



StoryTubes 2009 -The Library Sponsored Streaming Video Book Review Project Grows

Get ready to grab gigabytes - mark your calendar to get involved in the project that fosters creativity and generates interest in reading and technology.



"Oh hello, I was just reading one of my favorite books, "Your Chickens: A Guide to Raising and Showing," is a video that has been viewed over 7,300 times since being uploaded to YouTube in April of 2008. "My favorite book," "I love this story," and "You have to read this" are phrases that are used many times in the 2-minute or shorter video contest featuring students and their favorite books created by public libraries.

Olivia Collins of South Portland, Maine skips around her back yard, sometimes with her feathered friends, sharing her passion for raising chickens and the book that inspired her. Olivia was one of the 2008 Storytubes Contest winners. Last year's StoryTube's Contest featured young people from across the 48 continental United States.

In 2009, StoryTubes videos will feature accents from Canada as Annapolis Valley Regional Library, Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, comes aboard as a sponsor library for Nova Scotia entrants. The contest adds people from distant time zones as Alaskans join the Storytubes contest as Juneau Public Libraries joins as another StoryTube partner.

StoryTubes organizers are extremely pleased with the exponential growth and interest in the project. Over 160 young people spoke passionately about their favorite books in 2009. Thousands more people were urged to watch and cast votes for videos as the contest moved into the voting phase. One teacher described the scene in her hometown as..."people were stopping in grocery stores to ask each other if they had voted for Jared that day." During May of 2008, the StoryTubes web site averaged 1,037 pages per day and 1,301 hits per hour. The StoryTubes web site pages were viewed over 150,000 times during the contest. The StoryTubes project also received valuable support from the Children's Book Council, the American Library Association, Trev Jones of School Library Journal, many schools and



libraries across the country and a host of bloggers on the Internet.

New this year - This year's contest features **new partner libraries**, **new categories** that provide opportunities for kindergartners - through high school seniors, groups and people of all ages*, **new contest dates** and the addition of **TeacherTube** as a **video host** to assist organizations that do not enable access to **YouTube**.

2009 StoryTubes Partner Libraries to date are as follows:

[Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, Buffalo, NY](#)

[Middle Country Public Library, Centereach, NY](#)

[The Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County/ImaginOn, Charlotte, NC](#)

[Washington-Centerville Public Library, Centerville, OH](#)

[Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, IL](#)

[Harris County Public Library, Houston, TX](#)

[Juneau Public Libraries, Juneau, AK](#)

[Annapolis Valley Regional Library, Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, Canada](#)

Tentative Timeline:

Entries Accepted: Jan.8 through Feb. 15, 2009

Partner Library Final Judging: Feb. 16 through Feb. 20

Parent Permission and Movie Files Secured: Feb. 23 through Feb. 27

Announcement of Judges' Choice Awards/Uploading of Movie Files to non-YouTube Site: March 2-6

Online Voting:

Individual Entries, Grades K-4	March 9-12
Individual Entries, Grades 5-8	March 16-19
Individual Entries, Grades 9 up	March 23-26
Group Entries, All Ages	March 30-April 2

Visit [StoryTubes.info](#) to watch videos from last year. [Click here](#) to watch the short promo video featuring last year's contest.

* We welcome adult entrants especially as they create enthusiasm in others. The prizes will be awarded to school age young people. Adults may share in those prizes if they are in a group with a school age young person.

Questions:

Categories, rules, partner questions - Faith Brautigam, Director of Youth Services, Gail Borden Public Library, 847-429-5970, fbrautigam@gailborden.info

Technology - Betsy O'Connell, Director of Information Technology, Gail Borden Public Library, 847-429-4689, boconnell@gailborden.info

Sponsorship, marketing, video editing - Denise Raleigh Director of Marketing, Development & Communications, Gail Borden Public Library, (847) 429-5981, draleigh@gailborden.info