



Niagara Falls Public Library  
Subject Area: Language Arts  
**Grades 6-8**

**New York State English Language Arts Learning Standards**  
**Standard 1**

Students will read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding.

As listeners and readers, students will collect data, facts, and ideas discover relationships, concepts, and generalizations; and use knowledge generated from oral, written, and electronically produced texts. As speakers and writers, they will use oral and written language to acquire, interpret, apply, and transmit information.

**Standard 2**

Students will read, write, listen, and speak for literary response and expression.

Students will read and listen to oral, written and electronically produced texts and performances, relate texts and performances to their own lives, and develop an understanding of the diverse social, historical, and cultural dimensions the texts and performances represent. As speakers and writers, students will use oral and written language for self-expression and artistic creation.

**Standard 3**

Students will read, write, listen, and speak for critical analysis and evaluation.

As listeners and readers, students will analyze experiences, ideas, information, and issues presented by others using a variety of established criteria. As speakers and writers, they will present, in oral and written

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language and from a variety of perspectives, their opinions and judgments on experiences, ideas, information and issues.

### **Standard 4**

Students will read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction.

Students will use oral and written language for effective social communication with a wide variety of people. As readers and listeners, they will use the social communications of others to enrich their understanding of people and their views.



### **Overview**

Library services in Niagara Falls began in 1814, when an association of citizens under the direction of General Parkhurst Whitney founded the "Grand Niagara Library." The fledgling library consisted of 40 books.

Through the 19th Century, services improved, and by 1852 the collection had increased to 502 volumes housed in a small room in the Third Street School. Outgrowing that room, the library was then moved to the Frontier Mart on Falls Street. From 1850 to 1898, James F. Trott, "Father of Niagara Falls Schools," served the library and applied to the New York State Education Department for a legal charter.

While awaiting the Charter, the library moved to two large rooms in the Arcade Building on Falls Street, opening its doors on February 1, 1895. Finally, on February 28, 1895, the Charter was signed by Melvil Dewey and the Niagara Falls Public Library was officially opened. The "Carnegie" Library was on Main Street and Ashland Avenue

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By 1898, the collection consisted of 5,000 volumes supervised by Adele Barnum, the first paid librarian. Growing pains continued and, by 1901, Niagara Falls Power Company Director William B. Rankin came to the rescue by securing a \$500,000 grant for a library building from Pittsburgh Steel magnate Andrew Carnegie. A site at the corner of Main Street and Ashland Avenue was chosen, and in 1904, the library moved into spacious new quarters with marble floors, brass fixtures and room for 13,134 volumes.

The Carnegie Building served the community for 70 years, through wars and changes in social values into the period of the city's greatest population growth (101,063 in 1961). When books began to overflow onto the floor, however, thoughts turned to building a larger library. The effort to manage the growth culminated on March 9, 1974, when the Earl W. Brydges building, designed by architect Paul Rudolph, officially became the home of the Niagara Falls Public Library.

By the time the library celebrated its Centennial in 1995, it contained more than 400,000 printed volumes, periodicals, audio and video tapes, and a wide variety of other publications and documents. A vibrant Local History Department, containing more than 10,000 books and thousands of pictures and other ephemera, worked to preserve the rich history of Niagara Falls. Special youth collections and services were provided in a highly functional and attractive Children's Department, and the Audio Visual Department was expanding its services to meet the high demand for video recordings and other media.

By the middle of the first decade of the twenty-first century, library users were being provided with an array of computerized resources and services. The card catalog was replaced with an online catalog. Traditional collections were dramatically expanded through the introduction of numerous full-text databases. Access to the Internet made even more information on the World Wide Web available to users at workstations in the library. The library's Web-site brought this information to users' homes. Not only was the library's role as information provider expanded, but additional services were introduced as PCs were provided to citizens for word-processing, spreadsheet and other applications. Efforts continue to ensure that the library will remain a dynamic operation and provider of essential services in the community.

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### **Activity:**

Students will:

- Tour the Niagara Falls Public Library,
- Become familiar with the Niagara Falls Public Library's policies, and
- Register for a library card.

How to apply for a card

Library cards

Anyone who is a resident or property owner in Niagara, Orleans or Genesee County (Nioga Library System) is eligible for a free library card. Special arrangements for short-term borrower's cards may be made for students at Niagara University and selected other non-resident visitors. Inquire at the Circulation Desk. Patrons must have their library card with them to borrow items from the library. The replacement cost for a lost card is \$1.00.

### **Adult Cards (age 13 and over)**

**To apply for a card you must present two forms of identification that establish your identity and residency.**

#### **Examples**

Identity: Photo ID such as a driver's license, government issued ID card, school ID

Residency: An item with your current address printed on it, such as a bill or letter sent to the home (dated within the past two months) or a recent report card.

Children's Cards (age 5 – 12)

Children are eligible for their own cards beginning at age 5. A parent or legal guardian must come into the library with the child and present two forms of identification (see examples above) issued in the adult's name. The child must also be present.

Nonresidents

Individuals who do not reside or own property in Niagara, Orleans or Genesee counties may obtain a library card by paying a fee of \$25.00 per year. This card provides for the loan of up to 15 items at one time.

References

*Niagara Falls Public Library* at <http://www.niagarafallspublib.org>