

ACL Minutes
Friday, April 12, 2024
9:00am-12pm
Berkeley Public Library: Central Library, Community Meeting Room

9:00–9:30: Book sale and socializing

9:30–10:15: Professional Development: Andrea Kneeland and Sam Solomon will share information about “appeal terms.” This presentation will explore using Olga Nesi's Appeal Terms in both school and public library programming, as well as its application to readers’ advisory. “Appeal Terms” are a highly adaptable way to move beyond genre in exploring reading preferences, and are a helpful addition to programs such as book clubs and book tastings.

What even is this? More structured system for readers’ advisory and shared language between librarian and patrons. Very similar to what is used in NoveList.

Core idea: all books with a plot and characters can be broken down into five descriptors – Character, Storyline, Tone, Writing Style, and Pace.

What do kids get out of it? Helps to engage kids through specificity, especially with kids who don’t want or know how to express what they like.

How does this improve my practice? It opens up conversations and creates a different lens for viewing your collection. It’s also useful modeling for parents about how to talk to kids about books.

Implementation: Two ways to use appeal terms – in the more traditional readers’ advisory manner of asking lots of questions to drill down to what the kid likes or another way is to ask a reader to review visual aids with appeal terms.

You can use these readers’ advisory interactions to create unique displays or posters. For example, pull out types of characters and recommend books in multiple genres/formats that have similar characters.

Activities for programming: Storytime (4th to 6th grade) – hand out colored paper with appeal terms and then ask them after to explain which words describe the book (and if they liked the book/that aspect of the book).

Book tastings – Select one focus area and choose a few appeal terms to focus on. Put books out on labeled tables and let kids explore. You can give kids a handout to rank different appeal terms and to write down titles they like. There was an example of the handout in the presentation and passed around at the meeting.

Book clubs – Kids can fill out a chart with different appeal terms for the book and then can discuss which of these appeal terms they liked (or didn't like).

These activities are geared toward 3rd or 4th grade and up, but you can do simplified concepts for kids as young as kindergarten.

Further Resources: NoveList, Book: *Getting Beyond "Interesting"* by Olga Nesi

Q&A:

Do you mention race when describing Main Character? Yes, because sometimes kids are really looking for that. If you can, it's best to crowdsource from the kids the descriptors and see what they feel is important. You might pull out something specific if it's really important to the book, but it's good to focus on what the kids like.

Note from Caroline related to NoveList: Caroline started a staff book club using characteristics from NoveList. For the book club they pull out one characteristic and everyone chooses their own book related to that characteristic. Then they share how it related to that characteristic and if it was a good representation of that characteristic.

10:15-10:30 **Break**

10:30-10:45 **Introductions and Announcements:** Welcome to anyone new!

We shared out names and work places.

10:45-11:15: **Book reviewing:** Outstanding and Unsatisfactory or controversial (a.k.a. stinky-cheese) titles only. If time remains, other titles can be discussed.

Check out BayViews for this month's Outstanding reviews.

11:15–11:30: **Committee highlight/overview:** Learn more about ACL Committees and positions you might want to join now or in the future!

Angela on professional development: She is always open to ideas for speakers and is especially looking for people you know who can speak/present on topics that ACL is interested in. Reach out to Angela at acmoffett@gmail.com.

Catherine on Membership Committee. There's a lot of support on this committee and it's a good way to meet people. There are also lots of different roles on the committee and it can be tailored to your skillset. Contact Catherine (catherinepyun@gmail.com), Jennifer (Jennifer_agarwal@yahoo.com), or Celia (cjackson@oaklandlibrary.org) if you're interested in joining!

Catherine also talked about the Helfeld Fellowship. Applications are open! Students or really anyone interested in children's literature can apply. There was also a brief discussion of the history of the Helfeld Fellowship and how it's funded.

Lillian talked about her two current positions, Secretary and Webmaster. Chat with her if you have any interest in learning about these roles or taking over as Secretary in the fall. Email: lillianwhithaus@gmail.com

We had a brief discussion on wanting to provide reviews of performers who have attended the Performers' Showcase and come to visit our libraries. If you want to submit a review of a performer, you can send an email to the Performers' Showcase team (pshow.acl@gmail.com) so they know whether or not to include the person on future showcases. You can also send out reviews/feedback about performers to the ACL listserv (aclncl@googlegroups.com). Is there a webform we could make to submit feedback to the Showcase team? General consensus was that feedback should be given in person or on the ACL listserv because everyone has really different opinions on what is good or acceptable from a performer. There was an idea from Sheila to create a debrief session (possibly after summer) to talk about how summer performers went.

11:30–12:00: **Business meeting**

- **Consent calendar**
 - Approval of March minutes
 - Treasurer's report
 - Checking: \$27,796
 - Savings: \$3,944

Approved by membership.

- **New business / Committee updates**
 - Fairyland Book Festival

Request for ACL to sponsor the Fairyland Book Festival at the \$500 level. The money goes towards getting families from underserved communities to come to Fairyland by providing tickets for OPL to give away to families.

The Fairyland Book Festival is happening on September 21st.

Sponsorship approved by membership.

- Volunteer(s) needed: Refreshments
- **Announcements**
 - Job openings: *Please e-mail these to the Secretary (lillianwhithaus@gmail.com) if you would like them to appear in the minutes.*

Temple Isaiah in Lafayette will be hiring a librarian this summer for 15 hours/week. Lillian has been in this position for a year and a half and is happy to chat about it ahead of the job being posted in July. Reach her at lillianwhithaus@gmail.com.

OUSD hiring for library technicians at four elementary schools this summer. An MLIS is not required for these roles.

- Humbug witch queries
- Book/Resource recommendations: If you have a topic that you need resources for, request them here.

Yesica mentioned that she and Beth are chairing the Beatty Award Selection Committee this year and applications are open. This committee reviews children's and teen books that have California specific content. The award is part of CLA and will be presented in October. Many ACL folks have been on the committee previously and said that it is a low key award committee and a good introduction to award committees. You can find the application here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFJTfGq8bR3xGXFcaXO5r5zr7EV7UjLt4nyoo7Z5oDIp75Q/viewform>

Band at Albany library with Rachael's son! It's a cool way to engage with teens. May 4th, doors at 7pm show at 7:30pm:

<https://aclibrary.bibliocommons.com/events/660202345e1ddf36005f5bbc>

Bay Area Storytelling Festival May 3rd and 4th in Santa Rosa. There is a virtual component as well as in person.

Asian Art Museum is starting a new storyteller training program this fall. It's a year's worth of intensive training in storytelling. It is every other week at the museum from August to June. There will also be some Zoom opportunities. Find out more and apply online:

<https://about.asianart.org/volunteer-as-a-storyteller/>

Kathy Shepler was in the hospital in late February, but is now home from the hospital and on the mend.

Celia is sending out renewal reminders and is getting positive feedback from folks who appreciate the work that ACL is doing.

- **Feedback and appreciations:** Feel free to email Caroline (carolinedavis@aclibrary.org) and Shani (shani13reads@gmail.com) additional comments! This will also be a space to acknowledge and appreciate fellow ACL members. If you have an upcoming birthday, have a professional or personal success or accomplishment (promotions, job changes, graduations, etc.) you'd like to share, please let us know. We want to celebrate you!

12:00: **Adjourn**

Submitted by
Lillian W.