

Thank you, NLLN, for giving me the opportunity to attend the 2008 Spotlight on Books Conference.

Jim Trelease, the featured speaker, was excellent, and well worth the drive through a snowstorm to hear. He was both entertaining and informative. I was taken with his passion for the people he has met and their successes with getting children enthused about reading.

On Saturday the author speakers were also excellent. To be able to go back to our students with the stories behind the stories is so much fun. It certainly makes us look knowledgeable, as well as, drawing the listener into the story.

I appreciated the information gathered from the showcase presenters. Erin Smith's presentation on fantasy fiction will help me in the ordering of books in that genre for next year. It really helps having her recommendations on appropriate age levels for the books.

Anytime I can get lists of recommended books or insights into new books, my selection job is made easier. With so many new books published each year, presentations, such as the Showcases, help me a lot.

On Saturday evening my oldest son called to make sure I had made it home safely. His comment to me in regards to driving through a snowstorm to get to the conference was "Mom, as a college graduate, that sure wasn't the smartest thing you have ever done". He was probably right. But, then again, he didn't hear Jim Trelease, Mary Casanova, Debra Frasier, or DJ MacHale talk about books and reading. It was well worth the drive.

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