

CHILDREN'S EYE CARE PROVIDED BY THE ACA

(Information provided by the American Optometric Association)

Health care in the United States is changing and the American Optometric Association (AOA) is making sure consumers are aware that eye and vision health are a top priority, not only for adults but also for children. Under the Affordable Care Act, vision coverage will be part of the Pediatric Essential Health Benefit; therefore, millions of children (up to age 19) will now have access to yearly comprehensive eye exams, follow-up care and treatment, such as eyeglasses, from an eye doctor.

Unfortunately, many consumers believe vision screenings are an acceptable form of eye and vision testing and diagnosis, but according to the National Eye Institute's Vision in Preschoolers study, screenings, even when performed by the most highly trained screeners, miss more than a third of children who should be referred to an eye doctor for a comprehensive eye examination. This means that many children are told they have no vision problem when they actually do. It also means that those whose vision issues are not corrected, are often mislabeled as having Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or other disorders, and may suffer developmentally because a vision screening missed the root cause of the problem: a vision or eye health issue.

Vision screenings only assess minimal, basic visual functions, like how well a person can see at a distance. These screenings are often conducted by administrative personnel or parent volunteers who have little if any training, while comprehensive eye exams, performed by eye doctors, are significantly more thorough. Comprehensive exams include tests to determine myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism, eye coordination and eye muscle function, eye focusing abilities and an overall eye health exam, which in most cases involves dilation. Eye exams performed by an eye doctor are integral to diagnosing eye and vision diseases and disorders in children. When left undiagnosed or untreated, these problems can make it difficult for children to learn and can lead to vision loss and other issues that significantly impact a person's quality of life.

To learn more, visit www.aoa.org or www.visionandhealth.org/resources.html or talk to your child's eye-care professional.

DOG BISCUITS HELP HUMANS & PETS

The Bridges Foundation in Tulsa has launched a new dog biscuit business, which will provide fresh-baked goodies for our furry friends while providing jobs for adults with intellectual disabilities.

The Bridges Barkery biscuits are quality dog treats that are handmade using natural ingredients (no preservatives or additives). Each package is packed by Bridges employees. "Not only are they given the training and support they need to obtain and retain jobs, but they experience success in the community and earn a good wage," said Karie Jordan, The Bridges Foundation CEO.

Bridges Barkery biscuits may be purchased at 1345 N. Lewis, online at www.thebridgesfound.org or by phone at 918.592.3333.



CASH FOR YOUR CREATIVE WRITING

Let your keyboard click, pen flow and creative light shine. Wordsmiths are invited to enter the 37th Annual Adult Creative Writing Contest for a chance to win cash for their snappy sonnets and enlightening essays. The annual event is sponsored by The Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries.

The contest is open to any person 18 years or older who lives, works, attends school in Tulsa County or has a nonresident Tulsa City-County Library card. The deadline to submit entries is Jan 31, 2014.

Submissions of unpublished original text are welcomed in these categories:

- Poetry – with a 400-word limit
- Informal Essay – with a 5,000-word limit
- Children's Fiction – with a 3,000-word limit
- Short Story – with a 5,000 word limit

A \$100 cash prize and a certificate are awarded to the best works in each category. Second-place winners receive a \$50 cash prize and a certificate. Certificates are awarded to those receiving honorable mention. Individuals may submit one entry per category. Each entry must have a separate entry form and a \$6 entry fee.

All winners and participants are invited to the awards during a ceremony at 2:30 p.m. on April 12, 2014, at Rudisill Regional Library, 1520 N. Hartford. Winners from each category will have the opportunity to read a short selection from his or her winning entry.

Entry forms, with a complete set of rules, are available at all TCCL locations or online at www.tulsalibrary.org/friends. For more information on the Adult Creative Writing Contest, call Gretchen Hannefield, Friends liaison and library volunteer coordinator, 918.549.7408.

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BY CONNIE LEE KRUTE, CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATE AT PRATT LIBRARY, SAND SPRINGS

passing on family traditions with new books

Grandparents can have so much fun reading to their grandchildren. And this "Nana" is no exception.

There are two things you should know about me. First, I believe that family traditions and history should be shared with each upcoming generation. Second, I love books and reading them to my grandchildren.

Combining the two is what I do best.

My helpers for this article are Shelby, my 12-year-old granddaughter and Archer, my 4-year-old grandson, who have heard me read to them all of their lives. To narrow down the field of books, I chose ones that appealed to my sense of family tradition and history so I could share these with my grandchildren. Now for some new books for the New Year.

Madeline and the Old House in Paris, by John Bemelmans Marciano

I adore anything French. That is something my grandchildren have learned quickly. And Madeline is everything French! The main character, the little French Catholic schoolgirl Madeline, along with the original series of six books, was created by Austrian author Ludwig Bemelmans in 1939. Carrying on their family tradition is his grandson, John Bemelmans-Marciano with the newest book, *Madeline and the Old House in Paris*. In this book,



CONNIE LEE KRUTE ENJOYS SPENDING TIME WITH HER GRANDCHILDREN, ARCHER, 4, AND SHELBY, 12, BY SHARING HER LOVE OF LITERACY AND CREATING LASTING MEMORIES THROUGH BOOKS.

the brave little red-haired Madeline and her friends encounter the

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head of their school, a Lord Cucu- telescope in a dusty attic, and the

ghost of the original owner of the house who had been a lifetime master of the study of the stars in heaven. Archer especially enjoyed the rhyming and the way the children have banded together to trick old Cucuface and help the ghost. Shelby enjoyed hearing a new story about Madeline, an "old friend" from her younger days.

It's About a Little Bird, story and pictures by Jessica Lange

My entire family has enjoyed photography for nearly a century starting with my parents, and I hope my grandchildren will continue that tradition. The book *It's About a Little Bird* caught my eye immediately because of its beautiful, hand-tinted fine art photography by acclaimed actress Jessica Lange. Shelby is very artistic and was intrigued with the hand-tinting process. Archer liked the action photos of the two little girls (even at 4, he really likes little girls), the farm animals, and the mesmerizing golden birdcage found in the dusty old barn. I also appreciated special references to Paris and the French words used in the story. Lange weaves a sweet story of the two sisters who visit their grandmother on her old farm. They play, learn about their grandmother and learn to enjoy life. A rainy day finds them sneaking into the old forbidden barn and finding lots of treasures, including

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the magnificent birdcage. The grandmother tells the tale of how she found an incredible bird and how she came to purchase the birdcage, which once belonged to the famous actor John Wayne. You will end up singing after reading this one!

Herman and Rosie, story and pictures by Gus Gordon

The book *Herman and Rosie* is delightful! I love books that begin with "Once upon a time" and I love children's books that engage adults as well. This is a love story (Shelby, the preteen, tuned into that) between Herman the alligator and Rosie the deer (Archer found that to be a very funny combination). They live in New York City, yet are two very lonely souls. Rosie sings jazz. (I love to go and hear live jazz around Tulsa.) Herman plays oboe on his rooftop. (I played

oboe for seven years. Do you see why I like this book?) The story takes them all over, narrowly missing each other in numerous places. Finally, they meet. And you can probably guess the ending.

My family hopes that you will be touched by these new books, just as they have taken us back to "our roots" and brought back some sweet memories of our family traditions. May you and yours have a wonderful New Year full of reading!

Connie Lee Krute has been a Children's Library Associate for the Pratt Library branch of the Tulsa Library for 11 years and has been a "Nana" for 12 years. She holds an MA in Education from The University of Tulsa.

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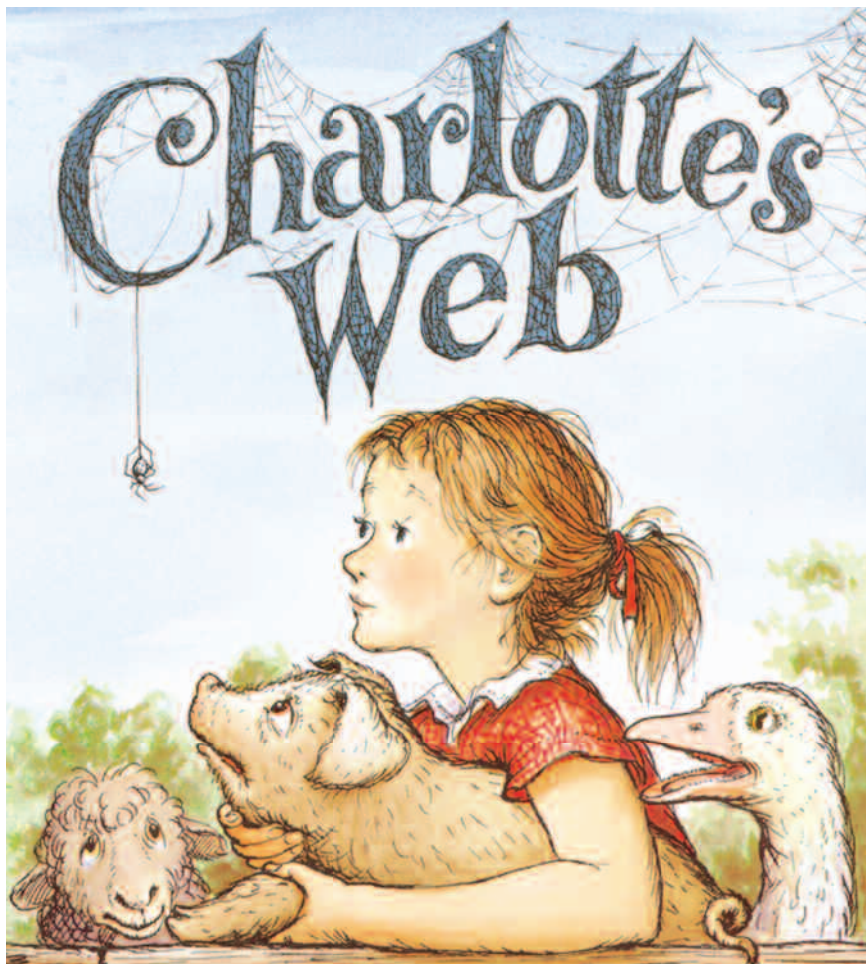
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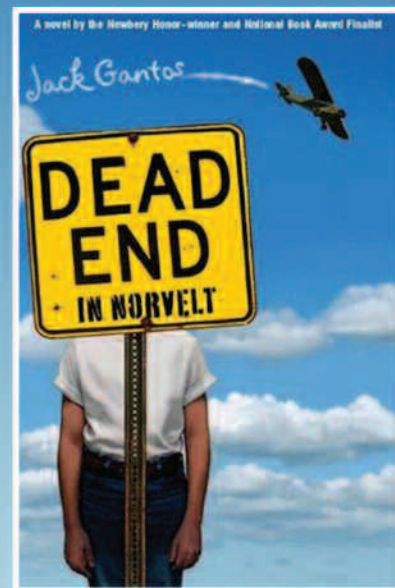
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Mr. Henry's Books TEACHER WORKSHOP

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Participants must be employed by a school district within Tulsa County. This workshop is recommended for fourth- through eighth-grade teachers.

Registrations are limited and must be received by Feb. 15, 2014.

Mr. Henry's Books is a program of the Tulsa City-County Library, sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, made possible by a grant from the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation.

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REGISTRATION FORM

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