



# THE BUZZ ON LITERACY

Literacy Now, South Okanagan-Similkameen [www.literacynowso-s.ca](http://www.literacynowso-s.ca)

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For more information on any of the items in this month's newsletter or any questions about literacy services please contact Naomi Ludington at [literacynowsos@gmail.com](mailto:literacynowsos@gmail.com)

### We Celebrated Literacy!

We almost "Filled the Fit". 811 books were collected!

Families participated in big numbers at the interactive booths.

The community packed centre court from beginning to end to enjoy the entertainment!

Thank you to all!



## Family Literacy Day Celebration Collection





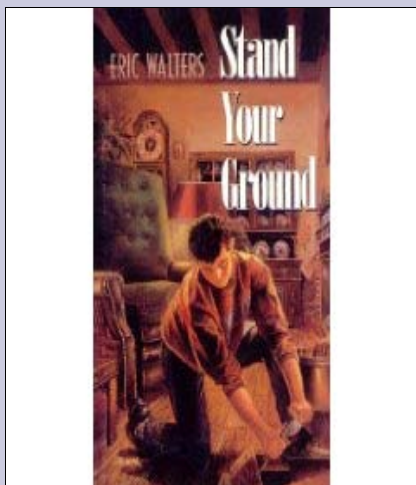
## Reluctant Readers - Throwing the Book at Illiteracy

Adults who love books know that reading stimulates the imagination, builds vocabulary and improves spelling and grammar. All good things. Unless you're a kid who doesn't like reading, in which case cracking open a novel is a chore to be avoided.

Reluctant readers, as they're known, often end up getting to high school while reading at a Grade Three level. Now teachers and librarians are discovering new ways of peaking the interest of kids who'd rather play video games or listen to their ipods. They're stocking library and classroom shelves with a new kind of novel written and presented to appeal to book-shy kids. It's a strategy that's working. And one that has a Made-in-Canada stamp on it.

In 2002, Orca Books, an independent publisher in Victoria, British Columbia, released the first in a series that targets these children. Orca Soundings took off and now - with 125 titles in the series - these books are in schools all over Canada, the US and around the world.

Andrew Wooldridge publishes and edits the Orca Soundings series which targets teen readers who are reading below grade level. He's commissioned well-known Canadian writers to produce books for this series which has sold almost a million copies. He's the father of three young boys, which keeps him aware - daily - of the importance of reading at all stages of life.



Eric Walters is one of these writers. He began writing in 1993 to entice his grade 5 students to become more interested in reading and writing. Each day he read from the story he was writing - which was set in their school, in their community and with some of the students as characters. At the end of the year one of the students suggested that he try to have the story published and it became his first book, *Stand Your Ground*.

Since then he's published over 61 novels, ten of which are geared to Reluctant Readers. His books have won over seventy awards, and have been translated into many languages. Eric stopped teaching in 2003 to write full time and speak in schools across the country.

CBC Radio One—The Sunday Edition January 24, 2010  
with Michael Enright



## Inspiring Good Literacy Habits

With all the distractions in our lives it is difficult to get children hooked on reading. Each age group is different and therefore requires a unique approach to inspire excellent literacy habits. Since literacy is a lifelong practice, it is never too early to read to your children:

- infants should be read simple books containing bold and colourful shapes with family themes and only one or two lines on each page
- repetition helps children become familiar with language

Parents play the most important role in the development of good reading habits. When children are first learning to read:

- take turns reading alternate pages and make sure to ask questions about the content of the story to ensure comprehension
- provide a comfortable space to encourage reading

For more on Inspiring Good Literacy Habits please go on line to ABC Canada—  
[info@abc-canada.org](mailto:info@abc-canada.org)



## Dads Read to Their Children

In a world where television often dominates the lives of children, it is important that fathers make the effort to read to their children. Children learn best by doing and reading, as well as seeing and hearing. Begin reading to your children when they are very young. When they are older encourage them to read on their own. Instilling your children with a love for reading is one of the best ways to ensure they will have a lifetime of personal and career growth.

Excerpt from 10 Ways to Be a Better Dad  
from the National Fatherhood Initiative.

Visit [www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org) for more information.