

April 29, 2016

Good morning,

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to attend the YA conference on April 18th. Although I have attended many of Patti's conferences before (and learn something new every time), it was a new experience for the other attendees. I've included my invitation blurb to the AHS faculty in the body of this email that also includes a link to a video from Dave Pilkey (*Captain Underpants* author). I'm also including a link to Patti Tjomsland's Good Reads account (our conference facilitator and YA book extraordinaire). Her 'Picks' go back several years and she tests these 'picks' on actual teenagers, so if they're on the list they were loved by kids too 😊

My biggest take-away is always that kids don't like to read, or are not good at reading, usually because they just don't read--ever. And, they are not strong academically because the emphasis on the importance of reading (especially for pleasure) diminishes around the middle school grades. One way we know to get kids jazzed about reading is to expose them to the right book. This conference gives us the resources to match up kids & families with some great stories as well as to enrich our curriculum in the classroom.

I've included a few award winning book lists for YA reading as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7miBX-VUVOc>

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/patti-tjomsland-2014>

<http://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2016/04/2016-teens-top-ten-nominees-announced>

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/issue/best-of-2015/section/teen/>

Original Communication:

Good afternoon,

Over the past six weeks or so, several Arcadia teachers have had the opportunity to attend a young adult book conference. For those of you not familiar with the genre, these are books written specifically for adolescents. It's more than just a book talk, though. During this conference we learned how to use contemporary, young adult literature in our classes and lessons. The uses include, but are not limited to: a variety of reports, technology & digital uses, projects based assessments, websites, interdisciplinary curriculum use, etc.

Details: If you would like to learn more, please join us during lunch on Tuesday April 26th in the library. PTO has generously offered to provide a lunch as well. Please RSVP (me) by noon on Monday.

Hope to see you there!
Kim

P.S. If you'd like learn more about the impact reading for enjoyment can have on kids, watch this very short, entertaining YouTube video by renowned author of *Captain Underpants*, Dav Pilkey:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8gWGvJOHF0>

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"There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book" -Frank Serafini