

# The **READ** Saskatoon **READer**

September 2007



## **PGI – Golf Tournaments for Literacy**

Last summer READ Saskatoon was invited to host the *PGI – Golf Tournaments for Literacy* in Saskatoon. The PGI is a national fundraising initiative that supports literacy.

In 1986, Peter Gzowski, a well known radio personality with CBC Radio hosted the first PGI to have some fun, raise the profile



and hopefully some dollars to support adult literacy programs. Since then PGI's have raised over ten million dollars for literacy and have grown to include a PGI in every province and territory.

Our Board was very thorough as they considered the impact this might have on our agency and the staff. This is a significant undertaking for an agency our size, but we decided to meet the challenge.

The PGI will take place **Friday, September 21, 2007** at The Willow's Golf and Country Club. We have been very fortunate to have an incredible planning team come together with lots of energy and new ideas to make

the event a day to remember. Special thanks to Carm Michalenko and Mavis McPhee for undertaking the key responsibilities for this event.



### **What is the PGI?**

- It is more than just about golfing, it is a literacy event founded by Peter Gzowski in 1986;
- There is a national link. There are 15 PGI's across the nation every year;
- The PGI is generally quite informal, with music, a literacy quiz, the Learner award, the Gzowski award and a Poet Laureate that closes the day;
- The PGI's have raised over 10 million

Shelagh Rogers, host of CBC's *Sounds like Canada* will be a guest of this year's PGI. She has been a literacy volunteer for more than two decades, continuing to make real Peter's dream of ensuring everyone in this richly blessed country has the right to literacy.

### **READ Saskatoon Office**

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Office Hours:  
Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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dollars for literacy. All the money raised by the Saskatoon PGI will be used to support programming delivered by READ Saskatoon;

- Fun is an important part of the day!

Each tournament features a Poet Laureate who writes a poem about the day and shares it with the golfers at the banquet. The Saskatoon PGI

Poet Laureate will feature Jonathan Torrens aka JROC from *The Trailer Park Boys* who will be joined by CBC Host Shelagh Rogers.



Jonathan Torrens will join us for our first PGI. Torrens' past work includes co-hosting CBC's teen-oriented consumer affairs series *Street Cents* from 1989 until 1996. He then went on to host, co-produce and write for his own teen-oriented talk show on CBC, *Jonovision*, from 1996 until 2001. Since 2001, Torrens has had a recurring role as J-Roc on the television series *Trailer Park Boys*. He also appeared in the *Trailer Park Boys* movie.

## What we know about literacy in Saskatoon...

In spring of this year, Norsask Consumer Interviewing Services offered their services to READ Saskatoon. They conducted 402 surveys of Saskatoon residents to uncover their perceptions of adult and family literacy and READ Saskatoon. The completed surveys provide a margin of error of  $\pm 4.7\%$  at 95% confidence interval.



Image from: [www.becquet.com](http://www.becquet.com)

Here is a summary of our community's perceptions:

- There is a perception that Canadians generally struggle with literacy. 47% percent felt that up to one quarter of adult Canadians struggle with literacy.
- Half of respondents between the ages of 18-24 indicated they would like to improve their literacy and 43% amongst those between the ages of 30-44.
- Forty percent of those making under \$40,000 annually expressed a desire to improve their literacy.
- Finally 58% of respondents had heard of READ Saskatoon. This awareness is higher amongst females at 66% when compared to males at 49%.
- Forty percent of those making under \$40,000 annually expressed a desire to improve their literacy. This correlates with another perception held by Saskatoon respondents that job quality and quality of life improves with literacy abilities.

A special KUDOS! to the huge number of tutors and learners who continued to work through the summer.

**If you took a break it is time to begin meeting with your tutor again. If they haven't called you already, please call the office and talk to Mavis.** We wish everyone the best for this year.



# Fun with Words

# Fast Figo at the Films

July 31, 2007

Read each word clue and think of an "AY" word that matches the clue. Write the missing letters in the blanks.

- \_ ay            similar to a gulf, except smaller
- \_ \_ ay        material used to make bowls
- \_ ay            the opposite of night
- \_ ay            food for a horse
- \_ \_ ay        to engage in sport of lively recreation
- \_ ay            to speak
- \_ \_ ay        a colour
- \_ ay            the name of one month
- \_ ay            to be happy
- \_ \_ ay        to kill
- \_ ay            a route, path or direction
- \_ \_ ay        a loud, harsh, grating sound
- \_ ay            a type of bird
- \_ \_ \_ ay       water falling in small drops
- \_ \_ ay        to stand still
- \_ \_ ay        to move back and forth

This year we will run a movie column by our friend Fast Figo. Our hope is that you challenge Figo's opinions. Do you agree or disagree with what he writes? Share this column with your tutor and write back with your opinions.



## **Best Movies of 2007**

Breach – About the greatest security breach in American history. Outstanding performance by Chris Cooper.

Transformers – Great fun. Even has a love story. Fun for all ages, young and old.

Zodiac – Surprisingly terrific film about the Zodiac serial killer. No gore, told instead from the botched and inept police perspective. Outstanding performances by two of my favourite actors – Robert Downey Jr. & Jake Gyllenhaal.

The Lives of Others – Foreign Language film (German with English subtitles). Winner of 2006 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Great history lesson about the suppression of dissent.

The Bourne Ultimatum – Awesome thriller. Even better than the two previous Bourne movies. This one needs to be seen on the big screen.

300 – Dynamic story about the Battle of Thermopylae in ancient Greece.

# Things to do with Catalogues

1. How is the catalogue organized?
2. How do you order from the catalogue? What information must you include?
3. Take two catalogues from different companies. Look up some items. Are the prices the same or different? Why?
4. Given pictures of various items, write short descriptions that would make people want to buy the items.

Unprecedented graphics. Super history lesson. Impressive love story. Not for the faint of heart. The best film of 2007 so far.

### **Recommended to Rent or Buy**

#### Letters From Iwo

Jima – My favourite film of 2006. Clint Eastwood’s brilliant portrayal of the Battle of Iwo Jima, from the Japanese perspective. Shows war like it really was. This is the way that history should be taught.



Pan’s Labyrinth – Recommended for all ages. I enjoyed this better than any of the Harry Potter or Lord of The Rings movies. Breathtaking in its cinematography. Terrific story. One of my favourite movies of 2006.

#### Jarhead –

Stunningly brilliant story of the Gulf War from a sniper’s perspective. Based on a true story, Jarhead contains none of the



standard Hollywood movie clichés. It tells it like it was. Surprisingly effective. Jake Gyllenhaal at his finest.

Babel – Outstanding film about the intertwined lives on a global basis. Terrific performances by Cate Blanchett and Brad Pitt. Astonishing performance by Rinko Kikuchi.

The March of the Penguins – Must see for all ages. Best documentary of 2005.

September 2007

## **Interested in a challenge? Want to give us some guidance?**

READ Saskatoon is looking for tutors and learners to help our adult program coordinator fine-tune our tutoring program.

They will act as a support and recommendation committee that will work with the adult program. The committee will also report to the board at least twice yearly with a written report.

The responsibility of the committee:

- provide program suggestions to the adult program coordinator
- assist the program coordinator with suggestions for activities presently in place
- develop new program plans that support both learners and tutors
- review the tutor to tutor mentoring program
- review program activities presently in place
- meet four times a year and report to the Board twice a year

Most importantly, you get to have fun, eat lots and take your tutoring sessions to a new level.

This edition of the READER is in memory of D. Shirley McAulay, a much beloved Saskatoon teacher.



# What's happening at READ Saskatoon this year?

## One-to-One Literacy Tutoring Program

READ

Saskatoon's one-to-one literacy tutoring program is open to adults



(over 18 and out of high school) who wish to improve their literacy skills.

Volunteer literacy tutors meet with adult learners once a week at branches of the Saskatoon Public Library or at the READ Saskatoon office.

People interested in receiving free literacy tutoring or becoming a volunteer literacy tutor **call Mavis at 652-5448.**

## Family Literacy

Family literacy is about helping parents understand the value of reading and writing in their children's lives as well as their own. This is especially true today, because literacy weaves through all aspects of family and community life –health, employment, education, social welfare and justice. Literacy is the foundation for all other learning. If your agency, school or business would like to run a family literacy program or you would like a presentation about family literacy please call Desiree at 652-5448.

## Families Together

*Families Together* was a huge success last year and READ Saskatoon has decided to continue it as a regular responsibility under our family literacy initiative. *Families Together* brings

families from Saskatoon together on a weekly basis to enjoy reading, writing, cooking, playing, crafting, sewing, singing, and any other family literacy based activities. Keep posted for start date, times and location or contact Anita Fengstad at 652-5448 for more information.

## Project Ready: shaping my potential

We hope to have our full-time adult classroom up and running in December.



For 19 weeks participants will identify, enhance and further develop their life, employability, parenting and literacy skills through portfolio development and story sack (family literacy module) delivery.

If you would be interested in improving your literacy, parenting and employability skills, or know someone who would like to participate, please **call Sheryl at 652-5448.**

## Counting the Ripples

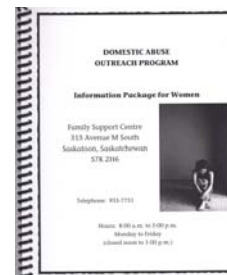
Funding provided by The Saskatoon Community Foundation and The United Way will help us undertake an agency evaluation. Starting in September we will begin measuring the impact of 30 years of literacy service delivery on our community.

## Plain Language to Ease the Pain

In collaboration with the Department of Community Resource's Domestic Abuse

and Outreach Program, READ Saskatoon received funding to develop a plain language information package for victims of domestic violence.

READ Saskatoon and the Family Support Centre want to ensure that all victims of violence have access to information, both to better understand the dynamics of violence in their partner relationships and to gain knowledge of community resources available in crisis situations.




Copies are available free from the office and the information booklet is posted to our website for free download. Be sure to check it out at: <http://www.nald.ca/readsask/pubs/domabuse/domabuse.pdf>

## Math and how to simplify

Perhaps you think that fractions can **never** be simple, but they can often be written more simply. Just look at these fractions and decide which one is the simplest.

$$\frac{1}{2} \qquad \frac{4}{8} \qquad \frac{5}{10} \qquad \frac{6}{12} \qquad \frac{9}{18}$$

You probably chose  $\frac{1}{2}$  which represents a half. All these other fractions can be simplified and they are the same as 

The way to simplify fractions is to make the top and bottom numbers smaller. You can only do this by finding a number that divides into them. Any other method would change the value of the fraction. The important thing is that you must find a number that divides into **both** the top and bottom numbers at the same time. This is sometimes called **cancelling down**. This is the case with the fractions above. You can divide the top and bottom of each one by the number that

happens to be on the top. Let's check how this works with  $\frac{4}{8}$ . We can divide both numbers by 4.

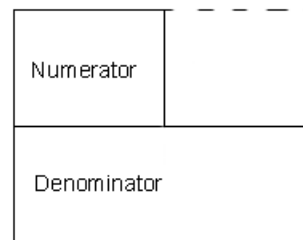
For the top number:  
 $4 \div 4 = 1$

For the bottom number:  
 $8 \div 4 = 2$

So  $\frac{4}{8} = 1$  over  $2$ , which is the same as  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Now try simplifying the other fractions in the same way:  $\frac{5}{10}$

$$\frac{6}{12} \qquad \frac{9}{18}$$



**Hint:** The numerators (top numbers) 5, 6 and 9 are the biggest numbers that will go into both the numerator and the denominator (bottom number) exactly.

$5 \div 5 = 1$       and       $10 \div 5 = 2$       so       $\frac{5}{10}$  is the same as  $\frac{1}{2}$

$6 \div 6 = 1$       and       $12 \div 6 = 2$       so       $\frac{6}{12}$  is the same as  $\frac{1}{2}$

$9 \div 9 = 1$       and       $18 \div 9 = 2$       so       $\frac{9}{18}$  is the same as  $\frac{1}{2}$

Now you know that **all** the fractions on this page can be simplified to  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

# *Radius Life Lessons*

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## **Are you...**

- 18 years of age and older
- Wanting to improve your reading, writing and math
- Interested in developing a lifelong learning and career plan
- Wanting to be part of team that makes learning fun

**Radius Life Lessons** is a full time program aimed at helping adults with their literacy skills. The course is 21 weeks and begins on Oct. 1, 2007 – Feb. 22, 2008 and includes “real life” activities with community, work and family. Participants will create a portfolio to enhance their lifelong learning and career plan.

**\*Life Lessons participants are eligible for the Provincial Training Allowance**



**Check us out!**

**Intake begins  
in September.**

**Call now for  
appointment**

**665-0362**

Life Lessons is funded by :



Human Resources and  
Social Development Canada

Resources humaines et  
Développement social Canada



Founded by Peter Gzowski | A Division of ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation in support of READ Saskatoon

*In the spirit and tradition of the PGIs' founder, Peter Gzowski, golf tournaments are held across Canada to raise funds, to teach people to read and write and to inspire Canadians to celebrate literacy.*

## CELEBRATE LITERACY: A Celebrity Auction Fundraiser

Thursday, September 20th Willows, 6:30 pm

Tickets: \$20 (Free ticket for registered golfers)

A fun event that will have you bidding on celebrity packages from a concert in your home to learning how to play poker and many more!

\*Literacy awareness \* Silent auction \* Appetizers \* Cash bar\*

## PGI GOLF: JOIN US FOR A DAY OF GOLF WITH OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Jonathan Torrens "JROC" from Trailer Park Boys & Shelagh Rogers from CBC

Friday, September 21st 10am Shotgun Start

(includes cart, breakfast, lunch, supper and ticket to reception at Celebrity Auction)

At the Willows Golf Course

Information, Golf Registration & Sponsorship at:

[www.READSaskatoon.com](http://www.READSaskatoon.com)

**Thank you to all our sponsors:**

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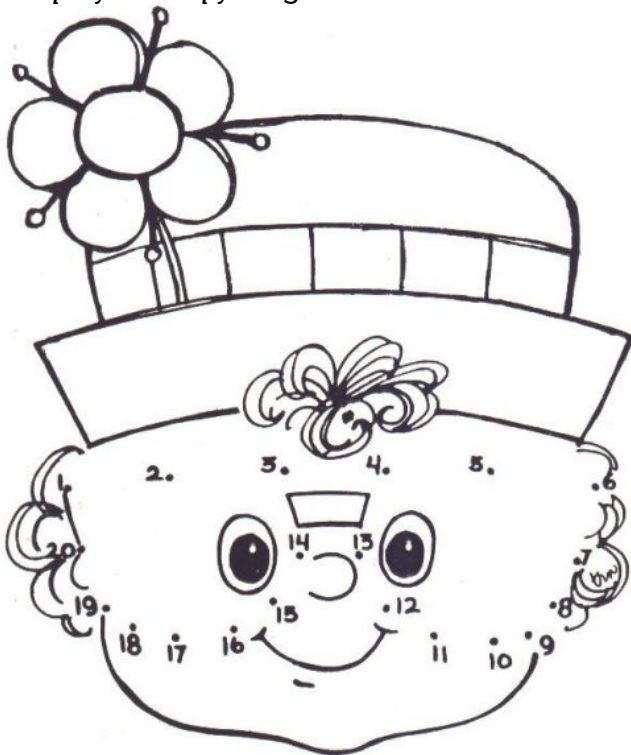
And our national sponsors: CBC RADIO, Canada Post, Great West Life, Canada Life, London Life, The Cooperators

# READer Family Fun Page

September is an exciting time. Take advantage of this month to learn more about your child, and for them to learn more about themselves. Have fun playing these games, reading the recommended books and learning from each other!

**Copycat:** Children love to copy each other and you! Have fun with them playing this game. You can copy the child jumping, clapping, tapping his/her head...whatever the child decides to do.

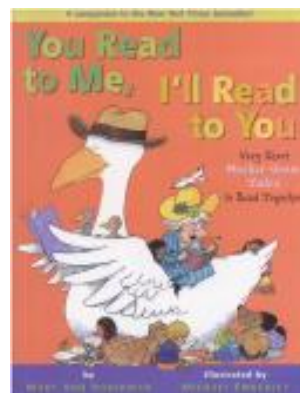
*Let's play copycat just for fun! We'll copy \_\_\_\_\_ 'cause s/he's the one! Whatever s/he does we'll all do the same, Let's all play the copycat game!*



"Follow the Dots" and see what appears! A new style?



By Richard Edwards This story of Copycub and his mother tells how Copycub learns everything by copying his mother - splashing through swamps, wandering in search of food, berry-picking and finding honey. Finally, Copycub's ability to copy his mother saves the little cub's life. ISBN 0711214204



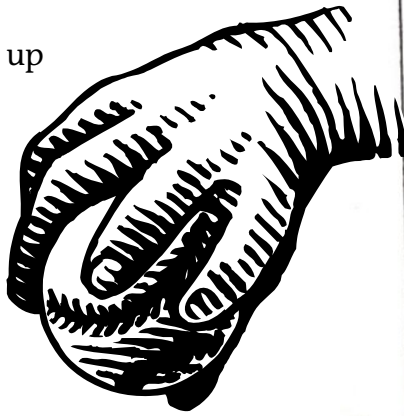
By Mary Ann Hoberman Designed with budding readers in mind, each of these tales starring familiar nursery rhyme characters is set in three columns with color-coded type as a script for two voices to read separately and together. ISBN 0316144312

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<http://www.electricscotland.com/kids/images/scan0063-1.jpg>  
[http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/allaboutme\\_activities.html](http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/september/allaboutme_activities.html)  
<http://hometown.aol.com/il2teach/meandschool.htm>  
<http://books.google.ca/books?id=atNraRwagAAC&dq=books+about+me>  
<http://books.google.ca/books?id=sVdqSfajz0EC&dq=books+about+me&psp=1>  
<http://www.alphabet-soup.net/me/me.html>

## Ten Little Fingers

I have ten little fingers (hold up both hands)  
 And they all belong to ME (point to self)  
 I can make them do things  
 Would you like to see? (point to child)  
 I can shut them up tight (make a fist)  
 I can open them up wide (open fingers)  
 I can clap them together and make them hide (clap, then hide)  
 I can jump them up high, I can jump them down low (over head and down)  
 And fold them together and hold them just so (fold in lap)



a n o p g l a s s e s n  
 z t p a s b u t i x c f  
 d f t u h i k l m a o p  
 q r i s t o b s m u l  
 p l c b e v e f p r s  
 u v a i x c i o e f h  
 p o l r s a v s i x m  
 i d e i f q u a i h n  
 l a y s m n d x p o r  
 a n i t e r z y a b n

This is a special eye chart. It has hidden words. Can you find the words... glasses, optical, exam, case, vision, iris, retina.



### Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?

Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ stole the cookie from the cookie jar  
 child says - Who me  
 everyone yells - YES YOU!!!!  
 child says - Couldn't be!  
 everyone says - Then who???

That child chooses another person and you re-say the chant over for that child. The game continues until everyone has had at least one turn. In addition to simply chanting, you can have the children slap their legs and clap to the beat while chanting.

