

# School Corps Quarterly

A publication of the Multnomah County Library School Corps — an outreach program connecting students, teachers and media staff with public library resources

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[www.multcolib.org/schoolcorps/scq](http://www.multcolib.org/schoolcorps/scq)

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## New Online Tools for Students and Educators

By Cathy Camper and Jackie Partch

### Teen Health and Wellness Database

When it comes to teen health, it's not just what teens hear on the streets, it's what they learn from the Internet. A study by Teen Health Perceptions from the Scarborough Kids Internet Panel found that 58 percent of teens 16 and up turn to the Internet for health information.

But how can teens be sure they're getting valid, up-to-date information? The Teen Health and Wellness database is the perfect resource. It covers important teen health issues like cancer, mental health, STDs, eating disorders, obesity, asthma, sleep disorders and more. Teens can send questions to *Ask Dr. Jan*, take quizzes, and share a personal story. The database is easy to navigate and can be used for both homework and personal research. Find it on Multnomah County Library Homework Center's student databases page: [www.multcolib.org/homework/db.html](http://www.multcolib.org/homework/db.html). You'll need your Multnomah County Library card to log in. If you'd like School Corps to visit your school to demonstrate this new resource to students, contact us at 503.988.6004 or [lib.school.corps@multcolib.org](mailto:lib.school.corps@multcolib.org).

### Bookflix and TumbleBooks

This fall we're excited to introduce two new online literacy resources. **Bookflix** pairs video storybooks with related nonfiction eBooks for grades PreK-3. It is designed to reinforce early reading skills. **TumbleBooks** is an online collection of picture books enhanced with animation, sound, music and narration. These resources would be great for students to use during free time or at home. Bookflix and TumbleBooks are available at [www.multcolib.org/kids](http://www.multcolib.org/kids); you'll need your Multnomah County Library card number to use them. School Corps is available to visit school staff meetings to demonstrate these resources; contact us at 503.988.6004 or [lib.school.corps@multcolib.org](mailto:lib.school.corps@multcolib.org).



## M.T. Anderson Delivers Teen Author Lecture

By Sara Ryan

M.T. Anderson will deliver Multnomah County Library's eighth annual Teen Author Lecture on Monday, Oct. 12. Anderson is the author of the Printz and National Book Award-winning *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing* series, *Traitor to the Nation*, as well as *Feed*, *Burger Wuss*, *The Game of Sunken Places*, *Whales on Stilts*, and other popular and critically acclaimed titles.

In an interview with *School Library Journal*, Anderson said that writing his dystopian novel *Feed*, featuring a kind of future Internet that connects Americans via computer chips implanted in their brains, made him realize that "there were years of teen resentment waiting to burst out—anger about all the things the media demanded we become."

Anderson has written picture books, middle-grade and young adult novels that cover a wide range of topics, genres and settings — from the 18th century to the 21st, from biography to historical to adventure to fantasy and science fiction. He explained his varied interests to *Kirkus Reviews*: "I tend to get fixated on subjects serially, and I often write about them to exorcise my interest. I also believe firmly in forcing yourself to do things you think you can't do, things you've never done before. The world is a dazzlingly varied place — why should we assent to limiting ourselves?"

The Teen Author Lecture will take place at The Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave., Portland. Doors open at 6:15 and the lecture begins at 7 p.m. Tickets (\$10 adults; \$5 students K-12) are on sale through Oct. 12 at Central, Gresham, Hillsdale, Hollywood, Midland and North Portland libraries; Library Administration; and A Children's Place, Annie Bloom's Books, Broadway Books, Green Bean Books, Looking Glass Books and Powell's City of Books. To order tickets by mail, call 503.988.5402.

Visit [www.multcolib.org/teens/tal09.html](http://www.multcolib.org/teens/tal09.html) for more information.

## Booktalk

Hoose, Phillip M.

[Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice](#)

Melanie Kroupa Books, 2009.

[j B-Co726h 2009]

Grades 6–12



Booktalk by Lee Catalano

Listen to a [podcast](#) of this booktalk.

In 1955, at the end of a long day, an African American female got on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and sat down in a seat behind the sign that said “white,” where she was legally permitted to sit. As the bus drove on, the seats in front of her, “reserved” for white people, filled up. And that rider knew what was coming next. “I need those seats,” the bus driver said. For if white people were standing, black people were required to give up their seats. “It’s my constitutional right,” the rider said. But still, cops came and dragged her off the bus. Who was that rider?

If you said Rosa Parks, you’d be wrong. (Rosa Parks quietly let the Montgomery police arrest her.) No, the rider was a 15-year-old high-school student named Claudette Colvin. She was the first. Claudette’s unplanned protest and subsequent arrest planted the idea of civil disobedience into the minds of Alabama’s civil rights leaders. The rest, as they say, is history.

What’s fascinating about this book is why Claudette was – up until now – overlooked by history. The author was lucky enough to meet his subject, talk to her at great length, and help her tell her story to contemporary teenagers. As she explains it, “I made [my cry for justice] so that our own adult leaders couldn’t just be nice anymore. Back then, as a teenager, I kept thinking, ‘Why don’t the adults around here just say something?’ ... You have to take a stand and say, ‘This is not right.’ And I did.” [p. 104]

## Tapestry of Tales Storytelling Festival, November 2009

By Steven Engelfried

Every year the Library’s Tapestry of Tales Storytelling Festival brings the country’s finest storytellers to kids, teens and families. Stephanie Thomas, Media Specialist at Parkrose High School, writes about the impact storytelling had on her students:

“We were thrilled when Multnomah County Library asked Parkrose High to host a storytelling event in our theatre in exchange for having Syd Lieberman perform for our students. We really didn’t know what to expect and this was the first storytelling event held at Parkrose. All of our students in grades 9–12 attended and Syd blew us all away. He began with a telling of Edgar Allan Poe’s *A Tell-Tale Heart* that enraptured the audience. From then on, you could hear a pin drop. I was shocked. Usually, there are a handful of students that are not paying attention during assemblies and performances. Not with Syd. He captured us with just his body language and a simple stool. He told stories from different genres, and in my opinion, his best telling was about the time he was part of a protest against a Nazi rally: *The Day the Nazis Came*. The students were so connected with him—they yelled and jumped right when Syd wanted them to. It was an experience we’ll never forget and we were honored to have such an entertaining and educational teller at our school. We can’t wait for this year.”

Visit [www.multcolib.org/events/tales](http://www.multcolib.org/events/tales) for more information on Tapestry of Tales, storytellers, performance dates and times, and educator resources.

## Save the Date!

You are invited to attend Multnomah County Library’s 13th Annual Children’s Author Lecture featuring **Jane Yolen**, author of the Caldecott Award-winning title *Owl Moon*, the highly discussable *The Devil’s Arithmetic*, and many more fantasy, poetry and short story titles.

**Monday, April 12, 7 p.m.**  
**Location to be announced**

Tickets are \$5 for students in grades K–12 and \$10 for adults and will be available in early February at select Multnomah County Library locations and area bookstores. Call 503.988.5402 or visit [www.multcolib.org/kids/lecture](http://www.multcolib.org/kids/lecture) for more information.



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