

BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

EXPLORING THE STACKS

BY RICHARD LANE, GENEALOGY

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson following the Louisiana Purchase (1803) to explore a vast and uncharted portion of the North American Continent. Their undertaking was fraught with danger and the unknown. Their first act would have been preparation. They would have scoured known maps of the region and outfitted their party with needed equipment and provisions. Fortunately, they had the



good sense to seek out a guide (Sacagawea) to help them with her knowledge of native languages and the “lay of the land”. Their expedition was not a wandering about in a dazed state of confusion. They had a purpose and a plan. They also had the equipment needed to map the terrain and collect samples of the flora, fauna, and minerals they found.

Family history is like an expedition. Certainly not an expedition fraught with danger, but a serious undertaking requiring preparation, needed provisions (books, microfilm, database and archival records), and a way to record the findings of the day’s quest. Often as not, we need someone who can help us with the “lay of the land”. We set out hoping to make discoveries and likely as not end up at a library.

Here are some hints to make the journey productive:

- 1. Before leaving, have a plan and know what information is needed.**
- 2. Take the time to search the library’s online catalog.** Use keywords, subject heading, author and title searches to determine if needed materials are available. If necessary, call ahead and speak to a reference librarian.
- 3. Upon arrival, take some time to look around the library.** Get to know the “lay of the land”. Make mental notes of the location of the water fountain, the restrooms and the online catalog. Make note of how the library’s collection is organized. Determine if there a separate genealogy collection requiring admission.
- 4. While in the genealogy collection, explore a bit.** Locate the map and microfilm collections. Spend a few moments to become familiar with the collection. Ask some questions. Does the map collection have road maps, survey maps and topographic maps? Does the microfilm collection include probate and tax records? Is there a microfilm collection of local newspapers? Does the library have an archive with family histories and genealogies?
- 5. Spend some time examining the online resources.** Does the library offer Ancestry Library Edition, Heritage Quest and other genealogical websites?
- 6. Here’s a clue. No one knows the library collection better than the library staff.** Seek out the more experienced reference and genealogy librarians. You’ll almost always find them to be knowledgeable and helpful. They often have years of experience helping other researchers. Over the years of their work, they have gained knowledge of state, local and city histories. They know the community and can often give advice about other nearby resources. They know “the lay of the land” and may prove to be good guides as you explore your family history.



1219 13th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-5472

Monday-Friday Saturday
10am-7pm 12pm-4pm



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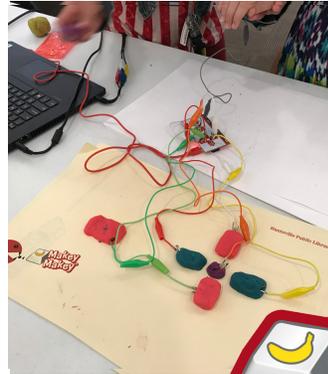
HOUR OF CODE™

BY BELLA ABRIL, IT COORDINATOR

Summer is always a great time to experience a new hobby, and coding is one hobby that kids had a chance to try out during the Hour of Code™ (a trademark of Code.org) Workshop this past June. The Hour of Code™ is a global movement created to demystify “code” through one-hour educational and fun tutorials and activities. No experience is needed and any age is welcome to try these tutorials online at HourofCode.com! For the event held in the library, we specifically opened registration to those in kindergarten to 12th grade.

Originally, we planned the event to be held only on Tuesdays in June but due to the popularity of the program, we decided to open up Thursdays as another Hour of Code day. We had a total of 40 students registered; 21 on Tuesdays and 19 on Thursdays. During the event, the kids were able to choose any tutorial within or below their grade level; some of the most popular ones included Minecraft: Hero’s Adventure, Moana, Flappy Bird, and Codecombat. These activities mainly introduced computer science concepts such as loops and functions as opposed to programming languages. However, for the older and more experienced coders, advanced activities to familiarize them with computer languages like Javascript, Python, and CSS were available. Each week, many of the students tried an activity that was harder than the previous one they completed, challenging their problem-solving skills along the way.

At the end of the program, the kids received a certificate of completion, detailing each of the activities that they had finished throughout the four weeks of Hour of Code. Many of them were interested in going beyond the hour so they were directed them to helpful websites such as Code.org, KhanAcademy.org, and Codecademy.com. Overall, it was a great opportunity for kids to try out a new hobby and a wonderful way to make computer science not so intimidating!



MAKEY MAKEY WORKSHOP

BY JALPA SHAH AND BELLA ABRIL, IT COORDINATORS

How fun is it to use everyday objects as a remote control to manipulate the internet? Apparently, extremely fun according to the kids that joined us at the Makey Makey Workshop! Makey Makey is a kit invented by two students at MIT Media Lab in which anyone can turn anything that will conduct electricity into a computer key. Each Tuesday this past June, sixteen kids ages 8 through 12 enjoyed setting up their own gaming console using alligator clips, the circuit board in the kit, and whatever everyday object we had for them that day.

Here’s a little recap of our days with Makey Makey:

- Day 1:** Made Gameboy keys using play-doh and played Super Mario;
- Day 2:** Used grapes and bananas to create a fruit piano and guitar;
- Day 3:** Crafted arrow keys using colored paper and aluminum foil to play PacMan;
- Day 4:** Built a foot piano to dance on using cardboard and aluminum foil.

HOUR OF CODE



RAINBOW FISH

BY RACHEL MCPHAIL, CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

The Rainbow Fish is a much-remembered children's picture book published in 1992. Written by Marcus Pfister, this story is one of the books you see everywhere. For me, it's as recognizable as Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel or The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter. The book tells children about a beautifully illustrated Rainbow Fish with sparkly silver scales. The fish swims gracefully through the ocean, and other fish start to get jealous, especially when the Rainbow Fish acts too proud to play with the other fish. Finally, a plain blue fish asks for one of the Rainbow Fish's silver scales. Rainbow Fish says no (in a rather undignified manner). The blue fish is upset and tells all his ocean friends what happened to the point that everyone starts to ostracize Rainbow Fish. Rainbow Fish is sad; we aren't given a better reason as to why except that dazzling, shimmering scales are useless if there is no one to admire them. He finally confides in a starfish who directs him to approach the wise octopus. Octopus instructs Rainbow Fish to share his beautiful scales with the other fish. "You will no longer be the most beautiful fish in the sea, but you will discover how to be happy," says the Octopus.

Rainbow Fish is confused by Octopus's instructions. While he is still thinking of what he should do, the same blue fish from before comes back to again ask for a scale. Rainbow Fish decides to pull off one of his scales for blue fish and the blue fish thanks him before swimming back and forth with his new finery.

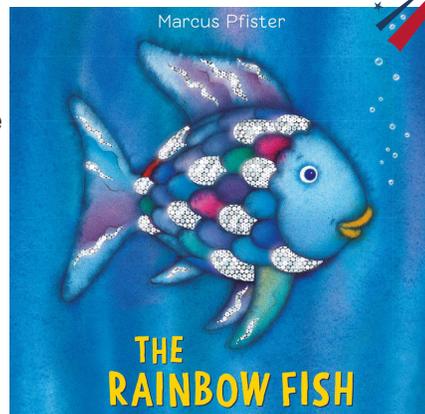
The other fish notice and want a scale too. "The Rainbow Fish shared his scales left and right. And the more he gave away, the more delighted he became. When the water around him filled with glimmering scales, he at last felt at home among the other fish," the

story says. Finally, Rainbow Fish is left with only one shimmering scale. The other fish invite him to play with them. He is happy with his new friends.

I reread this story recently and could not decide how I felt about it. Neither could the Internet. On the one hand, there are a group of parents and teachers who see the book as a lesson in sharing. We all know that sharing is a positive social behavior. Or maybe the story is a lesson about vanity or pride. It cautions, don't be so stuck-up that you ignore people. Perhaps the story teaches about the joy of giving.

On the other hand, some parents and teachers regard the book as teaching a negative lesson obscured by beautiful illustrations. You should "trade-in" your individuality to make friends. If someone likes something you have, you MUST give it to them no matter what. The blue fish keeps coming back to the Rainbow Fish in a pestering manner and gets what he wants.

But who has it right? This question is valid and can be used to discuss the book as a whole. It is interesting to consider that a significant number of online comments stated that when the reviewer read the book as a child, he or she thought the book was fantastic. When the same reviewer re-read the book as an adult, they were shocked by how much they didn't remember. What's your opinion of The Rainbow Fish? We'd love to hear from you! Stop by the Huntsville Public Library to read the book and let us know your interpretation.

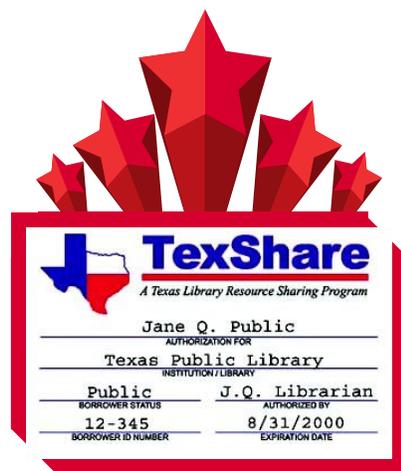


TEXSHARE CARD!

BY MARY KOKOT, ADULT LIBRARY SERVICES

As wonderful as our Library is with all its resources, sometimes it's annoying not to be able to find that certain book, usually nonfiction and academic in nature. Fortunately, there's interlibrary loan to fall back on, but what if one could access the treasure of tomes at the Newton Gresham Library at SHSU?

In fact, that's just what is possible with the help of a TexShare Card obtained through the Huntsville Public Library. TexShare is a program under the auspices of the Texas State Library which allows access to over 500 libraries in Texas. It's a simple thing to acquire. The basic requirement is to be a member of good standing of Huntsville Public Library for at least 6 months. The TexShare Card is valid for 6 months and may be renewed if the patron remains in good standing. Further details are available on the state library's website: www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/card.





Show and Tell - Natural History Collections

July 2, 11 AM

For all ages

First Friday Book Club

How to Steal a Dog

July 6, 1 PM

3rd-7th Graders



Family Movie Night showing

Paddington 2

July 6, 5:30 PM

For all ages



Summer of Shakespeare

Theater Boot Camp

July 3, 5, 9, 12, 17, and 19, 4 PM

Performances are on July 24 and 26

Ages 12-17 (Registration Required)

Circuit Maker Workshop

Tuesdays in July, 12:30 PM

Ages 8-12



Cathy's Critters

July 10, 3:30 PM

Ages 5+



Technology and Design

July 11, 13, and 16, 3 PM

Ages 9-12 (Registration Required)



CHILDREN'S Programming



Junior Genealogists

July 12 and 19, 3 PM

Ages 9-12 (Registration Required)



Munchkin Card Game

July 17, 3:30 PM

Ages 13+



Huntsville Audubon Society

Birds' Nests and Eggs

July 18, 2 PM



Story Time

Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:45 AM

Ages 5 and under



Mother Goose Lapsit

Mondays, 10:30 AM

Ages 2 and under



ADULT Programming

Midday Matinee

It Happened One Night

July 6, 3 PM

Play Texas 42

Mondays, 1 PM

Registration Required

Multiples of 4 needed to play!

Stephen King Online Book Club

In the Stand

Join the discussion online!



Sittercise

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 AM



Book Club at the Huntsville Public Library

Reader's Choice

July 12, 10:30 AM



Pilates for Everyone

Mondays in July, 5:45 PM

Registration Required



ESL Orientation

July 21, 12 PM

Registration Required



Getting to Know Your iPhone

July 27, 10:30 AM

Registration Required



GED Orientation

July 28, 12 PM

Registration Required

