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Oyan Review

oregon young adult network

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2016 Mock Printz Workshop open for registration!

by Susan Smallsreed, Multnomah County Library

There's still time to register yourself and teen readers for the 2016 Mock Printz. Read as many of the contenders as you can and then join in discussion and selection of an Oregon winner. Here are the details:

Cost: FREE
Date: Jan. 9
Time: 12:30-5:00 PM
Location: US Bank Room, Central Library, MCL

801 SW 10th Ave.,
Portland OR, 97205

To Register: email su-sanssm@multcolib.org with names, library and email addresses of all participants.

Challenger Deep by Neal Shusterman
The Tighrope Walkers by David Almond
Cuckoo Song by Francis Hardinge
Walls Around Us by

Nova Ren Suma
Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War by Steve Scheinkin
I Crawl Through It by A.S. King
Bone Gap by Laura Ruby
The Rest of Us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness
X: A Novel by



Mock Printz in action

Ilyasah Shabazz

See you in January!

White Lotus Con: a movement in the making?

by Violeta Garza, Multnomah County Library

According to Derek Sivers' TED Talk "How to Start a Movement," it's the first follower who plays a crucial role in establishing a trend. In the case of the creation of White Lotus Con -- Multnomah County Library's first ever anime con-- I was the first adult follower and all I had to do (at first, anyway) was say

"Yes."

Rewind to January of 2015. At that time, I had borrowed filming equipment from Gresham's MetroEast Community Media for a variety of projects, including a very rambling interview video with our Japanese Club, White Lotus. Here's what made the video special:

on screen, Brenna the boom mic girl blurted out that we should do an anime con on August 21st. She said it confidently, without even checking a calendar, like it was the best idea ever and that everyone should be on board.

Fast forward to now.

Continued on page 2



White Lotus Con (Continued from Page 1)

Seven months of planning brought us White Lotus Con, an event that is long over but continues to be a conversation piece. The cosplay contest brought out the creativity in everyone, the foam horns craft in the meeting room was inspiring and well-attended, and the game stations in the parking lot were a nice escape. Staff and volunteers kept saying it was better than they thought it would be.

Yet for every moment of community-building success that White Lotus Con left us, there was a moment of difficulty. The turnout-- about 120 people-- was phenomenal, but we lost several mem-



bers of White Lotus to heartbreak and drama during the seven-month planning process. The pictures look so good, but they don't show how some members of the group flip-flopped back and forth over weeks about whether or not they would show up to help. The cosplay costumes were at times jaw-dropping, but they don't show how often I had to

fake confidence in the group when I sometimes had none.

If I learned anything from White Lotus Con, it's that seven months is too long to keep teens engaged in planning a single event but the interest in anime-related programs in libraries is palpable. I will never forget how Mason and Harley, two experienced

cosplayers who hosted a Q&A, namedropped several anime and the crowd squealed in delight. I felt like I was at San Diego Comic Con or something. One family from Silverton drove an hour and a half each way for White Lotus Con. When I asked the mom if she liked the event, she said, "Oh yeah. We would have paid for a program like this."

Those fragile-but resilient White Lotus movers and shakers started a movement at the library. I have no idea if the remaining members of this Japanese Club will have the stamina to put on another anime con after all the sweat and tears from this one, but our Teen Advisory Board has mentioned wanting to take it over...

Shadowshaper by Daniel José Older

Reviewed by Bobbye Hernandez, Tillamook County Library

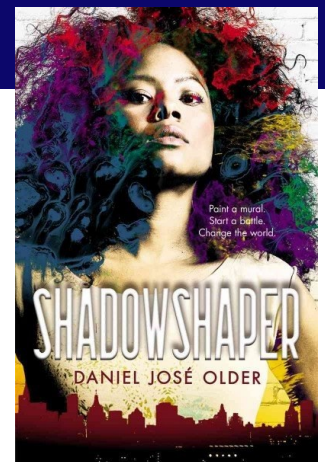
I was excited to read *Shadowshaper* because I was eager to read a young adult novel with a heroine of color and what appeared to be an interesting take on urban fantasy and I am happy to report that my expectations were thoroughly met. *Shadowshaper* is set in Brooklyn and Sierra Santiago is our plucky heroine. The story takes off at the beginning of summer, with Sierra being tasked with painting a mural on the Tower, "a five-story concrete monstrosity on a block otherwise full of

brownstones." Sierra is a little unsure about taking on such a large project because she's never done a mural before, but she really feels the weight of it when her grandfather who barely speaks and rarely says anything coherent since his stroke the previous year tells her she needs to finish the mural quickly because they are coming for them, for the shadowshapers and as if that wasn't weird enough he tells her to get Robbie to help her. Robbie is a boy from her school – how does her grandpa know

Robbie?!

With that mysterious request from her otherwise incoherent grandfather Sierra begins her mission to figure out what and who are the shadowshapers and what or who are coming to get them. She finds Robbie and enlists her friends and together they get to the bottom of things.

Obviously I don't want to give anything away, so I will just state that Sierra's is a fresh voice. She's artistic, confident, and Puerto Rican and Daniel



José Older does a great job of talking about race and introducing diverse characters without being heavy handed – Robbie is Haitian and two of Sierra's other friends are a biracial lesbian couple.

Mock Printz "Also Ran" Books

By Susan Smallsreed, Multnomah County Library



Every year, the OYAN Mock Printz committee reads reviews, ARCs and lots of books to create a short list of contenders for the Mock Printz workshop. This year was especially difficult because there were many well written books to consider.



But a short-list we needed, so short-list we did, knowing we were leaving out some great titles. After you've finished reading the nine 2016 OYAN titles, check out a few more of my personal favorites.

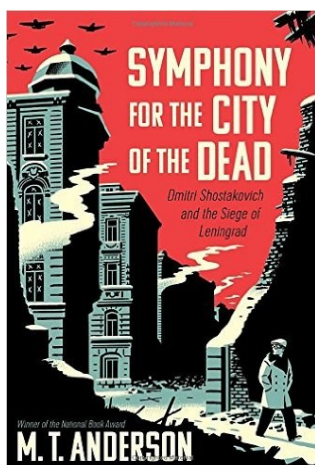
Symphony for the City of the Dead by MT Anderson
Sept. 2015

A beautifully written, complex and detailed biography of Dmitri

Shostakovich, a 20th Century Russian composer who came of age during the Russian revolution, survived Stalin's purges and saved a city under siege by Hitler's army.

The Alex Crow by Andrew Smith
January 2015

Another bizarre take on friendship and family by the writer of *Grasshopper Jungle*. Smith weaves together de-extinction genetics, doomed Arctic explorers, refugees, psychosis and company politics in this story of bonding between an adopted brother and his sibling.



The Great War: Stories Inspired by Items from the First World War Compiled by David Almond
April 2015

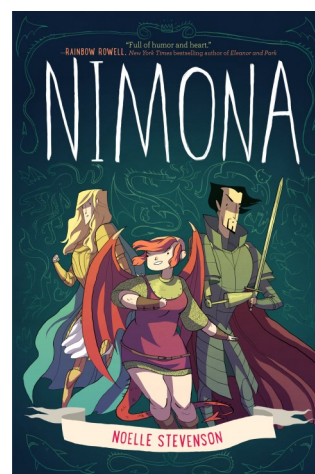
Almond gathered some of the best European young adult writers, gave them each a WWI artifact and asked them to write a story about it. Powerful, poignant stories by the likes of David Almond, Marcus Sedgwick, Timothy De Fombelle, Michael Morpurgo, and more.

Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson
March 2015

This set-in-Portland graphic novel about a young roller girl is aimed at the middle school crowd, when friendships are made or broken as young identities are explored. One friend loves roller derby, the other ballet. Is there any middle ground?

Nimona by Noelle Stevenson
May 2015

Set in the middle ages, Nimona, an impulsive young shapeshifter, talks her way into an apprenticeship with the villain, Lord Ballister



Blackheart. Much turmoil abounds as Nimona and Ballister fight to prove that our hero Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin may not be as golden as we think. Sly wit and fun drawings explore goodness and evil in this graphic novel. Unfortunately, sections were previously published, disqualifying it for the Printz Award.

Enjoy!

LEGO Mindstorms

By Ian Duncanson, Beaverton City Library

Without a background in science, STEM programming for teens can seem daunting. Last summer, the Beaverton City Library hosted a two-day LEGO Mindstorms robotics workshop with the local competitive high school robotics group Batteries in Black (<http://www.batteriesinblack.org/home.html>). I went in without knowing anything about LEGO Mindstorms programming; after contacting several local teams, B.I.B. were the ones who proved to be the most responsive and eager. They were also willing to bring their own bins of LEGOs and some laptops to do the programming on.

I frontloaded the program at the beginning of the summer, when we have the most interest, and limited it to 25 sign-ups to ensure that we had enough laptops and supplies. The attendees were separated into about 4 teams of 5-7, given the basics of using the Mindstorms software along with a bin of LEGOs, and set on their mission to construct a

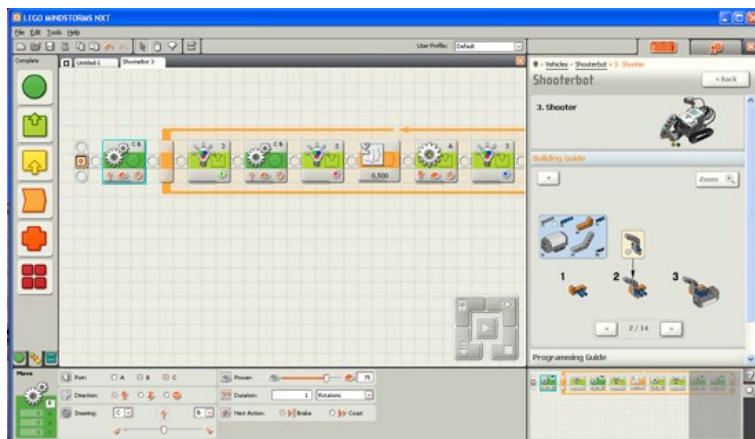
workable robot that would be able to complete basic tasks on the second day of the workshop. The Batteries in Black team members were available during the construction to answer questions and give programming pointers, but they largely left the design up to the individuals on each team.

The freer approach to design was both good and bad. On one hand, it allowed for more creativity and free thinking on the teams. On the other, there were a few teens attending who didn't seem to catch the 'robotics bug,' and instead went their own route building bizarre structures out of the LEGOs. While creative and constructive in its own right, these designs didn't contribute to the 'robotics' focus of the workshops. Still, the ones who built and programmed robots and worked together to solve

problems and have the robots perform did very well. It was fun seeing the teams take part in good-natured arguments pertaining to the designs and programming of their robots.

The second day was devoted to having the robots designed on day one complete challenges – picking up hoops, moving a ball from one area into a goal and navigating simple obstacles. Batteries in Black broke out their robotics obstacles mat resembling a table soccer surface and easy obstacles to set up for the robots. I filmed each of the robot challenges with my smartphone and shared one of my favorites on the library's Facebook page the next day.

If I repeat this program, I will most likely limit it to one three-hour workshop as opposed to



two, with the first half devoted to building and the second half devoted to programming and tasks. Two three-hour sessions was a bit too long, but did allow for more teamwork time and random creativity. Another thing to watch out for is the amount of batteries the robots take. The battery boxes are quite draining once the robots are up and running, with a fresh set of 4 AAs being exhausted in about 30 minutes of time. The robots require a lot of trial and error before the actual competition and the batteries will quickly run out. Make sure you have a battery recharger and extra charged sets on hand for teams to use while you charge. The library supplied some of our own AA batteries from our Wii remotes along with a battery charger we also purchased for gaming tournaments. The LEGO Mindstorms software is a free download - <http://www.lego.com/en-us/mindstorms/downloads>. There are extensive videos and projects on the Web site to get you started, and the programming has a very low learning curve – no computer programming classes are necessary! Check to see if your community has a local robotics team that competes at state, regional or even national levels – often, they are passionate and eager to share expertise with beginners!





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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OYAN Scholarships are available! Visit the OYAN webpage at www.olaweb.org/oyan and click the link called OYAN Scholarship Application to get started. OYAN awards scholarships to OYAN members participating in conferences relating to library services to young adults.

YALSA Symposium is coming to Oregon. YALSA will be held at the Portland Hilton Nov. 6—8, 2015. *(Some of your colleagues received OYAN Scholarships to attend)*

We welcome all your comments, articles, photos, book reviews, ideas, and suggestions for future OYAN Review newsletters!

Please submit to
oyanpublications@gmail.com.

Upcoming Meetings

Fall 2015	Oct. 23, 2015 10am—12 pm Workshop 1 pm—4 pm Meeting	Hillsboro Public Library
Winter 2016	Jan. 22, 2016 Ian Duncanson	Salem Public Library
Spring 2016	May 6, 2016	Cottage Grove Public Library

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.