

October 2011

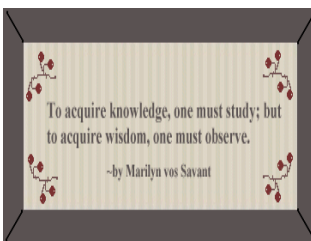
Service Is
Our Business



When black cats
prowl and pumpkins
gleam, May luck be
yours on Halloween.

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FHS LIBRARY E - NEWS

LITERATURE—INFORMATION—TECHNOLOGY—EDUCATION

October Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Foster: 2,3	4 Kirsch: 6	5 Foster: 2,6 Kirsch (Lab): 2 Kirsch: 4	6 Kirsch: 1,3,5	7 Foster: 2,6
10 Foster: 2,6	11	12	13	14 NO SCHOOL
17	18	19	20 White: 1 & 7	21 Kirsch: 1,2,3,4,5 White (Lab): 1 & 7
24 Guidance: Testing (Fast & 1,2)	25 Guidance: Testing (Fast & 1,2) Kirsch (Lab): 1 & 2 Kirsch: 3,4,5	26	27 Guidance: Testing (Fast & 1,2)	28 Guidance: Testing (Fast & 1,2)
31	Nov 1	2	3	4

App Awareness

“With apps, it’s important to keep abreast of what’s available and be able to discern what makes one app a better choice than another for a particular task. While each category of apps requires its own criteria for evaluation, there are some constants to bear in mind.”

Platform

“This might seem like a no-brainer, but is the app available for your operating platform? For iOS compatible devices, does it work on both the iPhone and iPad? If so, are there differences in how the app performs from device to device? For instance, sometimes an iPhone app used on an iPad doesn’t convert well and the look and feel just doesn’t work on a larger screen.”

“Similarly, are there different versions for different operating systems, and if so, what are the distinctions between versions? For example, there might be both iOS and Android versions of an app, but a great application on the iPhone might not be so great on an Android device.”

Price

“Is it worth spending \$100 on an iPad or smartphone app? Maybe, maybe not. The adage “You get what you pay for” doesn’t always apply. There are a lot of different apps that do the exact same thing, but at a cost of anywhere from free to hundreds of dollars. Free apps can often be just as good as their counterparts with a price tag. The key is to evaluate the differences between the free app, the \$9.99 version, and the \$100 one.”

Reviews

“The app stores (Android and Apple, for example) provide reviews by real users. Pay attention to these. Look for reviews of products that answer the kinds of questions you have about your particular needs. And, look for reviews that assess the range of capabilities of apps within a particular category (writing, media creation, and so on). See what reviewers say about the customer service of the company behind the app. If something isn’t working, do the developers address problems promptly, or do they take a long time to push out a new update with a fix?”

“October is crisp days and cool nights, a time to curl up around the dancing flames and sink into a good book.”

Unknown author

Word of the Month

Pathos (PAY-thahss)
noun

1. an element in experience or in artistic representation evoking pity or compassion
2. an emotion of sympathetic pity

EXAMPLE

Our knowledge of the hero's tragic end adds an element of **pathos** to the story of his early success.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Greek word "pathos" means "suffering," "experience," or "emotion." It was borrowed into English in the 16th century, and for English speakers, the term usually refers to the emotions produced by tragedy or a depiction of tragedy. "Pathos" has quite a few kin in English. A "pathetic" sight moves us to pity. "Empathy" is the ability to feel the emotions of another. Though "pathology" is not literally "the study of suffering," it is "the study of diseases." You can probably guess at more relatives of "pathos." "Sympathy," "apathetic," "antipathy," "sociopath," and "psychopath" are a few.

Merriam-Webster Online
Dictionary

App Awareness

User interface

"We're getting better and better at understanding what makes a good user interface for apps. Tools such as the recent Nielsen Norman group report on iPad usability help define what makes for a good experience. As you look for apps in a particular category, think about your own needs. Would you prefer opening a menu by swiping across the screen or scrolling horizontally or vertically to access content? Can you easily adjust the font size?"

Updates

"How often is the app updated? Does it matter if that's not very often? In the life of apps that have a social component, such as uploading to YouTube, it's important that they be updated regularly in order to take advantage of new methods users have to interact in mobile environments. Sometimes updates are required to maintain interest, as with game apps, for example, which commonly add new "levels." Look at the list of features added, changed, and refined in a recent update to get a sense of how the app developers respond to user needs and the ever-changing digital environment."

"There are a lot of apps available for carrying out a variety of tasks, from media creation to productivity. A great way to keep up with what's new is to read technology blogs such as [Mashable](#), [ReadWriteWeb](#), and *School Library Journal's* own app review blog, [Touch and Go](#). (Why not subscribe to one or all of these by using one of the personalized magazine apps? By reading just one of these on a regular basis, you'll learn about apps that aren't always specifically geared toward librarians, educators, or students, but might have a lot of potential for supporting the needs of children and teens in your greater community."

"Keeping up with a wide variety of apps will also give you the chance to provide reviews and recommendations to the children, teens, and adults with whom you work. So when someone's in search of an app for note taking, photo editing, or blogging, you'll have just the right information to provide them. And that user will be a bit happier and better able to function in her digital environment."

From: "*The Enablers*" by Linda W. Braun, in [The School Library Journal](#) September 2011

Writing & Research Apps

"From doing research and taking notes to crafting a blog post and sharing photos, apps help you get the job done no matter where you are. These handy tools serve double duty in supporting the day-to-day work of educators as well as the activities of students, both in and out of school. The best part - there are a lot of choices out there."

Blogging with WordPress

<http://wordpress.org/>



"Anyone with a WordPress blog will appreciate the companion app, which lets you write and update posts, and check in on comments and stats remotely. While the app (available for iOS, Android, and Blackberry devices) doesn't offer every feature of the Web-based WordPress dashboard, the iOS and Android versions include a number of functions that make it easy to post and maintain your blog wherever you are. These include drafting, publishing, adding media, reviewing and moderating comments, and viewing stats."

"It's easy to link the app to one or more WordPress blog accounts—whether or not its hosted on the WordPress.com site or on one's own server. Any activity that you do within the app is immediately available in the software's Web-based dashboard. This ease of access makes the WordPress app a great tool for bloggers who, let's say, draft a post at home and want to revisit it once they get to work. Or perhaps a brilliant idea pops into your head while you're away from your desk—simply enter the notes on your smartphone using the WordPress app and refine the post later via the full site on the web or within the app."

Journaling with Memento

<http://www.momentoapp.com/>



Writing & Research Apps continued



“Imagine having a diary accessible 24/7, yet completely secure from prying eyes. That would be tween bliss, wouldn’t it? The Momento journaling app makes it all possible. No need to hide the diary and key under a mattress or in a far corner of a closet. Momento (iOS only; \$2.99) safeguards your content with a digital passcode and makes it easy to add photos as well as social network posts to chronicle every significant event.”

“A snap to set up, Momento includes a variety of ways to view and add content. The interface is fairly intuitive, using many of the same conventions found in other apps. In calendar mode, you can click on a date to see all of the day’s posts. Or scroll day by day through journal entries in the agenda view. Add a Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Flickr, Foursquare, or blog feed to the

app, and any time you post on one of those social sites it will automatically appear as an entry in Momento. You can also add tags for events, people, places, and images by clicking the tag icon in the bottom button bar. Click on the paper and pencil in the top right corner to start a new entry.

While Momento is designed for the iPhone, it scales well on an iPad. There’s a flaw, however: you can’t sync a Momento diary between devices. So you can’t, for example, record your thoughts at an event on an iPhone and be able to access that entry on an iPad when you return home so you can revise and add content. It’s possible, however, to export and import content from one device to another, but that’s a lot of extra steps in order to keep copies of the same journal on two devices.”

Citing with EasyBib and QuickCite <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/easybib/id436768184?mt=8>



Scan a book’s barcode using a mobile device camera with either EasyBib or QuickCite and voilà, a citation is created in the format of your choosing. EasyBib uses the OCLC database to retrieve citations, while QuickCite uses a selection of online databases to build a citation. Both apps generate citations in MLA, APA, and Chicago formats. EasyBib is only available for Apple devices, QuickCite for both Apple and Android platforms.

There are other important differences. With EasyBib (compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad, requires iOS 4.0 or later) you can scan barcodes one after another in order to build a bibliography. Once the list is complete, you can email it to yourself or share it with others. On QuickCite (Android (\$1.01) and iOS (99 cents) devices running version 4.0 or later), you can’t build a citation list within the app, and each scan is emailed individually to the address set in the app settings. With EasyBib, it’s possible to change the citation format after a scan is made—not so with QuickCite. The EasyBib app also enables you to upload the bibliographic information to an EasyBib account once the citations are received in email.

Notetaking with Evernote <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/evernote/id281796108?mt=8>



For many digital workers, the note-taking platform of choice is Evernote (the app works with Android, Blackberry, and devices running iOS 3 and higher). It’s used for a wide variety of purposes, from taking photos of business cards to create a digital rolodex, to recording notes for a research project while reading articles and books. Entries are tagged and saved in “notebooks” (Evernote’s term for folders). An added advantage is that the app allows for syncing between platforms and devices.

Offering many of the same features as Momento (reviewed previously), Evernote could even be used to keep a journal. But the app is capable of much more. One parent volunteer in Oklahoma City, for example, is using Evernote to create a database of evidence for the school debate team. Evernote can also be used collaboratively, as notebooks can be shared. Students working together can add and revise notes related to research and project planning and

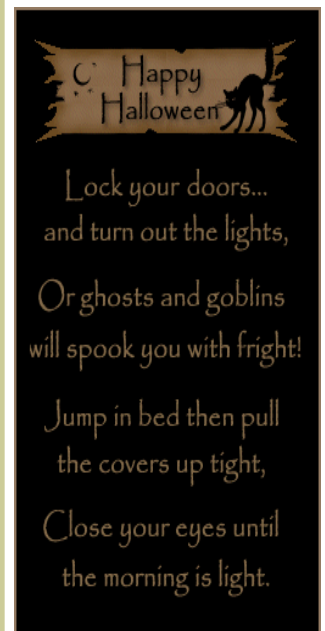
organize them without having to meet face to face outside of school.

Evernote’s abundance of features might make it a bit less intuitive; it takes reading the instructions and some practice to get the most out of the utility. The onscreen instruction, predicting user questions during the notetaking process, is a helpful feature. Looking for how to add a notebook? Simply tap on that feature and an onscreen instruction appears.

Either new images or ones stored on the device can be included during notetaking. You can also incorporate audio, such as an interview or clip of a discussion. But you’ll need to mind the size of attachments. Adding audio or image files may quickly put you over your storage limit in both free and premium accounts.

From: “*The Enablers*” by Linda W. Braun, in **The School Library Journal**

September 2011



Service is our Business



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We are on the Web

<http://www.firelandsschools.org>

The purpose of our Library Newsletter is to further the goals of the Library Media Center which are to support the curriculum, teach successful research strategies, and foster lifetime literacy.

If you have any suggestions for the library staff please let me know. Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We hope you will find this issue helpful.

Cathy Ruple

District Librarian

Trudy Wilber

Library Tech



You

By

Charles Benoit

Book Review

Synopsis

"This wasn't the way it was supposed to go. You're just a typical fifteen-year-old sophomore, an average guy named Kyle Chase. This can't be happening to you. But then, how do you explain all the blood? How do you explain how you got here in the first place? There had to have been signs, had to have been some clues it was coming. Did you miss them, or ignore them? Maybe if you can figure out where it all went wrong, you can still make it right. Or is it already too late? Think fast, Kyle. Time's running out. How did this happen?"

You is the riveting story of fifteen-year-old Kyle and the small choices he does and doesn't make that lead to his own destruction. In his stunning young-adult debut, Charles Benoit mixes riveting tension with an insightful—and

unsettling—portrait of an ordinary teen in a tale that is taut, powerful, and shattering.

Advance praise for *You*: "You is authentic, ambitious, and gripping. A serious book that reads like a suspense novel, the story it tells—of the ways in which we become imprisoned by our own choices, big and small—is both frightening and frighteningly real."

—Lauren Oliver, New York Times bestselling author of *Before I Fall*

"Charles Benoit has written a shattering, gut-wrenching novel that puts *You* right in the center of the story. Pick it up and you won't put it down!" — Michael Grant, New York Times