The Curriculum Resource Center is located on the 2nd floor of the Jerome Library. Stop by and visit us any time! This special collection contains the following materials, primarily in support of teacher preparation programs: Award-winning fiction and non-fiction literature for children and young adults, preK-12 textbooks and activity books for lesson planning, puppets, big books, pop-up books, primary source picture files, educational kits, games and manipulatives and children’s magazines. The Libraries also subscribes to more than 30 education online databases which contain scholarly research literature, primary source documents, book reviews, eBooks, reading suggestions, and more.

CRC Spotlight: Youth Media Award Predictions

On Monday, January 28, committees from both the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) will reveal the winners of the major literary awards for books written for children and teenagers. Because the committees operate in secrecy, it’s anyone’s guess which books will soon become staples in classrooms and libraries across the country.

We here at the Curriculum Resource Center pay close attention to literature for children and teenagers. Here are our best guesses for some of the major awards.

*Sibert Medal* (best informational text for children) *Boots on the Ground* by Elizabeth Partridge is a searing examination of American involvement in Vietnam. Rather than report the origins of the war, Partridge instead weaves first hand narratives (from military personnel, medics, and refugees) into the fabric of the political machinations occurring in Washington.
Coretta Scott King Author Medal (best narrative by an African-American about the African-American experience) Narrated by the recently slain Jerome, *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes is less about police brutality and more about the historical trend of young black boys being killed by those in authority. Jerome joins a chorus of other dead black boys, including Emmett Till, in an attempt to unpack what has happened to him – and possibly prevent it from happening again.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Medal (best illustrated book by an African-American about the African-American experience) *Libba*, illustrated by Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, is the very definition of a remarkable debut. Fazlalizadeh’s expressive pencil work evokes the timelessness of Elizabeth Cotten’s soulful folk music. The subdued, soft color palette draws the eyes to subtle details: fingered chords on the guitar, Cotten’s rapt face as she plays, a train passing in the night. A marvelously illustrated book.

Printz Medal (best young adult book) Having already nabbed both the National Book Award and the Boston Globe-Horn Book award, *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo seems like a shoe-in for this award. Nabbing another award will be richly deserved for this novel in verse: *The Poet X* explores timely themes and boasts a truly exceptional protagonist, Xiomara, who will inspire young women of color everywhere. Tense, honest, and heartbreaking.

Caldecott Medal It’s been a banner year for picture books, and this year’s Caldecott committee has their work cut out for them. The charming, beautiful *Julián is a Mermaid* continues to rise to the top, though, with its staggeringly beautiful spreads, hand-painted on a paper bag background. It’s a story of acceptance, and Love sprinkles nuanced motifs throughout the bright, dazzling patterns. As a bonus, the endpapers lovingly capture the inclusivity of the book’s theme.

Newbery Medal More than anything, Christopher Paul Curtis’ staggering *The Journey of Little Charlie* is a Master’s class in voice. Written in a strongly evocative southern dialect, the novel follows the titular Charlie, who’s on a mission to track down slaves that have escaped to Detroit. Under the watchful eye of the cruel Cap’n Buck, Charlie must come to terms with the consequences of the fugitive slaves and his role in their impending punishment.
Teaching Aids
Focus on: World Languages

Verb Slap! French Is it possible to get students rowdy about French verb conjugations or subject/verb agreement? Sure, you can invite students to write past tense verb forms of être on the board or you can engage them in furiously slapping matching cards in this uproariously fun game. (Don’t worry, there’s a non-physical version of the game, too!)

Reader’s Theater: Folk & Fairy Tales – Spanish Book Set Help students practice fluency and pronunciation with this set of scripts that cover familiar folk and fairy tales. From “Caperucita Roja” (“Little Red Riding Hood”) to “Los Tres Cochinitos” (“The Three Little Pigs”), student will have a blast revisiting stories from their youth and performing them in a new and exciting way!

Monopoly: German edition Aus Badstraße zu Schloßallee, students will travel around the Monopoly board, battling for properties and sharpening their comprehension and communication skills. Avoid the Gefängnis and enjoy Frei Parken, and you might just come out on top! This is the perfect reinforcement for students in high school or other advanced German classes.

CRC & Classroom Connections

Please keep the CRC in mind when putting together your classes for spring semester. To request an instruction session or visit, contact Colleen Boff or Joe Prince. To put CRC materials on reserve, contact Jess Mullins. Our contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

INFOhio in a Minute

In each newsletter, we will feature a different aspect of INFOhio. This is a state supported information network available to all school aged children and teachers in the state of Ohio. INFOhio serves the same role for K-12 students and teachers that OhioLINK does with students and faculty at colleges and universities in Ohio. Check out this guide on the INFOhio web site [https://libguides.infohio.org/preserviceteachers] that provides an explanation to preservice teachers about how to use the INFOhio resources. This would be a great resource for teacher education faculty to add to their Canvas course shells to help us spread the word about this fantastic resource.
Database Feature

Children’s Literature Comprehensive Database. This is a great resource for teachers to use to build their classroom libraries or to find title suggestions for content and grade specific children’s and young adult literature titles. Database limiters include age, grade, reading level, genre, fiction/nonfiction, awards & honors, author/illustrator, language, series, publisher, and by several different reading metrics systems including Scholastic, AR and Lexile. To access this resource, go to the CRC web page at https://www.bgsu.edu/library/crc.html
Upcoming Events

It’s been a busy semester at the Curriculum Resource Center, and we’ve relished in several successful events. Here’s what we have on tap for the spring term:

- **Wednesday, February 27** • Wednesday, March 27 • Wednesday, April 24 • The Jerome Unplugged program series continues on these days with engaging workshops in the Fiber Arts (2/27), Origami (3/27), and Cupcake Decorating (4/24) – all designed to discourage use of technology and tap back into what it feels like to be “unplugged”.

- **Monday, March 11** • After a successful visit in autumn, children’s author/illustrator Lindsay Ward will return to the BGSU campus to present about both her artistic journey and her techniques. Her presentation will be open to the public and will be followed by a book signing. Her full schedule will be posted on the CRC’s Events page once it has been finalized. Stay tuned for this terrific learning opportunity!

- **Saturday, May 4** • EDHD’s Literacy in the Park returns for its 14th year in the Perry Field House and the CRC will be there to contribute to this event. This year’s author, Lindsay Ward, has already made quite an impact on early education students enrolled in ENG 3420. Here, she’ll bring her unique style and approach to a larger audience, along with countless exhibitors who will engage the public in literacy programs and activities.

Meet the Staff

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