



Dear Friend,

It's easy to underestimate the power of reading, especially today, when video games, television, social networking

and the Internet increasingly dominate our children's lives. That's why I strongly encourage teens to participate in the annual Teen Read Week, an initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association.

This year's Teen Read Week runs Oct. 16-22 and the theme is Picture It @ your library®, which encourages teens to read graphic novels, other creative books and to imagine the world through literature, just for fun. We provide suggestions in this pamphlet, and teens can talk to their teachers and their public or school librarian about what's available. It's a good way to get started, says Jay Asher, author of the teen best seller "Thirteen Reasons Why," and the spokesperson for this year's Teen Read Week.

To register or to find ideas for activities, visit www.ala.org/teenread. Please let me know if I can be of help in this or any other matter.

Jeffrey Dinowitz
Member of Assembly

3107 Kingsbridge Avenue
Bronx, NY 10463
718-796-5345
dinowitzj@assembly.state.ny.us

read for the fun of it teen read week™

www.ala.org/teenread



**See the world through
a graphic novel.
Imagine the world
through literature.
Let a book take you
anywhere, for free.**

**Participate in the
2011 Teen Read Week
Oct. 16 – 22**

Teen Read Week – Reading your mind

“Anyone who says they have only one life to live must not know how to read a book.” – Author unknown

Graphic novels – Grades 6-8

Amelia Earhart: This Broad Ocean

Sarah Taylor, author; Ben Towle, illustrator. The book emphasizes the importance and peril of Earhart's work.

Lola: A Ghost Story

J. Torres, author; Elbert Orr, illustrator. Lola ("grandmother" in Tagalog) has just died. Jesse is reluctant to visit her home in the Philippines. He was afraid of her because she was thought to have magical abilities.

Electric Girl (Any volume)

Michael Brennan, author and illustrator. Virginia has an amazing ability to release electricity at will. Her loyal dog Blammo and an invisible, trouble-making gremlin help her cope. Stories are from the first four issues of the "Electric Girl" comic books.

Usagi Yojimbo: Grasscutter (Any in the series)

Stan Sakai, author and illustrator. Japanese mythology and history are combined to tell the story of a samurai rabbit named Usagi Yojimbo and Kusanagi, the Grasscutter – legendary lost sword of the gods.

DC Super Heroes Super Healthy Cookbook

Mark Saltzman, Judy Garlan, Michele Grodner, authors. Dr. Joan Gussow, foreward. A cookbook featuring many characters from DC Comics, including Superman, Lois Lane, Batman and Plastic Man, gives healthy food tips, cooking terms, and easy-to-prepare recipes with simple directions and illustrations.

To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel

Siena Cherson Siegel, author; Mark Siegel, illustrator. This graphic novel describes Siena Cherson Siegel's love of dance and her many years of hard work, beginning with dance classes at the age of six followed by the School of American Ballet, and then on to the New York City Ballet.

Bone: Vol. 1, Out from Boneville (or any volume)

Jeff Smith, author and illustrator. When Fone Bone and his cousins, Phoney and Smiley, are run out of Boneville, they encounter strange creatures and make new friends. Smith's whimsical humor has been compared to that of Pogo creator Walt Kelly.

The Amazing Spider-Man: Vol. 1 Coming Home

J. Michael Straczynski, author; John Romita Jr. and Scott Hanna, illustrators. Peter Parker learns about an immortal creature who has been seeking him. The very nature of Spider-Man's powers comes into question, and it is only after many desperate attempts that he is able to defeat this nearly invincible enemy.

Amulet: The Stonekeeper Book One

Kazu Kibuishi, author and illustrator. Join Emily and Navin on their dark adventure to free their mother from a sinister underground world.

The Zabime Sisters

Aristophane, author and illustrator. Matt Madden, translator. Experience the first day of summer vacation with three sisters on their island home of Guadalupe.

Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty

Greg Neri, author; Randy Duburke, illustrator. In 1994, a 14-year-old girl named Shavon Dean was killed by a stray bullet during a gang shooting, shot by eleven-year-old Robert “Yummy” Sandifer. The incident is told through the eyes of Roger, a fictional classmate of Yummy’s.

Graphic novels – Grades 9-12

Vampire Kisses: Blood Relatives, Vol. 1

Ellen Schreiber, author; Rem (Priscilla Hamby), illustrator. The last thing goth-girl Raven and her vampire boyfriend, Alexander, need is another hitch in their romance. But that’s what they face.

In Odd We Trust

Dean Koontz, Queenie Chan, authors; Queenie Chan, illustrator. Nineteen-year-old Odd works as a fry cook, making the best pancakes in Pico Mundo, CA. He also has supernatural powers that allow him to see and talk to ghosts.

How I Made It to Eighteen: A Mostly True Story

Tracy White, author. White has created a semiautobiographical account of her battle with a mental disorder, bulimia and drug addiction. Through a variety of formats – text panels, cartoon panels, reports – readers follow Stacy Black, 17, through this ordeal.

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood

Marjane Satrapi, author. From age six to 10, Iranian Marjane Satrapi and her family witness the repressive era of the Shah and then face a new regime that is more repressive than the old one.

Persepolis 2: The story of a return

Marjane Satrapi, author. In this sequel to “Persepolis,” Marjane is tested by her new life in Europe. Culture shock leads to hard drugs, homelessness and a return to Iran.

Watchmen

Alan Moore, author; Dave Gibbons, illustrator. Superheroes have become obsolete, until they are forced to reunite to find out who is killing ex-superheroes and possibly millions of innocent civilians.

The Adventures of Johnny Bunko:

The Last Career Guide You’ll Ever Need

Daniel H. Pink, author; Rob Ten Pas, illustrator. After following the advice of parents, teachers and friends, Johnny Bunko is stuck in a dead-end job that he hates, until he meets the magical Diana, who gives him six secrets for thriving in the world of work.

Daredevil: The Man Without Fear!

Guardian Devil. Vol 1. Kevin Smith, author; Joe Quesada, Jimmy Palmiotti, illustrators. Although blind, Matt Murdock is a talented lawyer by day and the Daredevil, Man Without Fear at night who uses his heightened senses to protect the weak and innocent.

In the Shadow of No Towers

Art Spiegelman, author, illustrator. On oversize pages printed on board, this Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist recalls his personal observations and experiences as he gathered his family in lower Manhattan on Sept. 11, 2001. The day’s horror is mixed with the political ramifications that followed.

Ranma 1/2. Vol. 1

Rumiko Takahashi, author, illustrator. A parody of Japanese martial arts anime explores how gender and appearances affect viewpoint.

Good reads – Grades 6-8

Boys are Dogs

Leslie Margolis, author. Boy trouble? Dog trouble? Combine the two and you have a story.

Hot, Sour, Salty, Sweet

Sherri L. Smith, author. Ana Shen invites her boyfriend to her 8th grade graduation dinner. Unfortunately, her family’s African-American and Chinese cultures collide.

The Juvie Three

Gordon Korman, author. Arjay, Gecko and Terence are serving time in juvenile prison. They get a second chance, but are they ready to obey the strict rules of the group home?

Out of My Mind

Sharon M. Draper, author. Meet Melody, a very clever 5th grader who has cerebral palsy and cannot speak or control her movements. With new technology she can “talk” at last, but will she be accepted by her family and friends?

Dark Life

Kat Falls, author. It’s a future where sea levels have risen and high rise cities take up the remaining land, and food is farmed on the ocean floor. Ty and Gemma meet for an adventure that spans both worlds.

Pemba’s Song: A Ghost Story

Marilyn Nelson, Tonya Hegamin, authors. Pemba is upset to leave her Brooklyn neighborhood for Colchester, Conn., and begins having visions of a slave girl named Phyllis. What’s behind it?

Alibi Junior High

Greg Logsted, author. Cody has spent all his life moving from place to place because his father is an undercover agent for the CIA. He knows how to pick locks and handle weapons, but can he adjust to a new junior high?

The Day of the Pelican

Katherine Paterson, author. Meli’s family is Albanian and after being forced to find sanctuary in the United States, the events of September 11 have them facing prejudice again.

Fat Cat

Robin Brande, author. Rotund brainiac Catherine “Cate” Locke, a junior, becomes her own science-fair project and when her slimmed-down body attracts attention, she expands her project to observe the effects on herself and others.

Good reads – Grades 9-12

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

Julia Alvarez, author. A Dominican family’s move to the Bronx brings challenges as four daughters adapt to a new culture.

Chains or Forge

Laurie Halse Anderson, author of both books. Both talk about slaves during the American Revolution.

Life As We Knew It

Susan Beth Pfeffer, author. Miranda, a high school sophomore, faces tough decisions when a meteor pushes the moon off its axis and changes her life.

Things Fall Apart

Chinua Achebe, author. A Nigerian yam farmer’s local leadership is shaken by accidental death and a missionary’s arrival.

Tyrell

Coe Booth, author. A teen struggles with homelessness and a harsh life in the inner city.

On the Road

Jack Kerouac, author. Kerouac tells stories of the Beat Generation on the road across America.

Stolen

Lucy Christopher, author. Sixteen-year-old Gemma is kidnapped by Ty and finds herself in the Australian Outback. Her captivity, her release and the complexities of both are part of this story.

Thirteen Reasons Why

Jay Asher, author. High school student Clay Jensen receives a package of cassette tapes in the mail from Hannah Baker. He’s one of 13 people who receive Hannah’s story about why she committed suicide.

I encourage teens to visit their local library and find books that will electrify their imaginations. Here are some local libraries for teens to check out:

Kingsbridge Library
291 West 231st Street
Bronx, NY 10463
718-548-5656

Spuyten Duyvil Library
650 West 235th Street
Bronx, NY 10463
718-796-1202

Riverdale Library
5540 Mosholu Avenue
Bronx, NY 10471
718-549-1212

Mosholu Library
285 East 205th Street
Bronx, NY 10467
718-882-8239