

SOURCES

mother-daughter groups, father-son groups, and the kids-only group, Reader's Rap. For each group, the chapter contains a collection of titles along with a theme idea, a list of related titles, and discussion questions. These collections can be used just as they are, or as a jumping-off point for developing other discussions. For easy reference, the book also contains an author index and a genre index, which includes such genres as adventure, cultural fiction, fable, fairy tale, fantasy, historical fiction, humorous fiction, mystery, picture book, poetic format, realistic fiction, science fiction, and short stories. Also included are a grade-level index covering grades three to eight, a theme and subject index (including everything from "Betrayal" and "Bravery" to "Coming of Age," "Rivalry," and "Writing"), and a title index.

This book, with its indexes and lists, is a wonderful tool for librarians and library users as well. Teachers looking for title alternatives may turn to this book for guidance on themes. Parents and children's group leaders could use this book as a guideline for introducing themes for discussion. All in all, this book is a wonderful addition to school, public, and personal libraries.—*Alicia Smith, Branch Manager, Purcell Public Library, Pioneer Library System, Oklahoma*

Serving Young Teens and 'Tweens. Ed. by Sheila B. Anderson. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 158p. \$40 (ISBN 1-59158-259-8).

Displays. Programs. Outreach. Book talks. Anyone who has served as a children's librarian knows that there comes a point when creativity is simply exhausted. At that point, a resource such as *Serving Young Teens and 'Tweens* can come in very handy.

Focusing on the transitional period between childhood and adolescence, the book addresses the information needs of this very diverse group, generally ranging from the ages of ten to fourteen. It also discusses the difficulties of attracting tweens to the library, a place that they may no longer consider "cool," but a place that nonetheless offers materials and services many need as they navigate their early teenage years.

Anderson's introductory chapter reviews the developmental stages of early adolescence, while the following chapters are authored by experts in a variety of fields. Brenda Hager examines the different information needs of tweens, including topics such as menstruation, growth spurts, spirituality, body issues, and hobbies. Deborah Taylor explores the appeal of recreational reading to this age group and the ways in which fiction can contribute to tweens' social development, problem-solving skills, and decision-making abilities. Robyn Lupa recommends some creative ways of drawing young teenagers into the library and includes ideas on how to collaborate with other agencies in promoting programs. Kristine Mahood discusses the memorable techniques she uses to showcase fiction when visiting kids in the classroom.

Each chapter includes an annotated list of resources, library materials, Web sites, award-winning titles, and references that relate to the subject discussed. The material pre-

sented is both practical and valuable for any library interested in enhancing its outreach and hoping to increase its appeal to tweens.—*Jana Hausburg, Cataloger, Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Something to Talk about: Creative Booktalking for Adults. Ann-Marie Cyr and Kellie M. Gillespie. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2006. 123p. \$35 (ISBN 0-8108-5436-9).

Veteran booktalkers and adult services librarians Cyr and Gillespie, whose professional roots are steeped in youth services, author the first book aimed at booktalking for adult audiences. Myths surrounding booktalking are dispelled, and a strong case is made for investing the time and energy needed to develop high-quality and compelling booktalk programs focused on reading and literacy and aimed at reaching out to adults in the community.

Written in a conversational tone, the first part of the book addresses nuts and bolts. The authors clearly explain practical matters, such as booktalk writing and different categories of booktalk types, and they clarify the differences between book reviews and booktalks. They also explore book selection, with an investigation of what makes a book a desirable or undesirable candidate for a booktalk. Important touchstones in successful program design, including audience consideration and fundamental public speaking presentation skills, also are examined. However, the authors do not clearly address the differences between booktalking for youth and adult audiences. Neophyte booktalkers will appreciate the useful booktalking program and program room checklists.

The brief chapter on publicity highlights that one of the benefits of a booktalking program is that it will capture the interest of non-library users and will introduce the library and library services to this audience. A chapter on using technology (podcasting, community television segments, and YouTube) in combination with booktalking would have enlarged the book's scope, helping readers reach a broader audience using popular electronic media.

The second part of the book presents eighty-eight sample booktalks in eleven genres, ranging from historical, multicultural, nonfiction, romance, and chillers, while weaving in appeal factors from the readers advisory literature. Both seasoned and inexperienced booktalkers will appreciate the samples as repertoire builders and will have fun adding their personal flair.

Using booktalks as an essential tool for revitalizing adult reading in communities can position the library as a cultural, educational, and social agent connecting people who are interested in reading. Part instruction manual, part material sourcebook, this is a solid introduction to the topic of booktalking. A practical addition for public librarians, this volume will inspire enriching conversations about books and authors and help librarians to discover current reading trends and gauge literary needs in their communities.—*Zahra M. Baird, Youth Services Librarian, Chappaqua Library, Chappaqua, New York*