>).

