

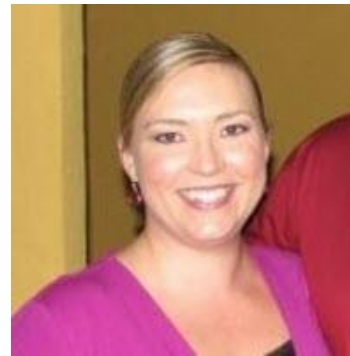
Today's Presenters



Tom Fish, PhD
Founder and
President, Next
Chapter Book Club



Pam Brooks
Department Head,
Adult and Teen
Services, Scotch
Plains Public Library
(NJ)



Maggie Allbee
Adult Services
Supervisor,
Henrico County
Public Library
(VA)

Next Chapter Book Club

Promoting Literacy, Social Connections, and
Inclusion for Adolescents and Adults with
Developmental Disabilities

Tom Fish, PhD





Why start a book club for people with developmental disabilities (DD)?

Common Barriers for People with DD

Community inclusion barriers

- Limited opportunities for social interaction
- Segregated social activities

Lifelong learning barriers created by prevailing social attitudes that people with DD are not:

- Interested in, or capable of, learning after high school
- Interested in reading or books



A Book Club

What A Novel Idea



Next Chapter Book Club was started in 2002 to integrate learning and social activity in community settings



Next Chapter Book Club Model





Next Chapter Book Club

Goal

The goal of the program is for members to interact *more frequently, and in new ways*, with

- Books and a variety of written/oral communication
- each other, and
- the community around them.



Next Chapter Book Club Program Growth



Since 2002, The Next Chapter Book Club has grown from 2 book clubs in Columbus, Ohio to **over 250** clubs across North America and Europe



Next Chapter Book Club

Book Club Meetings

- Clubs meet for 1 hour each week, at the same time and location
- 5 to 8 members, 1 to 3 facilitators per club





Next Chapter Book Club

Book Club Meetings

NCBCs meet in public spaces where the general community gathers

- Bookstores
- Libraries
- Cafés and coffee shops

We do not meet in isolated settings

- Workshops or agencies
- *Private* meeting rooms in *public* spaces



Next Chapter Book Club

Why meet in the community?

Benefits to members

- Meaningful and regular engagement in the community
- Authentic opportunities to practice emerging literacy and social skills

Benefits to communities

- Increased exposure to and awareness of people with disabilities (opportunities for attitude change)
- Enhanced diversity within community



Next Chapter Book Club

More Benefits!

Benefits to libraries

- Community support
- Library visibility
- Increased reach to a typically underserved population
- Fulfilling library mission
- Enhancement of staff and volunteer professional and life experiences



Next Chapter Book Club

Book Club Meetings



- Members take turns reading aloud, receiving as much support as needed
- Members also spend time socializing with one another



Next Chapter Book Club

Who Can Be a Member?

- Every effort is made to accommodate anyone who would like to join, regardless of physical and/or intellectual disabilities
- Only overly disruptive or aggressive behavior may disqualify someone from membership
- Prospective members are encouraged to visit existing book clubs if possible

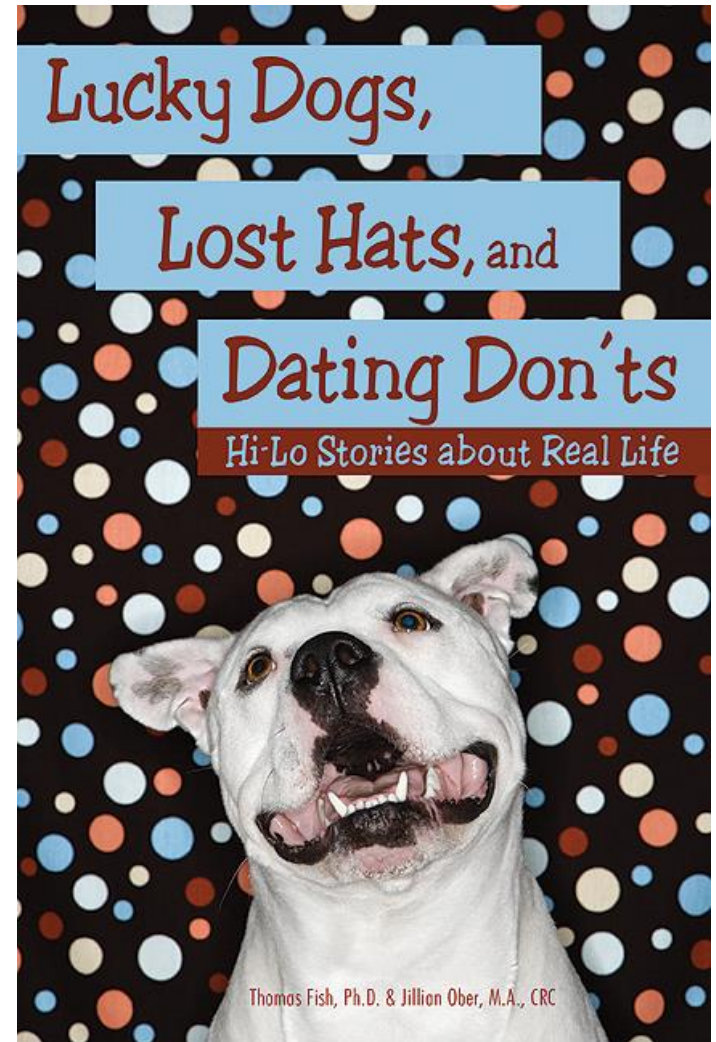


Next Chapter Book Club

Short stories for NCBC members

Why write short stories for NCBC members?

- Difficulty identifying Hi-Lo (high interest, low reading level) reading material for book clubs
- Majority of books written in “simple language” are written for children
- Classic stories, though adapted, can seem irrelevant to members’ lives



<http://www.woodbinehouse.com>



Next Chapter Book Club

Effective Practices



Although many members do improve literacy skills, we focus on *reading to learn*, as opposed to learning to read



Join the Affiliate Network!

Organizations include:

- public libraries
- social service agencies
- parent groups
- often working in collaboration with each other
 - low-cost (\$350 fee)
 - high-impact





Affiliate Training

Online Training

- Three modules can be watched consecutively, or in multiple sessions over a 30-day period.
- Intended for designated NCBC Program Coordinator but can be viewed by others within Affiliate organization.
- A shorter training video for volunteer club meeting Facilitators provided.
- A 1 hour follow-up telephone consultation with NCBC staff also included.



Affiliate Responsibilities

Day-to-day management decisions are up to you

Sign and abide by *NCBC Standards of Practice*

1. What Next Chapter Book Clubs are — and are not
- 2. NCBC affiliate training and ongoing responsibilities**
3. Recruiting NCBC members
4. Recruiting NCBC volunteer facilitators
5. Training and retaining volunteer facilitators



Affiliate Responsibilities

NCBC Standards of Practice (cont'd)

6. Finding appropriate NCBC host sites
7. Scheduling book clubs
8. Selection of activities and books
9. Monitoring and evaluation
10. Membership in NCBC email distribution list and website directory, access to Affiliate Portal



Social Media Information

- Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/nextchapterbookclub
- Follow us on Twitter: @NCBCColumbusOH
- <https://www.youtube.com/NCBCColumbusOH>

www.nextchapterbookclub.org



Contact Information

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Next Chapter: A Librarian's View



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TWO GROUPS

First NCBC began 9/2008

Tuesdays from 7 – 8:15 pm

- 8+ members
- Currently 3 volunteer facilitators: two librarians + one teacher

Second NCBC began 9/2011

Tuesdays from 5:30 – 6:30 pm

- 6 members
- 3 volunteer facilitators: two librarians + one teacher, one family member (sometimes), one aide (sometimes)

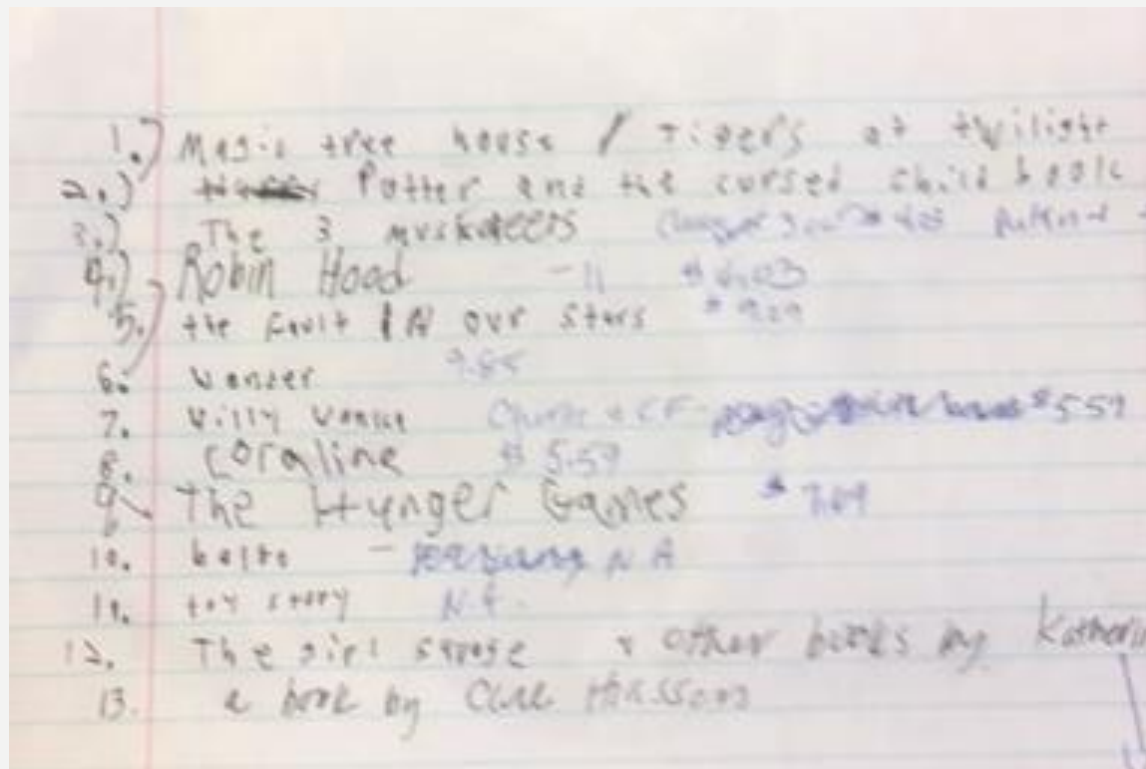
2008: Enthusiasm & Trepidation

- What will it take in manpower, resources, time, location?
- Are we up to the challenge?
- Gauged community interest – word-of-mouth; parents; schools
- Obtained volunteer commitment
- Arranged with NCBC for volunteer training
- Approached local Panera Bread

WHEN WE FIRST STARTED WITH TEENS ...

We made MANY decisions for the group, like choosing titles for them

- We are always in the process of transitioning...



Scotch Plains Public Library's Book Club Ballot

Title	Author	Pages	Summary
Robin Hood	Pyle/Burrows	149	He robbed from the rich and gave to the poor, and had escapades enough to please any adventure-loving reader. Enter Sherwood Forest with Robin's band of merry men, and meet such unforgettable characters as Friar Tuck, Little John, Allan-a-Dale, the nasty Sheriff of Nottingham, and wicked King John. Every moment of the story is filled with action and excitement.
Flush	Hiaassen	288	Noah's dad is sure that the owner of the <i>Coral Queen</i> casino boat is flushing raw sewage into the harbor—which has made taking a dip at the local beach like swimming in a toilet. He can't prove it though, and so he decides that sinking the boat will make an effective statement. Right. The boat is pumped out and back in business within days and Noah's dad is in the local lock-up. Now Noah is determined to succeed where his dad failed. He <i>will</i> prove that the Coral Queen is dumping illegally . . . somehow.
Hoot	Hiaassen	292	Everybody loves Mother Paula's pancakes. Everybody, that is, except the colony of cute but endangered owls that live on the building site of the new restaurant. Can the awkward new kid and his feral friend prank the pancake people out of town? Or is the owls' fate cemented in pancake batter?
Charlie & The Chocolate Factory	Dahl	155	Willy Wonka's famous chocolate factory is opening at last! But only five lucky children will be allowed inside. And the winners are...
Coraline	Gaiman	160	When Coraline steps through a door to find another house strangely similar to her own (only better), things seem marvelous. But there's another mother there, and another father, and they want her to stay and be their little girl. They want to change her and never let her go. Coraline will have to fight with all her wit and courage if she is to save herself and return to her ordinary life.
The Hunger Games	Collins	374	in a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.
The Explorer	Rundell	324	Left stranded in the Amazon jungle when their plane crashes on their way back to England from Manaus, Brazil, four children struggle to survive for days until one of them finds a map that leads them to a ruined city and a secret hidden among the vines.
Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms	Rundell	248	Wilhelmina Silver's world is golden. Living half-wild on an African farm with her horse, her monkey, and her best friend, every day is beautiful. But when her home is sold and Will is sent away to boarding school in England, the world becomes

BUMPS WE ENCOUNTER & ACTIONS WE TAKE

Disruptive Behavior



Boundaries set and reinforced

Peer pressure often helps

One-on-One volunteer interaction

Walk & Talk

Speak with parents. Family involvement is a great asset

Parent or other family members accompany member

Reluctant Member



Allow lots of time for settling in and adjustment

Draw member in to discussions and peer interaction

One-on-One volunteer interaction

Even with all best efforts, book club is not for everyone.

STAFF TIME

Set-Up:

- 4-5 hour volunteer training
- 35-50 hours of staff time for recruitment, organizing, PR, outreach

Ongoing:

- Meeting times for facilitators and 1 hour per month from coordinator for book selection, emails, phone, reporting, etc.

MONEY

Initial Costs

- Training
- NCBC materials
- Books

Ongoing Costs

- Books (if library pays)
- Members and volunteers pay for their own refreshments
- Staff time (if library pays)

“NCBC is exciting, great and a fantastic thing to do! I love how I get to read and how I get to hang out with my friends!” - Billy



"I love seeing my friends outside of school and we read good chapter books. Everyone helps me read the hard parts. Reading is fun and people at Panera are so nice." - Brian



JEREMY, ALYSSA AND TARA

From Jeremy's Family:

"The Next Chapter Book Club has proven to be a fantastic opportunity for my son. Not only has it encouraged him to read on a regular basis but perhaps more importantly, it has provided him with a supervised and still very enjoyable social venue where he's made some great friends. And I have, too!"

From Tara's family:

"A wonderful social gathering for my daughter to safely interact with other individuals at her own speed and learn life skills with the nurturing and understanding volunteers."

“The ability to meet new people based upon a similar interest and expand his potential support system can be extremely helpful as [a] young adult gets older.”

Life's Journey Through Autism, A Guide for Transition to Adulthood

The Organization for Autism Research, Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center and Danya International

**“To welcome and support
our entire community with
resources and services that
enhance lifelong learning”**

Scotch Plains Public Library Mission Statement

- To extend the role of the library as “community anchor and safe haven” for taking risks outside the library walls
- To be “co-creators of new ways to help people...learn develop and participate more fully in society.”

Statewide Strategic Plan for the Future of Libraries in New Jersey



Next Chapter Book Club

FOR NEW JERSEY LIBRARIES



EACH LIBRARY OPERATES DIFFERENTLY

- Paid staff or volunteers from library and/or community
- Library time or after hours
- Library space or eating establishment
- Members from family or group homes
- Funded through various means

KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Getting the word out / initial efforts
- Committed facilitators and coordinator
- Support from the top down at your library
- Transportation and support from families and caregivers
- Consistency

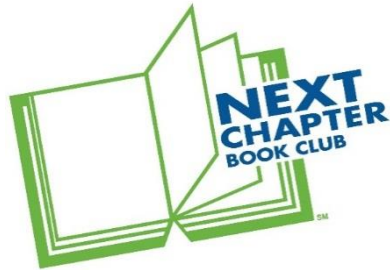
Call me!

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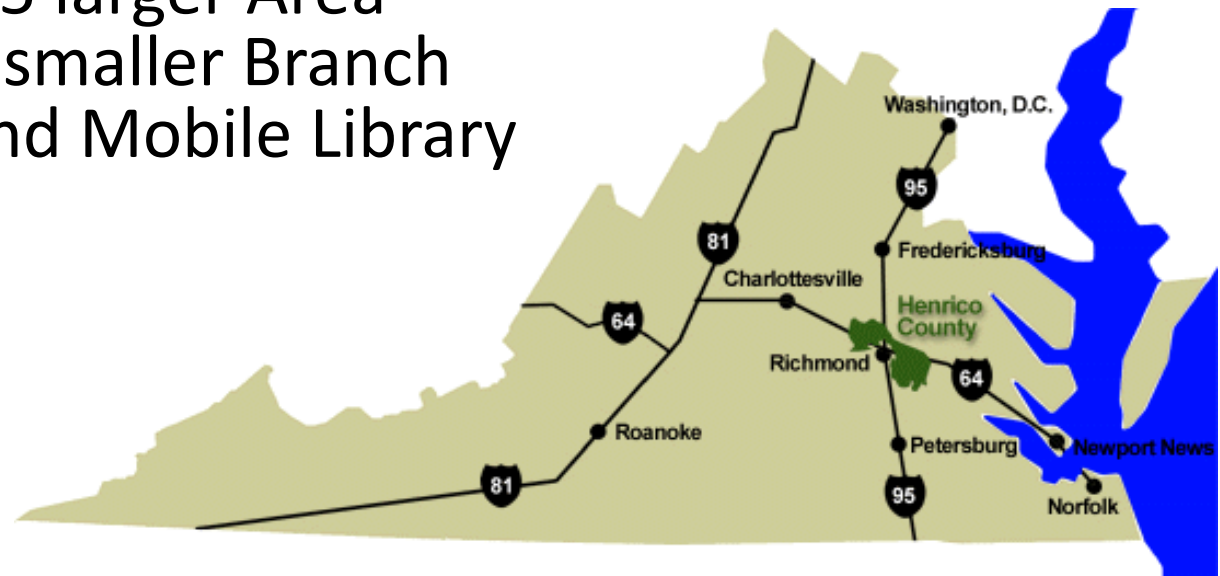
Next Chapter Book Club @Henrico County Public Library



Maggie Allbee
Adult Services Supervisor
Tuckahoe Area Library

About HCPL

- Located in the Richmond, VA metropolitan area
- Serves a population of approximately 300,000
- Consists of 5 larger Area Libraries, 4 smaller Branch Libraries, and Mobile Library Services



About Our Club

- We started planning in August 2017
- First meeting was in January 2018
- One club (Tuesday mornings)
- Books we already own



Photo by Jay Paul, used with permission

About Our Attendees



Photo by Jay Paul, used with permission

- We usually have 6 attendees at our meeting
- Attendees are all adults, ranging in age from teens to early 50s
- At least one makes a 45 minute drive to attend

Some Differences

- We meet for 8 week sessions, 4 x year
- Library staff rotates
- We have partnered with County Mental Health
- We have a lot of regulars, but a slightly different combination of attendees at each meeting
- We require advance registration (for the four we recruit)
- Staff-guided book selection

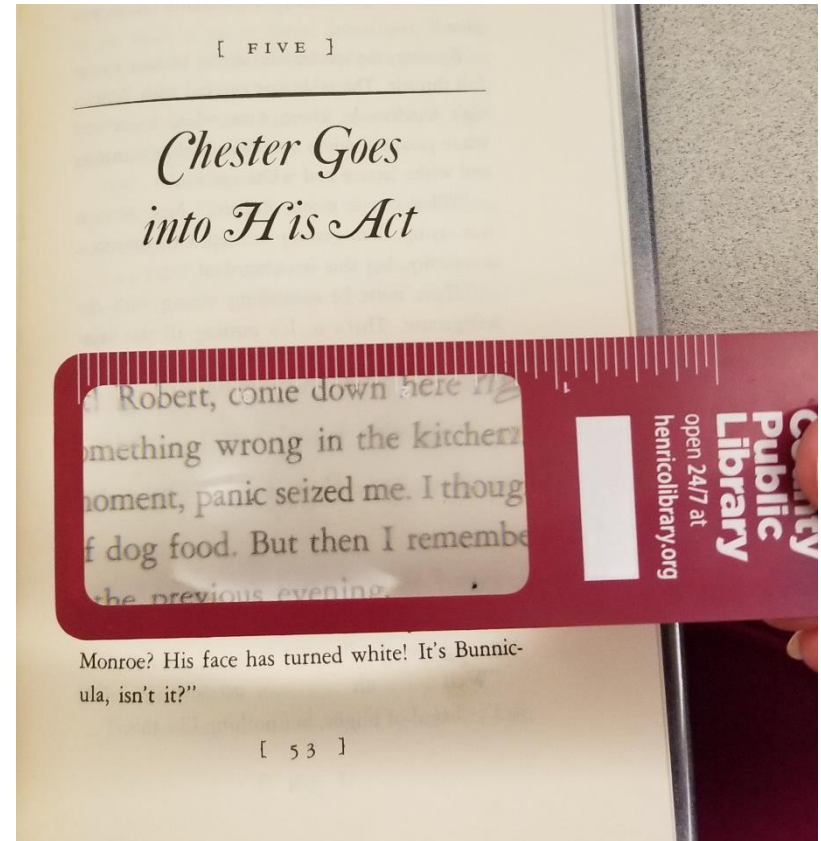
What We Have Learned: Book Selection



- Short stories & animal stories are good
- Graphic novels would probably work well
- NoveList
- Be budget conscious

What We Have Learned: Meetings

- Consider time of day
- Give nearby patrons a heads up
- “Crashers” and no-shows
- Keep the books at library
- Magnifying bookmarks and nametags
- **Very** wide range of reading abilities
- Wide range of participation
- Distractions



What We Have Learned: Promotion

- Start a waiting list, plan for a second group
- Handling disappointment
- Start promoting NCBC quietly
- Reach out directly to area organizations

Next Chapter Book Club: Interested or Waiting List						
Date	Name of Participant	Name of Guardian	Interested or on Wait List?	Preferred Date/Time/Location	Email	Phone
12/27/2017			interested	late afternoons or evenings		
12/22/2017			signed up already (wishes it were evening. May not attend every week.)	late afternoons or evenings		
6/19/2018			wait list -- wanted to attend today, but will have to wait until next session begins	N/A		

EEK! The Press!



- Be cautious – this is a vulnerable population!
- Took a LOT of permission-checking and approval-form signing.
- Assume the press will contact you.

What We Have Learned: More Tips

- Train several people to be facilitators all at once.
- You will get positive and negative feedback
- Partner with an organization familiar with this population
- Work with parents



We're Still Tinkering



- Socializing not coming naturally
- Want to meet at local restaurant
- Mental Health Department brings a different combination of people every week
- We will run out of short books
- Promote other library programs/services

The Warm Fuzzies

- Walking Club
- Some staff LOVE it
- Awesome side effect:
improved reading
abilities!



A Little Something Extra



Photo by Maggie Allbee, used with permission

More Warm Fuzzies

“It actually is a good thing for me to do, because I actually like reading. It shows people how smart I really am, because of my disability.”

--Virginia, one of our regulars
(as quoted in article)

Contact Me

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Thank You!



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