

NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Reports for 2008/2009

**Nancy Minkel
Spotlight On Books
April 3-4, 2009**

This was my second year to attend Spotlight. Hearing the authors speak about the writing process gives me even more appreciation of the books I read and order for my shelves. John Coy's workshop reminded me about the relationship between reading and success in school and jobs. And as a female I am afraid that I am sometimes guilty of choosing books more geared towards girls. I have to make more of a conscience effort to seek out books that I think will interest teen boys. The display about books for boys gave me several ideas for new books. The fact that boys are sometimes more interested in non-fiction was new to me. Much of the new non-fiction I have added has been biographies and sports books, so I was glad to hear that those seem to be of interest to a lot of boys. I have a rather large group of teens who participate in my summer reading program, but most are girls. Using some of what I learned during the workshop, I hope to try some ideas to get more teen girls interested in participating this summer.

The Reader's Theater on Friday night was enjoyable and is something I would like to try during our Summer Reading Program. I can envision getting some Middle School and High School students together to do this for the younger kids or for a family gathering at some point this summer. And what a great way to introduce some new books or new authors to our patrons!

The time spent visiting with other librarians from across the state was also valuable as I am always looking for new ideas to try.

Nancy Minkel
Young Adult Librarian
Park Rapids Area Library
Park Rapids, MN 56470