

Kansas Reads...*In Cold Blood*

by Roy Bird, Director, Kansas Center for the Book

Kansas Reads...*In Cold Blood*, the 2008 Kansas Center for the Book one-book/one-state adult reading and discussion project, kicked off on January 27 and runs through February 29, 2008. BUT...it began way back in March, 2007, with the first meeting of the committee consisting of KCFB Affiliate representatives and KCFB Fellows.

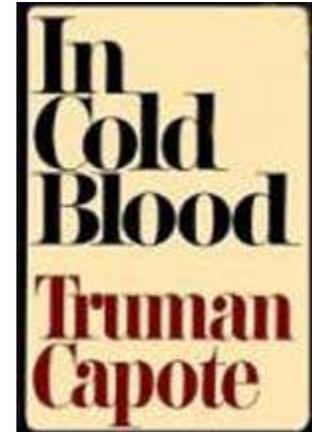
Mary Markwalter agreed to chair this year's Kansas Reads committee. Also on the committee are Joyce Armstrong, Hamilton County Library; Emily Sitz, Southwest Kansas Library System; Denise Smith, Stanton County Library; Denise Galarraga, Finney County Public Library; Deb Duckwall, Abilene Public Library; Gregg Wamsley, Hutchinson Public Library; Mickey Coalwell, Northeast Kansas Library System; Eunice Schroeder, Stevens County Library; Debbie Tittle, Pioneer Memorial Library; and Elaine Scheuerman, Finney County Public Library.

After only one face-to-face meeting, this committee has put together what promises to be a meaningful book discussion project entirely through the use of Online Programming for All Libraries (OPAL). High on the list of priorities was an effective website; evaluations from the 2006 Kansas Reads project indicated that the website was the most valuable contribution that KCFB could make, and this website provides all the resources necessary for a successful book discussion regardless of what sort of group might use it. And it has been getting hundreds of hits each week!

Visit the website for a Truman Capote biography, a book excerpt, other Capote books and other true crime books, discussion questions, how to do a book discussion, program ideas, to print posters and bookmarks and order t-shirts and book bags, and see the underwriters and partners who have helped make Kansas Reads available. Partners include Kansas Audio-Reader Network, Kansas Humanities Council, KLA Public Library Section, and GLPM Architects Inc.

Visit the blog on the website and find the survey to help KCFB improve and enhance future Kansas Reads projects.

The partners have shared in presenting this classic book to Kansas. From January 15 to January 29, Kansas Audio-Reader Network broadcasted their special recording on their radio band for those visually or physically unable to read print, and they are making it available through their website, www.reader.ku.edu. The KLA Public Library Section provided large print copies



*Truman Capote, Author of
In Cold Blood*

distributed through the regional library systems. GLPM Architects made it possible to provide every library and KCFB

Affiliate with posters and other materials.

The Kansas Humanities Council awarded a grant to have four scholars—Sara Jane Richter of Panhandle State University, Clark Killion of Dodge City Community College, and Thomas Fox Averill and Paul Fecteau of Washburn University—speak at nine libraries in every region of the state. Four of these programs will be broadcast via Enhanced Library Meeting Rooms (ELMeRs), and these programs will also be streamed online and archived for later viewing, further broadening their audiences.

In addition to public libraries, others are participating in Kansas Reads...*In Cold Blood*! Some high schools are teaching the book in classrooms, while other schools are organizing book discussions among faculty. A college class has adopted the project for a literature course. A bookseller has indicated that many libraries and schools are purchasing copies of *In Cold Blood* to circulate or distribute.

Plan to join libraries, booksellers and Kansans around the state for Kansas Reads...*In Cold Blood*! If you can't do it before February 29, that is not a problem...the website will be archived and available at any time in the future. Read and discuss this classic true crime novel!