

ASK Programs 2009 - 10

Teachers should review the book(s) before using them with their students. The grade level suggested is a recommendation. The teacher will need to decide if the book is appropriate for their students. We will furnish 30 copies of all chapter books and one or two copies of each picture book. Your district/school is responsible for providing transportation to your distance-learning site if transportation is needed. Registration information will be sent via the ASK Listserv. Anyone who would like to be on the ASK Listserv should send their e-mail address to acomer@misd.net. Contact Arnie Comer if you have any questions about these ASK programs.

“Stellaluna”

By Janell Cannon

Grades: 3 or 4

Dates: November 4, 2009 and February 10, 2010

This classic story of a bat, Stellaluna, who loses her mother and grows up thinking she is a bird, will introduce your students to the life of bats. Additional materials about bats are furnished as part of the program.

Students will interview an expert from the Organization for Bat Conservation.

(Do not request this program if you are having the Organization for Bat Conservation at your school. The programs will be very similar.)

“A Polar Bear Journey”

By Debbie Miller and

“Ice Bear and Little Fox”

By Jonathan London.

Grades: 3

Dates: November 2, 2009 and February 24, 2010

These two picture books will help your students learn about Polar Bears and animal life in the Arctic. Through these stories students will be introduced to the concepts of habitat, predator-prey, range and more. These are delightful books your students will enjoy.

Students will interview a Buffalo Zoo education specialist.

“Searching the Noonday Trail”

By Johnnie Tuitel

Grades: 3 to 7

Dates: November 11, 2009 and March 3, 2010

“In Searching the Noonday Trail, it's the first day at a new school for Johnnie Jacobson. It's going to be challenging, but will it be as adventuresome as the summer was? He's not too sure, but a secret football play and a field trip to where Chief Noonday and the Ottawa tribe used to live put Johnnie and his Gun Lake Friends on the trail of another great and exciting adventure!”

Students will interview the author.

Please preview the book before you use it with your students. To borrow a copy of the book please contact Denise Jobe at 586-228-3415 or djobe@misd.net

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“Monkey Island”

By Paula Fox

Grades: 5 to 8

Dates: November 5, 2009 and December 3, 2009

This award-winning book tells the story of Clay, an eleven-year-old boy whose father and mother have left him alone in New York City. Clay becomes homeless and lives in the park with two other homeless men, Buddy and Calvin, who become his friends and help him survive the harsh winter. It is a moving story that will help students understand the plight of the homeless.

Students will interview two women who work with the homeless in Macomb County.

“Night of the Twisters”

By Ivy Ruckman

Grades: 5 to 8

Dates: December 2, 2009 and April 21, 2010

Night of the Twisters is based on the night that nine tornadoes struck Grand Island, Nebraska in 1990. This fictionalized account follows three children as they struggle to survive the tornadoes. It is a fast moving story that your students will enjoy.

Students will interview a Meteorologist from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

“Traders in Time”

By Janie Panagopoulos

Grade: 3 or 4 or whichever grade studies Michigan History

Dates: December 9, 2009 and May 5, 2010

Students love this tale of a canoe race on Lake Michigan, while teachers like the historical detail found in this story. Students will learn about fur trade and Native Americans in Michigan. This book is part of the dream quest series on Michigan History.

Students will interview the author.

“Journey Back to the Lumberjack Camp”

By Janie Panagopoulos

Grade Level: 3 or 4 or whichever grade studies Michigan History

Dates: December 10, 2009 and May 4, 2010

This dream-quest follows Gus McCarty from middle school back to the lumbering days of Michigan. This is a humorous tale of a young mans adventures with rough lumberjacks named Moonshine and Rat-hole Andy and life in a lumberjack camp. Students enjoy learning about life in the camps and the lumberjack vocabulary.

Students will interview the author.

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“Mississippi Trial, 1955”

By Chris Crowe

Grades: 8 to 12

Date: December 15, 2009

While visiting relatives in Mississippi, Emmett Till, 14, spoke "ugly" to a white woman and was subsequently tortured and murdered. Two men were arrested and tried for this heinous crime, but in spite of substantial evidence, were found not guilty. Crowe has woven the plot of his novel around these historical events. Hiram, the fictional main character, had lived with his grandparents in Mississippi as a child. Now 16, he returns to visit his aging grandfather, where he meets Emmett.

Students will interview the author.

“The Breadwinner”

By Deborah Ellis

Grades: 6 and up

Dates: December 17, 2009 and May 13, 2010

Parvana is a young woman growing up in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime. Her father has been thrown out of the University and is earning money by writing and reading letters for people at the bazaar. When her father becomes ill, Parvana dresses up like a boy to help her family survive. This is a compelling story that will help your students understand what happened to women and girls who were not allowed to leave the house without being in the company of a man.

Students will interview a woman who lived with her family in Afghanistan and escaped just as the Taliban Regime was coming to power in 1984.

“When Donkey’s Fly”

By Ginger Hodge

Grade: 3

Dates: November 9, 2009 and February 11, 2010

A book for all ages teaches children, and the adults in their lives, that no matter who they are or what others may say, anyone can go anywhere and do anything as long as he or she believes.

"This is a book that speaks to primary children, to older students, and to adults, each at their own level."--Joy Price Library Media Specialist.

Students will interview the author.

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“Cooper’s Tale”

By Ralph da Costa Nunez with Willow Schragger

Grades: 3 or 4

Dates: February 3, 2010 and March 2, 2010

Cooper, a friendly pink mouse, becomes homeless when two fat cats and a lady in a red hat take over the cheese shop where Cooper works and lives. He is confused and sad as he looks for a place to go, until he runs into three children who, like Cooper, are homeless. The friendship that forms between them changes all of their lives in ways they never expected.

Cooper's Tale is a thought provoking children's book that explores the challenges that homeless children face and provides hope for a better future.

Students will interview two women who work with homeless children.

“Mail by the Pail”

By Colin Bergel

Grades: 3 or 4

Date: February 4, 2010

This is the first book written by Colin Bergel, a Great Lakes freighter captain. Students have enjoyed learning that even an author has to re-write his works several times. The book is a delightful tale of how the men and women working on Great Lake freighters get their mail from a small boat named the Westcott II. Students will learn a lot about shipping and life on Great Lakes freighters.

Students will interview the author.

“The Crypto-Capers in the Case of the Missing Sock” NEW

By Renée Hand

Grades: 4 -7

Date: March 17, 2010

This book is full of mystery and wonder through likeable and well-known characters such as Sherlock Holmes. Throughout the book you will follow Max and Mia who are young detectives (along with their Granny) and are asked from a rich man to help find his wife's stolen birthday present. It seems an antique sock with a specially made pair of sunglasses tucked inside is missing. The mystery leads the team from London to Florida. Clues flourish throughout the mystery. Suspects by the handful seem to be popping up at every turn, but who committed the crime? Help the detectives solve the case by solving the cryptogram puzzles.

Students will interview the author.

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“Julie of the Wolves”

By Jean Craighead George

Grades: 6 to 9

Dates: December 16, 2009 and March 24, 2010

"Miyax, like many adolescents, is torn. But unlike most, her choices may determine whether she lives or dies. At 13, an orphan, and unhappily married, Miyax runs away from her husband's parents' home, hoping to reach San Francisco and her pen pal. But she becomes lost in the vast Alaskan tundra, with no food, no shelter, and no idea which is the way to safety. Now, more than ever, she must look hard at who she really is. Is she Miyax, Eskimo girl of the old ways? Or is she Julie (her "gussak"-white people-name), the modernized teenager who must mock the traditional customs? And when a pack of wolves begins to accept her into their community, Miyax must learn to think like a wolf as well. If she trusts her Eskimo instincts, will she stand a chance of surviving?"

Students will interview a specialist from the Buffalo Zoo.

“Mystery at Round Island Light”

By Robert A. Lytle

Grades: 4 and up

Dates: December 1, 2009 and April 29, 2010

Pete and his friends on Michigan's Mackinac Island find themselves fascinated by the legends and rumors about an old lighthouse on nearby Round Island and about its former keeper, who may or may not still be a presence there. Intrigued, the four teens pack a lunch, borrow a dinghy, ride over, and explore-and then find their belongings scattered and a note telling them to go away. Instead of being scared off, they decide to find out what is going on and, in so doing, become involved in a dangerous robbery plot.

Students will interview the author.

“A Faraway Home: An Orphan Train Story”

By Janie Panagopoulos

Grade: 4 -5

Date: May 5, 2010

This heartfelt story begins on the streets of New York City in 1854 where thousands of homeless children, immigrants and natives are fighting to survive "just one more day". Charles Loring Brace, founder of the Children's Aid Society, made a plan to rescue the children by getting them out of the city to loving rural homes in America's growing Midwest. The first location to accept these homeless children is Dowagiac, Michigan, a railroad whistle-stop on the track-line to Chicago. You will experience the hope, fear and excitement as you travel with Jack, Sarah, little George and 42 other orphans on their way to new faraway homes and better lives. Traveling by train across New York state, crossing Lake Erie by steamship and then on to Detroit to board another train, these children cling to one another for safety and survival trying hard to keep themselves together and clean in their filthy flea-ridden travel conditions.

Students will interview the author.

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“Train to Midnight”

By Janie Panagopoulos

Grade: 4

Date: May 6, 2010

Students will learn about life along the Underground Railroad by reading about the adventures of Malaika and her brother Sammy. The story follows these two brave youngsters as they escape slavery with the help of a Quaker couple and Daniel. The book leads them through Detroit to the Second Baptist church on Monroe.

Students will interview the author.

“Cracker Jackson”

By Betsy Byars

Grades: 6 and up

Date: May 19, 2010

Cracker is a young man with a big secret. He knows that his babysitter is being abused by her husband and is not sure what to do. Students who participated in this ASK program during the 2001-02 school year loved this book. It is a moving tale that will make students think and will foster discussion about domestic abuse.

Students will interview a counselor for Turning Point, a shelter for battered women.

“The Mud Hole” New

By Arthur Brood

Grades: 3 and 4

Dates: November 12, 2009 and May 12, 2010

It is 1912 and Henry and his brother Robert are fascinated by the automobile. Their father calls the automobile a noisy smelly contraption. When the mud hole near their farm continues to trap automobiles, their father gives the boys the responsibility of using the horse to pull them from the mud. One adventure leads to another, but when the mischief goes too far what will happen to their summer plans? Through it all, Henry learns that honesty is more important than money and a job well done sometimes has its rewards.

Students will interview the author.

“The Wall”

By Eve Bunting and

“Patrol”

By Walter Dean Myers

Grades: 5 to 8

Date: May 20, 2010

This simple picture book will introduce your students to the Vietnam Memorial and will help you teach them about Memorial Day and Vietnam. Materials about "The Wall" and the Vietnam War will be included in the kit.

Students will interview a Vietnam Veteran.

Please preview the book before you use it with your students. To borrow a copy of the book please contact Denise Jobe at 586-228-3415 or djobe@misd.net

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“Adventures In Walnut Grove: A Lesson About Teasing”

And

“I Double Dare You”

By Dana Lehman

Grades 2 and 3

Dates: November 3, 2009 and March 31, 2010

“Adventures In Walnut Grove” is a story about friends that learn to treat others as they would like to be treated. Sammy is teased because he is a squirrel who has eyes like a raccoon. Sammy knows that name calling is not nice but his friends have a valuable lesson to learn.

“I Double Dare You” is a story about how every one learns to take personal responsibility for their own actions. Silly and Sassy come to Walnut Grove to visit their cousin Sammy. Silly and Sassy are always getting into trouble. They play hide and seek, have frog races and play dare and double dare which leads to some problems for all involved.

We will use both books for this ASK program.

Students will interview the author.

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