

Library Podcast Interview with Shawn Smith

(Opening clip, introductory remarks)

Shawn is the circulation technician at the Wendover Campus library; she will be talking about children's literature and the importance of children reading.

**What do you enjoy about working in the library?**

I enjoy helping people and introducing them to library resources.

**Why are you interested in children's literature?**

I love and enjoy kids, and come from a background of working with kids.

**What do you see as the difference in kid's literature and young adult literature?**

Kid's literature has minimal words and more pictures. The content is usually different and usually has a happy ending. Young adult books deal with issues that young adults can relate to – sexuality, friendship, gender, relationships, or current events, but will still contain graphics that young people find attractive. Sometimes the ending will not be as happy as with children's books.

**What do you think makes a good children's book?**

It can be hard to choose. Dr. Seuss' many books are good for younger children to begin reading, and another series I like is the Mustached Baby and The Fly Guy Series.

**What do you think makes a good young adult book?**

Diary of a Wimpy Kid is a good example of a positive young adult book, a series that has helpful things to say to young people. Other popular series include the Hunger Games and the Divergent series, two series written for young adults that include strong protagonists in a dystopian setting.

**What are some of your children's favorite books?**

My daughter loves Diary of Wimpy Kid, partially because she enjoys books that are also a video she can watch. My son enjoys anything that contains ninjas, and the Fly Guy series is another favorite.

**What are some of your favorite books for children and young adults?**

GNs (graphic novels) are always a good choice. Graphic novels (comic books) remain primarily about super-heroes and the like, but there are more and more graphic novels that are written for educational purposes, such as graphic novels telling the story of an already existing piece of literature.

**Were you a reader as a kid and teenager?**

I was not so much a reader but I always enjoyed acting things out that I have read. My kids enjoy this today, when I read something aloud, make faces, and make funny voices. I was definitely not a book-worm. And I even was one of the 3 blind mice in a school play.

**You are responsible for picking the children's and young adult titles for the Wendover library. What guides in you making these selections?**

I read reviews of children's and young adult titles in library trade magazines such as Library Journal. I also try to be aware of award winning books, such as the Caldecott and Newberry awards for children's book. I even try to read at least part of anything I'm thinking about suggesting for purchase.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

Reading is not boring...you just have to find something that interests you. Reading is knowledge, and is the gateway to your future.

(Closing remarks)