

Spotlight On Books 2008

I attended the Spotlight On Books conference on April 23, 2008 at Rutgers Lodge near Grand Rapids. This was my first time at the conference which had been highly recommended by other librarians. I am very glad I attended and especially glad that I was able to leave home Thursday afternoon and get there before the snow storm! I'm just finishing my first year as Young Adult Librarian so the chance to hear several authors speak about their books and the process of writing them was fascinating to me. I came back with several books as well as suggestions for other books to add to our collection. I also had opportunity to talk with other librarians from across the state and gained some hints and ideas of things to do for our Young Adult program this year.

Listening to Jim Trelease speak on Friday I was reminded again of the importance of encouraging young people to read. I attended one of his workshops for teachers in Iowa several years ago, and have used his ideas in my classroom. Now that I'm working in a public library, I was struck by his comment that although children spend 900 hours a year in school, they spend 7800 hours outside of school. It is so important for libraries to continue to encourage the reading habits that teachers have stressed during the school year. I can really see the importance of the summer reading program as well as other things we can do through out the year to continue to encourage young people to read. I'm looking forward to adding activities to my program to encourage young adults to continue to want to read, even when they aren't in the classroom.

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