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The Newsletter of
Webster Groves Public Library, v. 3 n. 12,
August, 2008

Show Me, “Show Me”, Show-me, Show-Me

I don't like the new Missouri license plate any better than most people. That thin line drawing of the state is barely visible, and I am among the majority of Missourians who have never seen a bluebird flying the skies of our state. I like my old license plate. I like the little graphic of a moving river. I still remember that my Missouri history book in grade school was called *Missouri: Land Where Rivers Meet*.

But on another point, I think everybody needs to chill. We're all upset because the phrase 'Show-me' is not hyphenated. Really? English is pretty short of spelling standards. Ben Franklin once noted that the pronunciation of English had very little to do with how it was spelled, suggesting that it was more of a pictographic language, where words express ideas, not sounds. We live in a time when companies just run their names together with capitals in the middle (HarperCollins, PricewaterhouseCoopers), and we don't worry about that – but we get all exercised about a hyphen?

In the library we have a book called *Missouri: a Guide to the “Show Me” State*, written in 1941 by the Federal Writers Project. They didn't see any need for a hyphen, though they were assiduous in their use of quotation marks around the phrase. Were they more correct? A National Geographic article about Missouri from April, 1923 uses the phrase Show Me without a hyphen – and this is an author who uses the quaint spelling 'to-day' in the same article, so his lack of a hyphen wasn't because there weren't any around. A 2001 book called *S is for Show Me: a Missouri Alphabet* also eschews the hyphen. Others, of course, use it. Two books, *The Missouri Gardener's Companion: an Insider's Guide to Gardening in the Show-Me State* (2008), and *Showdown in the Show-Me State: the Fight Over Conceal- and-Carry Gun Laws in Missouri* (2005), both use the hyphen, although the author of the second one, in his hyphenating the rarely hyphenated phrase 'conceal and carry,' may just be indicating a fondness for the little piece of punctuation. If anything, it seems that the closer we get to the present day, the more likely authors are to use Show-Me instead of Show Me. Is one really more correct than the other?

Of course by now you get my main point – that there's no place like a good library to spend time researching a question like this. My conclusion is that there are few things more fluid than spelling and the use of punctuation in the English language. I would suggest that with all the fighting of ugly designs and inappropriate state symbols that we have to do, we learn to choose our battles, and give up worrying about that hyphen.

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AUGUST IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM



Wednesday, August 6:
Storytime with Miss Phyllis –
10 am

Thursday, August 7: Craft
Time with Miss Michelle –
3 pm

Regularly Scheduled Story Times will resume in
September

Summer Reading Club Fun

Our 2008 Summer Reading Club, with a theme of



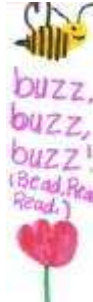
Catch the Reading Bug, was a big success. Over 900 children participated, though at the time of this writing we don't know how many have finished. Most programs were well

attended, and weekly story hours have been almost too crowded.

Overall circulation of children's books and other materials is higher than at any time in the past several years: June of this year was nearly 11% higher than June of last year.

Many young people (and their families) are participating in our *Catch the Webster Bug* game, which is drawing to a close this week. The winner of our grand prize, a digital camera, will be announced soon.

Over a hundred kids participated in our Bookmark Design contest. We had lots of wonderful entries. The winners of our four age divisions, who had their bookmarks published and printed for distribution in the library, were:



Age 3-5: Nick Petersen

Age 6-8: Paige Sanders (pictured here)

Age 9-12: Erin Wieselmann

Age 13-18: Mary Hoegemann

Bookmarks are still available, if you haven't picked yours up yet, so stop by the library and get one.

As always, we would like to thank the Friends of Webster Groves Public Library for the wonderful support they give our annual Summer Reading Club. It makes a real difference, and we appreciate it.

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 am to 9 pm

Friday and Saturday 9 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday 2 pm to 5 pm

The library will be closed Sunday, August 31st
and Monday, September 1st for Labor Day.

This Month's Most Requested Books:

1. *Fearless Fourteen*, Janet Evanovich
2. *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, David Wroblewski
3. *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, David Sedaris
4. *Beach House*, Jane Green
5. *Chasing Harry Winston*, Lauren Weisberger
6. *Killer View*, Ridley Pearson
7. *Moscow Rules*, Daniel Silva
8. *Sail*, James Patterson
9. *Three Cups of Tea*, Greg Mortenson
10. *Audition: a Memoir*, Barbara Walters
11. *Love the One You're With*, Emily Giffin
12. *The Host*, Stephenie Meyer

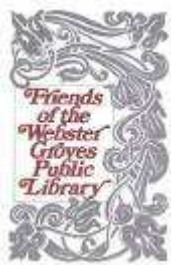
Next Month's Book Discussion Selection:

Predictably Irrational: the hidden forces that shape our decisions, by Dan Ariely.

September 2 at 6 p.m. Call 961-3784 for information.

Staff Favorites: August, 2008

1. *Not Even a Hint*, Joshua Harris (Adult Non-fiction)
2. *The Sister*, Poppy Adams (Adult Fiction)
3. *The Lady Elizabeth*, Alison Weir (Adult Fiction)
4. *Song of Kali*, Dan Simmons (Adult Sci-Fi)
5. *The Hundred Secret Senses*, Amy Tan (Adult Fiction)
6. *Save the Males: Why Men Matter and Why Women Should Care*, Kathleen Parker (Adult Non-fiction)
7. *Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe (Adult Fiction)
8. *The Bucket List* (Adult DVD)
9. *A Wrinkle in Time*, Madeline L'Engle (Juvenile Fiction)
10. *Yarnplay*, Lisa Shobhana Mason (Adult Non-fiction)



Friends News

The Friends of the Webster Groves Public Library is a member of the nationwide group, Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA). This organization began in 1979 as a committee of the American Library Association and has grown to over 2,000 members. Originally intended as an organization to facilitate communication between already existing independent Friends groups, its role was expanded to include library advocacy and ensure community support of one of our most valuable civic organizations. On a national level, Friends activities include a Public Service Award to politicians who actively support libraries, the Books for Babies program, the Friends in Need website to aid libraries that have experienced a natural disaster, and the Literary Landmarks program. (A local Literary Landmark is located at 4232 McPherson in St. Louis City and was the home of the author, Kate Chopin.)

Member organizations receive a bimonthly newsletter with articles concerning the activities of various Friends groups from all over the country plus ideas for fundraising and programs. Friends also have access to the FOLUSA website (www.folusa.org) which provides additional resources, especially those related to advocacy.

STUFF YOU MIGHT NEED TO KNOW SOMEDAY

People ask from time to time why we don't have a list anywhere of what we charge for lost or damaged library materials. We do keep a list at our circulation desk, but we understand that it's not the sort of information most of us pay attention to until we lose or damage an item and need to know. We thought it might be a good idea to print our schedule of fees in the newsletter, so people know what we charge. Our fees are pretty much in line with what most libraries charge. A few charge less, a few charge a lot more.

Lost Barcode: \$2.00

Lost or damaged video, DVD or CD case: \$2.00

Lost or damaged CD insert: \$5.00

Lost tape or tapes from book on tape: total cost of set

Lost CD or CDs from book on CD: total cost of set

Lost item from a discovery pack: Items are priced individually. Children's Room staff will determine.

Damaged videocassette, if repairable: Determined by the kind of damage, but at least \$5.00

Damaged DVD, if repairable: Determined by kind of damage, but at least \$5.00

Any item damaged too badly to use: Total cost of item plus \$3.00 processing fee

Replacement Library card: 50¢

Replacement card pocket: 40¢

Processing fees cover the cost of cataloging items, covering them, adding labels, barcodes, and security tags. They are not, as some people have theorized, a way for us to rake in more dough. As a matter of fact, a true reckoning of what it costs to process the average library item would lead to much higher processing fees.

If an item such as a video or DVD is defective when you take it home to play, please let us know when you return it. It helps us get items that aren't working out of circulation. Moreover, if you don't let us know that the item was not working when you got it, we tend to think it was damaged while in your possession.



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A Member of the Municipal Library Consortium of St. Louis County