

# Rockwood Reads

MASL Spring Conference 2016  
Presenters:  
Melissa Twombly, Librarian, Lafayette High School  
Dawnette Wiskur, Coordinator K-12 Library Media,  
Rockwood School District

## What is Rockwood Reads?

Rockwood School District  
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Phone (314) 733-0000 • Fax (314) 733-0851

Rockwood Reads  
Librarians, students, and teachers across the Rockwood School District want to share the school and greater community.

Each week new books will be added to the site. New school district libraries if you are interested in suggesting titles or want to write reviews. We are currently seeking those published in 2015 or later.

Elementary School Middle School High School

## Inspiration

[http://www.emissourian.com/blogs/mo\\_books/](http://www.emissourian.com/blogs/mo_books/)

How we got started...

- We invited Chris Stuckenschneider from the Washington Missourian newspaper to one of our meetings to book talk and explain how the blog works.
- Several of our librarians were inspired to start our own blog.
- We worked with our Communications Department to get started.

[ctucky@me.com](mailto:ctucky@me.com)

## Mo Books

PLAY THE WARS

MO Books

Review: "The Magician's Lie" by Chris Stuckenschneider

Review: "Dark Mountain" by Chris Stuckenschneider

Mo Books Blog

## Baby Buzz

Baby Buzz

'Let's Play' Takes Little Ones on Experimental Trip

Interactive fun in bright elementary colors can be found on the pages of 'Let's Play' by David LaRue. This imaginative board book is the Baby Buzz Pick for April, selected for the honor by the Washington School District Parents as Teachers.

Updated April 11

More From Baby Buzz

- "I Spy" Goes Country
- February Baby Buzz: "I Spy on the Farm"
- Baby Buzz Pick Will Foster Language, Social Interaction
- December Baby Buzz Pick: "Mother Goose's Piggyback Party"
- Mother Goose's Piggyback Party is Baby Buzz Pick
- New Baby Buzz Pick Offers Lesson About Growing Up
- "Animal Alphabet" is the September Baby Buzz Pick
- August Baby Buzz: "Get Out of My Bush"
- Baby Buzz Pick Makes a Splash

## April Book Buzz Features "Memorable Characters"

Book Comments Image (5)

Posted: Tuesday, April 5, 2016 11:56 am | Updated: 12:07 pm, April 6, 2016

ida, ALWAYS

"Ida Always" A Charming Book About Loss

Buy the photo

His name is Gus, he's in Ida. Inspired by a true story, the tale of their devotion makes "Ida, Always," by Carol Lewis, a memorable read.

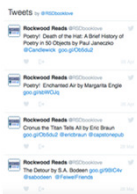
Gus and Ida lived in the New York City Central Park Zoo where they were inseparable. After hours of play, they'd nap down on their favorite rock and soak up the sounds of the "city's heartbeat," as Ida called it.

Gus grew worried one day when Ida didn't appear at the entrance to their cage. He waited and waited. "Ida, Ida, don't come." But the zookeeper Samus did, and the news she took was devastating. Ida was growing ill, her condition would worsen. Nothing could be done.

The two bears decided to make the most of what time they did have. Their bond touched the hearts of inhabitants of the big city, a metropolis that mightily mourned Ida's passing.

## How Does it Work?

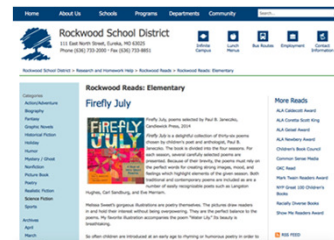
- Librarians sign up to review a book from a specific genre or category.
- All books are recently published.
- Students and teachers from the school may be solicited to write reviews.
- Tweet out to author/publisher.



## Types of Reviews

Written

Video



## Rockwood Reads: Middle School

Echo Echo: Reverse Poems about Greek Myths

By Deborah Hopkinson, Disney Press, 2016

Courage can be doing big daring deeds or as James soon learns from his Mama, doing a very small thing such as picking up a pencil. So begins *Echo Echo* which is inspired by true events. The year is 1847 in St. Louis, Missouri and James is sent off to school for the first time by his proud mama. School is a dark dreary room in the church basement or a "Yellow Candle School" as it came to be known. He is discouraged by the darkness and

to be outside in the sunlight and excitement of the streets and is full of complaints until his teacher shows him otherwise. "We make our own light here," Reverend Mauchum told James. Through hard work and learning, they did, until one day men came to shut down the school. Missouri had a new law that forbade African Americans, slave or free from learning to read or write. Determined to continue teaching his students, Reverend John Berry Mauchum builds a new school - a floating school in the Mississippi River, just outside the boundary of the new law.

From husband's uplifting and detailed illustrations bring to life Deborah Hopkinson's tale of a resourceful, determined teacher, his bright, inquisitive students, and their refusal to accept discrimination based on the color of their skin. Author's notes at the end give more detailed information about the life and accomplishments of Reverend Mauchum. This story provides a unique peek into a little known event in the lives of Missouri African Americans before the changes the Civil Rights movement brought about. *This book will not be available until June 2016.*

Historical Fiction, Picture Book  
by Vanessa Glenn, Librarian, Wild Horse Elementary

## Steamboat School

By Deborah Hopkinson, Disney Press, 2016

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## Ticket to India

By John Burt Foster, 2015

*Ticket to India* is an award-winning historical fiction book that takes readers on a journey of discovery and adventure. It is a beautifully written story full of suspense, mystery, and historical detail. The story is set in India during the early 20th century, a time of great change and upheaval. The main character, a young boy named John, is sent to India by his father to live with his grandparents. He soon discovers that his grandparents are not who they seem to be, and he must uncover the truth about their past. The book is a fast-paced, action-packed story that is both entertaining and educational. It is a must-read for anyone interested in history and adventure.

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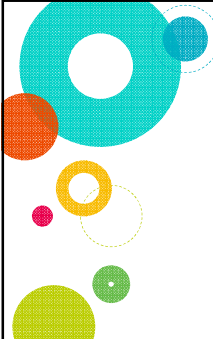
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**awkward**  
 awkward by Svetlana Chmakova, Yen Press, 2015



The Benbrook Middle School Club Fair is fast approaching and the Art Club and the Science Club are pitted against each other to earn a table to promote their club. This graphic novel explores learning about friendship, academic goals, doing the right thing and being the kind of person you want to be—in a realistic manner. Most middle school students can find each of the characters in their own school.

Penelope (Pepi) Torres is the new girl in school and has some rules for survival:

Cardinal Rule # 1: Don't get noticed by the mean kids!  
 Cardinal Rule # 2: Seek out groups with similar interests and join them!  
 Cardinal Rule # 3: Build! Build things. Build friendships. Build yourself.

Throughout the book, each rule comes to play until her struggles with fitting in are overcome.

Some of the best features in this book are the pages at the end, where the author describes how she develops characters through her art as well as through her written story. Samples of how to draw characters' expressions are particularly engaging! She also explains the graphic novel with examples from her design gallery and the drawing process.

I'd highly recommend this book to any middle school student! The author has realistically portrayed the challenges of middle school with a sensitive and talented hand!

Graphic Novel, Realistic Fiction  
 Carol Bauer, Librarian, Lakeland Springs Middle School




**Marketing**

- ⓈTwitter
- ⓈLibrarians promote in their schools
- ⓈRockwood Media



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