

Rochester Public Library



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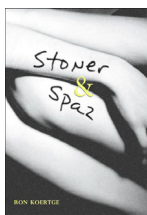
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Reading: from groans to grins
by John Hunziker

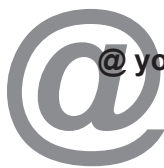
What interested students in the 50's, '60's, '70's, '80's, and '90's isn't necessarily relevant to them today. What is important is that they are finding books that they like and are beginning to enjoy reading.

What's @ the Library?



A whole lot of moving going on
Everyone is invited to participate by reading and discussing the books and attending related events in February 2010.

Woman's Day magazine call for stories



@ your library

This spring, the Rochester Public Library, the American Library Association (ALA) and Woman's Day magazine want to hear your thoughts on why the library is important to your community.

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Reading: From Groans to Grins

Sweta Patel has been teaching 7th - 11th graders in the Alternative Learning Center at Golden Hill School for the past year and a half. She has come to know Lynette Perry from the Rochester Public Library over those months. Lynette knows the young adult sections of the library and Sweta is always looking for new titles to keep her students reading.

Sweta teaches a class called Read 180 which is designed to get her students, who have not always enjoyed reading, to do a 180-degree switch in their reading habits. It seems to be working. In a visit recently with a group of the students, some of the reasons why it's working became clearer. Conversations centered on the fact that, in their minds, a lot of the books that were assigned to the students in the past, were "boring." Until working with Ms. Patel, most had read one book or fewer. They got by with getting information about assignments from friends, back covers, and summaries. *Catcher in the Rye*, and *Fahrenheit 451*, they feel, are irrelevant to their lives.

The books that they devour are "urban books." They can relate to street life, books whose themes revolve around pregnancy, abuse, gangs, drugs, boy, girls and how people their age deal with these issues and cope. They have these very specific interests because these themes are their lives, now. They don't come to the library and consult reading lists or Google Amazon. They talk with friends, look at the front and back covers and read a few pages. If the book doesn't grab them, they move on.

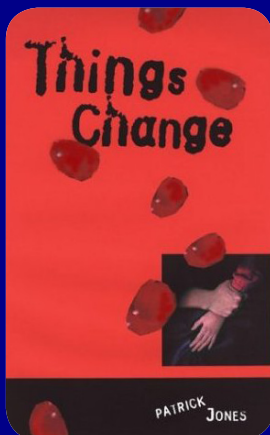
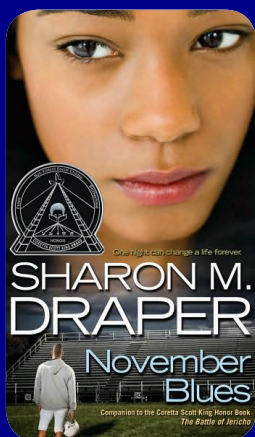
Ms. Patel understands; when she comes to the library she works with Lynette to take back boxes of library books for her students to choose from. Her students really appreciate her choices. She gives book talks to the students, gives them a short summary and then, according to the students, "lets us chose the books," "lets us pick," "we have a choice." They say that when the books are laid out, it gets a little wild as they grab for books that look good to them. What more could a teacher or a librarian want?

The students are required to read two books a quarter and then they get tested. Her 7th and 8th graders are in a program called "RAMS," 9th graders in "Bridge" and 10th graders in "High School." Some of the titles mentioned were *Things Change* by Patrick Jones,

an author from the Twin Cities who has come to the classroom and talked with the students; also *Angel's Choice*, *Stoner and Spaz* and *November Blues*.

Ms. Patel and the students all agree that they like what interests them at this point in their lives. What interested students in the 1950's, and '60's, '70's, '80's, and '90's isn't necessarily relevant to them today. What is important is that they are finding books that they like and are beginning to enjoy reading.

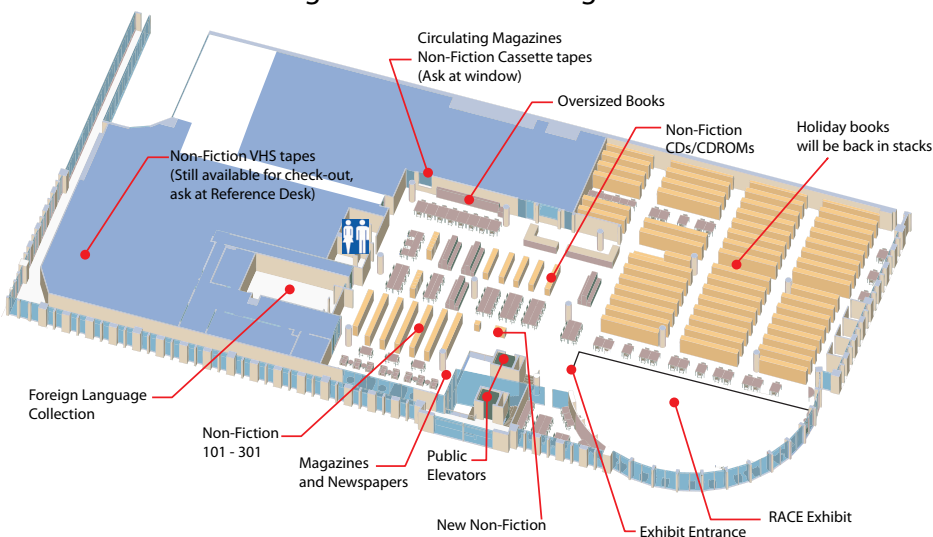
Left to Right: Becca, Fadumo, Alicia, Nieceshay, Germisha, Miss Patel, Terrence and Jason.



A whole lot of moving going on

In the next couple of weeks, the library collection on second-floor will be shifting. Before the arrival of the RACE exhibit, the entire rotunda area of the second floor needs to be cleared out. Beginning in mid-April, the seating area by the windows will be eliminated and the chairs dispersed to other areas of the library. The row of tables, the Great Hall, will be eliminated also and will be unavailable from mid-April to mid-September. This map shows where the collection will be before and during the time the RACE exhibit is here.

Second Floor arrangement before/during RACE exhibit



Woman's Day Magazine wants to know why you think the library is important to the community

As the economy continues its slump, libraries nationwide continue to play an important role in communities everywhere, as people turn to them for free entertainment, to connect to the Internet and to look for jobs. This spring, the Rochester Public Library, the American Library Association (ALA) and Woman's Day magazine want to hear your thoughts on why the library is important to your community.

From now through May 9, 2010, women 18 and over are invited to tell their story in 700 words or less and send it to womansday@ala.org. Woman's Day will highlight up to four stories in the March 2011 issue. For more information and to read the official rules, visit www.womansday.com/ala.

The initiative was developed by Rochester Public Library, Woman's Day and the Campaign for America's Libraries (www.ala.org/@yourlibrary), ALA's public awareness campaign that promotes the value of libraries and librarians. Thousands of libraries of all types – across the country and around the globe – use the Campaign's @ your library® brand. The Campaign is made possible by ALA's Library Champions, corporations and foundations that advocate the importance of the library in American society.