

# Roslund Family Readers

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NEWSLETTER

March 1, 2008

## E-Books anyone?

by Lynne La France



So many books, so little time. We've all heard that one before and with good reason. But we might just squeeze in some extra reading time on the run these days with these great high tech reading ideas. Has anyone out there started reading e-books yet? I started to read e-books as an alternative to traditional books. I made the switch to e-books to save money and storage space.

For those of you unfamiliar with an e-book, it is a file that you download to a computer or portable reading device such as an iPod, Palm Pilot, or Blackberry. Amazon.com has a new reading device called the Kindle, designed specifically for the purpose of reading e-books (although very pricey). You will have to download an e-book reader onto your computer or device first, such as Mobipocket Reader or EReader, before you are able to download your first e-book. Some e-book websites you might be interested in downloading from are: [www.mobipocket.com](http://www.mobipocket.com), [www.ebooks.com](http://www.ebooks.com), [www.fictionwise.com](http://www.fictionwise.com), and [www.ereader.com](http://www.ereader.com). Sometimes you have to try more than one site to find what you're looking for, but I think you'll be surprised by the selection of books available to you online.

These days, most books being published in traditional print, are also being published as an e-book. So for titles published in the last few years, you are very likely to be able find it and download it from an e-book website. Older titles are harder to find, although many large publishing companies are making an effort to convert their older titles to e-books as well.

An e-book is still a printed file that requires you to read it, but when you carry around your portable device with you, you find yourself reading during those "I'm so bored" times when you would not normally have your book with you; like when you're in the waiting room at a doctor's office or waiting in line at the grocery store. Before you know it, you've read another book!

There are distinct advantages to reading an e-book, rather than a traditional book. First off, when you make up your mind to read on a sleepless night at 3 A.M., an e-book is just a few clicks away and instantly available to you. Secondly, e-books do save you money, (but in my opinion, not nearly as much money as you should be saving considering how much money the publisher is saving on an e-book vs. print book.) Another advantage is storage. Everything is stored on your computer, or personal device, so there are no longer stacks of books taking up space in the family room. The best advantage of reading an e-book is convenience. When you make up your



## E-Books anyone? Cont'd.

mind to read a new book, you can skip the shopping for it. Just download and read. You never have to thumb through an e-book looking for a page, as it conveniently starts up right where you left off. Best of all, these little devices are great for reading in bed because they have their own lighting, (no more fumbling around with a book light) and they are easily manipulated with one hand, as opposed to trying to shift around a big bulky book, trying to get just the right angle on it, only to shift it again to read the opposite facing page. Turning the page is as simple as pressing the down button on your device. Poor eyesight these days? No problem. With an e-book you can magnify or change the font for less eye strain. So this month, why not give an e-book the chance to make your best-seller list. (Coming next month: audiobooks:)

[Grieving Soul](#)  
[Adopted Soul](#)  
[Girls' Soul](#)  
[Unsinkable Soul](#)  
[Mother's Soul](#)  
[Teenage Soul on Tough Stuff](#)  
[African American Soul](#)  
[Woman Golfer's Soul](#)  
[Golfer's Soul](#)  
[Teacher's Soul](#)  
[American Idol Soul](#)  
 Also,  
[Chicken Soup for the Soul: Love Stories](#)  
[Inspirational Stories](#)  
[Christmas](#)  
[Living Your Dreams](#)  
[Children With Special Needs](#)  
[The Gift of Love](#)  
[About Life's Lessons For Relationships](#)

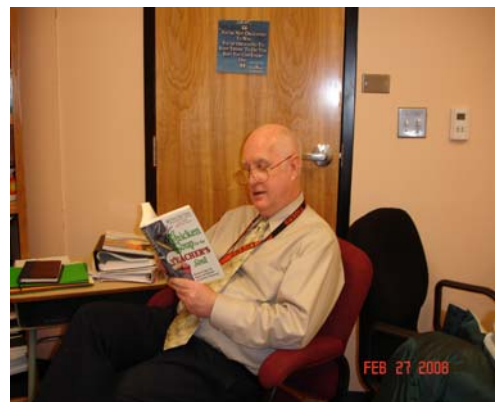
## Hot Book Tip of the Month

Last month I asked readers to send in thoughts on their favorite series of books. Mr. Mulhern offerered up the **Chicken Soup for the Soul** series. Mr. Mulhern said, *"Back when I was teaching in 8th grade I always made use of these books because they have such tender moments in the stories. My students loved the stories. I was even able to incorporate the stories into my curriculum."* I confess that it's been a while since I hooked up with a Chicken Soup book, so I was amazed at the variety of Chicken Soup for the Soul books that are available nowadays. I noticed that they even have read alouds for the younger kids too. I visited [www.chickensoup.com](http://www.chickensoup.com). If you click on products, you will find chickensoup books for the class room teacher at all grade levels with Lesson plans! There are over 100 chickensoup books on the market. A sampling of the list includes [Chicken Soup for the:](#)

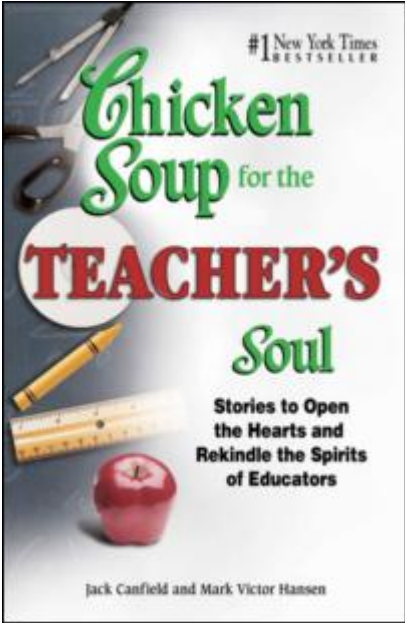
[Cat Lover's Soul](#)  
[Dog Lover's Soul](#)  
[Kids Soul](#)  
[Puppy Lover's Soul](#)  
[Kitten Lover's Soul](#)  
[Nascar Soul](#)  
[Country Soul](#)  
[Little Soul](#)  
[Women's Soul](#)  
[Teenage Soul](#)

It's clear that there's a Chicken Soup for the Soul book for every interest area and one is just waiting for you. And best of all, since these are short stories, it will only take you a few minutes to refresh and renew your spirit with a Chicken Soup for the Soul book. Thanks Mr. Mulhern for this great reading suggestion.

**Pictured below is Mr. Mulhern reading Chicken Soup for the Teacher's Soul.**



**Do you have an inspirational story to tell? You might be interested to know that the chickensoup website is accepting submissions. Get out your computers and start pounding that keyboard. You could be a published author.**

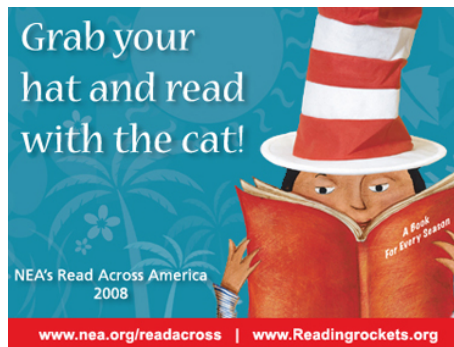


## Thank You Dr. Seuss

March 2<sup>nd</sup> is Dr. Seuss's (AKA as Theodore Geisel) birthday as well as a time to celebrate children's books with Read Across America sponsored by the National Education Association. From the NEA.org website we learn how it all started for Dr. Seuss. "In May of 1954, *Life* published a report on illiteracy among schoolchildren, suggesting that children were having trouble reading because their books were boring. This problem inspired Geisel's publisher, prompting him to send Geisel a list of 400 words he felt were important for children to learn. The publisher asked Geisel to cut the list to 250 words and use them to write an entertaining children's book. Nine months later, Geisel, using 220 of the words given to him, published *The Cat in the Hat*, which brought instant success."

Thanks to this great author, children's books are anything but boring these days (witness the Harry Potter phenomenon!) And so, we thank you Dr. Seuss.

Please e-mail some pics of your celebrations so we can add them to next month's issue.



### THIS MONTH'S QUESTION.

Who is your favorite author? Have you (or your child) read every book by an author? These are the authors we want to hear about next month. Remember, I'm hoping to hear about authors of books from pre-school to adult.

**Blog Trivia:** I believe there is "blog" word for reading all the books by one author, because I've seen it on some reading websites. I'd like to be cool and use it, but I don't remember what it is? Anybody know it?

### The Word is Out!

**As soon as I announced Roslund Family Readers to the district, I started hearing from all the book lovers out there with ideas and suggestions. Thanks everyone for contacting me. You've given me good ideas for the months to come. Many people asked what they could do to help. What I would like most is for people (teachers, parents, students, and friends) to contact me with book news, great websites pertaining to literacy and reading, book reviews of books you've read, and most of all, answers to my monthly questions. Mrs. Lori Bishop, from TAMS, knew exactly what I was after, because she suggested writing book reviews for the newsletter. I suggested she write the first one and she came through in a big way! I know you will share a few LOL moments with me, when you read what she has to say. Thanks for sharing Mrs. Bishop.**

Julia Child: My Life in France

Written by Julia Child and Alex Prud'Homme

Do you eat to live or live to eat? I am definitely a person who lives to eat! I enjoy cooking and am always challenging myself in preparing new recipes. I really didn't watch Julia Child's cooking show while I was growing up. What I do recall are the silly imitations and portrayals of her on shows like Saturday Night Live. You know, the ones with an intoxicated "Julia" flinging chickens around and squealing in that high pitched annoying voice. When I told some of my colleagues about this awesome book, many remarked negatively and one even said that Julia Child "frightened" her! In fact, her actual words were, "Oooo, she's scary!" I am here to clear up any misconceptions about the cooking diva. I discovered by reading this book that Julia Child was a kind, professional, albeit eccentric at times, but a lovely person.

### Some changes:

#### Big and Small

Small stuff first: I would like to get the newsletter online at the beginning of each month, so towards that end I am skipping February and jumping right into March. I am also dropping the Volume and Issue numbers, and just going with the date of the issue. Yes, the newsletter looked a little more important that way, but it's easier for me to keep track of this way. The Big news! By the time you read this I will have already announced Roslund Family Readers to the entire district, because I would like to reach a wider audience of readers. But that doesn't mean I don't need to hear from all my Roslund readers as well as new readers with ideas and suggestions for next month's newsletter inspiration. **Please** contact me with comments, suggestions, and ideas you might have for the newsletter. If you are a new reader, please catch up on the old issues and see the guidelines for offering suggestions in the first newsletter at [www.tasd.net](http://www.tasd.net) Click on Roslund and Roslund Family Newsletter. You can reach me at: [lynne.lafrance@tasd.net](mailto:lynne.lafrance@tasd.net) Spread the word about this newsletter/blog to your friends too.

Thanks,  
Lynne La France

Julia Child: My Life in France (cont.d)

Long ago, before Rachael "Yum-O" Ray, there existed a woman named Julia Child. Julia was the first celebrity chef on television. She was at the top of her game, so to speak. Child didn't start out that way – in fact she wasn't even allowed to cook while she was growing up. She married Paul Child when she was in her thirties and he whisked her off to Paris where Julia fell in love with the culture, architecture, and most especially the food. The descriptions in the book are so wonderful – I actually felt like I was in the "City of Lights". Julia describes the food with such intensity that you can almost taste it. (And I promise you won't gain any weight by reading!)

I seem to judge books by the way I feel after finishing them. I can tell you this –when I finished this book, I was actually sad that it was over! Julia Child had an awesome life that I could only dream of. She turned out to be someone I would have loved to have known. I'm sure she would have invited me to her summer home in Provence and we would have cooked together ..... hey, a girl can dream can't she?!

If you would like to borrow my copy of Julia Child: My Life in France, email me at

[lori.bishop@tasd.net](mailto:lori.bishop@tasd.net).

"Bon Appetite!"



### Newsletter Links

Due to the way this file is saved to post onto our website, some of the links to websites are not active under pictures. Therefore, I'm posting all the links here. From here you should be able to click on them, but if for some technical reason I don't understand, they don't work by clicking on them, just copy and paste them into your address bar.

To get started with e-books:

[www.ereader.com](http://www.ereader.com), [www.mobipocket.com](http://www.mobipocket.com), [www.ebooks.com](http://www.ebooks.com), or [www.fictionwise.com](http://www.fictionwise.com).

The Chicken Soup books can be found at all major booksellers and also at

[www.chickensoup.com](http://www.chickensoup.com).

Dr. Seuss information can be found at [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org). Click on Read Across America.

Also, visit [www.seussville.com](http://www.seussville.com) for some fun Dr. Seuss activities and games.

All the books mentioned can be purchased at amazon.com. You will be helping our PTO earn money as well by clicking here to start your Amazon session. The link is:

[www.amazon.com/?%5Fencoding=UTF8&tag=ropt0b-20](http://www.amazon.com/?%5Fencoding=UTF8&tag=ropt0b-20)

Just type the title in the search bar and click GO!

Now, I do talk about Amazon.com a lot, but out of loyalty to my son, who is a manager for Barnes and Noble, I would like to mention them as well. To visit Barnes and Noble and help the PTO too, click on [www.visitourmall.com/roslundpto](http://www.visitourmall.com/roslundpto) and click on Barnes and Noble. Type the title in the search bar and you're shopping! You will find a host of other well known stores to shop at from this virtual mall if you are in the mood to shop.

To get to the NY Times Best Seller List go to:

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/books/bestseller/index.html>



**amazon.com**

**Each and every month, I owe a shout out to Mrs. Regina Conaboy, from TAHS, and her students. Their efforts get the newsletter online for me. Thanks guys. 😊**