

INTRODUCTION

The first Statewide Summer Reading Program Committee is very pleased to offer the youth services librarians in public libraries this extensive manual. The Manual Sub-Committee spent endless hours developing its content. The sub-committee hopes that the manual helps you streamline your planning, resulting in a most successful summer filled with reading.

The manual is divided into chapters featuring a wealth of information to help you plan enjoyable and fun-filled summer reading programs. Outlines of thematically developed programs feature bibliographies of suggested titles, craft and activity ideas, games and puzzles. A section on publicity comes complete with sample press releases. Clip art also is included, so you easily can create brochures, fliers, additional posters and other printed materials to enhance your reading club. A separate section addresses the specific needs of our teen audience. Other chapters discussing children and teens with special needs and listing an extensive bibliography from the New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped round out the work.

As this year's coordinator, I would like to thank everyone who assisted in writing the manual, especially Susan Fichtelberg, chair of the Manual Sub-Committee. Without her dedication, commitment and expertise (and the amount of time she gave to the entire process—the writing and coordination of the information presented), the manual would not be the excellent work that is offered to you today. The sub-committee has tried to give everyone who contributed to the manual the appropriate credit. If we have missed acknowledging anyone, please accept our deepest apologies and understand that it was not intentional.

With best wishes for a great **Read and Grow** kind of summer!

April L. Judge
New Jersey 2003 Statewide Summer Reading Program Coordinator