

NOVELIST RICHARD FORD TO RECEIVE 2017 HELMERICH AWARD

As a child and adolescent, Richard Ford decidedly did not like to read. He was a painfully slow reader who had difficulty comprehending words spoken or written on a page.

"Being slow frustrated me and made me feel I was always behind the other kids," said Ford, who is the winner of this year's Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. "And I was behind the other kids – which occasioned, shall we say, other developmental problems – deportment problems, nonstop talking, seeking other unfavorable ways to make myself noticed."

Nobody ever said the word dyslexia to Ford when he was growing up. In fact, by the time he realized his lifelong reading difficulties were because he was dyslexic, he already was in his 40s and well on his way to becoming a distinguished novelist and short-story writer.

Though having dyslexia has created many challenges for Ford, this learning disability also has helped shape his writing style.

"Being dyslexic is not all bad," said the Pulitzer Prize-winning author. "Indeed, some parts are quite interesting and even good. I retain a great, great deal once I do get something properly read and installed. And by reading slowly I render myself available as a reader to many of language's sensuous, noncognitive qualities: sounds, words' appearances on the page, rhythms – all qualities that written literature fully engages and makes relevant and adds to what words merely mean. Because I read this way, I write by engaging these qualities. My sentences rely on how words sound and look and trip along. Finally, it's a net gain, even though I'm still very slow as a reader."

Ford has delighted readers around the world for the past 40 years with his portrayal of everyday contemporary middle-class American life in such works as the critically acclaimed *The Sportswriter*, *Independence Day*, *The Lay of the Land* and *Let Me Be Frank With You*. Earlier this year, he released his first nonfiction title, *Between Them: Remembering My Parents*, an eloquent memoir which has received many favorable reviews. For his distinguished body of work and major contribution to the field of literature and letters, the Tulsa City-County Library and Tulsa Library Trust will honor Ford with the 33rd annual Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award, which consists of a \$40,000 cash prize and engraved crystal book. He will receive the award at a black-tie gala on Friday, Dec. 1 and will give a free public address on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 10:30 a.m. Both events will take place at Central Library, Fifth Street and Denver Avenue.

To complement Ford's visit to Tulsa, the Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries will offer "A Richard Ford Sampler" as a part of its popular Books Sandwiched In series on Monday, Nov. 27 at 12:10 p.m. at Central Library in Aaronson Auditorium. Adrian Alexander, dean of the University of Tulsa's McFarlin Library and chair of the Distinguished Author Award Selection Committee, will review a selection of Ford's work, highlighting its significance and impact.

Visit www.tulsalibrary.org or call 918-549-7323 for more details about the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP OKLAHOMA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Leadership Oklahoma, a statewide leadership program, is now accepting applications for its 2018 Youth Leadership Oklahoma (YLOK) class which will be held June 3-8, 2018. Applicants must be high school juniors or home schooled equivalent with at least a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Applications can be downloaded from www.leadershipoklahoma.com or requested by calling 405.848.0001 or emailing lstone@leadershipoklahoma.com.

Completed applications must be received in the Leadership Oklahoma office, located at 5500 N. Western, Suite 142, Oklahoma City, OK 73118, no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 5, 2017.

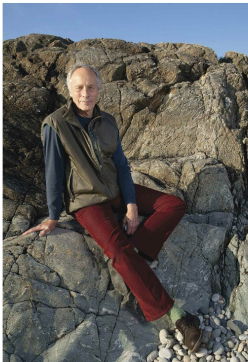
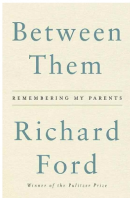


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BY LAURA RAPHAEL, CHILDREN'S SERVICES COORDINATOR, TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

how do you build a reader?

TALK, SING, READ, WRITE AND PLAY EVERY DAY!

The library gives you great suggestions for what to do at home to get your baby and young child ready to read.

To get a simple idea of what research says you should be doing to help prepare your baby and young child for later reading success, put one hand out in front of you. Now point to each finger:

1. Talking
2. Singing
3. Reading
4. Writing
5. Playing

That's it! Decades of longitudinal studies, complex research experiments, and statistical analysis by reading and literacy experts all point to these five simple activities. When you talk, sing, read, write and play with your children every day, you are ensuring that, when they are ready to learn the mechanics of reading (around the age of 6 or so), the process will be both easier and more joyful. What you do for babies and young children from ages 0 to 5 has a direct impact on their later success in navigating written language.

To help parents and caregivers with this important development, the Public Library Association created the Every Child Ready to Read initiative in 2004. Here at the Tulsa City-County Library, this initiative is known as "Build A Reader" and forms the backbone of our early literacy programming – primarily,



weekly storytimes offered at most of our 24 locations across the city and county.

It doesn't matter which TCCL library you visit, from A (Allie Beth Martin Library) to Z (Henry Zarow Library), if you pop in to a storytime you'll hear our professional children's staff encouraging you to Talk, Sing, Read, Write and Play!

If you're like most parents, this sounds great – but you could use some ideas to incorporate talking, singing, reading, writing and playing into your child's everyday life. (Especially writing!) How on earth do you "write" with babies? The easy answer: waving "hi!" and "bye!", which develops hand muscles and prepares babies for the idea that we use our hands for communication.

Fortunately, the Tulsa City-

County Library has translated these simple concepts into around 60 or so easy-to-use activity ideas that will engage your children (and you) while preparing their growing brains for later reading success.

For example:

"Bath tub Picasso" – how to encourage writing with just a tub of soapy water and shaving cream.

"I Spy: Family Edition" – make the visual skills practice of "I Spy" even more enjoyable!

"Junk-Mail Post Office" – don't just throw out all of those grocery store circulars and offers for new cable services. Use them to help your child start to understand the concept that print has meaning.

These activities and more are the basis for the Build A Reader: Try This at Home 16-

month calendar, which you can get for FREE at any of the Tulsa City-County Library's 24 locations. Simply complete the digital program at

<http://tulsalibrary.beanstack.org> OR pick up a Build A Reader bookmark at any location. (For a complete list of libraries, go to www.tulsalibrary.org and go to "Locations.") The bookmark even has a bonus: a detachable finger puppet for your child.

Complete just one activity, and you will receive the calendar completely FREE!

Using the simple concepts of TALK, SING, READ, WRITE and PLAY, and with the help of the Tulsa City-County Library, you will make sure to BUILD A READER!

Build A Reader: Try This at Home!



Get your free finger puppet bookmark and calendar at any of the 24 locations of the Tulsa City-County Library.

You can also sign up online at <http://tulsalibrary.beanstack.org>

- 3 ounces crumbled goat cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup finely chopped sweetened dried cranberries
- 1 1/2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh rosemary
- Kosher salt and ground pepper

Whisk together egg and water until well blended. Unfold pastry on a lightly floured surface. Brush with egg wash.

Sprinkle and spread cheese over dough. Add cranberries and rosemary. Season with salt and pepper.

Starting at one side, tightly roll it up. Cover with plastic wrap and freeze 45 minutes or until very firm. (To make ahead, freeze up to 2 weeks. Let stand 25 minutes before moving to next step.)

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Slice roll into about 24 (1/4 inch) slices. Arrange on 2 parchment-lined baking sheets. Brush with egg wash. Bake for 15 to 18 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on wire rack.

Even toddlers can help pour and stir for this recipe. Little ones also love putting the muffin liners in the pan. Place these muffins on the kids' table at Thanksgiving, and the kids will gobble them up.

Sweet Cornbread Muffins

- 2 (8.5 ounce) packages corn muffin mix
 - 1 (18.25 ounce) box yellow cake mix
 - 5 eggs
 - 2 cups milk
 - 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place muffin liners in two muffin pans.

Stir corn muffin and cake mix together in a large bowl. Add eggs, milk, and vegetable oil and stir. Pour filling in muffin pans. Bake for 18 minutes, or until golden brown and a toothpick comes out clean.

Serve with butter and honey.

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