

survey of library directors across the country, most systems have seen a downward trend.

SFPL retains a robust DVD and Blu-ray collection for patrons who are unable to stream content. However, the proliferation of streaming technologies exacerbates existing inequalities. Certain shows and movies are only available to view through a paid streaming platform. For example, *El Deafo*, based on Cece Bell's Newbery Honor graphic novel, is only available on Apple+, *Stinky and Dirty* based on Kate McMullan's picture

books can only be viewed on Amazon Prime, and *A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon* is available only on Netflix.

As library professionals, we could advocate that paid streaming services be available for free for library patrons—perhaps on a check-out model, much like e-books are managed.

Carefully considering how the proliferation of streaming services affects use of library materials will help us to usher in the next stage in offering AV materials. &

References

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Game On!

Authors, Fans Face Off in Innovative Experiment

Sharon Verbeten

Authors have total recall of *everything* in their books, right? Or would an avid fan kick their butt in a trivia match? This ingenious concept—conceived in the early days of the pandemic by three-time National Book Award finalist Steve Sheinkin and Stacey Rattner, librarian at Castleton Elementary School in upstate New York—was only supposed to be a temporary virtual offering.

"A lot of people were trying to think of ways to help teachers," said Sheinkin, whose book *Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown* received a 2022 Sibert Honor.

"I thought we'd just do one and see how it goes," he added. "By the end of (2020), I thought that was it."

But hosts Sheinkin and Rattner have now recorded more than seventy episodes—found on YouTube—featuring middle-grade authors like Jason Reynolds and Kate DiCamillo squaring off with mega fans.

When Sheinkin wondered how he could reach out during the pandemic, he thought, "The one asset I have is these authors."

Sheinkin and Rattner write the questions—"That was the most time-consuming part of it," he admitted. And the authors and fans have not been hard to find.



Stacey Rattner and Steve Sheinkin on one of their Author Fan Face-Offs.

"We've been making this up as we go along," Sheinkin admitted.

The ten-minute segments feature the humbled authors, casual in their homes, adorable kids and zany sound effects, and—spoiler alert!—you never know which authors will stumble on facts they've written.

Sheinkin himself got in on the fun. Watch episode #57 to see him take on an eighth-grade superfan of his book *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*.

Rattner said, "It's so great to give this opportunity to the kids—like it is a once in a lifetime and unforgettable experience for them. Here they are with their favorite author, basically alone (with Steve and I looking on) for fifteen minutes. How awesome is that?"

"And on top of that, they know the book better! There are episodes where the author has been so humbled by the experience and so kind to the fans, that I get emotional.

"The kids are so great. One fan wrote to me saying it was 'one of the best experiences I've ever had.'" &