

Program Preview: Crossover Connection

Do you have any patrons who are 30 going on 13 (or vice versa?). Modern-day reading interests know no age boundaries, a thrilling (and challenging) development for reader advisors. Schaumburg Township District Library Teen Librarians Amy Alessio and Dan Schnepf are here to help. On Oct. 11 they'll be presenting the fall ARRT program, "Crossover Connection: Linking Your Adult and Teen Collections."

Amy and Dan recently spoke to *arrrtWORKS* about what we can expect from the program [for registration info, see the green box on this page].

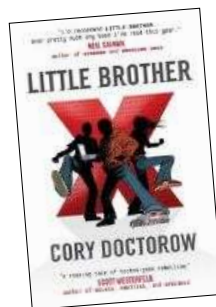
Crossovers have been a big trend. What's the appeal for adults and teens sampling the "other" side?

Amy: Many teens are mature enough and want to explore adult books just as they are ready to explore adult roles in jobs and responsibilities. There are also genres where there are not enough selections to attract teens beyond 15, such as mysteries, horror or romance. Fantasy and sf readers have long moved to the adult area for the same reason, as have nonfiction fans. Adults are discovering that teen books are well written and designed to hold their attention. They have many of the themes adults enjoy.

Dan: For teens reading adult titles, I think there are more complex problems that are dealt with in different ways. Solving problems in YA books can

sometimes be a matter of choosing right over wrong, but in adult books the characters have to consider socio-economic and political outcomes when trying to solve a problem.

For adults reading teen titles, I think the ability to read an entertaining book in an evening or two gives a sense of accomplishment. I also think the adults that read



YA books are sometimes looking to reconnect with what is was like to be the ages of the characters. There's not really a good way of advertising these ideas to the different age groups, unless you create a display called "Popular Fiction," and leave it that simple.

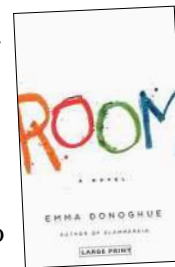
Most librarians familiar with Harry Potter/Twilight/Hunger Games. Why is it important for them to go beyond these benchmark series?

Amy: Those are all great starts and like anything else you want to hold readers' attention beyond famous titles with readalikes. They are also a small representation of what could appeal to teens. Readers who stick with bestsellers may miss some wonderful graphic novels and nonfiction too.



What do you hope people will take away from your program?

Amy: Hopefully a list of books to read immediately for themselves and an awareness of great suggestions for both groups of ages. It is important too to see that those who serve teens are not a designated few staff members but anyone who interacts with the public at any service point.



Dan: I also hope that participants keep in mind that teens who are reading teen and adult books are looking for ways of obtaining shared experiences. Reading about what is normally an uncomfortable subject should be easier, because all one has to do is put a book down if one doesn't want to deal with the subject at that time.

Want to learn more about linking your YA and adult collections? Register today!

"Crossover Connection" takes place on Tuesday, October 11 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Schaumburg Township District Library, 130 South Roselle Road, Schaumburg.

Registration for this \$15 program closes on October 4, so reserve your spot today. Please visit www.arrrtreads.org for payment info and a registration form.

What's ARRT Reading?

Raves and recommendations from the Steering Committee

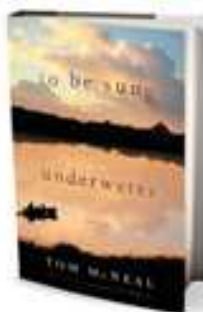
Blood, Bones & Butter: the Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef by Gabrielle Hamilton (2011)

Gabrielle Hamilton, owner of the popular East Village restaurant Prune, takes her turn writing a foodie memoir. With her MFA in creative writing, Hamilton has produced arguably one of the better memoirs to be released in the food genre. The book begins with Hamilton's childhood in rural New Jersey, and follows her life as she struggles to make her way in the working world, continually finding herself back in the kitchen, for better or for worse. Highly recommended in audiobook format, as the author does her own reading and has a dry, sarcastic tone that is perfectly matched with the content.



To Be Sung Underwater by Tom McNeal (2011)

This lovely, lyrical read is a story of unrequited love between Judith Whitman and Will Blunt, her first love whom she left for her husband. The book is set in Southern California, Vermont, and Nebraska, and is set in the present and also 20 years before when Judith was still in high school. It is a touching coming-of-age story by a talented novelist. This is McNeal's second novel—he has also written the well-received *Goodnight, Nebraska*.

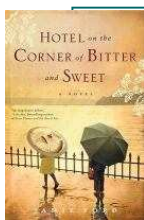


They Called Themselves the K.K.K. by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (2010)

Using oral histories, newspaper articles, diary entries, and congressional documents, Susan Campbell Bartoletti describes a war torn South and how the Klu Klux Klan came to be all those years ago in Pulaski, Tennessee. The reader learns about how each topic was heavily affected by the K.K.K. during the Reconstruction period. This nonfiction title is intended for teens but appeals to all ages, particularly for people who want to learn more about the post-bellum South but might not want to read a lengthy adult title.

Sharp Objects by Gillian Flynn (2006)

Chicago author Flynn is best described as a writer of “not quite horror.” So it should come as no surprise that *Sharp Objects* is as scary a book as you will read without any trace of a supernatural monster. It is narrated by a troubled young newspaper reporter, Camille, who is still recovering from a mental breakdown. She also happens to be from a rural Missouri town where a serial killer is targeting adolescent girls. Camille's editor sends her home to cover the story. However, she is completely out of touch with her family, especially her mother. What follows is haunting. The reader is privy both to Camille's mental unraveling and the slow discovery of who is responsible for the murders. Readers who want a fast-paced suspense tale will be disappointed. But readers who want a complicated, psychological, tense story with an extremely flawed narrator and one messed-up family will love this novel.



Quarterly Literary Book Discussion: Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

Please join us on Wednesday October 26, 2011 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Niles Public Library for a discussion of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. The discussion is free and will also include time to talk about general reading group issues at your own libraries. RSVP to Greta Ulrich at gulrich@nileslibrary.org.

Spring Program Notes Now Online: Top 5 of the Top 5

Librarian extraordinaire and new *Booklist* reference and collection management editor Rebecca Vnuk gave ARRT members a fantastic presentation this spring on five key authors, both established and up-and-coming, for fantasy, sf, suspense, mystery and women's fiction. As Rebecca said, “Sometimes we just need a quick answers for patrons who want a good book—not a long RA interview.” Program slides and handouts are on Rebecca's blog, Shelf Renewal, at shelfrenewal.com/programs/top-5-program-arrt/.