

Spotlight On Books
April 3-4, 2009
Grand Rapids Minnesota
Kate Hoverson

This was my first time at Spotlight On Books and I really enjoyed my experience. I enjoyed hearing Jon Coy speak about how important it is to keep students motivated to read, especially boys. Throughout his speech, I learned several new strategies to encourage boys to continue reading. For example, the elementary school library could coordinate with the high school football team to come and have them read to 3rd grade students. That way elementary boys will be able to see that if a football player likes to read then it must be *cool*. Another idea that was discussed was for the library to host events that invite dad and sons only. This allows dads to become encouraged to not only spend time with their sons but also to share new experiences with books.

Another theme that came across after Lynne Jonell's presentation is that it is important for students to make connections to what they are reading. That way, if they are able to make a real life connection to a book they are more likely to continue reading on their own. Another great point that Jonell made was that librarians can have a great impact on students and invite them to read. This can be accomplished through books talks, displays, and reader's advisory. Lastly, I learned that it is never too late to encourage and motivate students to read. It's just a matter of finding the right book where the student makes a connection and is genuinely interested.

The conference was well organized and had great presenters. I was able to meet new people and learn new ideas to use at my library. The book displays were an excellent way to become familiar with new books and to consider purchasing for next fall. I hope to attend this conference again next year.