The Reality of Science Fiction

Science fiction and fantasy authors sometimes try to give us a picture of what the world could look like in the distant or not-too-distant future. In my head, I have a picture of students sitting at desks that are no longer flat surfaces constructed of wood, laminate and steel, but rather desktops where touch-screen computer monitors face each student. I picture students walking around with electronic tablets that are synched to their school desks and home networks.

Years ago, this vision may have been something I read about in a sci-fi novel, but could only imagine as fantasy. Today, this picture does not look so much like fiction as it once did. Our world is changing, it always has and, as far as we know, it always will. It is the nature of things (including you and me) to change. But what happens when an imaginary vision becomes reality?

It is a little spooky, and I imagine a bit what people must have experienced the first time they actually saw electricity work. Light from out of nowhere is pretty scary before it becomes commonplace. And here we are in a present when students have computers on their phones and tablets in their libraries. Suddenly that imaginary picture is real, and it can be a little scary. It can also be a little exciting. Imagine the possibilities that never before existed.

We take turns on each end of the seesaw, experiencing as we do the emotional highs and lows of what is known and what may yet be. As people who work with youth, we are regular visitors to the playground of new technologies and philosophies of teaching, education and learning. We grow and we learn alongside the youth that we serve. And we try to assist their parents and work with their teachers as best we can to help support them as much as possible.

With each new thing that comes our way, it is important to remember that the tools may have changed, but the drive to serve and teach has not. Children and parents may be looking to the library to offer them more assistance with e-books, age-appropriate apps, and online learning tools than they have in the past, but they are still coming to the library. It’s difficult to know what the future will bring, but presently, our patrons are still turning to us to help them navigate through the information that is available. As the formats in which information is delivered evolve, the desire for new knowledge and content remains.

This article began with a vision of a future that seems to be getting closer to reality as schools enter the realm of blended learning and testing, using in-person and online teaching tools to achieve their goals. Self-paced learning is enhanced by online tools and teachers provide support and direction through students’ guided inquiry. Yet, the source behind all of these methods of acquiring new knowledge is still people.

So what does this all mean for us? I’d like to believe that it means we have the opportunity to help in creating this new world where we work with the technology at hand to still achieve the same goals that we started with and have been there all along. We believe in supporting the children in our communities, in encouraging them to reach their goals and to pursue their interests, to learn as much as they can so that they can acquire a set of rich and varied experiences of the world in which we live. Let us not forget that this is why we do what we do and, when appropriate, technology can just help us to do this better.
IT'S A WINTER “WONDER” LAND OUT THERE!

With winter upon us, now is the time to curl up with a good book and a warm cup of tea, coffee, cocoa, etc. It’s also the perfect time to create a display of materials about winter sports, games and activities for parents and children. Why not learn about igloos and how ice is formed (think S.T.E.M., if you wish) and create a few igloos and ice sculptures at home for a real hands on learning experience? Singing about Frosty, the Snowman? Sno cones aren’t just for summer! Why not build an edible Frosty with ice shavings, Red Hots (mouth) and chocolate chips or raisins (eyes)?!

There are so many fun ways to keep children exploring, learning and experimenting during the winter months to beat any winter time blahs. This winter, continue to encourage parents to beat the blahs with their children by offering them fun activities they can do at home. It doesn’t have to be big – a simple suggestion card of ideas in your library, on the web, or even as a mini column in a local paper could be all it takes to continue to promote learning for all ages. Play time isn’t just for kids and coming from you, their friendly local librarian, parents may even see the importance in modeling a healthy sense of creativity, exploration and wonder for their children. Mission accomplished!

And while you’re working hard to encourage others to play, take some time for yourself to do so as well. Finding inspiration in the beauty of a snowflake or a snowshoe hike in the woods with friends can sometimes be the best way to re-charge and re-energize. Your renewed enthusiasm and inspiration will show in all you do.

Warmest Winter Wishes,
Jennifer Ogrodowski
YSS President, 2012-2013
Join in the celebration of Children’s Book Week (May 13-19, 2013) in Rochester, where we will offer up a three-day literary line-up like no other!

Starting with the 2013 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture with Michael Morpurgo on Thursday evening, the one-day YSS Spring Conference on Friday, and concluding with Saturday’s Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival, you will not want to miss this unprecedented opportunity to immerse yourself in children’s and young adult literature. Read on!

The Youth Services Section and Nazareth College were selected by the Association for Library Service to Children of the American Library Association as the hosts and site for the 2013 Arbuthnot Honor Lecture which will be delivered by Michael Morpurgo on Thursday, May 16 in the Linehan Chapel on the Nazareth campus beginning at 7 p.m. YSS Spring Conference attendees will be the first to have the opportunity to secure free tickets to the Arbuthnot Lecture. Tickets may be requested by the general public after March 1, 2013.

Michael Morpurgo is the author of War Horse which has enthralled both theater goers who have attended the play in London and across North America and movie audiences that watched Steven Spielberg’s award-winning 2011 film. Born in England in 1943, Michael Morpurgo was teaching when he discovered the magic of storytelling and began writing. With more than 100 titles for young people, his books are noted for their imagination, power, and grace. Morpurgo is an Officer of the Order of the British Empire and served as Britain’s third Children’s Laureate from 2003 to 2005.

Established in 1969, the Arbuthnot Lecture series has only once before been presented in New York State, in Flushing in 2002. Each year a lecturer is chosen who will prepare a paper considered to be a significant contribution to the field of children’s literature. The paper is delivered as a lecture and is subsequently published in Children & Libraries, the journal of ALSC.

The lecture celebrates May Hill Arbuthnot (1884-1969), who served as a strong voice for children’s literature. Her textbook for educators and librarians, Children and Books, was first published in 1947. With educator William Scott Gray, she created reading textbooks, the Curriculum Foundation Readers, which became better known as the “Dick and Jane” series. For more than 40 years, the stories of Dick and Jane taught millions of children to read with simple vocabulary, warmly drawn pictures, and endearing plots.

On Friday, May 17, don’t miss the opportunity to join in the learning and excitement of the 38th annual YSS Spring Conference at the Holiday Inn Rochester Airport, 911 Brooks Avenue, Rochester.
Among the Readers and Beyond in Rochester! (con’t)

Award-winning author Margaret Peterson Haddix will be the luncheon speaker. Amy Dickinson, nationally syndicated advice columnist, will provide the keynote. Dickinson’s memoir, *The Mighty Queens of Freeville: A Mother, A Daughter and the People Who Raised Them*, was a New York Times bestseller.

“Among the Readers and Beyond” is the theme of this day-long conference. There will be an opportunity for participants to select three workshops from an offering of fifteen presentations and panel discussions specifically geared to children’s and young adult specialists and library generalists in facilities large and small, rural and urban. Topics will include music and children’s literature, new programming ideas for youth and families, volunteerism for teens, storytelling, powerful community partnerships, library makerspaces, Rochester’s toy library, and gaming in the library, among others.

Michael Morpurgo will also present a workshop on his research for his historical fiction.

NYLA members of the Youth Services Section, the Section of School Librarians, and graduate students enrolled in MLS programs may register at the early bird rate of $105 until Monday, March 25, 2013. Members of youth divisions of out-of-state and international library associations may also register at the YSS member rate. The early bird rate for non-members is $140. (Join NYLA/YSS as a first time member and your savings will be $10.) Registration is ongoing and attendance is limited, so don’t wait. Standard fees apply for registrations postmarked March 26 or later: members ($115) and non-members ($150). To encourage participation in this continuing education opportunity, two scholarship awards of $250 each are available to YSS members to reimburse accommodations and transportation costs to attend the conference. The scholarship winners’ registration fees are waived. See the YSS Web page, [www.nyla.org/yss](http://www.nyla.org/yss) for an application and eligibility requirements.

All conference participants are also invited to a special celebration to honor our Section’s Past Presidents. This event is $37 per person. It will be held on Friday evening, May 17 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Mario’s Italian Steakhouse. Join the YSS Executive Board for an elegant dinner and a live auction to benefit the YSS Scholarship Fund. Registration for this event closes on Friday, May 10.

The Holiday Inn Rochester Airport is located on the west side of Rochester, directly off I-390 at Exit 18A. Exit 46 is the closest exit off the Thruway, I-90. Overnight accommodations must be booked directly with the Holiday Inn Rochester Airport at (800) HOLIDAY or (585) 328-6000. If you wish to make reservations by telephone, please state that you are attending the New York Library Association’s Youth Services Section Conference to receive the special room rate of $109 (single or double standard room). Rooms may also be booked online by logging onto [www.hirochesterairport.com](http://www.hirochesterairport.com). Use the code NYL to receive our special group rate.

All room reservations must be made by Thursday, April 25, 2013, to receive this rate and must be guaranteed by a credit card or advance deposit. After this date, reservations will be taken on a space available
Among the Readers and Beyond in Rochester! (con’t)

basis only. Check in is at 3 p.m. and check out is 12 noon. Due to this specially negotiated group rate, the “Kids Eat Free” policy does not apply. All parking is free for overnight guests. The Holiday Inn is a 5-minute ride from the Greater Rochester International Airport. Complimentary shuttle service is available 24 hours a day.

Enjoy the hotel’s indoor pool, their fitness center, or take a short walk to explore the Genesee Valley Greenway or the Erie Canal Heritage Trail as the world turns green again. A short drive away is Genesee Valley Park, with access to the trail bordering the Genesee River, flowing through the picturesque campus of the University of Rochester. Use the conference as the starting point for an enjoyable spring weekend in Rochester, with easy access to a myriad of regional attractions including Rochester’s famous Lilac Festival. Visit Rochester’s multifaceted Web page (www.visitrochester.com) offers you planning materials and videos of local attractions to help you design a weekend just for you.

The Youth Services Section is also pleased to be partnering with the 8th Annual Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival which will be held on the Nazareth College campus on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. This free event for teens will allow youth services specialists the fortuitous opportunity to hear some outstanding young adult authors the day after the YSS Spring Conference. The day-long festival includes more than 30 nationally-known authors and does not require pre-registration. Find the list of authors, the schedule for the day, and resources for teachers and librarians at www.teenbookfestival.org.

At the conference, the Conference Planning Committee will be collecting new books for children and teens to be given to local literacy organizations on behalf of YSS. For every new book you donate, you will receive a complimentary raffle ticket which can be used for the gift basket drawings on the day of the conference. Even one or two new books will help in this effort. Assist us in making this contribution to the fight against illiteracy in our community.

Gather with friends and colleagues in Rochester during its famous Lilac Festival Week to examine the constantly evolving field of youth services. For further information, please contact Conference Chair Cathy Henderson via e-mail at chenders@libraryweb.org or (585) 723-2488. If you would like to volunteer to help the Local Arrangements Committee in hosting the Arbuthnot Lecture, please contact Lisa Wemett at (315) 986-3949 or via e-mail at lisawemett@frontiernet.net.

More details along with the conference brochure, workshop descriptions, registration form, scholarship application, and ticket reservation form for the Arbuthnot Lecture tickets can be found on our Web site: www.nyla.org/yss after January 1.

by Cathy Henderson,

Third Year Director and Spring Conference Chair
The 3 Apples Book Award
A New York State Children’s Choice Award

The 3 Apples nominations are in and it’s time to start reading! Kids may vote on the top 15 nominated titles beginning in April, 2013.

The 3 Apples Book Award was developed to encourage the joy of reading for pleasure, and to give the readers of New York State the opportunity to participate in honoring their favorite books. The award is divided into 3 sections; Young Readers in grades PreK-2 (ages 3-8); Children's in grades 3-6 (ages 8-12) and Teens in grades 7-12 (ages 13+).

Brochures for each section of the award are available on our website at http://www.3applesbookaward.org/. They include short annotations for each title as well as information about the timeline of the award.

The 3 Apples Book Award Committee
Christina Lupo, SSL Co-Chair & Nicole Guenkel, YSS Co-Chair

The 3 Apples Teen Book Award is a joint program of the Youth Services (YSS) and Section of School Librarians (SSL) Sections of the New York Library Association (NYLA).

NYLA/YSS Membership
It’s a New Year! Make your New Year’s Resolution to renew your NYLA/YSS membership. If your membership is already up-to-date make a new resolution to tell at least one friend about NYLA/YSS and why they should join:

Networking with Peers & Making New Connections
Continuing Lifelong Pursuit of Knowledge & Professional Development
Staying Current & In the Know
Professional Involvement with Others Who Advocate Too
Attending A Conference: Either NYLA or YSS or Both!
Making a Difference for All Libraries in NY State

Make 2013 a year to remember by getting more involved with YSS. Fill out an Active Membership Form and send it to clinder@rcls.org We would love to hear from you!

Christina Ryan-Linder,
YSS 2nd Vice President/Membership

Where can you learn about the Common Core, laugh with Adam Gidwitz, and hear some tales told by the Genesee Storytellers? At YSS programs at the 2013 NYLA Conference, of course! Planning is underway for the conference, to be held in Niagara Falls in September. We hope to truly “spark your imagination” with lively speakers and current topics.

See you there!
YOUTH SERVICES SECTION

YSS ACTIVE MEMBER FORM

Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Institution: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________

City: __________________ State: ______ Zip Code: ______

Work Phone: ___________________ Home Phone: ___________________

Fax: ___________________ *Email: ___________________

*We send our newsletter by email only.

I am interested in helping in the following ways:

- Presenter—YSS Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference—YSS Tabletalks _____
  (Presenting a workshop is based on your knowledge and expertise.)

- Room Monitor—YSS Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference _____
  (Handing out evaluation sheets before the program and collecting them after.)

- Running for an elected position on the YSS Executive Board_____

- Being on a YSS Committee ______
  (See reverse side for list of committees.)

- Working at the YSS booth at the Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference _____

- Writing an article for the newsletter_____

- Planning YSS programs for the NYLA Conference_____

- Local Arrangements person for the YSS Spring Conference_____ NYLA Conference_____  

- Web/Computer Work_____

- Work on a task group to develop a YSS publication_____

Revised 01/12
Committees and Lists of Skills

Committees
Scholarship_____  
Pied Piper Award_____  
Empire State Award_____  
Publications_____  
Conference Planning_____  
3 Apples Award_____  
Web Advisory_____  

Listserv
_____ I am interested in joining the YSS Listserv. This member benefit will offer YSS members another resource for networking and interacting with peers from across the state. Discussions are open to anything related to NYLA/YSS as well as questions and discussions about general youth services work in libraries.

Member News
Did you have a recent career change, promotion, special activity or honor related to youth services librarianship? Do you have some personal news that you would like to share? (new child, grandchild, etc.? ) If so, let us know and we will put it in the YSS Transitions section of the YSS newsletter. Take a few moments to let other YSS members know about you.

Name:_________________________________________ Position:____________________________________

Library:________________________________________

Address:________________________________________

Phone:________________________________________ Email:________________________________________

I would like to share:________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Please make sure you have provided your email on the first page.
Please fill out and return to:
Christina Ryan-Linder
Pearl River Public Library
80 Franklin Avenue
Pearl River, NY 10965
clinder@rcls.org

Revised 01/12