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Oyan Review

oregon young adult network

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Booktalking Resources from Jackson County Library Services

by, Anna Monders; Jackson County Library

A booktalk isn't a summary of a book or a review of one. I like to think of a booktalk as a teaser. Or better yet, a movie trailer with live-action theatre.

As the booktalk specialist for Jackson County Library Services in Southern Oregon, I present booktalks to 4th-7th grade classes throughout the county. I want the kids in my audience to go home and beg their parents to take them to the library. I want them to say, "There was this lady

who came to school today and she talked about all these books and there's this one I've got to read so we need to go to the library RIGHT NOW!...Please?"

Booktalks work. I see kids eager to read—and excited to try out new titles and genres. After a 30-45 minute booktalk presentation in their classroom, kids do insist on being taken to the public library. They swarm their school library asking for the books.

I am lucky enough to have a (public library) job that is dedicated to book-talking (in schools), and it allows me the time to prepare 35-40 books, spring and fall. I then

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Giving a Booktalk

Make the Case for Meals @ Your Library

by, Mary Schrieber Cuyahoga County Library

If you haven't dipped your toe into serving meals at your library already, now is the perfect time to do it! In June, Amy Koester blogged about **Combating Summer Food Insecurity at the Library** but it might have been too late for you to put things into place for this past summer. Never fear, here are some tips to getting started with your planning for Summer 2017!

Not sure how to make the case for serving meals at your library? Check out the following talking points, provided by Maria Trivisonno, Children's Librarian at Cuyahoga County Public Library's Warrensville Branch:

- Providing meals increases civic engagement, and shows the library to be a community resource hub.

- Offering meals builds a sense of community, as library staff will learn the names of more kids who already visit the library often.
- It expands partnerships with other community-focused groups.
- Serving meals helps with lifelong learning, as students can be more successful at school when they don't have to worry

about their next meal.

When advocating for meals at your library, you'll also be fulfilling the **ALSC Core Competency** of "Outreach and Advocacy" through the formation of partnerships to overcome barriers for children in your community! Food insecurity doesn't just happen during the summer months and libraries are

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Booktalking Resources from Jackson County Library Services , cont.

-Continued from page 1- share the titles with upwards of 2500 students in our area each semester.

The title lists that I use for each grade are available on the Jackson County Library Services website (jcls.org). I also make the

booktalks themselves available on my blog (jclsbooktalkblog.org). These are well tested booktalks that you may use or adapt. I add personal commentary from my experiences sharing the books in elementary and middle schools.

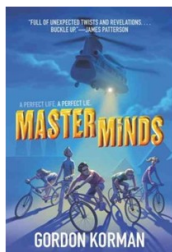
I hope this will be a useful re-

source for school and public library staff who'd like to do more booktalks (but don't have time to select and prepare titles), as well as parents and teachers looking for great books to share with kids.

Happy booktalking.

Sample Booktalks from The Booktalk Blog: Three middle school OBOB books

Booktalk for Gordon Korman's *Masterminds* (2015)



Eli lives in a perfect town: Serenity, New Mexico. Every house has a swimming pool, every kid has a tree house, and there's no such thing as crime.

Eli has never been out of Serenity before—there's really no reason to leave—but one day he and a friend go for a bike ride that takes them beyond the town limits. Eli looks back and sees the sign "Welcome to Serenity" behind him. All of a sudden, he feels sick to his stomach and gets a blinding headache. He tries to keep up with his friend, but he can't. He topples from his bike, afraid he's dying.

The next moment, a large military-type helicopter thunders in and lands near him. Inside the helicopter is Eli's dad—and a half-dozen security guys. They load him into the helicopter and inject him with a sedative that knocks him out. That's the last thing he remembers from that very

strange day.

When Eli begins to recover from the incident, he realizes that his dad, the doctor, and maybe even every single adult in town are hiding something—something big. Eli and his friends set out to discover what is going on. Little do they know that they'll uncover evidence linking their idyllic town to the greatest criminal masterminds in the country.

Genre: science fiction, thriller
Grades 4-6.

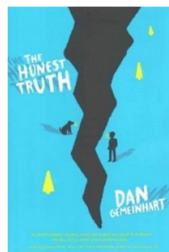
Anna's take on it:

I used this title to start out my fifth and sixth grade booktalk presentations last fall. In good Korman style, the story is fast-paced and suspenseful, and it was a great book to get the students (and teachers) hooked into my talk. I would usually hear whispers of "I want to read that one!" from the audience, and several teachers thought they might use it as a read-aloud in class.

At the end of one session, when I was passing out the list of titles I had booktalked that day, a student shook his head, indicating

that he didn't need a copy. He held up his arm to show me that he had written "MASTERMINDS" from elbow to wrist with orange marker. He wasn't about to let himself forget.

Booktalk for Dan Gemeinhart's *The Honest Truth* (2015)



Mark has always wanted to climb Mt. Rainier, but he's been too sick. He got cancer for the first time when he was five, and it keeps coming back.

Now he's 13 and the doctors have just told him it's back again. Mark packs a bag of gear, takes his dog Beau, and heads toward the mountain. He knows he might never have another chance.

But how much of a chance does he have this time? It is 255 miles from his home in Wenatchee, Washington, to the trailhead on Mt. Rainier, and another 8 miles to the top. His medications make him nauseous. Thugs beat him up in Seattle. His picture and story are all over the news. And a major

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Sample booktalks from The Booktalk Blog: Three middle school OBOB books

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storm is rolling in.

Mark has the world's best dog and a gut load of determination. But that might not be enough to get him through.

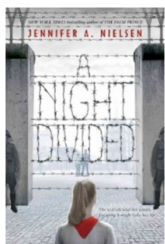
Genre: realistic fiction, adventure
Grades 5-8.

Anna's take on it:

This was a solid title on my middle school booktalk list last fall, and I was happy to see that it's been selected as one of the 2016-17 Oregon Battle of the Books titles for the 6th-8th grade division.

I included this title in booktalks for several classes of seventh graders who weren't strong readers. Four or five boys came up after one session and pointed out the titles they most wanted to read. *The Honest Truth* had really grabbed their attention—as did *QB 1*, *The Port Chicago 50*, and *I Am Princess X*.

Booktalk for Jennifer Nielsen's *A Night Divided* (2015)



August 13, 1961. Gerta will never forget that date as long as she lives. Barbed wired Sunday, people start calling it. It is the date that a wall

goes up around communist East Berlin. The wall isn't for keeping other people out, but for keeping the East Germans in.

For Gerta, it is also the date that her family gets torn apart. Gerta, her mother, and her oldest brother Fritz are trapped inside

the new walls. Her father and her other brother Dominic went over to West Berlin a few days earlier to look for a job and a house, planning to return that very Sunday to flee with the whole family. Now they are unreachable on the other side of concrete, barbed wire, and merciless border guards.

That terrible day happened four long years ago. Gerta is 12 now. She walks to school every day in the shadow of the wall. It seems like her classmates hardly even notice it anymore. But Gerta can never stop thinking about the wall. She knows she's a prisoner in her own country, and that the guards kill anyone who tries to escape to the West. It happened to her best friend's brother.

Then one cold gray day, Gerta glimpses her own brother Dominic, the one she hasn't seen in four years. He's standing on one of the viewing platforms in the West. And her father is there too! Her father starts doing an odd dance. He's acting out the motions to a song they used to sing together when she was little—but he's not doing it right. He's only doing the verse for digging. Digging...digging. He's trying to tell her something. He wants her to dig? Dig what? And why? Did he leave something behind for them?

And then she realizes. He wants her to dig a tunnel—under the Berlin Wall, under the wide Death Strip, and to safety on the other side. He wants her to try to dig her way to freedom.

If she gets caught, it will cost her life.

Genre: historical fiction, thriller
Grades 5-8.

Anna's take on it:

This was one of the superstar titles on my spring 2016 booktalk list for 5th and 6th graders. I didn't know if the unfamiliar historical setting—East Berlin in the 1960s—would be off-putting, but kids were absolutely desperate to read it.

In one class, a student got up at the end of my presentation and started opening cupboard doors—she rummaged around and pulled out a classroom copy of *A Night Divided*. Some tussling and happy squealing ensued when her classmates spied the book. The copy, it turned out, came from the “self-managers’ library.” Kids who'd proven themselves responsible not only got privileges like lining up first for the bus or being dismissed to recess first, but in this case, also the chance to read *A Night Divided*. When one of the squealing girls heard it was only for self-managers, she got a very disappointed look on her face. Another girl encouraged her, saying that she could still become a self-manager if she tried. Perhaps *A Night Divided* was going to provide the motivation she needed. (And I reminded her that she could also come get it at the public library.)

These and other booktalks are available on [The Booktalk Blog: Great Reading for Tweens and Teens](#)

Make the Case for Meals @ Your Library, cont.

-Continued from page 1- starting to move beyond just serving meals in the summer. Last fall was the start of the Kid’s Café program which expanded Cuyahoga County Public Library’s partnership with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. From October 2015 to May 2016 the Warrensville Branch staff served 533 unique people and 2991 dinners which means almost 3000 times a child didn’t go to bed hungry. On the West Coast, San Francisco

Public Library’s Main Library is piloting an After School Suppers program this fall. Says Manager of Youth Services Christy Estrovitz, “While we’ve offered summer lunches for the past three years, we’re really excited to make sure youth have the opportunity for a healthy dinner.” If you are considering serving meals at multiple locations having a central person to initially set things up is a good idea. At Cuyahoga County Public Library, the

Youth Programming Manager, Julia Boxler tackles this role. Ready to give it a shot? Here are some additional resources to check out:

- [ALA Libraries Transform: Engagement Video](#)
- [FRAC: Food, Research and Action Center](#)
- [Summer Food Services Program, USDA](#)
- [Summer Meal Programming at the Library, Public Libraries Online](#)

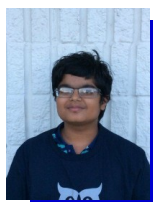
Scholarship Funds Available

Is there a professional conference that you’ve been dying to go to but the cost is prohibitive? Consider applying for a scholarship from OYAN. Most people use this fund to help defray the cost of ALA or YALSA conferences. But it can be used for any local, state, regional, or national conference.



All you need to do is fill out a [short application](#) and write a report within three months of attendance. Just check out the amazing things happening at [ALA Midwinter](#) in Atlanta GA. This fund is open to any OYAN member in good standing.

Teen Review: Far From Fair by, Mahadevan; Cedar Mill Community Library

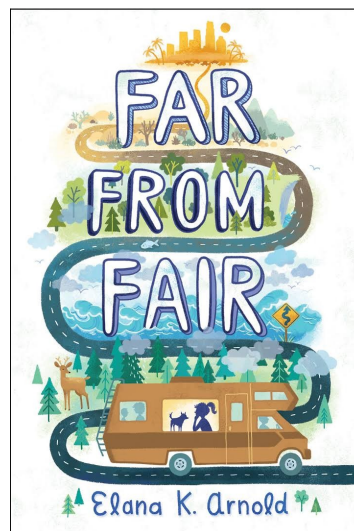


Far From Fair By Elana K. Arnold
Genre: Realistic Fiction
Recommended Age Range: 9-12 years
Rating: 4/5 Stars
Publication: 2016

I would personally recommend this book to girls, but I wouldn’t recommend this book to anyone who doesn’t like sad stories. All in all, Far from Fair is a wonderfully written book for kids in middle school.

Other books from this author: the [Question of Miracles](#)

Far From Fair is the story of sixth grade Odette Zyskowski and how her parents decide to uproot their family from their home in California. They take a family vacation in the beat up “Coach” so that they can visit their sick Grandma Sissy in Washington. Nothing seems to go right for Odette, not when she has to sell a lot of her belongings, has to leave her best friend behind, or even when the family phone gets dropped in the ocean! This story chronicles Odette’s journey to understanding that life isn’t always fair and how we all must live with both the good and the bad.



OYAN: Finding great reads for Oregon teens!



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mock Printz Award Workshop will be Saturday January 21st at the Central branch of the Multnomah County Library and is currently open for registration. Check out the [OYAN Blog](#) for the reading list.

OYAN Graphic Rave 2016 has been officially announced. Get the pamphlet [here](#).

The OYAN Fall workshop, which is immediately before the fall membership meeting, is titled: **Outcome-based evaluation: Putting teen programs on a level playing field with children's programs.** Contact [Bobbye Hernandez](#) to register.

We welcome all your comments, articles, photos, book reviews, ideas, and suggestions for future OYAN Review newsletters!
 Please submit to
oyanpublications@gmail.com.

Upcoming Meetings

Fall 2016	October 21, 2016	Wilsonville Public Library
Winter 2017	January 27th, 2017	St. Helen's Central Library
Spring 2017	May 12th, 2017	Tillamook County Library

OYAN [Oregon Young Adult Network] exists to provide a network for communication and growth among people who provide library services to teens, to increase awareness of teen library services in the state of Oregon, and to promote cooperation between school and public libraries. Visit us online at <http://tinyurl.com/8mzjq5n>.