

**ROANOKE RAPIDS TEEN BOOK CLUB: A COLLABORATION BETWEEN
ROANOKE RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ROANOKE RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL**

**PRESENTED BY JEFF WATSON, HEAD LIBRARIAN OF ROANOKE RAPIDS
PUBLIC LIBRARY ON DECEMBER 6, 2012**

- I. Origin of Book Club
 - A. Started in 2007
 - B. Meeting with Youth Service Librarian and High School Media Coordinator
 - C. Planned a format for the Club
 - D. Set date for First meeting
 - E. Started with 8 students in August 2007

- II. Location of Club Meetings
 - A. Meets weekly while school is in session in the Media Center @ Roanoke Rapids High School @ 8 am before first classes start
 - B. Meets monthly generally on third Thursday of month @ 6 pm while school is in session in the conference room of RRPL
 - C. Does not meet during summer months

- III. Format of Meeting
 - A. Election of Officers during first month of school year
 - B. Students vote on YALSA Top Ten Books
 - C. Students select their own book and choose to give a verbal book review. No one has to share if they do not wish.
 - D. Everyone does not read the same book although a good review often encourages the teens to circulate a title among themselves.
 - E. During January when Award Books are announced, I give a program similar to the Academy Awards where I share the winners and honorable mentions and the group discusses the titles. This is the only program I do all year.
 - F. During public library meetings, I provide pizza and beverages. This meeting is 45 minutes long which allows for socialization as well as book talks

- IV. Benefits for the Public Library
 - A. Circulation for YA books increased nearly 30% the first year and stayed at the 20% increase level for the next three years
 - B. More teens were coming to the public library to check out books on their own and became aware of our services
 - C. Greater opportunities for the Head Librarian to speak or read stories at local schools
 - D. Obtained a motivated staff member

- V. How to Do it?
 - A. A school media coordinator and/or principal with a youth services librarian and/or library director willing to cooperate
 - B. A commitment to meet at both locations
 - C. Involve the teens and incorporate their ideas
 - D. Let the teens choose what they want to read and build off of it instead of having everyone read the same book (Personal Choice)
 - E. Provide food and refreshment occasionally
 - F. With this model, any public library that has a desire to do it can, even small libraries.