

# Oyan Review

oregon young adult network

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## We Let Our TLC Paint the Teen Room & It Was Actually Really Fun: How 3 Crook County Teens Created an Art Gallery

by Barratt Miller, Crook County Library

At the start of the year, our Teen Room was looking a little boring. We'd finally taken down the clunky wire display racks and generic posters, leaving the walls bare. My library director gave me the thumbs up to paint one of the interior walls if I could get a donation to cover the cost of the paint and painting supplies. I went to my Teen Library Commission (TLC) and asked them what they wanted to do. Choosing a paint color was easy; all three members said "TARDIS BLUE" in unison. And when I asked them if they wanted to replace the posters with art created by local teens,

their answer was a big YES! Here's how my 3-member TLC turned their idea into reality (with a little help from the rest of the library staff).

1. **Write a proposal.** Once the TLC had unanimously voted to paint the wall TARDIS blue and turn the room into an Art Gallery, we needed to write a funding request to present to the Friends of the Library. What the teens did: I asked the teens why they thought we should have an art gallery. They decided that our goals were to encourage teens in the community to make art and to promote library events. Nei-

ther the local middle school nor the local high school offer art classes, so the teen art gallery would fill a void in our community.

What we did: After the meeting, I met with the library director to work out logistics, visited the local paint store to pick up paint chips and find out how much paint we would need (and how much it would cost), and picked out picture frames on Amazon. I used the teens' suggestions to write the proposal. I added the



Crook County TLC

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## Summer Reading Round-up

by Bobbye Hernandez, Tillamook County Library

Summer is in full swing and so are summer reading activities across the state.

In Tillamook County two of our activities revolve around having costumes for our final party, which like many others this year will be a mini comic-con. We tend to end our summers with a costume party – I enjoy a good costume (my favorite holiday is Halloween) and many of our teens do to, but not all have access to a costume bin (or closet). So, this year we decided to include

working on costumes into our weekly programs, thus ensuring that at least most teens that will attend our final party at least have a cape. One week we created logos and another making capes and adding our logos.

For the logos the teens were given graph paper, pencils, and print-outs of various hero/villain logos for inspiration. Once they had drawn out their logos and felt satisfied, they were given cheap craft fabric (that material that reusable

grocery bags are made of) in their choice of blue, white, or yellow. They could then trace their designs onto the fabric or to create a stencil using cardboard and a box cutter. We had fabric markers and sharpies for added color.

The teens seemed to enjoy themselves and got creative – not one directly copied a logo. Sure, a couple took some liberties and used aspects of existing hero/villain logos, but they were all unique and some stuck with previously created



Tillamook teen hero/villain logos

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## Crook County Gallery (Continued from Page 1)

funding request to the agenda at the next Friends of the Library meeting.

### 2. Prepare for the presentation.

I told TLC I would help them, but that they would need to present the funding request to the Friends of the Library themselves. What the teens did: At our next meeting, the teens voted on our paint color. They each chose a section of the proposal and practiced reading it aloud. They also practiced their responses to questions we thought the Friends might ask. They also arrived at the library early on the day of the presentation to run through everything one more time. What we did: We pretended to be the Friends members who had questions for TLC. After the meeting, I finalized the proposal to reflect the paint selection and our discussion.

3. Present your request. The teens were nervous. Luckily, our Friends board is super nice and they support every request they can. What the teens did: The TLC members attended the Friends meeting, presented their proposal, and answered the Friends' questions. What I did: Introduced the presenters, read a section of the proposal, and helped the teens answer questions. Our Friends group was very impressed and fully funded the project. After the meeting, I cashed the check and purchased the supplies (paint and picture frames).

4. Paint the wall. Our initial plan was that the library's janitor would paint the wall. When we learned that he would not be able to complete the painting before the planned gallery opening, my

library director gave the teens permission to do the painting themselves. The teens were thrilled. I was terrified.

What the teens did: Our 3 teens (and 3 chaperones) came down to the library at 4:00 PM on a Saturday and painted the wall after the library closed. It took us one hour to give the wall two coats of paint and another 30 minutes for the chaperones to clean up.

What we did: Our janitor taped the trim in advance and purchased enough paint trays and rollers for everyone. The day before the painting, the shelvers moved all of the books from that wall into the Study Room. The morning of the painting, the janitor moved the bookcases out of the way, put down tarps, and painted around the trim. Our circulation manager closed off the room with caution tape. That night, two chaperones helped paint while a third refilled paint trays and cleaned up the inevitable drips, spills, and smudges. The following Monday, the janitor removed the tape from around the trim and reinstalled the bookshelves. The shelvers reshelfed the books and took down the caution tape.

5. Get some art. Now that we had a blue wall and some picture frames, we needed art to hang!

What the teens did: For our monthly Teen Late Night after hours event, the attendees made the art for the gallery using art supplies we provided. A couple of teens also brought their own art from home. We're only collecting art at biannual art nights. Switching out the art more

frequently was going to be a logistical headache for us. What we did: I called the art club coordinators at the local schools to let teens know about the event. The library provided pizza and art supplies. 6. Host a gallery opening. The



Friends wanted to see the completed art. I wanted to recognize TLC's hard work. So why not have a fancy-ish gallery opening?

What the teens did: TLC members ate cupcakes, drank sparkling cider, clowning around, and recommended their favorite manga series to the Friends members. (One teen showed up early and helped me hang all of the artwork.)

What we did: I sent invitations to the Friends of the Library members. I printed labels with the artist's name, age, and the title of their piece on card stock and put art in the frames. With help from one TLC member, I hung the art on the wall. I also assembled the teen events photo frame and purchased snacks for the gallery opening.

I am so proud of my TLC members—Trey, Lewis, and Myka—for making this happen. Like many librarians who work with teens, I've spent the last three years defending

their right to excellent library services when trustees and members of the public have questioned the value of the teen space and the teen programs.

When I get these questions in future, I'm going to be able to

point to the art gallery and say, "Look what our teens did. They raised the money and painted the wall and

made the art. They did all that on their own time, giving up their evenings and weekends, because they are hard-working, generous, creative human beings who love the library that much." \*mic drop\*



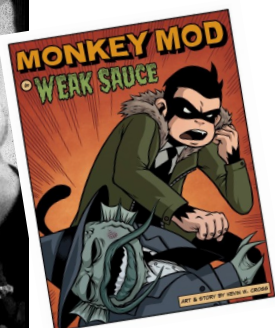


## Summer Reading Round-up (Continued from Page 1)



personas. For our kick-off party we had the teens fill out hero or villain applications and then we made I.D. cards with the information.

Tillamook county teens will also be painting luchador masks, having fun with Sunday comic madlibs, and enjoying a good old-fashioned game of heroes vs. villains capture the flag in the library stacks after hours.



In The Dalles, Wasco County teens have had a great line-up of activities. From June through August they have a chance to enter a superhero fanfiction contest. They also had the opportunity to learn self-defense basics from a veteran police officer and they have been learning how to make comics with a three part Comic creation class with Marvel artist Kevin Cross.

You'd think that was plenty of activity for teens in The Dalles, but it isn't. They also have great DIY crafts throughout the summer, which include: comic strip shoes, glow-in-the-dark T-shirts, and superhero mugs. As well as a cosplay 101 class with a local expert and a heroes vs. villains costume contest and party.



Who else is having a great time with this year's summer reading theme? Lake County teens, that's who. This year Lake County Teens are lucky to join The Literacy League (The Purple Librarian (Elizabeth Christley) , Rowdy the Reading Dog, And Treat Man (hubby Josh Christley) by crafting their own superhero costumes using craft fabric and LOTS of duct tape. In case you are wondering, duct tape boots are swelteringly hot.



All Lake County participants will receive flying lessons (an optical illusion photo shoot) and then they will be unveiling their super selves in the big Round-up Parade in Lakeview.

Heroes and villains are everywhere this summer – beware, protect yourselves and your powers as you finish up activities in your library.



## **I am Princess X by Cherle Priest**

**Reviewed by Bobbye Hernandez, Tillamook County Library**

May never truly believed that her best friend Libby had died in that car accident with her mother, but she went to her funeral and her school I.D. had been found in her pocket, what else could she believe?

So when May saw that first sticker she knew that she had been right all along. "It was vinyl, and cheap. The edge was starting to peel. The colors were a little faded. It was round with a black border. But within this border was the outline of girl with shiny blue hair. She wore a pink puff sleeved dress, a tall gold crown, and red Chucks. In her left hand, she held a purple sword shaped like a katana." It was Princess X – their Princess X – Libby was still alive, she had to be.

I am Princess X is a fast paced techno thriller set in Seattle that I couldn't put down. It is the story of two best friends, May and Libby who created a

character they called Princess X when they were just kids. With Libby drawing and May writing the stories their friendship grew and the years passed until one day Libby was dead and May's parents divorced and she moved back to Georgia with her mom. Now May only returns to Seattle during summer breaks to stay with her dad trying to avoid her old haunts with Libby until the day she sees the sticker and gets sucked into a mystery she has to solve, because it's Libby, and she has to get her back – and she's the only one who can.

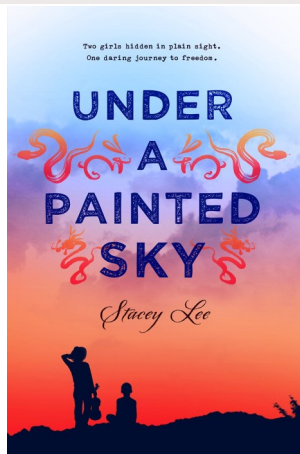
Ok, back to me and why I couldn't put it down. This was a fast paced read with well-developed characters that had flaws and were believable but were still likable. May was not super-model beautiful and she wasn't a super athlete or even a genius – there were other characters that

were, but she was smart and savvy and strong and she got things done when she had to. Then there's Trick, the-not-always-as-careful-as-he-thinks-he-is hacker kid from May's building who helps her. Trick has some character flaws, but he can still be counted on and Jackdaw is an openly gay anarchist genius; that is a character that doesn't show up in just any story. And of course there is Libby – she was the pretty one in the duo, but she's been dead for three years, and has way more important things to deal with than worrying about her looks. Oh, and most importantly there is no love triangle – need I say more.



## **Under a painted sky by Stacey Lee**

**Reviewed by Bobbye Hernandez, Tillamook County Library**



Under a painted sky is a unique story with some predictability. It's unique – it is a historical western featuring racially diverse character's that at its core is about friendship, it's also predictable – it's a romance.

Samantha has just lost her father and her home and is now caught up in a tragic incident and needs to flee as the law does not look kindly upon

Chinese girls in 1849 Missouri. An-nam-ae is a slave on the brink of running away; together they just might stand a fighting chance.

Quickly the pair concludes that they might be better off passing as boys and soon they are Sammy and Andy, two boys headed along the Oregon Trail towards California and the gold fields. The boys don't get far before attracting the attention of three cowboys, a pair of Anglo cousins and a Mexican, from Texas also heading west who eventually take the lads under their protection, teaching them how to be cowboys.

This quintet is soon a mismatched family forming bonds and habits as well as romantic tensions. The story moves along at a gallop with stops along the trail to wrangle fillies, get caught in a stampede, and even to participate in a fiddle vs. banjo show-down.

Even though there is that uncomfortable romantic tension it's at least interesting, as neither the reader nor Sammy know whether the tension is because she's a "boy" or because she's Chinese (or both). This story is however much more about friendship than romantic love and also about being comfortable with who you are rather than wishing you were someone or something else.

**Both of these books revolve around to female friends who will risk their lives for each other, they also both have diverse characters.**



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome all your comments, articles, photos, book reviews, ideas, and suggestions for future OYAN Review newsletters!  
Please submit to  
[oyanpublications@gmail.com](mailto:oyanpublications@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Meetings

Summer 2015	July 24 11 am–3 pm	Driftwood Public Library
Fall 2015	TBD	TBD
Winter 2016	TBD	TBD

OYAN [Oregon Young Adult Network] exists to provide a network for communication and growth among people who provide library services to teens, to increase awareness of teen library services in the state of Oregon, and to promote cooperation between school and public libraries.

Visit us online at <http://tinyurl.com/8mzjq5n>.