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Libraries Celebrate Teen Read Week™; Suggest “Read for the fun of it!”

(Nottoway County, Virginia – October 6, 2016)

The Nottoway County Public Library System (NCPLS) is celebrating Teen Read Week (October 9-15, 2016) to encourage area teens to read for their enjoyment. The Crewe, Burkeville, and Blackstone locations are pleased to include themselves among the thousands of libraries, schools and bookstores across the country urging teens to do as suggested by this year’s theme, “**Read for the fun of it!**”

Teen Read Week is a time to celebrate reading for fun while encouraging teens to take advantage of reading in all its forms —books, magazines, e-books, audiobooks and more! It is also a great opportunity to encourage teens to become regular library users, providing a chance for teens and their families to learn about all the free services and resources the library offers.

Strong reading skills are critical because they translate into better performance at school and better preparedness for careers. Jackie Zataweski, Nottoway County Public Library Director, states that this is why it is important to take advantage of Teen Read Week and show teens that reading is a fun and relaxing activity they can do for free, and moreover, it is one that family members can share.

Zataweski reminds, “Just because certain books are labeled as having been written for a young adult audience doesn’t mean that they can’t be enjoyed by a wide range of ages.” She notes that when books such as *The Fault in Our Stars* are made into movies, teens and adults alike are often prompted to come to the library to borrow the novels and that these books can serve to start a conversation between adults and teens about issues that might otherwise be difficult to broach.

Teen Read Week is a national adolescent literacy initiative created by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association. It is held annually in October, the same week as Columbus Day. For more information, visit www.ala.org/teenread.

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