

Be sure and plan to attend the 5th annual Authorpalooza! It is happening Thursday, October 13, 2011 from 3:45 to 5:30, at the OELMA Conference in the Vendor Hall. You can bring along your book club, teaching partners, or PTO members. You can give this to students to come for the event and meet the authors they have been reading, or anyone else you think will enjoy meeting authors and chatting with vendors.

Free with conference registration or \$10 for this event only.

Attending will be:

Nancy Pimm, who writes nonfiction books for children, including “*Colo's Story: The Life of One Grand Gorilla*” (Columbus Zoo Books for Young Readers Collection) by Nancy Roe Pimm and Jack Hanna.

- This book or this author would be a good foundation to start an animal/habitat/biome study.

Susan Levine, who wrote “*Packard Takes Flight: A bird’s-eye view of Columbus, Ohio.*” Joining Susan will be her illustrator, Erin Burchwell.

- A different way to think about a field trip!

Carole Gerber, author of many books in a variety of genre, including her newest title, “*Annie Jump Cannon, Astronomer*” was just published in September, 2011.

- Check out her website to see everything Carole has written!

Sandy Phillipson, her latest titles are “*Ollie's Monsters and Other Stories*” published in 2011, “*Forever Home*” and “*Max's Rules.*”

- These stories could provide a foundation upon which to scaffold a unit about “differences, not disabilities”, or acceptance.

Will Hillenbrand, who’s latest book, “*Sneeze, Big Bear, Sneeze!*” was just published September 2011.

- What a great author study for primary students!

As well as these young adult authors:

Linda Gerber, author of “*Death by Bikini Mysteries*” and others.

- Her “*Death by ...*” series will keep your YA readers coming back for more.

Margaret Peterson Haddix, a central Ohio favorite who’s latest book in the Missing Trilogy series, “*Torn*” was just published in August.

- This series could be used as a jumping point to study geography; or she could be an author study for middle or high school.

Ellen Schreiber, a Cincinnati author of “Vampire Kisses”

- How about a comparison chart of all the vampire characters popular these days? Characteristics, settings, special abilities? A lunchtime debate in the library over which vampire is more “realistic!”

Cinda Williams Chima, is an Ohio author whose book, *The Exiled Queen*, on this year’s Teen Buckeye Book Awards ballot. She is the author of many fantasy novels.

- Have your students read and compare the books of Chima and Schreiber, does Ohio ever play a part in the setting these authors use?

Phillip Hoose is the widely-acclaimed author of books, essays, stories, songs, and articles, including the National Book Award winning book, *Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice*. His other award winning books include: *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird*, *We Were There Too!*, *Young People in U.S. History*, and *It’s Our World Too!*.

- Use these books as a starting point in teaching service to others. These people all made a difference in society, in what ways? What can I do?
- What makes a book an award winner?

Steven Kellogg, is a beloved author/illustrator of books for young people and people young at heart! His books include his newest *And I Love You* which he illustrates; and many with these favorite characters: Pinkerton, Rose, and Jimmy and his boa constrictor!

- Look at this body of work as a study of illustration and its power to enhance a story. Can you find his notable style in each of the books?
- Which came first, the story or the illustration? What a great discussion to have with your class, AFTER you get the answer from Steven yourself.

Alex Flinn is the author of young adult novels including *Beastly* recently made into a movie, as well as *Cloaked*, *Fade to Black*, and *Breaking Point*. You will be happy to note that her website has teacher guides for her titles. “I think I write for young-adults because I never quite got over being one.” Maybe that is why her books speak to the YA crowd.

- Divide your class into groups and have each read a title by Alex. Have them create character and plot charts which you can post. Then have students add comments as they continue to read books by Alex Flinn. A “post it” graffiti wall!

Sarah Darer Littman is another YA author. Her newest book, *Want to Go Private?*, deals with a freshman who becomes involved with an internet predator. Other books include topics such as: bulimia, immigration, loss, and renewal.

- Use these books as a jumping off point for looking at current events or health topics. After reading, research the topic and present the facts to your class as though you were the main character of the book.

Richard Cowdrey, another Ohio son, was born in Cincinnati, attended CCAD, worked for Hallmark and a whole list of famous companies. He has illustrated number of picture books, including the Marley series. He has also illustrated for Ralph Fletcher and Marion Dane Bauer books. These books include: *Marley and the Kittens*, *Bad Dog Marley*, *The Christmas Bat*, and *The Sandman*.

- Host a discussion with your students about the art and science of illustration. Have them wonder what it must be like to illustrate someone else's story.

Barbara Binns, says that as the oldest of five children, by college she was definitely management material. B. A, as she is known, won the [2010 National Readers Choice Award](#) in the Young Adult category for her debut novel, *Pull*.

- *Pull* has strong male characters. Have your students review and find other books that also have strong characters for comparison and contrast.