

## **Chat Contributions from CSL In Session - The Tween Scene at your Library with Beth Crist, Colorado State Library, April 10, 2013**

### **Books for tweens – your own favorites or what you like to recommend**

- As a tween I LOVED Judy Blume. (Still do!)
- I read The Giver when I was in sixth grade and I LOVE IT! I'm reading the other three in that series by Lois Lowry now
- Our tweens LOVE the Warriors too! No shame!
- Artemis Fowl Series by Eoin Colfer
- Gregor the Underlander!
- The Lauren Myracle series of 10, 11, 12, etc.
- 39 clues and how to train your dragon series
- Canned by Alex Shearer. Kid collects cans without labels and when he opens one, discovers body parts!
- then - Summer Of the Monkeys, now- Ivan the Great
- Brian's Song
- Wonder by Palaccio
- The one and only Ivan
- I loved Fifteen by Beverly Cleary
- I also loved Nerd Girls and Detention Club
- Island of the Blue Dolphins
- Misty of Chincoteague
- I love Crunch by Leslie Connor.
- A Wrinkle in Time has always been one of my faves!
- I also loved The Black Stallion.
- Captain Raptor!
- Goosebumps!
- loved Fifteen and the Luckiest Girl when I was a tween too!
- Let's not forget The Babysitter's Club.
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid series
- Lauren Myracle series of 10, 11, 12, etc.
- Land of Elyon
- Holes!
- Skeleton Creek
- I LOVED River Thunder!
- The Underneath by Kathi Appelt.
- Yolen's Merlin trilogy
- Ghosts I have Been, Richard Peck
- I suggest Lily B. on the Brink of Cool by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel
- The One and Only Ivan / Katherine Applegate
- Talking to Dragons!
- I also am in the middle of the Sister's Grimm stories
- Westing Game by Raskin
- Herman the Great, not Ivan the Great, my bad.
- The One and Only Ivan is excellent. I'm reading it now to a group of kids and they love it, too.
- I've read Westing Game so many times. Great book

## Ages for tween services and other tween programming guidelines and best practices

- Are your programs in the evening or after school????
- We have one of each.
- I've found after school programs best. Anything after 5 and they're gone for dinner
- Yes, we have luck doing them right after school, too.
- Our program is after school on a day when kids get out earlier.
- after school doesn't work because I am part time. I would need a volunteer to do a program
- I have always thought of children's services being perfect for tweens, but that group is really falling through the cracks.
- I guess I've always considered 4,5,6, as Tweens and 7 and 8th as Teens.
- 9-12
- here "middle school" is 12, 13, 14...tweens are 8-12
- ages 10-13
- 8 to 12
- 6th-8th
- 4th -8th grades
- I think it depends on the kid. My oldest daughter was a tween when she was about 5; conversely, my second daughter wasn't really a tween until about 12
- ages 9-12
- 4th-6th grades
- I let 6th double dip and they can come to either program
- a 5-yr-old at my TWAB would kill the program!
- 4th-7th
- 8-12, but we accept family members of any age to increase attendance
- I use maturity level as a secondary measure
- 4th-6th generally
- i love the multiaging aspect of programs
- When you have a range it helps to put the older "tweens" to work so they feel important
- I do 4 programs a month. Two for Teens, two for Tweens.
- family programs are great especially for homeschoolers - they are my best customers!
- What ended up happening is my tweens attended Teen Scene, so I created an incidental program for the older teens which falls monthly or so, as they are able to attend.
- We had a program that was called "The Great Library Scavenger Hunt" that attracted more younger patrons (tweens). The two or three teens that attended were group leaders, and led their teams for the hunt around the library to become more familiar with the resources we offer
- our after school range for tweens includes K-7. But most 7th grade goes to the teen program
- My challenge this summer is to bring them both together, but not like water and oil.
- I also let the 10-12 yr olds double-dip. They are welcome at teen and children's programs, and actually at my branch I get mostly tweens at my teen programs.
- We're had programs where older teens do not want their younger siblings because they don't want to babysit.
- I've found more of the tweens like "hands on" and teens like "tech" programs
- can we ban parents
- Minute to Win it & anything disgusting is tweens!
- yes ban parents or tell them to sit on the wall
- I find that the tweens like the opportunity to do my teen programs, so I do that all the time.
- I try to mix up summer program activities, some are more complex, some are easier, some are very creative.
- I actually used some of the tech SRP stuff we learned at the CLiC conference
- I find it's more difficult to keep the parents out of tween programs.
- When doing "crafty" stuff - my older participants usually step out to use a computer
- Food brings kids of all ages

- I ban parents and minors outside the specific age parameters
- It depends on the crafty stuff - we have a hard time keeping teens out of our adult craft programs...
- Our library requires parents be present for kids under 12
- Ban sounds harsh-- I'm a little nicer when I say it
- My teens love crafts, but my tweens are too hyper
- our parents have to be here too or we have to try to find another staff member
- the tweens love things they can throw/launch/explode
- I use the parents to help with some of the programs.....
- I present it as a safety issue to parents-- you wouldn't want me to allow adults to interact with your children, would you?
- Our teens aren't here when we do adult crafts ...
- I have other staff people who complain when teens step out of a program because they seem to think I can keep them in the room all the time

### **Challenges of providing services and programming for tweens**

- Sports
- It's not cool to read
- once kids get into about first or second grade, they seem to disappear from our library
- Space. Trying to serve babies, toddlers, and tweens all in the same area.
- We have a hard time separating teens and tweens.
- raging hormones
- Transportation
- Participation in programming because they are intimidated by the older teens.
- The varying ability to complete tasks among tweens.
- We are so small space-wise- these guys need room to move and be noisy, too
- It is hard to get them to come in to begin with!
- peer pressure
- separating kids and teens
- We don't have a special area for their books
- video games
- it's hard for tweens to get to our branch without parents
- I agree that it's difficult to separate tweens and teens.
- tweens can get too attached to staff and we have to remind them we cannot be "friends" outside of the library
- Attention span, afraid to have original ideas
- Children torn between wanting to be grown-up and wanting to remain a kid
- YES! no tween book section!
- Social awkwardness
- they challenge authority
- agree with adequate spacing...our YA section is right next to the adult computer area so most of the time, adults are using the study carrels
- yes, our juv books are all mixed together from 5 years old through 13
- parents who embarrass their tweens especially when asking for homework help
- no place for tween collection or serve this age group for programming
- after school activities...time is limited...
- same here -- tweens don't want to be in with the teddy bears but teens don't want "little kids" in their section
- Programming that is too childish or too grown up for tweens...
- budget cuts
- not enough \$ to be here full time, so I only get to work with the early lit kids
- tween intimidate younger children and adults from space

- tweens don't want to be in children's programming, but teens don't want them in their programs
- no tradition of tween services, so tween services kind of get what's left
- Also difficult to keep younger kids out of tween programs.
- tweens are still OUT OF PLACE at the library. They don't have their own space either
- we're so small - we end up with very mixed age groups
- helicopter parents that won't leave their kids alone to explore
- this age cannot be left alone at the library
- sometimes too many kids, not enough supplies, or vice versa
- I have that tendency too - My Teen Scene just morphed into Tweens
- scheduling best times
- the parents have to be there too!
- yes. about parents. we can't do a program for kids without two adults minimum present
- not enough staff to separate middle school programs from elementary programs

### **Opportunities in providing services and programming for tweens**

- tweens still have time to come hang out -- teens are way too busy
- enthusiasm
- joy
- I agree--enthusiasm!
- Giving them a place where they can be themselves - activities where they don't have to be made fun of
- The younger group still actually WANTS programming=)
- Getting very very excited about reading
- they're willing to be adventurous in their reading
- sense of connection to the community
- They love to share books they have read and are not too cool yet to come to library programs.
- passionate
- Keeping me up to date on new ideas!
- Independent but not "all knowing" yet!
- Agree! Teens have less going on and are more likely to hang out and participate
- I'm still cool to them.....
- great way for them to get to know an adult - library as third space
- My bi weekly program, which I named Club 4-5, for fourth and fifth graders
- opportunities for programming!
- Teenagers have asked for programs during the school year, so we added Teen Movie Night
- Another thing I notice is the in-between-the-cracks kids come here for acceptance, equipped with "Kryptonite" and their fave book
- develop a relationship w/tween when seeking homework help - validating them even if their parent(s) tries to drive the interaction
- presenting ideas at school for them
- planned activities that are creative and social...no adult micromanaging
- chance to help them build a relationship with the library--before they turn into teens and have other things going on in their lives
- "Cool Stuff After School" - listed in the children's program area of our bulletin but it seems to be geared towards tweens
- this age loves open crafts and game programs
- a place where they can be heard and create new ideas along with the library
- tweens love dancing against me on the wii or xbox
- We have had a TWAB (Tween Advisory Board)!
- what a great idea! I don't believe we have any kids as part of an advisory group

- Teens and tweens are our future patrons. If we interest them now, libraries might stay around.
- We have had a lot of luck with Tween programs where Teens are the volunteers that help run it
- I love TWAB...mind if I steal it?
- twuly extwordinary=)
- Yes, we have planning days devoted to programming that teens plan their own programs!
- My Teen program does recruit little brothers and sister Tweens.
- Great point - Tweens are our future teens and adult patrons
- We are "short-circuiting" the jaded aspect
- just checked on my library's website and our TAB is open to teens and tweens. Wanted to check on that before I posted anything :)

### **Program ideas related to books and reading**

- this month we're having a special program called "Don't Judge a Book by its Cover!" where they'll get to create a front cover for a book with only the book's synopsis as a guide
- Hobbit-themed library resource scavenger hunt
- MSBA club for 6-8 grade
- Kids Book Club with PIZZA!
- Hunger Games
- Mother and Daughter Book Clubs
- pre-teen girls book club
- We do genre themed programs with book talks and an elaborate craft or activity.
- Odd Ball Olympics
- Book Imitates Art
- "Name that Book" where we start reading a sentence from the book and they guess what book it's from
- I'd like to do a Magic Treehouse series of some kind.
- It's been a challenge to find common interests with my tweens in terms of books
- I've thought about more superhero type stuff because it's a big thing right now
- has anyone tried craft programs using craft books?
- I have a lot of trouble getting tweens/teens to participate in book related programs. I can't wait to try out the book parties idea.
- used a t-shirt craft book and made recycled t-shirt stuff
- I get mostly tweens at my teen read-alouds where I read the first several chapters of a book and we have snacks and each participant gets a copy of the book to finish on their own.
- Book Swap
- bingo for books
- Reader's Theater with book script--I had an unexpected group of 20 show up and we pulled it off--had fun!

### **Program ideas on other topics**

- marshmallow catapults
- Lego program
- Charades!
- X-box, Wii, or online gaming programs are big hitters
- Science Fun Friday
- candy sushi
- Duct-tape crafts
- ninja night, grossology, lego,
- We purchased a movie license and show new releases
- Bacon!

- Board games
- Rock pets for library garden
- I challenge the kids to dance competitions...and usually win
- Teen movie night
- I Have a Dream speech creation for MLK day
- movie showings with themed crafts
- build birdhouse for bluebirds
- Improv
- Angry birds - catapults and stuffed birds with blocks
- Sunday Funday (crafts)
- We are going to do the Dinosaur Club and Archeology Club with Summer Reading
- Making things out of old books
- Board games - didn't do well.
- minute to win it
- just did paper mache maracas...clean-up was horrendous
- Books to movies club
- wii bowling
- henna tattoos went great
- Activity Wednesday which are tween lead - tween shares a skill
- spy night
- Trading cards - for all ages
- Marshmallow catapults at graham cracker houses
- Minimalist art painting
- Sci-Fi/ Comic book club or anime club
- ice cream party for summer reading-- VERY popular, very messy
- After school science- lots of messssy fun
- melted crayon art
- Duct tape Wallets
- glass etching
- Trading card games, that is - Yu-gi-oh! et al.
- monster makeup
- life sized candy land
- Prospector day scavenger hunt!
- Skittle rainbow art (happening tomorrow)
- marshmallow and toothpick building
- spies secret clues in history with a local historical society
- make your own "candy land" board game...with candy!
- kids' cook
- CSI program in collaboration with local police
- Did a WAR last fall. It was awesome! Tug o war, water balloons, etc with big boxes to hide behind
- gaming + craft. do a craft while you wait your turn to play
- Mardi Gras Party- clean
- Peep Dioramas and Life Size Clue
- Straw rockets and indoor slingshots
- Jewelry 101 - basic macrame knots and beading techniques
- We do Science activities and experiments with the kids every Wednesday
- ring making for Hobbit movie release
- Po-Ke-Oh! Club
- paper airplanes
- angry birds
- gingerbread house contest at Christmas

- Bleach pin t-shirts, individual fruit pizza
- candy making
- Oh yes! I run a pokemon club once a month - brings in around 30 kids each time
- minecraft!
- yarns - learn to knit on a loom
- gaming night lock in
- We also played Minecraft for Teen Tech Week.
- shrinky dinks in a toaster oven
- video game tournaments
- Google Sky scavenger hunt
- going to do a hula hoop weaving project this summer
- white elephant/yankee christmas swap
- After School P.L.A.Y. (Promoting Literacy & Art for Youth) -Program for K-6th grade on early release day. We provide a snack & alternate the activity every week between games & arts & crafts (we read a book on craft days). I allow 15-20 min at the end for homework help (which they never want to do) :)
- Astrology night - happened last summer and last fall
- wire sculpture
- Bookface Contest
- they have make-your-own shrinky dinks so your tween artists can make something unique
- Anti-Valentine's Day party
- ooo, Quesadilla Para Mia was pretty popular
- Hula hoop rug or basket is from FamilyFun.com
- Sand Art, Tootsie Roll Poker
- blindfold challenges are fun
- Meme entries (like Grumpy Cat) but about book or the library
- similar to "total blackout" tv show on syfy channel
- summer reading bookmark contest
- photography contest
- Fear Factor for teens
- Pokemon club allows kids to bring their DS and trade/challenge other kids
- We did an American Idol-like teen talent contest. Anyone done a Voice-like talent challenge?
- improv day
- I love hosting game shows..... anyone
- zumba dance
- yoga
- this summer we're doing outdoor water programs
- I'm doing a nature hike for Earth Day and then making S'mores in the parking lot
- water balloons, squirt guns, maybe a tarp to slide on
- launched baking soda/vinegar rockets
- Wet sponge fights.
- bring your bathing suit!
- tarp/garbage bag + babyoil = cheapest best slip & slide ever
- We did the Diet Coke and Mentos a few weeks ago..
- kickball vs. other libraries
- I heard about a water gun laser tag game where you string alka seltzer tabs like necklaces. When their tab necklace is gone they are out!
- We rented a gigantic slip & slide.

## Even more programming ideas

- PAINT. Tweens love paint.
- Has anyone had luck with video games? We have a Wii, but I think the kids are over it...
- X-BOX and dance games!
- Ashley: Dance games sound like a good idea!
- I offered programs for Junior High and then another for High School and they were allowed to attend either or both.
- our early release wednesdays gives us the opportunity to provide after school programs to large numbers of tweens
- I have done more complex crafts like duct tape wallets, dying tee shirts, etc.
- My TAB is putting on an elaborate Hunger Games event next week--there's a mix of crafty things, agility type things, and a scavenger hunt. It will be interesting to see what participants end up liking the most.
- i'm trying to take advantage of early release school days that are only for K-8
- I used duct tape sheets and they work better than rolls of duct tape.
- we will be having early release next year during the time I am still working, so I might be able to do something with that.
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science is coming next month for a forensics program
- Look for them on Duck Tape website
- We've had great success with book parties!
- Our kids love any program with food--we made cake balls, decorating cupcakes, etc.
- yep, edibles and explosives...
- I have a tween that volunteers at my story time. She just faced her fear of reading out loud!
- Wayside School is Falling Down book party was FUN!
- this month we're having a special program called "Don't Judge a Book by its Cover!" where they'll get to create a front cover for a book with only the book's synopsis as a guide
- Lightning Thief was great. They all get sorted into houses, we had a guy show off broadsword fighting, and everyone had their name tags in Greek!
- TOP RAMEN crock pot style
- Sensory programming--they had to smell Monster Breath at Where the Wild Things Are party.
- We don't have a separate programming room :(
- it also builds excitement for those siblings that are close to the tween age - then they are excited when they are old enough
- programs have more success for me if i can get out of the programming room. tweens and teens want to see it before they commit.
- we had a hunger games event that was really fun
- Crock pot cheap cooking, will bring the tweens out of the stacks.
- Lightning Thief
- Harry Potter program
- Bone series
- there's a children's programming room but most of our events seem to take place in the YA area (so, a location where other patrons sit to read/study)
- We had a bacon day! It was awesome.
- I teach Drama on the side, always a great program.
- Teen titans tower
- (re drawing activity) when we do this, we start with weird marks that don't look like anything, then the next person has to make it look like something
- Theatre sports
- This would be a fun activity to do with our ipads and drawing apps. Draw for 30 seconds and pass.
- I get mostly tweens at my teen read-alouds where I read the first several chapters of a book and we have snacks and each participant gets a copy of the book to finish on their own.



- Sean: great idea, Telluride
- Angry Birds
- if having food, i.e. bacon or other, you might want kashrut options depending on the location of your library
- My son would love Wipeout!
- the shrinky dink machine is like an easy bake oven
- <http://www.amazon.com/The-Incredible-Shrinky-Dink-Maker/dp/B003I6TQBW>
- A toaster oven works, too.
- wouldn't want to step on parks and recs toes with zumba and yoga
- maybe parks and rec could do it for you! partnerships!
- drop about 5 mentos into a Diet Coke bottle and it launches a huge fountain of coke up into the air. Probably want to do it outside ;)
- possible try to introduce online or e-reader books...incorporate that tech in reading!
- you can take the D. Coke/Mentos idea, and strap the 2-liter to a skateboard. Launch it across a flat paved area!
- has anyone had success using book trailers in their book talks?
- We started a tween section of books with their own collection code
- I did the skit from the manual at an assembly at the elementary school for SRP. had three 4th graders help me - it was great!