

Northern Lights Library Network
Scholarship Report
Children's Literature Workshop
June 21-22, 2010

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Children's Literature Workshop. I was inspired by author Will Hobbs and illustrator Derek Anderson. Both spoke about their creative process in writing and/ or illustrating books. Will Hobbs shared his secrets of writing for children by striving for clarity and creating enough tension in the story to keep kids reading. He takes the "show don't tell" approach by creating imagery through the five senses of the reader. Will Hobbs has written picture books as well as books for children and young adults. He shared that he gets his ideas for books through life experiences, research and reading.

Derek Anderson also shared the steps he uses in illustrating a book from start to finish. I left excited to read more of both of these artist's books and find ways to use them in children's programming at our library as well.

Other workshops and speakers presented information helpful for Readers Advisory. Susan Carr Brown presented her top 35 books for children this past year and I also attended a workshop on mysteries for tween readers. Both provided great information on books I can recommend to youth and possibly add some to our collection.

Another workshop I attended was on "Motivating Readers through Technology". This is a weak area of mine and I appreciated the information on blogs, wikis, social networks, graphic posters, voice threads, and video.

The most hands on workshop I attended was "Simple and Inexpensive Books to Make with Students". This will be the easiest to bring back to our library as I made five types of books and can use this with children in our summer reading program.

It is very rewarding to attend this workshop. I learned many new things and returned to work with a renewed excitement for my job and the importance of helping children develop a love of books and reading.

Sharon Ehlers