

# SAMS Library E-News

## Literature-Technology-Information-Education

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### The Nature of Information

“The very nature of information is changing, practically before our eyes. It is changing in what it looks like, where we find it, what we look at to view it, what we can do with it, and how we communicate it. Here you will find information and tools designed to help you redefine literacy for the 21st. Century.”

From: *Landmarks for Schools* by David Warlick.



### Language Arts Classes & Computer Lab

Library activities for the month of October include:

- Use of the “Reading Level Search” feature on our online catalog.
- Use of advanced search methods on our online card catalog.
- The student participate in the online game “Library Terms”. This helps the students with the terminology that we use in the library and makes it easier for them to find materials.
- Students become familiar with the computer codes.

#### Computer Lab Use

Classes are booked constantly in the computer lab and the library is constantly busy!

“People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing.”



*"You are your own  
best teacher"*

*Jimmy Buffett*

## The Word of the Month

From the Merriam-Webster  
Online Dictionary

avuncular • \uh-VUNK-yuh-  
ler\ • adjective

1 : of or relating to an  
uncle

\*2 : suggestive of an uncle  
especially in kindness or  
geniality

### Example Sentence:

The avuncular orthodontist  
joked with his young patient,  
attempting to set her mind at  
ease about getting fitted for  
braces.

### Did you know?

Not all uncles are likeable fellows (Hamlet's murderous Uncle Claudius, for example, isn't exactly Mr. Nice Guy in Shakespeare's tragedy), but "avuncular" reveals that, as a group, uncles are generally seen as affable and benevolent, if at times a bit patronizing. "Avuncular" derives from the Latin noun "avunculus," which translates as "maternal uncle," but since at least the 1830s English speakers have used "avuncular" to refer to uncles from either side of the family or even to individuals who are simply uncle-like in character or behavior. And in case you were wondering, "avunculus" is also an ancestor of the word "uncle" itself.

\*Indicates the sense illustrated in the example sentence.

## Technology Applications

Following are some tips for teaching with the new media. These ideas are taken from Edutopia.

### 1. Break The Digital Ice

"VoiceThread ([voicethread.com](http://voicethread.com)) is one example of an online resource that can help you and your students get better acquainted. VoiceThread allows users to combine photographs or other visuals with written or audio comments. This collaborative, Web-based tool is easy to use, which means students will be spending class time actively participating rather than awaiting instructions. With secondary school students, consider using a VoiceThread prompt to encourage goal setting for the new school year. What do students look forward to doing in your class? What interests them about this subject? What image can they share that captures how they are feeling at the start of the new school year? Students' individual VoiceThreads can be useful artifacts for reflection later in the year. Add your own encouraging comments to their digital albums, modeling how to give positive feedback."

#### Related Resources:

- "100 Ways to Use VoiceThread in Education" (<http://voicethread.com/#q.b26224.i145977>), a teacher-created VoiceThread about VoiceThread.
- "VoiceThread Extends the Classroom with Interactive Media Albums"
- ([edutopia.org/voicethreadinteractive-multimedia-albums](http://edutopia.org/voicethreadinteractive-multimedia-albums)), from Edutopia.org.
- VoiceThread for Educators ([voicethread.ning.com](http://voicethread.ning.com)), a social-networking site for teachers, with more than 880 members.
- In a short video ([secctv.org/video/?p=461](http://secctv.org/video/?p=461)), Gail Desler, a technology integration specialist for the Elk Grove Unified School District, in Elk Grove, California, explains the power of using VoiceThread in a history classroom.

### 2. Find Your Classroom Experts

"Many of today's digital kids spend their free time producing videos, posting to social-networking sites, and text messaging their friends. You can take advantage of their technical know-how in the classroom, too, if you know where to look for help. Early in the school year, survey your students to find out about their digital smarts: Who are your classroom experts when it comes to graphic design, podcasting, or video editing? Who knows how to make animations? Any Teen Second Life experts in the group? Do students own any gear they would be willing to share for a special project? Online survey tools like Survey Monkey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com>) make information gathering quick and easy. Many online survey tools offer free basic accounts. Once you have gathered the raw data, create a spreadsheet so you can easily identify your classroom experts when the need for specialized help arises."

#### Related Resources:

- Online-survey tools besides Survey Monkey include Profiler PRO (<http://www.profilerpro.com>) and Zoomerang (<http://www.zoomerang.com>). Most offer a free basic account.
- Generation YES (<http://www.genyes.com>) is a program that encourages students to help teachers use technology in the classroom.

These technology applications are taken from Edutopia's "Top 10 Tips for Teachers".

## New Multimedia Fair Use Guidelines

“Fair use is: the right, in some circumstances, to quote copyrighted material without asking permission or paying for it... You can invoke fair use when the value to the public of what you are saying outweighs the cost to the private owner of the copyright.” (American University Center for Social Media).

The new *Code of Best Practices for Fair Use in Education* is designed to clarify copyright and fair use for the educational community. It defines how teachers and students may use copyrighted material creatively in teaching and learning. As more of us become Web Content creators, it is increasingly important to understand our privileges and limitations using, remixing, and publishing media, building on the copyrighted work of others.

The key test for fair use today is **transformativeness**. Use of the copyrighted work should add value to the original; it should not be merely decorative. Temple’s Media Education Lab (<http://mediaeducationlab.com>) offers videos and curricular materials to help build a new understanding.

Artists, writers, musicians and content creators of all kinds now have the option of posting and sharing their work in a *copyleft* manner, an approach far more liberal than traditional copyright licensing.

Creative Commons (<http://creativecommons.org>) licenses allow creators to change copyright terms for their work from the default assumption of *all rights reserved* to a variety of *some rights reserved* options.

Creative Commons demonstrates respect for intellectual property while recognizing a more open information landscape, the desire of content creators to share, and the need of content users to build on prior knowledge. The following six possible licenses, are listed in order from least restrictive to most restrictive.

(License description from: Creative Commons)

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

*"Nothing in the  
world can take  
the place of  
persistence...*

*Persistence and  
determination  
alone are om-  
nipotent."*

*- Calvin  
Coolidge*



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## Service Is Our Business



### South Amherst Middle School Library

152 West Main  
South Amherst, Ohio  
44001

Phone: 440-986-7021  
Email: [cruple@firelandsschools.org](mailto:cruple@firelandsschools.org)  
[dleimbach@firelandsschools.org](mailto:dleimbach@firelandsschools.org)

The purpose of our Library News Letter 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 us know. We hope you will find this and future issues helpful.

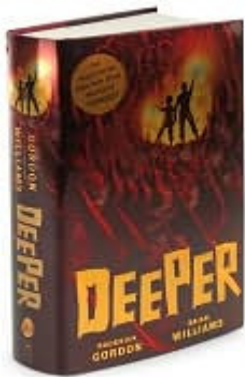
Cathy Ruple

Denise Leimbach



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## Book Reviews



*Deeper*

By

Roderick Gordon

Some sequels are slow-paced clunkers that serve more as a bridge between books one and three than as a work of quality literature. *Deeper*, sequel to New York Times Bestseller *Tunnels*, is not that kind of sequel. Instead it serves to enrich the world created by the first book with more complex plots, more sinister violence, more frightening fun and deeper connections between characters. The introduction of two new characters further expands the subterranean world. The enhanced character and plot development, combined with a darker and slightly more violent story, make *Deeper* a fast-paced and compelling read. It is a rare book that can create an entirely new fantastic, harsh, creative yet believable world for readers to visit. This book is not only sure to be a hit with existing fans of the series; it will also attract new readers to this dark and twisty world. Highly recommended.

Review by Children's Literature

