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young adult library services



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About This Cover

Find the best books and media for young adults each year through YALSA's Best of the Best! Visit www.ala.org/yalsa/best to download the lists, which highlight the very best in reading, listening, and viewing for teens, as well as marketing tools to promote the winning titles at your library. Downloads for 2011 include bookmarks, bookplates, spine labels, logos, and more. Best of the Best materials were created through funding from the Friends of YALSA, www.ala.org/givetoyals.

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Statement of Purpose

Young Adult Library Services is the official journal of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association. YALS primarily serves as a vehicle for continuing education for librarians serving young adults, ages twelve through eighteen. It will include articles of current interest to the profession, act as a showcase for best practices, provide news from related fields, publish recent research related to YA librarianship, and will spotlight significant events of the organization and offer in-depth reviews of professional literature. YALS will also serve as the official record of the organization.

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from the Editor

Sarah Flowers

The Youth Media Awards event at ALA's Midwinter Meeting has always been a favorite of mine and of many people who are fortunate enough to be there. In my early days in YALSA, I remember rushing to the phone or the Internet Café to notify my colleagues at home of the winners. Now, of course, anyone who is interested can watch the event streaming live on ALA's website or follow the barrage of tweets or live blog entries. It is always fun to see which winners are crowd favorites and which are surprises. In the days immediately following Midwinter, YALSA's selected lists are announced and the blogosphere and Twitterverse proceed to discuss the choices. Needless to say, not everyone agrees with every choice ("Really? They chose *that* book? I couldn't get past page 50!"). I can assure you, however, that committee members labor mightily and that every book, movie, or audio that makes a list has been discussed thoroughly in terms of the particular committee's rules and procedures. My term on the Printz Committee (2004: *The First Part Last*, by Angela Johnson) was a great lesson for me in consensus building. It was a shining example of the way a diverse group of people can take a complex task, break it down into manageable pieces, and come to an end result that everyone can agree with, all without sacrificing civility. The unexpected bonus was that strong friendships were forged at the same time. All of us owe a great debt of gratitude to the hard-working committee members who devoted hours and hours of their free time to reading, watching, listening, making notes, discussing, contemplating, and finally coming up with these lists.

This issue of YALS is all about those awards and selected lists. We hope you enjoy and make use of the reproducible copies of the 2011 selected lists. In this issue you will also find articles about the still-new Morris Award (by Angela Frederick) and the Quick Picks list (by Heather Gruenthal). And we look at some non-YALSA awards that are of interest to our members, including the Eisner (Francisca Goldsmith and Eva Volin), the Stonewall Award (Lisa Johnston), and the Schneider Family Book Award (Barbara Klipper). Pam Spencer Holley takes a look at some of this year's lists and gives us her top choices for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Neesha Meminger has some really practical advice about getting diverse books into the hands of teen readers. Finally, you'll find professional reviews and the YALSA Update.

I hope you enjoy this issue of YALS. If you are coming to ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, be sure to sign up for the Margaret Edwards Award luncheon, where you will be able to hear this year's honoree, Sir Terry Pratchett, and the Michael L. Printz Award Program and Reception, with winner Paolo Bacigalupi and the honor book winners. It's a great opportunity to personally thank those hard-working committee members, too! YALS

from the President

Kim Patton

Hearing the announced during the ALA Midwinter Meeting has always been one of my favorite events of the year. It also certainly counts as some of the most fun I have during conferences. As a voracious reader and someone who tries to keep up with the growing volume of teen reading material available during the year, I am always pleased when titles I have read and loved are acknowledged for their literary value or appeal to teens. My interest is always piqued when titles that have slipped by my notice are brought to my attention as award- or list-worthy titles and I am always more than willing to go back and reread a title that wasn't necessarily my favorite and give it another chance to wow me like it did those seasoned veterans who selected it as an honored title for the year.

Helping teens find quality materials in the library always seems to be easier during award season. Before the awards are announced everyone is speculating about their most and least favorites and wondering where they will end up when it all shakes loose. After the awards, there is always buzz about the winners. Either way, it's a chance to

enhance our readers advisory skills and help our teens find the reading material that will suit their interests and engage them in conversations about their reading choices.

Award winners and items on the selection lists can be invaluable tools to assist teens and their parents in finding reading materials for pleasure reading or educational pursuits. Because most award winners are chosen from the current year's crop of newly published materials, library professionals can be assured that the titles chosen are timely and reflect contemporary reading interests. By adding the branding of the Best of the Best and its promotional tools to the cream of the crop of the YALSA selection lists, library professionals have an even better and more comprehensive tool to direct their teen patrons to.

Sharing award winners with teens helps us make those great connections and engage our teen readers, and we all love to have those opportunities. We can use programming like book clubs, mock award contests, and battle of the books programs as ways to let teens have a chance to enjoy, discuss and contemplate the year's crop of winning and recognized titles.

What is popular with our teen readers does not always match what is chosen by an experienced committee of professionals. Because teens are so often opinionated in their response to selected titles it is great that we now have a chance to engage them in the process and give them a chance to agree or disagree with a selection committee's choices. With YALSA's new Readers' Choice booklist (www.ala.org/yalsa/readerschoice) and with the help of their favorite librarian, teen readers will be able to nominate titles of their own choosing and see how well they stack up or don't stack up to vetted selection lists and award titles.

I'm already looking forward to hearing from teens as they begin nominating titles and seeing whether I will find many of my old favorites on the new Readers' Choice list next year or if I will be adding many more new titles to my outrageously high reading pile.

YALS



feature

The View from ALA

The Stonewall Book Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature Joins the ALA Youth Media Awards

By Lisa Johnston

Before dawn on the morning of January 10, 2011 at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, California, the members of the 2011 Stonewall Book Award Committee, which is a subcommittee of the GLBT-RT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Round Table), gathered for a photo. This was the first time this new award

had been included in the Youth Media Awards ceremonies, and needless to say we were thrilled.

2011 was the second year the Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award has been presented, but the Stonewall Awards themselves have a long history. In 1971, there was one award, for general adult literature. Isabel Miller's

novel, *Patience and Sarah*, was the first recipient of what was known at the time as The Gay Book Award. This was a grassroots acknowledgment of excellence in GLBT literature. In 1986, ALA officially recognized the award, and the name was changed to the Gay and Lesbian Book Award. As the years (and society) progressed, the award was expanded to include general adult nonfiction, going through various name changes before becoming the Stonewall Book Award. Today, these awards are given annually to English-language books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered experience.

The first Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Award was presented in 2010 to Nick Burd for his young adult novel, *The Vast Fields of Ordinary*, published by the Penguin Group. The novel concerns teenage Dade Hamilton, who endures his parents' divorce and the end of a secret relationship with a school athlete, then experiences first love during his last summer in Iowa before college.

This year, our winner is *Almost Perfect* by Brian Katcher, published by Delacorte Press. Katcher's novel tells the story of a transgender girl and the boy who falls for her. Sage is the new girl at Logan's school. He is drawn to her and they become friends, though their romantic attraction to one another is strong. Sage's life is a mystery. When she reveals she was born a boy, Logan questions his own sexuality, and abandons his friend when she needs his support most.

There are also four honor books this year, all written for young adults. Their topics are varied. In *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan, published by Dutton/Penguin, a flamboyant, musical theater-loving football player brings together two very different boys who happen to have the same name.

Freaks and Revelations by Davida Wills Hurwin, published by Little, Brown

LISA N. JOHNSTON is Associate Director/Head of Public Services at the Sweet Briar College Library in Virginia. She is the chair of the 2011 Stonewall Book Awards Committee of the ALA GLBT Round Table.

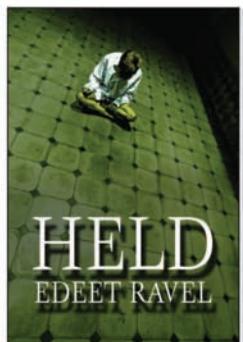
and Co., is based upon the true story of two teenagers, one a violent Neo-Nazi, and the other a homeless gay boy he nearly kills, who meet as adults and learn to forgive. *Love Drugged*, by James Klise, published by Flux, makes a strong statement on the use of prescription drugs to magically change who you really are.

Finally, *The Boy in the Dress* by David Walliams and illustrated by Quentin Blake published by Razorbill/Penguin, is geared toward nine to twelve year old readers. A young soccer player who loves fashion and prefers dresses to trousers figures out, with the help of friends, how to celebrate his difference.

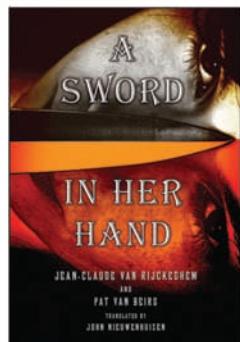
The growth of a nation is reflected in its literature, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the ever-expanding pool of children's and young adult books reflecting the GLBT experience. These books can save lives. If young people can find themselves represented in a book, it can ease their struggle. They know they are not alone. One quality book will lead them to others. It is the job, and indeed the privilege, of librarians to help these young people on their journey. The Stonewall Book Award is proud to help point people in the right direction.

For more information, see
www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/glbtrt/stonewall/honored/index.cfm. YALS

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feature

The View from ALA

Great Reads, Intriguing Characters The Schneider Family Book Award Winners

By Barbara Klipper

A heavy metal band named Dumb, a high school senior who is deaf, recording contracts and some romance—all in one book? The answer is yes, and it's this year's teen winner of the Schneider Family Book Award.

Librarians who work with teens know they can rely on YALSA awards; the Printz, the Alex and others point them towards quality titles to purchase and suggest to young adult readers. There is another award that is not as well known among teen librarians, but which can also be used as a reliable source in collection development and reader's advisory. That is the Schneider Family Book Award, administered by ALA.

The Schneider Family Book Award has been given each year since 2004 in three categories; young children (age 0–8),

middle grade (9–13), and teen (14–18). The awards recognize writing for young people that artistically represents disability experiences. The books that are honored with this award not only have literary merit and reader appeal, but they portray characters whose disabilities are part of a full life, introducing young people to a diversity of experience in a way that is neither condescending nor didactic.

Dr Katherine Schneider, founder of the award, reports that when she was young there were very few representations of people who were blind like her: "In the 1950s when I was in grade school, the only media mentions of blind people were of Helen Keller, Louis Braille, and the seven blind men who went to see the elephant. Other disabilities fared no better." She happily notes that, "Fifty

years later we're here to celebrate the fact that the situation has dramatically improved."

Like the Coretta Scott King, Pura Belpré, and Stonewall awards, the Schneider Family Book Award responds to the fact that segments of society, in this case persons with disabilities, have been underrepresented and at times misrepresented in literature for children and teens. These awards, in celebrating the creators of high-quality depictions of members of minority populations, encourage the writing and publication of even more books that accurately and sensitively reflect the life experience of these groups.

In Schneider Award-winning titles, the person with a disability can be either the protagonist or a secondary character, and the definition of what constitutes a disability is left to the discretion of the jury. A \$5,000 gift for the winner in each category accompanies the award. A representative of YALSA sits on the committee, ensuring that the perspective of librarians who serve teens is included in the jury's deliberations and the selection of the winner.

In San Diego in January, the 2011 Schneider jury selected *Five Flavors of Dumb* by Antony John as this year's winner in the teen category. With a very strong female protagonist, references to rock and heavy metal music, interesting secondary characters, a well-defined sense of place, and an accurate depiction of some of the issues in the deaf community, this book exemplifies the intent of the Schneider Family Book Award. Librarians can be assured that the teens who pick up this book will enjoy reading it as they expand their knowledge of themselves and the world. That is what librarians look for in any title we want to pass on to young people.

While some past winners of the Schneider award, like the 2010 winner

BARBARA KLIPPER is a youth services librarian at the Ferguson Library in Stamford, Conn., where she works with teens with disabilities and their families. She has presented workshops and conference sessions on libraries and disabilities. She served on the 2011 Schneider Family Book Award jury.

Table 1. The teen winners of the Schneider Family Book Award, 2004–present.

John, Antony	<i>Five Flavors of Dumb</i> (Dial/Penguin)	2011
Stork, Francisco X.	<i>Marcelo in the Real World</i> (Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic)	2010
Friesen, Jonathan	<i>Jerk, California</i> (Speak/Penguin)	2009
Rorby, Ginny	<i>Hurt Go Happy</i> (Starscape/Tom Doherty Associates)	2008
Sachar, Louis	<i>Small Steps</i> (Delacorte)	2007
Rapp, Adam	<i>Under the Wolf, Under the Dog</i> (Candlewick)	2006
Abeel, Samantha	<i>My Thirteenth Winter: A Memoir</i> (Orchard/Scholastic)	2005
Clements, Andrew	<i>Things Not Seen</i> (Philomel/Penguin)	2004

Marcelo in the Real World and 2007's *Small Steps*, were well known and recognized outside of the disability community, others may have been less widely read before the award brought them more attention. All are worthy of the expanded audience that the Schneider Family Book Award brings. See Table 1 for a list of all the teen winners since 2004.

This year's middle grade winner, *After Ever After* (Scholastic), will appeal to the younger teens served by YALSA.

Jordan Sonnenblick's winning novel is the stand-alone sequel to *Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* (2004). *After Ever After*, says the jury, "tells the story of Jeffrey, who is free of cancer but not the fallout from the treatment. Tad, his cancer survivor buddy and he swap wisecracks as they cope with their 'chemo-brain,' other cancer effects and typical eighth grade angst." Engaging, humane, and never sentimental, this book, like *Five Flavors of Dumb* shows characters whose lives are

affected but not defined by their disabilities.

Each year at ALA's Midwinter Meeting librarians who work with children and teens wait excitedly for the Monday morning Youth Media Awards announcements. We cheer when titles we love are selected, and mutter when the choices surprise us, and we wait with bated breath as the presentation moves toward the venerable Newbery and Caldecott awards, the last two awards to be announced. One of the first awards to be announced at the Youth Media Awards event each year, however, is the Schneider. So, don't be late when you attend the session at Midwinter or turn on the streaming video next year. While this award may not yet have a long history, you can count on the Schneider Family Book Award each year to point you and your teen patrons to wonderful books that you and they will want to read.

YALS

feature

YALSA Perspectives

YALSA's Not So Silent Auction at Midwinter Meeting

By Pam Spencer Holley

Y ALSA kicked off the 2011 Midwinter Meeting in style with its first Not-So-Silent Auction! Bidders had a wide variety of items to consider, from packs of books to homemade tote bags and even a customized YALSA cookbook! All in all, it was a fun evening and nearly \$4,000 was raised for the Friends of YALSA, money that will be used to promote the titles on YALSA's awards and selection lists to ensure great books are placed into the hands of teens. Become a Friend for as little as \$10; visit www.ala.org/givetoyals to learn more. Read on to see a few of the photos from the auction (to see a complete set, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/notsilentauktion>). YALS



When the auction began, all the donations were lined up, bid sheets centered and pens ready for the bidders. And then the crowds arrived and soon bidders were making decisions.



Sometimes, bidders had to stop and think how much to raise a bid, as Mari Smith (foreground) and Jennifer Lawson, chair of YALSA's 2012 Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults committee, and another bidder are doing as they contemplate the donations.



YALSA Board of Directors members Jack Martin and Christopher Shoemaker share the YALSA-tini with sampler David Mowery (a former YALSA president). The YALSA-tini was created by Jack, Christopher, and Past President Linda Braun and is YALSA's "signature drink."



The popular librarian tote bag, made by YALSA Board of Directors member Stephanie Squicciarini's mother, was a hot bidding item.

feature

Best Practices

Getting Diverse Books Into the Hands of Teen Readers

How Do We Do It?

By Neesha Meminger

One statement I've often heard in the conversation about diversity in teen literature is that people don't want to shove books featuring characters of color (or other marginalized characters) at young readers with the idea that those books are "good" for them. In fact, I recently presented at a conference where one librarian said that most teens come into her library *not* looking for books about diverse experiences. She said most teens want books like *Twilight*, *Gossip Girl*, or whatever the latest big hit may be, and she asked how she could get more diverse books into the hands of these teens—often

teens who might benefit most from such books.

I mulled over her words for weeks after the conference because she was right. No one wants to be told, "here, read this—it's good for you," like, "eat your spinach, it'll make you healthy." Reading books featuring people of color, LGBTQ protagonists, differently abled or sized main characters, or other marginalized voices should not be something anyone should be made to feel they *have* to do—whether out of a sense of obligation, duty, or guilt. Books about marginalized teens are not medicine or antidotes, and I don't blame young people, or adults, for that

matter, for having an aversion to books presented in this way.

So I thought back to the young reader that I was in my teen years. Yes, I wanted all the hyped books—the ones everyone was reading (which, at the time, were books such as Judy Blume's *Forever* and Paul Zindel's *My Darling, My Hamburger*). And although those books showed me a lot about the culture I was then immersed in and taught me more about "real life" than the adults around me were willing to talk about, there was more I needed to know. There were gaping chasms in the information available to me and no one was covering them. Even I did not know what was missing until it was placed in my hands.

It may be tempting to take the requests of young people at face value and simply "give them what they want." But statements like that remind me of slogans such as "give the consumer what they want" and "the customer is always right"—retail catchphrases that are more about making sales and moving quantity.

As educators and youth advocates, I see our role as a different one than meeting the demands of a market, particularly when that market is young readers. I don't mean to belittle teens today. Every single young adult I've met has been amazingly astute, aware, and savvy, and some are far wiser than many adults. Yet we, the adults who serve and advocate on behalf of teens, have the benefit of experience and hindsight.

If all of my teachers and counselors and youth service providers when I was a teen had done what was easy and given me only what I wanted, I most likely would not be here right now. Because what I wanted then was to be with young men who were prone to violence and addiction. What I thought I wanted was to be skinny like the models in magazines and films and on television. What I wanted was to find some sort of product, abrasive, or surgery that would lighten my skin so I could pass for white. My teenage years were a

NEESHA MEMINGER is the author of the young adult novels *Jazz in Love* (2011) and *Shine, Coconut Moon* (2009). She is passionate about diverse reading options for teens and has written many articles to that end. For more information, visit Meminger online at NeeshaMeminger.com.

crossroad. They were the point where I learned the contradictions between what I had been told and what *was*. My eyes were beginning to open to the various levels of power and privilege in the world, and I was trying to make sense out of it all. There was a clanging rage inside that wanted expression, but there were no words to give it form, no possibilities or options created for me to choose from besides what the mainstream depictions had to offer. And that was not enough.

But I was lucky. I found caring teachers, librarians, and youth counselors who were able to steer me toward new paths—toward depictions of girls like me—lonely, isolated, silent—who were able to find their way, and who were able to learn to love themselves despite everything around them telling them they were not valuable or wanted.

The librarian at my local library got to know me. I was a sad, quiet, shy teen with pigtails. At home, things were a grand mess, and inside, there was a vast hollowness. This librarian asked me questions. She probed gently without overstepping boundaries. And because she was the first adult to show interest, the first to *care* and shine a light on me and my needs, I flowered under her probing.

I went to that library every single day. And even though I asked for the same books my friends were reading, she asked me what areas I liked to read and offered suggestions in those. She set books aside for me—an entire pile, based on what I said I liked to read, including the titles I asked for. And then she left me in peace to go through the books and pick out the ones I wanted to check out.

Through her, I was introduced to a wide range of genres, voices, and experiences. No, I did not see many characters of color, but there were stories of those who were struggling, as I was, in other areas. I was introduced to a novel about two girls experiencing their first

painful crush—with each other. I read about teen girls struggling with their weight and body issues. S.E. Hinton's novels, especially, resonated for me. And through reading these books, I began piecing together a kind of road map that would help me find my way. I didn't know it, but I was learning about life through these novels—a different depiction of life than what the media was selling me. I was learning about young people who didn't grow up privileged and moneyed, young people who lived in dysfunctional homes, young people who knew the kinds of violence and pain I'd seen. These depictions helped me feel less alone, and the way the characters forged a path through and out of certain situations, the lessons they learned—these helped me create bits of my roadmap.

Again, none of this was happening on a *conscious* level. I know this now, upon reflection. This is very important to understand, because if you ask a teen point blank what they need, they will never say, "I need a roadmap to help me get out of the hell that has become my life."

But, at the same time that I was navigating the hard stuff, I was still a teen. I worried about my hair, my thighs, my skin, body odor. And I was a hopeless romance novel addict. So the same local librarian made sure to include romance novels in my pile—in addition to the titles she thought I might connect with otherwise. The important thing is that she made sure that pile was full of different types of books.

Here's the thing: the young me would never, ever, in a million years, have walked into a library and said, "Hello. I am dying inside. I am neglected and full of shame for things outside my control. People I love are hurting, and they are hurting me—badly. And I have nowhere to go and no one to turn to." That was the truth. But we don't do that, right? On the outside, I was a smart, attractive, well-spoken young woman

with a promising future and a "good," upwardly-mobile, model minority family at home. My parents were both together. We lived in a nice neighborhood. And my grades were always stellar. And still . . .

The reality is that not a single teen of color I know would ever walk into a library or bookstore and say, "I'm looking for a book about teens of color struggling with racism," or, "I would like a book about someone like me who is successfully navigating the issues I face every day." Likewise, it is a rare teen who walks into a library and says, "I'd like a book about young boys struggling with issues of sexuality," because these things point out differences. We all know that social acceptance is part of survival in high school, and part of social acceptance is fitting in. That which makes us different is what we try to hide, beat into submission, or sever entirely.

Being different, for most teens in this society, is laced with shame. It makes them outsiders during a time when all they want to do is fit in—to be accepted, valued, and liked. So the last thing teens are likely to do is walk into any public space and announce anything that puts them outside an accepted norm created by the dominant culture. They may take out the books that advertise their difference when no one is looking, on the down-low when it is safer, and when no one is around to witness their shame, their outsiderness—but they would never announce their difference when they are so busy trying to conceal it.

I can tell you, without a shadow of a doubt, that if those teens are anything like I was as a teen reader, they *need* these books. They will read the mainstream best sellers because they can see themselves in the universality of those stories, too. But these books, the ones that might help teens on the periphery build a road map back to themselves, are the books that can throw a lifeline—they are stepping stones in the midst of rushing waters.

Getting Diverse Books Into the Hands of Teen Readers: How Do We Do It?

Having teens come out and tell us what they need would make our jobs as parents, educators, and youth advocates much easier, but it's not going to happen. All we can do is make as varied a pile of reading materials as possible available to young readers. All we can do is gently and respectfully ask questions. All we can do is show that we *care* by giving the young people in our lives equal doses of what they want and what they might need. And part of that is providing young readers with what is "good" for them, even if they don't yet know it themselves—without having it feel like medicine, something mandatory and educational, or like someone has just thrown open the protective shades and exposed their shame.

So, I've taken a bit of time to come up with a small list of possible action steps for getting diverse books into the hands of teen readers. This is just a beginning and I'm sure there are lots more creative ways to do this, but I wanted to at least get the conversation going. If you have strategies you are using that work, please share them with your colleagues and add them to this list.

- Whenever possible, use the "pile" method—even if the pile is only two or three books. Try, if you can, to offer more than what the teen is asking for. Imagine you're offering a new food to someone who has never tried it before. How would you entice them? One way might be by offering the new item, or something similar to it, every time the person comes to eat. Nine times out of ten they will reach for what is familiar, but eventually, they will become curious or bold enough to try the unfamiliar item. Remember, we're working against all the media hype out there—all the messages about what is "normal" and acceptable and desirable. It will take time for teens (indeed, all of us) to challenge those messages within ourselves, and make different, perhaps emotionally risky, choices.

- Ask readers what their favorite genres are. Do they read only romance or paranormal books? If so, what have they tried? This, then, can lead to an opportunity for suggesting and recommending books such as *Silver Phoenix* Cindy Pon, *Huntress* Malinda Lo, *A Wish After Midnight* Zetta Elliott, *Half World* Hiromi Goto, or *Akata Witch* Nnedi Okorafor.
- Use the "if you liked this, you might like these" approach. If the teen is very much into paranormal romance, introduce novels that are cross-genre, such as *Wish*. It has a contemporary urban component as well as a time-travel element, some romance, and it also looks at slavery and life for African Americans in the 1800s. Explore reading lists for other novels that infuse narratives with diversity, history, information, and guide posts.
- Avoid making book recommendations *about the difference*. In other words, if a teen walks in wearing a hijab, don't grab all the books in the library about Muslims. That's a sure-fire way to make that particular teen walk out—and fast. Instead, consider looking for books about faith—about teens dealing with all kinds of issues around faith, and sprinkle them into the suggestions and recommendations. Doing this doesn't spotlight the difference, but focuses on the *sameness* with other teens who are working through issues of faith. The teen years are about learning our place in the world and where we belong. Showing teens what connects them to others provides a sense of belonging.

There are great books that focus on issues of spirituality and faith, such as Lara Zielin's *Donut Days*, Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich's *Eighth Grade Superzero*, Sara Zarr's

Once Was Lost, and my first novel, *Shine, Coconut Moon*. When I was growing up, every Sikh teen I knew, whether it was a boy who wore a *patka* (topnot), or a girl who wore *salwaar-kameez* to school, was struggling with issues of faith, spirituality, and religion. Even if they walked into a library looking for a *Gossip Girl* novel, books like the above would have been extremely important options.

- Find a way to spotlight books about marginalized teens in a more general way—either as a display of some sort, or a book-of-the-month, or some other way to get books in front of readers without targeting specific teens. If diverse reading choices are normalized in your library or teaching space, it becomes a safe space to bring up issues—a safe space to discuss differences. When my children start a new school year, they put out feelers to see what their new teachers are willing to discuss by asking safe, low-risk questions, then making decisions based on the answers they receive. Placing books about marginalized teens front and center and valuing them is one way to say clearly, "It's okay. In here, it is okay to be exactly who you are."
- Talk about what is universal about the books when introducing them to readers. Instead of saying, "here is a book about a gay teen," try, "this book has the most awesome fight scene in it! The protagonist gets possessed by a demon and shoots lethal sparks out of her eyes . . ." Or try some other way to draw the reader into the excitement of the narrative, because, truly, books about marginalized teens are books about all teens. The themes in all these books—identity, fitting in, belonging, family, dating, relationships, faith—are absolutely universal.
- Above all, and whatever else you do, at least *try*. But don't beat yourself up if

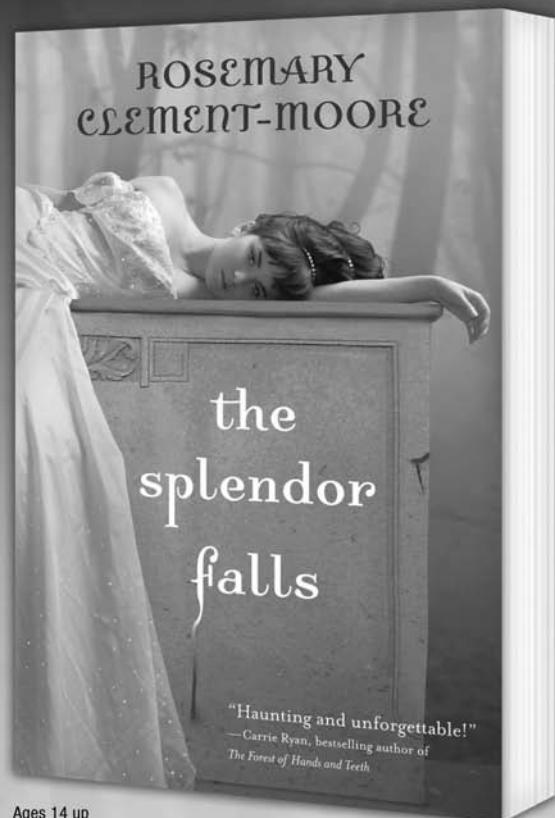
it doesn't work. You are doing your best because you care.

This is hard stuff. There is some intense conditioning in the media about normalcy and what makes an individual desirable or valuable. Don't give up trying. You may reach that one reader who most needs the information you have to share. I'm immensely grateful that the teachers, educators, and librarians who tried so hard with me didn't give up before I entered their lives.

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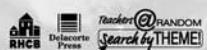
Long, satisfying and just chilling enough, this will please a wide audience and leave readers hoping for more.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“[Clement-Moore's] ear for both adolescent bitchery and sweetness remains sure, and her ability to write realistic, edgy dialogue without relying on obscenity or stereotype is a pleasure.”

—Publishers Weekly

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feature

Hot Spot: Awards

YALSA Announces 2011 Award Winners and Selected Booklists

On January 10, 2011, YALSA announced the winners of its six book and media awards at the annual Youth Media Awards announcement during ALA's Midwinter Meeting. This year's announcement included the Alex Awards, the Margaret A. Edwards Award, the William C. Morris Award, the Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Award, the Odyssey Award, and the Michael L. Printz Award.

In addition, YALSA announced its recommended booklists during Midwinter Meeting: Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults, Best Fiction for Young Adults, Fabulous Films for Young Adults, Great Graphic Novels for Teens, Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, and Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers.

Book and Media Awards

Alex Awards

The Alex Awards are given each year to ten adult books with special appeal to teens and are sponsored by the Margaret A. Edwards Trust. To learn more and see a

complete list of official nominations, please visit www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/alex. The 2011 Alex Awards are as follows:

- *The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep and Never Had To* by D. C. Pierson, published by Vintage Books, a division of Random House, Inc.
- *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard* by Liz Murray, published by Hyperion
- *Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok, published by Riverhead Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc.
- *The House of Tomorrow* by Peter Bognanni, published by Amy Einhorn Books, an imprint of G.P. Putnam's Sons, a division of the Penguin Group
- *The Lock Artist* by Steve Hamilton, published by Thomas Dunne Books for Minotaur Books, an imprint of St. Martin's Press
- *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake: A Novel* by Aimee Bender, published by Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc.
- *The Radleys* by Matt Haig, published by Free Press, a division of Simon and Schuster, Inc.

- *The Reapers Are the Angels: A Novel* by Alden Bell, published by Holt Paperbacks, a division of Henry Holt and Company, LLC
- *Room: A Novel* by Emma Donoghue, published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hatchette Book Group, Inc.
- *The Vanishing of Katharina Linden: A Novel* by Helen Grant, published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of The Random House Publishing Group, division of Random House.

Members of the 2011 Alex Awards Committee are Chair Beth Gallaway, Haverhill (Mass.) Public Library; Lana Adlawan, Sacramento Public Library, Elk Grove, Calif.; Hope Baugh, Carmel Clay (Ind.) Public Library; Meghan Cirrito, Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica, N.Y.; Crystal Faris, Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library; Karen Keys, Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica, N.Y.; Ann Perrigo, Allegan (Mich.) District Library; Jessi Snow, Boston Public Library; Ellen Wathen, Walnut Hills High School, Cincinnati, Ohio; Scott Rader, administrative assistant, Hays (Kan.) Public Library; and Ian Chipman, Booklist consultant, Chicago.

Margaret A. Edwards Award

The Margaret A. Edwards Award honors an author and specific titles by that author for significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature and is sponsored by *School Library Journal*. Learn more at www.ala.org/yalsa/edwards. The 2011 Edwards Award winner is Sir Terry Pratchett for the following titles:

- *Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents*, published by HarperCollins Children's Books;
- *The Wee Free Men*, published by HarperCollins Children's Books;

- *A Hat Full of Sky*, published by HarperCollins Children's Books;
- *Going Postal*, published by HarperCollins Publishers;
- *The Color of Magic*, published by HarperCollins Publishers
- *Guards! Guards!*, published by HarperCollins Publishers;
- *Equal Rites*, published by HarperCollins Publishers;
- *Mort*, published by HarperCollins Publishers; and
- *Small Gods*, published by HarperCollins Publishers.

Members of the 2011 Edwards Committee are Chair Robin Brenner, Brookline (Mass.) Public Library; Amy J. Alessio, Schaumburg (Ill.) Township District Library; Christine A. Jenkins, University of Illinois, Champaign; Betsy Levine, San Francisco Public Library; and Hollis Rudiger, Madison (Wis.) West High School.

William C. Morris Award

The William C. Morris Award honors a book by a first-time author writing for teens and is funded by YALSA's William C. Morris Endowment. For more information, visit www.ala.org/yalsa/morris.

The 2011 Morris Award went to *The Freak Observer* by Blythe Woolston, published by Carolrhoda Lab, an imprint of Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group. The following titles were selected as finalists, along with *Freak Observer*, in December 2010:

- *Hush* by Eishes Chayil, published by Walker Publishing Company, a division of Bloomsbury Publishing, Inc.;
- *Guardian of the Dead* by Karen Healey, published by Little, Brown and Company/Hachette Book Group;
- *Hold Me Closer, Necromancer* by Lish McBride, published by Henry Holt; and

- *Crossing the Tracks* by Barbara Stuber, published by Margaret McElderry Books, an imprint of Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing Division.

Members of the 2011 William C. Morris Award are Chair Summer Hayes, King County Library System, Tukwila, Wash.; Karen E. Brooks-Reese, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (Pa.); Carol Edwards, Denver Public Library; Alison M. Hendon, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library; Diana Tixier Herald, Mesa County Valley School District #51, Grand Junction, Colo.; RoseMary Honnold, Voice of Youth Advocates, Coshocton, Ohio; Kathleen Taylor Isaacs, Pasadena, Md.; Angie Manfredi, Los Alamos County (N.M.) Library System; Adela Peskorz, Metropolitan State University Library and Learning Center, St. Paul, Minn.; Amy Anderson, administrative assistant, Bellevue (Wash.) Regional Library; and Ilene Cooper, *Booklist* consultant, Chicago.

Excellence in Nonfiction Award

The YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction honors the best nonfiction published for young adults in a Nov. 1–Oct. 31 publishing year. To learn more and see a complete list of official nominations, visit www.ala.org/yalsa/nonfiction.

The 2011 Nonfiction Award went to *Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing* by Ann Angel, published by Amulet/Abrams. The following titles were selected, along with *Janis Joplin*, as finalists in December 2010:

- *They Called Themselves the KKK: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt;
- *Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement* by Rick

- Bowers, published by National Geographic Society;
- *The Dark Game: True Spy Stories* by Paul Janeczko, published by Candlewick Press; and
- *Every Bone Tells a Story: Hominin Discoveries, Deductions, and Debates* by Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw, published by Charlesbridge.

Members of the 2011 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Award committee are Chair Don Latham, Florida State University School of Library and Information Studies, Tallahassee; Christine Allen, Arlington High School, Riverside, Calif.; Rachel Aronowitz, San Francisco Public Library; Carrie Bryniak, Wadsworth (Ohio) Public Library; Monique Franklin, Texas Women's University School of Library and Information Science, Denton; Jeanette Larson, Pflugerville, Texas; Teri Lesesne, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas; Courtney Lewis, Wyoming Seminary Upper School, Kingston, Pa.; Charli Osborne, Oxford (Mich.) Public Library; Judy Sasges, administrative assistant, Sno-Isle Libraries, Marysville, Wash.; and Laura Tillotson, *Booklist* consultant, Chicago.

Odyssey Award

The Odyssey Award honors the producer of the best audiobook for children or young adults available in English in the United States. It is coadministered with the Association for Library Service to Children and sponsored by *Booklist*. To learn more, visit www.ala.org/yalsa/odyssey.

The 2011 Odyssey Award went to Listening Library, an imprint of Random House Audio Publishing Group, producer of the audiobook, *The True Meaning of Smekday*, written by Adam Rex and narrated by Bahni Turpin. Honor recordings are:

- *Alchemy and Meggy Swann*, written by Karen Cushman, narrated by Katherine Kellgren and produced by Listening Library, an imprint of the Random House Audio Publishing Group.
- *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, written by Patrick Ness, narrated by Nick Podehl and produced by Candlewick on Brilliance Audio, an imprint of Brilliance Audio.
- *Revolution*, written by Jennifer Donnelly, narrated by Emily Janice Card and Emma Bering and produced by Listening Library, an imprint of the Random House Audio Publishing Group.
- *will grayson, will grayson*, written by John Green and David Levithan, narrated by MacLeod Andrews and Nick Podehl and produced by Brilliance Audio.

Members of the 2011 Odyssey Award Committee are Chair Sarah M. McCarville, Grand Rapids (Mich.) Public Library; Catherine M. Andronik, Brien McMahon High School, Norwalk, Conn.; Stephanie D. Bange, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio; Mary Clark, Greenwich (Conn.) Country Day School; Bradley Debrick, Johnson County Library, Overland Park, Kan.; Kristin Brand Heathcock, Hillsborough Community College, Plant City, Fla.; Patricia McClune, Conestoga Valley High School, Lancaster, Pa.; Alison Ann O'Reilly, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, N.Y.; Ellen Rix Spring, Rockland (Me.) District Middle School; and Sue-Ellen Beauregard, *Booklist* consultant, Chicago.

Michael L. Printz Award

The Michael L. Printz Award honors the best book written for teens each year and is sponsored by *Booklist*. To learn more, please visit www.ala.org/yalsa/printz.

The 2011 Printz Award went to *Skip Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi,

published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group. Honor books are:

- *Stolen* by Lucy Christopher, published by Chicken House, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.;
- *Please Ignore Vera Dietz* by A.S. King, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.;
- *Revolver* by Marcus Sedgwick, published by Roaring Book Press, an imprint of the Macmillan Children's Publishing Group; and
- *Nothing* by Janne Teller, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing Division

Members of the 2011 Printz Award Committee are: Chair Erin Downey Howerton, Johnson County Library, Overland Park, Kan.; Jan L. Chapman, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Strongsville, Ohio; Sarah Couri, New York Public Library; Melissa S. Rabey, Frederick County (Md.) Public Library; Janet P. Sarratt, Gaffney, S.C.; Brenna Shanks, King County Library System, Issaquah, Wash.; Eva Volin, Alameda (Calif.) Free Library; Jamie Watson, Baltimore County Public Library, Towson, Md.; Rollie Welch, Cleveland Public Library; Sophie Brookover, administrative assistant, Infolink: The Eastern New Jersey Regional Library Cooperative, Piscataway; and Gillian Engberg, *Booklist* consultant, Chicago.

Booklists

Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults

The Amazing Audiobooks list selects audiobooks from the past two years for

those ages 12-18. To see the full list of thirty-one titles and top ten titles for 2011, visit, www.ala.org/yalsa/audiobooks or see the reproducibles on page xx.

Members of the 2011 Amazing Audiobooks Committee are Chair Jamie Mayo, Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library; Angela Craig, Charlotte-Mecklenburg County (N.C.) Library; Betsy Crone, Guilford County Schools, Greensboro, N.C.; Viola Dyas, Berkeley (Calif.) Public Library; Jennie A.D. Evans, Carrollton (Texas) Public Library; Sara Fitzgerald, Martin County (Fla.) Library System; Jennifer Lawson, San Diego County (Calif.) Library; Sasha Matthews, Chesapeake (Va.) Public Library; and Julia Riley, Pflugerville (Texas) Community Library.

Best Fiction for Young Adults

The Best Fiction list, formerly known as Best Books for Young Adults, meets the criteria of both good quality literature and appealing reading for teens. To see the full list of ninety-nine titles and top ten titles for 2011, visit, www.ala.org/yalsa/bfya or see the reproducibles on page xx.

The members of the Best Fiction for Young Adults Committee are Terri Snethen, chair, Blue Valley North High School, Overland Park, Kan.; Martha Baden, Alice Boucher World Languages Academy, Lafayette, La.; Jennifer Barnes, Gleason Library, Carlisle, Mass., and Concord-Carlisle (Mass.) High School; Louise Brueggemann, Naperville (Ill.) Public Library; Debbie Fisher, Central Falls (R.I.) High School; Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School, Issaquah, Wash.; Janet Hilburn, University of North Texas DLIS, Denton; Alissa Lauzon, Haverhill (Mass.) Public Library; Shelly McNerney, Blue Valley West High School, Overland Park, Kan.; Shilo Pearson, Chicago Public Library; Judith Rodgers, Wayzata Central Middle School,

Plymouth, Minn.; Ann Sloan, McLennan Community College, Waco, Texas; Patti Tjomsland, Mark Morris High School, Longview, Wash.; Brooke Young, Salt Lake City (Utah) Public Library; Shauna Yusko, Evergreen Junior High, Redmond, Wash.; Crissy Claiborne, administrative assistant, Las Vegas-Clark County (Nev.) Library; and Gillian Engberg, *Booklist* consultant, Chicago.

Fabulous Films for Young Adults

Each year, the Fabulous Films committee selects a list of films around a theme that will appeal to teens in a variety of library settings, with varied tastes and interests. The 2011 theme is Other Times/Other Places. To see the full list of forty films, please visit www.ala.org/yalsa/fabfilms or see the reproducibles on page xx.

Members of the Fabulous Films for Young Adults Committee are Chair Adrienne Butler, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City; Sarah Bean Thompson, Springfield-Greene County (Mo.) Library; Sarah Chaar, Emporia State (Kan.) University; Natalie Houston, Orange County Library System Leesburg, Fla.; Melanie Metzger, Lone Star College, Cypress, Texas; Sarah Sogigian, Massachusetts Regional Library System, Waltham; Andrea Sowers, Joliet (Ill.) Public Library; and Tina Zubak, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Great Graphic Novels for Teens

Great Graphic novels is a list of recommended graphic novels and illustrated nonfiction for teens. To see the complete list of sixty-three titles and top ten list, visit www.ala.org/yalsa/ggnt or see the reproducibles on page xx.

Members of the Great Graphic Novels for Teens Committee are Candice Mack, chair, Los Angeles Public Library; Emily Brown, Harry Kizirian Elementary School, Providence, R.I.; Lisa Goldstein, Brooklyn Public Library; Jesse Karp, Little Red School House/Elisabeth Irwin High School, New York; Joy Kim, Pierce County Library System, Tacoma, Wash.; Jessica Lorentz Smith, Bend (Ore.) Senior High School; Barbara Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, N.Y.; Kimberly Paone, Matawan-Aberdeen (N.J.) Public Library; Michael Pawuk, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Brooklyn, Ohio; Christian Zabriskie, Queens Public Library, Jamaica, N.Y., Dorcas Wong, San Francisco Public Library; Matthew Moffett, administrative assistant, Fairfax, Va.; and Ian Chipman, *Booklist* consultant, Chicago.

Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults

Each year, the Popular Paperbacks committee creates thematic booklists to encourage teens to read for fun. To see the full list of ninety-nine titles, plus the top ten, visit www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/poppaper or see the reproducibles on page xx. This year's list represents the following themes:

- Thrillers and Killers
- What's Cooking?
- What If...?
- Zombies, Werewolves and Things with Wings

Members of the Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Committee are Franklin Escobedo, chair, Oceanside (Calif.) Public Library; Kay I. Bowes, Brandywine Hundred Library, Wilmington, Del.; Amber Creger, Chicago Public Library, Woodson Regional Library; Valerie Davis,

Campbell County Public Library, Newport, Ky.; Sarah B. Hill, Paris (Ill.) Cooperative High School; Jennifer H. Korn, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio; Renee C. McGrath, Nassau Library System, Uniondale, N.Y.; Kelly C. Metzger, Dedham (Mass.) Middle School; Elizabeth Schneider, Monrovia (Calif.) Public Library; Mari S. Smith, Cicero, Ill.; Shanna Smith, Mesa County Public Library District, Grand Junction, Colo.; Kate Toebbe, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio; Sarah Townsend, Norfolk (Va.) Public Library; and Melanie Wachsmann, Lone Star College—CyFair Branch, Cypress, Texas.

Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

Quick Picks compiles recommended titles for teens who, for whatever reason, do not like to read. The 2011 list of eighty-seven titles, including a top ten, can be found at www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/quickpicks or in the reproducible on page xx.

Members of the Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers Committee are Chair Gregory Lum, Jesuit High School, Portland, Ore.; Tamera DiBartolo, Rapides Parish Library, Alexandria, La.; Marea Black, Phoenix (Ariz.) Public Library; Heather Gruenthal, Western High School, Anaheim, Calif.; Susan Hawk, Dunwoody (Ga.) High School; Jamison Hedin, Ludlow (Mass.) High School; Brenda Kilmer, Miami, Fla.; Lisa Lindsay, Fresno (Calif.) County Public Library; Lalitha Nataraj, Escondido (Calif.) Public Library; Sherry Rampey, Independent Youth Services Library Consultant, Gaston, S.C.; Anne Rouyer, New York Public Library; and Amy Cheney, administrative assistant, Alameda County Juvenile Hall Library, San Leandro, Calif. **YALS**

2011 Selected Lists



Nonfiction

A Savage Thunder: Antietam and the Bloody Road to Freedom, by Jim Murphy, read by Kevin Orton. Recorded Books, 2010.

Fiction

Alchemy and Meggy Swann by Karen Cushman, read by Katherine Kellgren. Listening Library, 2010.

Beat the Band by Don Calame, read by Nick Podehl. Brilliance Audio, 2010.

**The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had* by Kristin Levine, read by Kirby Heyborne. Listening Library, 2010.

The Boy Book: A Study of Habits and Behaviors, Plus Techniques for Taming Them by E. Lockhart, read by Kirsten Potter. Listening Library, 2010.

**Dreamdark Silksinger* by Lani Taylor, read by Cassandra Campbell. Brilliance Audio, 2009.

Enola Holmes: The Case of the Peculiar Pink Fan by Nancy Springer, read by Katherine Kellgren. Recorded Books, 2009.

**Finnikin of the Rock* by Melina Marchetta, read by Jeffrey Cummings. Brilliance Audio. 2010.

Heist Society by Ally Carter, read by Angela Dawe. Brilliance Audio, 2010.

Impulse by Ellen Hopkins, read by Laura Flanagan, Jeremy Guskin, and Steve Coombs. HighBridge Company, 2009.

Incarceron by Catherine Fisher, read by Kim Mai Guest. Listening Library, 2010.

It's Not Summer Without You by Jenny Han, read by Jessica Almasy. Recorded Books, 2010.

Jerk, California by Jonathan Friesen, read by Andy Paris. Recorded Books, 2010.

**The Knife of Never Letting Go* by Patrick Ness, read by Nick Podehl. Brilliance Audio, 2010.

Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld, read by Alan Cumming. Simon and Schuster, 2009.

**Muchacho* by Louanne Johnson, read by Ozzie Rodriguez. Listening Library, 2009.

**One Crazy Summer* by Rita Garcia Williams, read by Sisi Aisha Johnson. Recorded Books, 2010.

Ostrich Boys by Keith Gray, read by Bruce Mann. Listening Library, 2010.

**Precious* by Sapphire, read by Bahni Turpin. Random House, 2009.

**Rapture of the Deep* by L. A. Meyer read by Katherine Kellgren. Listen and Live Audio, 2010.

Revolution by Jennifer Donnelly, read by Emily Janice Card and Emma Bering. Listening Library, 2010.

**The Rock and the River* by Kekla Magoon, read by Dion Graham. Brilliance Audio, 2010.

Seth Baumgartner's Love Manifesto by Eric Luper, read by Nick Podehl. Brilliance Audio, 2010.

Split by Swati Avasthi, read by Joshua Swanson. Listening Library, 2010.

Stop in the Name of Pants! by Louise Rennison, read by Stina Nielsen. Recorded Books, 2010.

Swim the Fly by Don Calame, read by Nick Podehl. Brilliance Audio, 2010.

This Full House by Virginia Euwer Wolff, read by Heather Alicia Simms. Listening Library, 2009.

This World We Live In by Susan Beth Pfeffer, read by Emily Bauer. Listening Library, 2010.

The True Meaning of Smekday by Adam Rex, read by Bahni Turpin. Listening Library.

What I Saw and How I Lied by Judy Blundell, read by Caitlin Greer. Scholastic Audiobooks, 2009.

White Cat by Holly Black, read by Jesse Eisenberg. Listening Library, 2010.

**Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan, read by MacLeod Andrews and Nick Podehl. Brilliance Audio, 2010.

While these materials have been selected for ages 12-18, the titles on this list span a broad range of reading and maturity levels. We encourage adults to take an active role in helping individual teens choose those books that are the best fit for them and their families.

2011 Selected Lists

Best Fiction for Young Adults

*Denotes BFYA Top Ten Pick



Fiction

- Alonzo, Sandra. *Riding Invisible*. Illus. by Nathan Huang. Disney-Hyperion Books for Children, 2010.
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Forge*. Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing/Atheneum, 2010.
- Avasthi, Swati. *Split*. Random House Children's Books/Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Ayarbe, Heidi. *Compromised*. HarperCollins/HarperTeen, 2010.
- *Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker*. Little, Brown, & Co., 2010.
- Black, Holly. *White Cat*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2010.
- Bow, Erin. *Plain Kate*. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books, 2010.
- Boyce, Frank. *Cosmic*. Walden Pond Press, 2010.
- Boyd, Maria. *Will*. Random House Children's Books/Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Brande, Robin. *Fat Cat*. Random House Children's Books/Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2009.
- Bunce, Elizabeth C. *Star Crossed*. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books, 2010.
- Calame, Don. *Beat the Band*. Candlewick, 2010.
- Carbone, Elisa. *Jump*. Penguin Group (USA)/Viking Juvenile, 2010.
- Chima, Cinda Williams. *The Demon King: A Seven Realms Novel*. Disney-Hyperion Press, 2009.
- Christopher, Lucy. *Stolen*. Scholastic/Chicken House, 2010.
- Cohn, Rachel and Levithan, David. *Dash & Lily's Book of Dares*. Random House Children's Books/Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Combres, Elisabeth. *Broken Memory: A Novel of Rwanda*. Trans. Shelley Tanaka. Groundwood Books, 2009.
- Condie, Ally. *Matched*. Dutton Juvenile, 2010.
- Crowley, Cath. *A Little Wanting Song*. Random House Children's Books/Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Dashner, James. *The Maze Runner*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- David, Keren. *When I Was Joe*. Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2010.
- De Goldi, Kate. *The 10 PM Question*. Candlewick, 2010.
- De Vigan, Delphine. *No and Me*. Bloomsbury, 2010.
- DeGramont, Nina. *Every Little Thing in the World*. Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing/Atheneum, 2010.

- Derting, Kimberly. *The Body Finder*. HarperCollins/HarperTeen, 2010.
- Diamond, Emily. *Raiders' Ransom*. Scholastic/Chicken House, 2009.
- *Donnelly, Jennifer. *Revolution*. Random House Children's Publishing/Delacorte, 2010.
- Edwardson, Debby Dahl. *Blessing's Bead*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux/Melanie Kroupa Books, 2009.
- Erskine, Kathryn. *Mockingbird*. Penguin Group (USA)/Philomel, 2010.
- Fisher, Catherine. *Incarceron*. Penguin Group (USA)/Dial, 2010.
- Flood, Nancy Bo. *Warriors in the Crossfire*. Boyds Mills Press, 2010.
- Funke, Cornelia. *Reckless*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- George, Jessica Day. *Princess of Glass*. Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, 2010.
- Gleitzman, Morris. *Once*. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Henry Holt, 2010.
- Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. *The Red Umbrella*. Random House Children's Books/Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Goto, Hiromi. *Half World*. Illus. by Jillian Tamaki. Penguin Group (USA)/Viking Juvenile, 2010.
- Gray, Keith. *Ostrich Boys*. Random House Children's Books, 2010.
- Green, John and Levithan, David. *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*. Penguin Group (USA)/Dutton, 2010.
- Healey, Karen. *Guardian of the Dead*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Henry, April. *Girl, Stolen*. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group/Henry Holt/Christy Ottaviano Books, 2010.
- Hoffman, Alice. *Green Witch*. Scholastic, 2010.

While these materials have been selected for ages 12-18, the titles on this list span a broad range of reading and maturity levels. We encourage adults to take an active role in helping individual teens choose those books that are the best fit for them and their families.

2011 Selected Lists

Best Fiction for Young Adults

*Denotes BFYA Top Ten Pick



- Holt, Kimberly Willis. *The Water Seeker*. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Henry Holt/Christy Ottaviano Books, 2010.
- Kelly, Tara. *Harmonic Feedback*. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Henry Holt, 2010.
- Kephart, Beth. *The Heart is Not A Size*. HarperCollins/HarperTeen, 2010.
- King, A.S. *Please Ignore Vera Dietz*. Random House Children's Books, 2010.
- Koertge, Ron. *Shakespeare Makes the Playoffs*. Candlewick, 2010.
- Lockhart, E. *Real Live Boyfriends: Yes, Boyfriends, Plural, If My Life Wasn't Complicated I Wouldn't Be Ruby Oliver*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Press, 2010.
- Lynch, Chris. *Hothouse: A Novel*. HarperCollins, 2010.
- Maberry, Jonathan. *Rot and Ruin*. Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing, 2010.
- *Marchetta, Melina. *Finnikin of the Rock*. Candlewick, 2010.
- *Matson, Morgan. *Amy & Roger's Epic Detour*. 2010. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2010.
- *McBride, Lish. *Hold Me Closer, Necromancer*. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Henry Holt, 2010.
- McCaughrean, Geraldine. *The Death-Defying Pepper Roux*. HarperCollins/Harper, 2010.
- McMullan, Margaret. *Sources of Light*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.
- Milford, Kate. *The Boneshaker*. Clarion, 2010.
- Millard, Glenda. *A Small Free Kiss in the Dark*. Holiday House, 2010.
- *Mulligan, Andy. *Trash*. David Fickling Books, 2010.
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Lockdown*. HarperCollins/Amistad, 2010.
- Nelson, Jandy. *The Sky is Everywhere*. Penguin Group (USA)/Dial Books, 2010.
- Nolan, Han. *Crazy*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.
- O'Brien, Caragh M. *Birthmarked*. Roaring Brook Press, 2010.
- Oliver, Lauren. *Before I Fall*. HarperCollins/Harper, 2010.
- Oppel, Kenneth. *Half Brother*. Scholastic, 2010.
- Paulsen, Gary. *Woods Runner*. Random House Children's Books/Wendy Lamb, 2010.
- Perkins, Lynne Rae. *As Easy as Falling Off the Face of the Earth*. HarperCollins/Greenwillow Books, 2010.
- *Perkins, Mitali. *Bamboo People*. Charlesbridge, 2010.
- Quick, Matthew. *Sorta Like a Rock Star*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Reeve, Philip. *Fever Crumb*. Scholastic/Scholastic Press, 2010.
- *Reinhardt, Dana. *The Things a Brother Knows*. Random House Children's Books/Wendy Lamb, 2010.
- Richards, Jame. *Three Rivers Rising: A Novel of the Johnstown Flood*. Random House Children's Books/Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Roy, Jennifer. *Mindblind*. Marshall Cavendish, 2010.
- Ruiz Zafón, Carlos. *The Prince of Mist*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Sachar, Louis. *The Cardturner*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- *Saenz, Benjamin. *Last Night I Sang to the Monster*. Cinco Puntos Press, 2009.
- *Sedgwick, Marcus. *Revolver*. Roaring Brook Press, 2010.
- Shimko, Bonnie. *The Private Thoughts of Amelia E. Rye*. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2010.
- Shinn, Sharon. *Gateway*. Penguin Group (USA), 2009.
- Shulman, Mark. *Scrawl*. Roaring Book Press, 2010.
- Shulman, Polly. *The Grimm Legacy*. Penguin Group USA/Putnam Juvenile, 2010.
- Slade, Arthur. *The Hunchback Assignments*. Random House Children's Books, 2009.
- Smith, Andrew. *The Marbury Lens*. MacMillan Children's Book Group, 2010.
- Sonnenblick, Jordan. *After Ever After*. Scholastic, 2010.
- Standiford, Natalie. *Confessions of the Sullivan Sisters*. Scholastic, 2010.
- Stork, Francisco X. *The Last Summer of the Death Warriors*. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books, 2010.
- Stratton, Allan. *Borderline*. HarperCollins/HarperTeen, 2010.

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2011 Selected Lists



Stuber, Barbara. *Crossing the Tracks*. Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing/Margaret McElderry, 2010.

Summers, Courtney. *Some Girls Are*. St. Martin's Press/Saint Martin's Griffin, 2010.

Supplee, Suzanne. *Somebody Everybody Listens To*. Penguin Group (USA), 2010.

Teller, Janne. *Nothing*. Trans. by Martin Aitken. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/Atheneum, 2010.

Tomlinson, Heather. *Toads and Diamonds*. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Henry Holt, 2010.

Turner, Megan Whalen. *A Conspiracy of Kings*. HarperCollins/Greenwillow Books, 2010.

Vivian, Siobhan. *Not That Kind of Girl*. Scholastic./PUSH, 2010.

Ward, Rachel. *Numbers*. Scholastic/The Chicken House, 2010.

Wesselhoeft, Conrad. *Adios, Nirvana*. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2010.

Whitney, Daisy. *The Mockingbirds*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010.

Williams, Carol Lynch. *Glimpse*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/Paula Wiseman Books, 2010.

Williams, Gabrielle. *Beatle Meets Destiny*. Marshall Cavendish, 2010.

Yancey, Rick. *The Curse of the Wendigo*. Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing, 2010.

Yovanoff, Brenna. *Replacement*. Penguin Group (USA), 2010.

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2011 Selected Lists



2011 Theme: Other Places/Other Times

Feature Films

Alice in Wonderland. Walt Disney, 108 min. DVD. PG.
American Graffiti. Universal, 110 min. DVD Collector's Edition. PG.
Back to the Future. Universal, 116 min. DVD Special Edition. PG.
Becoming Jane. Miramax, 120 min. DVD. PG.
Chicago. Miramax, 113 min. DVD. PG-13.
Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe. Walden Media, 143 min. DVD Collector's Edition. PG.
Chronicles of Riddick. Universal, 143 min. DVD Widescreen. PG-13.
The Dark Knight. Warner Bros, 152 min. DVD Widescreen. PG-13.
Dazed and Confused. Universal, 162 min. DVD Widescreen. R
An Education. Sony Pictures, 100 min. DVD Widescreen. PG-13.
Ever After. 20th Century Fox, 121 min. DVD. PG.
The Fifth Element. Sony, 126 min. DVD. PG-13.
Ghost in the Shell. Palm Pictures, 83 min. DVD. R.
Grease. Paramount, 110 min. DVD. PG.
Hairspray. New Line Home Video, 92 min. DVD.
Howl's Moving Castle. Buena Vista Home Entertainment, 119 min. DVD (2 Discs). PG.
Labyrinth. Sony Pictures, 101 min. DVD. PG.
Land of the Lost. Universal, 102 min. DVD. PG-13.
League of Their Own. Sony, 128 min. DVD. PG.
Marie Antoinette. Sony Pictures, 123 min. DVD. PG-13.
Men in Black. Sony Pictures, 98 min. DVD. PG-13.

Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Sony Video, 91 min. DVD Special Pictures. PG.

Motorcycle Diaries. Universal, 126 min. DVD. R.

Muppet Treasure Island. Walt Disney Pictures, 99 min. DVD. G.
Pan's Labyrinth. Picturehouse, 119 min. DVD Widescreen. R.

Pirate Radio. Universal. 116 min. DVD. R.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl. Walt Disney, 143 min. DVD Collector's Edition. PG-13.

Pride and Prejudice. Universal, 127 min. DVD. PG.

Prince of Persia. Walt Disney, 116 min. DVD. PG-13.

Princess Bride. MGM, 98 min. DVD Anniversary Edition. PG.

Serenity. Universal, 119 min. DVD. PG-13.

Sherlock Holmes. Warner Home Video, 128 min. DVD. PG-13.
Star Trek. Spyglass Entertainment, 127 min. DVD Widescreen.

PG-13.

Star Wars: A New Hope. 20th Century Fox, 121 min. DVD. PG.

Stargate. Lions Gate, 128 min. DVD Special Edition. PG-13.

Terminator Salvation. Warner Bros, 115 min. DVD Full Screen. PG-13.

The Wiz. Universal, 134 min. DVD. G.

X-Men. 20th Century Fox. 104 min. DVD Widescreen. PG-13.

Documentaries

Empires – The Medici: Godfathers of the Renaissance. 220 min. PBS Paramount, DVD
Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till. 70 min. ThinkFilm, DVD

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2011 Selected Lists

Great Graphic Novels for Teens

*Denotes GGNT Top Ten Pick



Nonfiction

- Canada, Geoffrey and Jamar Nicholas. *Fist Stick Knife Gun: A Personal History of Violence*. Beacon Press, 2010.
 Dembicki, Matt (ed.), and Various Artists. *Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection*. Fulcrum Books, 2010.
 Hinds, Gareth. *The Odyssey*. Candlewick Press, 2010.
 Mucci, Tim and Ben Caldwell. *The Odyssey*. Sterling, 2010.
 *Neri, G. and Randy Duburke. *Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty*. Lee & Low Books, 2010.
 O'Connor, George. *Zeus: King of the Gods*. First Second, 2010.
 *Telgemeier, Raina. *Smile*. Graphix, 2010.

Fiction

- Adachi, Mitsuru. *Cross Game V. 1*. VIZ Media, 2010.
 Ando, Natsumi. *Arisa V. 1*. Del Rey Manga, 2010.
 Arikawa, Hiro and Kiiro Yumi. *Library Wars V. 1: Love & War*. VIZ Media, 2010.
 *Aristophane. *The Zabime Sisters*. Trans. by Matt Madden. First Second, 2010.
 Arnold, J.D. and Richard Koslowski. *B.B. Wolf and the Three LPs*. Top Shelf, 2010.
 Carey, Mike and Peter Gross. *The Unwritten: Tommy Taylor and the Bogus Identity*. DC/Vertigo, 2010.
 Churchland, Marian. *Beast*. Image Comics, 2009.
 *Dayton, Brandon. *Green Monk*. Self-published, 2009.
 DeFilippis, Nunzio and Christina Weir. *Destiny's Hand Omnibus*. Seven Seas, 2009.
 Deutsch, Barry. *Herville: How Mirka Got Her Sword*. Amulet Books, 2010.
 Dorkin, Evan and Jill Thompson. *Beasts of Burden: Animal Rites*. Dark Horse, 2010.
 Doyle, Arthur Conan, Ian Edginton, et al. *A Study in Scarlet: A Sherlock Holmes Graphic Novel*. Sterling, 2010.
 Dunning, John Harris and Nikhil Singh. *Salem Brownstone*. Candlewick Press, 2010.
 Fawkes, Ray. *Possessions, Book One: Unclean Getaway*. Oni Press, 2010.
 Groenig, Matt and Bill Morrison (ed.). *The Simpsons/Futurama Crossover Crisis*. Abrams ComicArts, 2010.
 Hale, Shannon, et al. *Calamity Jack*. Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, 2010.

- Hester, Phil and Brian Churilla. *The Anchor V. 1: Five Furies*. Boom! Studios, 2010.
 Higson, Charlie and Kev Walker. *SilverFin: The Graphic Novel*. Hyperion Books for Children, 2010.
 Isaka, Kotara and Megumi Osuga. *Maoh: Juvenile Remix V. 1*. VIZ Media, 2010.
 *Iwaoka, Hisae. *Saturn Apartments V. 1*. VIZ Media, 2010.
 Jablonski, Carla and Leland Purvis. *Resistance: Book 1*. First Second, 2010.
 Kelly, Joe and Max Fiumara. *Four Eyes V. 1*. Image Comics, 2010.
 *Kim, Susan, et al. *Brain Camp*. First Second, 2010. \$
 Kitoh, Mohiro. *Bokurano: Ours, V. 1*. VIZ Media, 2010.
 Larson, Hope. *Mercury*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2010.
 *Layman, John and Rob Guillory. *Chew V. 1: Taster's Choice*. Image Comics, 2009.
 Lemire, Jeff. *Sweet Tooth V. 1: Out of the Woods*. Vertigo, 2010
 Leone, Christopher, et al. *We Kill Monsters*. Red 5 Comics, 2010.
 McCreery, Conor, et al. *Kill Shakespeare V. 1: A Sea of Troubles*. IDW Publishing, 2010.
 Midorikawa, Yuki. *Natsume's Book of Friends V. 1*. VIZ Media, 2010.
 Mignola, Mike. *The Amazing Screw-On Head and Other Curious Objects*. Dark Horse, 2010.
 Millar, Mark and Steve McNiven. *Wolverine: Old Man Logan*. Marvel Comics, 2010.
 Nihei, Tsutomu. *Biomega V. 1*. VIZ Media, 2010.
 Ono, Natsume. *House of Five Leaves V. 1*. VIZ Media, 2010.
 Ono, Natsume. *Not Simple*. VIZ Media, 2010.
 Raicht, Mike, et al. *The Stuff of Legend: Book 1: The Dark*. Villard, 2010.

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2011 Selected Lists



- Renier, Aaron. *The Unsinkable Walker Bean*. First Second, 2010.
- Rucka, Greg and J.H. Williams. *Batwoman: Elegy*. DC Comics, 2010.
- *Shiga, Jason. *Meanwhile: Pick Any Path*. 3,856 Story Possibilities. Amulet Books, 2010.
- Straczynski, J. Michael and Shane Davis. *Superman: Earth One*. DC Comics, 2010.
- Stroud, Jonathan and Lee Sullivan. *Amulet of Samarkand: A Bartimaeus Graphic Novel*. Disney-Hyperion, 2010.
- Sukane, Kumiko. *Afterschool Charisma V. 1*. VIZ Media, 2010.
- Tada, Kaoru. *Itazura Na Kiss V. 1*. Digital Manga, 2009.
- Tadano, Nobuaki. *7 Billion Needles V. 1*. Vertical, 2010.
- Talbot, Bryan. *Grandville*. Dark Horse, 2009.
- Taylor, Sarah Stewart and Ben Towle. *Amelia Earhart: This Broad Ocean*. Disney-Hyperion, 2010.
- *TenNapel, Doug. *Ghostopolis*. Graphix, 2010.
- Toboso, Yana. *Black Butler V. 1*. Yen Press, 2010.
- Torres, J. and Elbert Orr. *Lola: A Ghost Story*. Oni Press, 2009.
- *Weing, Drew. *Set to Sea*. Fantagraphics, 2010.
- White, Tracy. *How I Made It to Eighteen: A Mostly True Story*. Roaring Brook Press, 2010.
- Yaginuma, Kou. *Twin Spica V. 1*. Vertical, 2010. \$10.95.
- Yang, Gene Luen. *Prime Baby*. First Second. 2010..
- Yolen, Jane and Mike Cavallaro. *Foiled*. 2010. First Second, 2010.
- Yun, JiUn.
- Time and Again V. 1*. Yen Press, 2009.
- Time and Again V. 2*. Yen Press, 2009.

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2011 Selected Lists

Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults

*Denotes PPYA Top Ten Pick



Thrillers & Killers

- Beitia, Sara. *The Last Good Place of Lily Odilon*. Flux, 2010.
 Blundell, Judy. *What I Saw and How I Lied*. Scholastic Paperbacks, 2010.
 Cabot, Meg. *Size Twelve Is Not Fat*. HarperCollins, 2006.
 De la Cruz, Melissa. *Blue Bloods*. Hyperion, 2007.
 Donnelly, Jennifer. *A Northern Light*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2004.
 Feinstein, John. *Change-Up*. Random House, 2010.
 Ferguson, Alane. *The Christopher Killer: A Forensic Mystery*. Sleuth Speak, 2006.
 Gerber, Linda. *Death by Bikini*. Sleuth Speak, 2008.
 Giles, Gail. *Dead Girls Don't Write Letters*. Simon Pulse, 2004.
 Henderson, Lauren. *Kiss Me, Kill Me*. Delacorte Press, 2008.
 Mazer, Norma Fox. *The Missing Girl*. Harper Collins, 2008.
 McNamee, Graham. *Acceleration*. Laurel Leaf, 2005.
 Olin, Sean. *Killing Britney*. Simon Pulse, 2005.
 Parker, Robert B. *The Boxer and the Spy*. Speak/Sleuth, 2008.
 Perez, Marlene. *Dead is the New Black*. Graphia, 2008.
 Schrefer, Eliot. *The School for Dangerous Girls*. Scholastic, 2010.
 Shepard, Sara. HarperTeen, 2007.
 Sorrells, Walter. *First Shot*. Puffin, 2009.
 Stolarz, Laurie Faria. *Project 17*. Hyperion, 2009.
 Sturman, Jennifer. *And Then Everything Unraveled*. Point, 2009.
 Urasawa, Naoki. Naoki Urasawa's Monster: Volume 1. Illus. by Naoki Urasawa. Viz Media, 2006.
 Watson, Andi. *Clubbing*. Illus. by Josh Howard. DC/Minx, 2007.
 *Weingarten, Lynn. *Wherever Nina Lies*. Point, 2010. \$9.99.
 978-0-545-06633-4.
 Werlin, Nancy. *Killer's Cousin*. Speak, 2009.
 *Wooding, Chris. *Malice*. Illus. by Dan Chernett. Scholastic, 2009.

What's Cooking

- *Anderson, M.T. *Burger Wuss*. Candlewick, 2008.
 Ando, Natsumi. *Kitchen Princess Vol 1*. Illus. by Miyuki Kobyashi. Del Rey, 2007.
 Caletti, Deb. *Fortunes of Indigo Skye*. Simon & Schuster, 2009.
 Dessen, Sarah. *The Truth About Forever*. Speak, 2006.
 Fergus, Maureen. *Recipe for Disaster*. Kids Can Press, 2009.
 Ferreira, Charity. *Peeps!: Recipes and Crafts to Make with your Favorite Marshmallow Treat*. Illus. by Liz Wolfe. Chronicle Books, 2008.

- Gold, Rozanne. *Eat Fresh Food: Awesome Recipes for Teen Chefs*. Bloomsbury, 2009.
 Green, John, Maureen Johnson, and Lauren Myracle. *Let It Snow*. Speak, 2009.
 Hashiguchi, Takashi. *Yakitate!! Japan, Vol. 1*. Illus. by Takashi Hashiguchi. VIZ Media, 2006.
 Hepler, Heather. *The Cupcake Queen*. Speak, 2010.
 *The Manga University Culinary Institute. *The Manga Cookbook*. Illus. by Chihiro Hattori. Manga University, 2007.
 Juby, Susan. *Getting the Girl: A Guide to Private Investigation, Surveillance, and Cookery*. HarperTeen, 2010.
 Komura, Ayumi. *Mixed Vegetables, Vol. 1*. VIZ Media, 2008.
 Layman, John. *Chew Volume 1: Taster's Choice*. Illus. by Rob Guillory. Image Comics, 2009.
 Mackler, Carolyn. *Vegan Virgin Valentine*. Candlewick Press, 2004.
 Ostow, Micol. *Crush du Jour*. Simon Pulse, 2007.
 Pollan, Michael. *Food Rules: An Eater's Manual*. Penguin, 2009.
 Shaw, Tucker. *The Girls*. Amulet, 2010.
 *Smith, Cynthia Leitch. *Tantalize*. Candlewick, 2008.
 Smith, Sherri L. *Hot, Sour, Salty, Sweet*. Laurel Leaf, 2009.
 Stern, Sam. *Cooking Up a Storm: The Teen Survival Cookbook*. Candlewick, 2006.
 Walters, Eric. *Stuffed*. Orca, 2006.
 Whytock, Cherry. *My Cup Runneth Over: The Life of Angelica Cookson Potts*. Simon Pulse, 2003.
 Zeises, Lara M. *Sweet Life of Stella Madison*. Delacorte, 2010.
 Zielin, Lara. *Donut Days*. Speak, 2009.

What If

- Arakawa, Hiromu. *Fullmetal Alchemist, Vol 1*. Illus. by Hiromu Arakawa. VIZ Media, 2005.

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2011 Selected Lists

Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults

*Denotes PPYA Top Ten Pick



- Bachorz, Pam. *Candor*. EgmontUSA, 2010.
Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic, 2010.
Dashner, James. *The Maze Runner*. Delacorte, 2010.
Doctorow, Cory. *Little Brother*. Tor Teen, 2010.
DuPrau, Jeanne. *The Diamond of Darkhold*. Yearling, 2010.
Elliott, Kate. *Cold Magic*. Orbit, 2010.
Fukui, Isamu. *Truancy*. Tor Teen, 2010.
Grant, Michael. *Gone*. Katherine Tegen Books, 2009.
Kostick, Conor. *Epic*. Firebird, 2008.
Malley, Gemma. *The Declaration*. Bloomsbury, 2008.
Marsden, John. *Tomorrow, When the War Began*. Scholastic Paperbacks, 2006.
Mieville, China. *Un Lun Dun*. Del Rey, 2008.
Ness, Patrick. *The Knife of Never Letting Go: Chaos Walking*. Candlewick, 2009. \$
Oppel, Kenneth. *Airborn*. Harper Collins, 2007.
Osterlund, Anne. *Academy 7*. Speak, 2009.
Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *Life As We Knew It*. Graphia, 2008.
Priest, Cherie. *Boneshaker*. Tor, 2009.
*Ross, Campbell. *Shadoweyes*. Illus. by Campbell Ross. SLG, 2010.
Ryan, Carrie. *The Forest of Hands and Teeth*. Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2010.
*Shusterman, Neal. *Unwind*. Simon & Schuster, 2009.
Testa, Dom. *The Comet's Curse*. Tor, 2005.
Vaughan, Brian K. Y: *Last Man: Unmanned*. Illus. by Pia Guerra and Jose Marzan, Jr. Vertigo, 2002.
*Westerfield, Scott. *Leviathan*. Illus. by Keith Thompson. Simon Pulse, 2010.
Wood, Brian. *DMZ: On the Ground*. Illus. by Ricardo Burchielli. Vertigo, 2006.

Zombies, Werewolves & Things with Wings

- Arthur, Artist. *Manifest*. Kimani Press, 2010.
Brooks, Max. *The Zombie Survival Guide: Complete Protection from the Living Dead*. Illus. by Max Werner. Three Rivers Press, 2003.
Clare, Cassandra. *City of Bones*. McElderry, 2008.
Delaney, Joseph. *The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch*. Harper/Greenwillow, 2006.
Despain, Bree. *Dark Divine*. EgmontUSA, 2010. \$
Feasey, Steve. *Wereling*. Feiwel & Friends, 2010.
Gill, David Macinnis. *Soul Enchilada*. Harper/Greenwillow, 2010.
Hicks, Faith Erin. *Zombies Calling*. SLG Publishing, 2007.
Holt, Simon. *The Devouring*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2009.
Kagawa, Julie. *The Iron King*. Harlequin, 2010.
Kate, Lauren. *Fallen*. Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2010.
*Kincy, Karen. *Other*. Flux, 2010.
MacCullough, Carolyn. *Once a Witch*. Graphia, 2010.
Maguire, Eden. *Beautiful Dead Book 1: Jonas*. Sourcebooks Fire, 2010.
Marr, Melissa. *Wicked Lovely*. HarperCollins, 2008.
*Mecum, Ryan. *Zombie Haiku: Good Poetry for Your... Brains*. How, 2008.
Peterfreund, Diana. *Rampant*. HarperTeen, 2010.
St. Crow, Lili. *Strange Angels*. Razorbill, 2009.
Selzer, Adam. *I Kissed a Zombie and I Liked It*. Delacorte Books, 2010.
Stiefvater, Maggie. *Shiver: The Wolves of Mercy Falls*, #1. Scholastic Paperbacks, 2010.
Swain, Heather. *Me, My Elf & I*. Speak, 2009.
Tedman, Nicola. *Zombie Felties: How to Raise 16 Gruesome Felt Creatures from the Undead*. Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2010.
Tennapel, Doug. *Ghostopolis*. Graphix, 2010.
Waters, Daniel. *Generation Dead*. Hyperion, 2009.
Wright, Eric. *My Dead Girlfriend*. Tokyopop, 2007.

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2011 Selected Lists

Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

*Denotes QP Top Ten Pick



Fiction

- Barnes, Erica. *Immortal*. Urban Books, 2009.
- Benoit, Charles. *You*. HarperCollins/HarperTeen, 2010.
- Bodeen, S.A. *The Gardener*. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group/Feiwel & Friends, 2010.
- Borris, Albert. *Crash Into Me*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, 2009.
- Carman, Patrick. *Thirteen Days to Midnight*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Condie, Allie. *Matched*. Penguin/Dutton, 2010.
- Dashner, James. *The Maze Runner*. Random House/Delacorte Press, 2009.
- de la Pena, Matt. *I Will Save You*. Random House/Delacorte Press, 2010.
- Devlin, Ivy. *Low Red Moon*. Bloomsbury, 2010.
- Divine, L. *Drama High: Culture Clash*. (Drama High Series). Kensington/Dafina, 2010.
- Elkeles, Simone. *Return to Paradise*. Llewellyn/Flux, 2010.
- *Elkeles, Simone. *Rules of Attraction: A Perfect Chemistry Novel*. Bloomsbury/Walker, 2010.
- Fehlbaum, Beth. *Hope in Patience*. Westside Books, 2010.
- Giles, Gail. *Dark Song*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Greene, Michele Dominguez. *Keep Sweet*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, 2010.
- Hautman, Pete. *Blank Confession*. Simon & Schuster, 2010.
- Henry, April. *Girl Stolen: A Novel*. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group/Henry Holt, 2010.
- Hubbard, Jennifer. *The Secret Year*. Penguin/Viking, 2010.
- Jacobson, Jennifer Richard. *The Complete History of Why I Hate Her*. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2010.
- *Keplinger, Kody. *The D.U.F.F. (Designated Ugly Fat Friend)*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers/Poppy, 2010.
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- Byrd, A.J. *Losing Romeo (BFF Novel)*. Kimani Press, 2010.
- Cross, Cecil. *Next Semester*. Kimani Press, 2010.
- McKayhan, Monica. *Step Up (An Indigo Novel)*. Kimani Press, 2010.
- Sewell, Earl. Kimani Press, 2010.

- Maldonado, Torrey. *Secret Saturdays*. Penguin Group/G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2010.
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Lockdown*. HarperCollins/Amistad, 2010.
- Night Fall Series*
- Duke, Shirley. *Unthinkable*. Lerner/Darby Creek, 2010.
- Jasper, Rick. *Skin*. Lerner/Darby Creek, 2010.
- Jasper, Rick. *Thaw*. Lerner/Darby Creek, 2010.
- Watson, Stephanie. *The Club*. Lerner/Darby Creek, 2010.
- Omololu, C.J. *Dirty Little Secrets*. Bloomsbury/Walker, 2010.
- Peirce, Lincoln. *Big Nate: In a Class By Himself. (Big Nate Series)*. HarperCollins/Harper, 2010.
- Peters, Julie Anne. *By the Time You Read This, I'll Be Dead*. Disney-Hyperion, 2010.
- Price, Charlie. *The Interrogation of Gabriel James*. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2010.
- *Rainfield, Cheryl. *Scars*. Westside Books, 2010.
- Reed, Amy. *Beautiful*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, 2009.
- Schutz, Samantha. *You Are Not Here*. Push/Scholastic, 2010.
- Scott, Elizabeth. *The Unwritten Rule*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, 2010.
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- Shulman, Mark. *Scrawl*. Roaring Brook/Neal Porter, 2010.
- Simone, Ni-Ni. *Teenage Love Affair*. Kensington/Dafina, 2010.
- Smith, Alexander Gordon. *Solitary: Escape from Furnace*. Macmillan Children's Book Group/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010.
- Stine, R.L. *Fear: 13 Stories of Suspense*. Speak, 2010.
- Strasser, Todd. *Blood on My Hands*. EgmontUSA, 2010.
- Strasser, Todd. *Wish You Were Dead*. EgmontUSA, 2009.
- Teller, Janne. *Nothing*. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2010.

While these materials have been selected for ages 12-18, the titles on this list span a broad range of reading and maturity levels. We encourage adults to take an active role in helping individual teens choose those books that are the best fit for them and their families.

2011 Selected Lists

Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

*Denotes QP Top Ten Pick



Templar Company Ltd. *Vampireology: The True History of the Fallen*. Candlewick Press, 2010.

Urban Underground Series

Schraff, Anne. *Outrunning the Darkness. (Urban Underground #1)*. Saddleback Educational Publishing, 2010.

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Schraff, Anne. *A Boy Called Twister. (Urban Underground #3)*. Saddleback Educational Publishing, 2010.

Schraff, Anne. *If You Really Loved Me. (Urban Underground #4)*. Saddleback Educational Publishing, 2010.

Schraff, Anne. *Like a Broken Doll. (Urban Underground #6)*. Saddleback Educational Publishing, 2010.

Schraff, Anne. *To Be A Man. (Urban Underground #9)*. Saddleback Educational Publishing, 2010.

Van Tol, Alex. *Knife Point*. Orca Soundings, 2010.

*Volponi, Paul. *Rikers High*. Penguin Group/Viking, 2010.

Wells, Dan. *Mr. Monster*. Tor/Tom Doherty Associates, 2010.

Williams, Carol Lynch. *Glimpse*. Simon & Schuster, 2010.

Nonfiction

*Amason, Jessica and Richard Blakeley. *This is Why You're Fat: Where Dreams Become Heart Attacks*. HarperCollins/Harper Studio, 2009.

Balestier, Courtney. *Would You Rather...? BFF!! Over 300 Fiercely Fascinating Questions to Ask your Friends*. Seven Footer Press, 2009.

Ripley's Believe it or Not! *Ripley's Believe it or Not!: Enter If You Dare*. Ripley Publishing, 2010.

Ripley's Believe It or Not! *Ripley's Believe It or Not: Special Edition 2010*. Scholastic, 2009.

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Bellows, Melina Gerosa. *NatGeo Amazing!: 100 People, Places, and Things That Will Wow You*. National Geographic, 2010.

Berger, Melvin & Gilda. *101 Freaky Animals*. Scholastic, 2010.

Bos, Samone et al. *Ask Me Everything: Facts, Stats, Lists, Records and More*. Penguin/DK, 2010.

*Brereton, Catherine, Philip Steele, and Hannah Wilson. *Warriors Versus Warriors: Ten Fighters, Five Battles, ONE WINNER*. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group/Kingfisher, 2009.

Buller, Laura. *Danger! Open with Extreme Caution*. Penguin/DK, 2010.

Cassidy, John and Boyle, Brendan. *The Klutz Book of Inventions*. Scholastic/Klutz, 2010.

Choron, Harry and Sandra. *Look! It's Jesus!: Amazing Holy Visions in Everyday Life*. Chronicle Books, 2010.

Claybourne, Anna. *100 Most Disgusting Things on the Planet*. Scholastic, 2010.

Conley, Erin. *Kiss: a Girl's Guide to Puckering Up*. Zest/Orange Avenue Publishing, 2009.

Eaton, Jim. *Ghosts Caught on Film 2: Photographs of the Unexplained*. F+W Media/David and Charles, 2009.

Felisbret, Eric. *Graffiti New York*. Abrams Books, 2009.

Goldblatt, David and Johnny Acton. *The Soccer Book*. Penguin/DK, 2009.

*Hasler, Nikol. *Sex: A Book for Teens: An Uncensored Guide to Your Body, Sex and Safety*. Zest/Orange Avenue Publishing, 2010.

Henry, Nathan. *Good Behavior: A Memoir*. Bloomsbury, 2010.

Hines-Stephens, Sarah. *Show Off: How to Do Absolutely Everything One Step at a Time*. Candlewick Press, 2009.

Jackson, Julie and Jill Johnson. *Glamourpuss: The Enchanting World of Kitty Wigs*. Chronicle Books, 2009.

Kamikaze Factory Studio. *Kodomo Manga: Super Cute!* Harper Collins/Collins Design, 2009.

Leto, Lauren and Bator, Ben. *Texts From Last Night: All the Texts No One Remembers Sending*. Penguin/Gotham, 2010.

Lipkowitz, Daniel. *The Lego Book*. Penguin/DK, 2009.

Mockus, Steve. *How to Speak Zombie: A Guide for the Living*. Chronicle Books, 2010.

2011 Selected Lists

Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

*Denotes QP Top Ten Pick



- Mora, Pat. *Dizzy in Your Eyes: Poems About Love*. Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Publishing, 2010.
- Munro, Nicky and Sharon Spencer. *Life in the Wild*. Penguin/DK, 2009.
- National Geographic. *Weird but True! 300 Outrageous Facts*. National Geographic Society, 2010.
- *Neri, G. and Randy DuBurke. *Yummy: the Last Days of a Southside Shorty*. Lee & Low, 2010. \$
- Pluto, Terry and Brian Windhorst. *Lebron James: The Making of an MVP*. Gray & Company, 2009.
- Sansweet, Stephen J. and Neumann, Anne. *Star Wars: 1,000 Collectibles: Memorabilia and Stories from a Galaxy Far, Far Away*. Abrams, 2009.
- Sartore, Joel. *Rare: Portraits of America's Endangered Species*. National Geographic Society/Focal Point, 2010.
- Setchfield, Neil. *Yuck! The Things People Eat*. Merrell Publishers, 2010.
- Seventeen Magazine. *Seventeen Presents... 500 Beauty Tips: Look Your Best for School, Weekend, Parties & More*. Hearst Books/Sterling Publishing Co. 2009.
- Tack, Karen and Richardson, Alan. *What's New Cupcake: Ingeniously Simple Designs for Every Occasion*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.
- Talmadge, Eve and Justin Taylor. *The Word Made Flesh: Literary Tattoos from Bookworms Worldwide*. HarperCollins/Harper Perennial, 2010.
- Teen Vogue. *The Teen Vogue Handbook*. Penguin/Razorbill, 2009.
- Thompson, Alicia. *The Secret Language of Birthdays: Teen Edition*. Penguin/Razorbill, 2010.
- Valentino, Serena. *How To Be A Zombie: The Essential Guide for Anyone Who Craves Brains*. Candlewick Press, 2010.
- Veasey, Nick. *X-treme X-ray: See the World Inside Out!*. Scholastic, 2010.
- *Von D, Kat with Sandra Bark. *The Tattoo Chronicles*. HarperCollins/Collins Design, 2010.
- Yates, Jen. *Cake Wrecks: When Professional Cakes Go Hilariously Wrong*. Andrews McMeel, 2009

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feature

Hot Spot: Awards

Called to Judge How Our YALSA Committee Experiences Prepped Us for Non-ALA Jury Service

By *Francisca Goldsmith*
and *Eva Volin*

As active members of YALSA, we have been appointed and elected to a small but diverse range of selection and award committees, in addition to reading, reviewing and discussing publications outside committee work. Among our recent YALSA publication-

oriented responsibilities have been the Michael L. Printz Award (Eva), the Margaret A. Edwards Award (Francisca), Great Graphic Novels for Teens (Eva), and the Odyssey Award (Francisca).

But YALSA isn't the only award granting venue through which we have had

FRANCISCA GOLDSMITH's affair with YALSA has been ongoing for a couple of decades, during which she has worked in professional positions ranging from Teen Services Librarian to Library Services Director. She has written two books on graphic novels from a library perspective, reviews for a variety of professional publications, and has interviewed several cartoonists including Will Eisner and Art Spiegelman.

EVA VOLIN is Supervising Children's Librarian for the Alameda (Calif.) Free Library and a committeeholic. In addition to volunteering her services to pretty much anyone who asks, she also reviews for *Booklist* and *NoFlyingNoTights.com*, and is a commentator on the Good Comics for Kids blog at *schoollibraryjournal.com*.

opportunity to work—er, volunteer. We've been asked to share how our YALSA committee work compared to and contrasted with the work each of us did with the San Diego Comic-Con Eisner Award Jury (Eva, 2008; Francisca, 2010). When we sat down to discuss that, we both realized how intricate the comparison and contrast is!

As a quick background, the Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards, named for the father of the graphic novel, Will Eisner (1917–2005), are presented annually in a range of categories, from the aesthetic (Best New Album) to the technical (Best Penciling). Each year, five jury members are appointed to spend months reading and sifting and winnowing through comic book, graphic novel, and related publications (including web comics) brought out that year. The jury then meets once, in March, to create nominations lists of three to five or so titles or people in each category, the nominations are announced on the Comic-Con website (http://www.comic-con.org/cci/cci_eisners_main.php), and industry members get to vote for the winners, announced during the July Comic-Con. Incidentally, although voting is limited to members of the comics industry, if you are a librarian you can also vote on the winners from these slates.

Now, on with what we had to say about the contrast and comparison when we chatted about our experiences:

Eva: I compare the Eisner Jury to being the Academy at the Academy Awards. This handful of judges develops the list of titles for the members to vote on.

Francisca: And that's different from the Printz world or even the world of making recommended lists like GGNT, where the committee works from the full scope of possibilities down to the finalists and then any specific winners.

Eva: The nice thing with YALSA selection award committees is that you know for sure that all the voters read all the books. That's not true with either the

Eisners or the Oscars. (Yes, some categories of the Oscars require that all the voters watch all the films in that category, but not in each category).

Francisca: And the committee, in the case of YALSA, is composed of people with similar professional commitments. Not quite like the judges who create the annual list of Eisner nominees.

Eva: Very true. One of the nice things about the Eisners is that the judges come from a variety of backgrounds, with the hopes that the slate will be broad and cover all aspects of the industry.

Francisca: Yes, each jury comprises a retailer, an academic, a member of the press, and a creator, and across the past six years, a librarian. I really enjoyed that aspect of it! Hearing from judge to judge about how differently each of us saw both the audience and what “good” means.

Eva: Exactly. Sometimes our discussions were quite lively as a result. We certainly weren’t coming from similar viewpoints on intellectual freedom or even whether availability trumped quality.

Francisca: I think YALSA committees are a lot clearer about a couple of other things, too: what the workload of such committee or jury responsibility entails and the need to be open-minded.

Eva: The fanboy defense mechanisms snapped into place and I often found myself defending books that had never made it to the direct market. But I also had to be schooled a few times on some of the pamphlets that hadn’t yet been collected into graphic novels. So there was a learning curve on both sides.

Francisca: Yes, I can say all of us on the jury learned and schooled each other, coming away with a different manner of perceiving what the “best” of the comics field means than the one with which we started the discussions. Each judge had difficulty getting a handle on an aspect that another judge totally understood, such as what makes a great penciler (my weak

spot!) or why it’s good to move forward an excellent item in spite of it coming from a small press (the retailer’s weak spot). We were supportive of each other needing the leg up.

Eva: I find this to be true in YALSA selection committee work, too. There were subjects that some of us would know more about than others. And this is where the discussion became so vital to the process. I missed having time for meaningful discussions when working on the Eisners. Everything moved so fast.

Francisca: Discussion is such an essential part of this kind of selection work! Although the Eisner discussions moved too fast to be deep, there was still that truly interactive element with people’s expressions, tones, and the pages they chose to show as parts of their arguments for or against.

Eva: I’m so jealous that you got that extra day. Mine was the last year that they tried to squeeze the final list discussions into a weekend. It was a sprint to the finish.

Francisca: Mine was more like sprinting another half lap after you had spent all your energy! Before either of us walked into that room in San Diego, we had spent months not just reading but hunting down the obscure and learning how to appreciate covers and other elements we don’t usually discuss in YALSA committees.

Eva: Ha! But getting back to what you said about the workload, I have to agree. Those of us who have served on YALSA committees have a good sense of how much time a selection committee takes up—at least we do by our first Annual. It takes a ton of time! And someone who thinks, “Oh, I can read a handful of comics in an afternoon,” doesn’t necessarily think about that afternoon multiplied by 300 books.

Francisca: Yes, and enough of us have served in the past that we serve as a kind of culture, whereas the Eisner judges are each in it for the first time and aren’t feeling the

support of people around them particularly. Envy and admiration, definitely, but not the kind of knowing support YALSA committee members on similar heavy lifting committees get from their colleagues.

Eva: Yeah, that support system is invaluable, as is the years of experience Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and YALSA have in putting these lists together. The Eisners have been around for almost twenty-five years (developing from the Kirby Awards), and the executive director has a set way of proceeding during the voting weekend. But there isn’t a documented set of criteria, all of the awards are changeable from year to year, and there’s no way to really know what you’re getting into before you agree to serve. A moving target can be hit, but it’s not an easy shot.

Francisca: Right. And although I really enjoyed and appreciated the fact that the judges are each from a different part of the comics world, we had to really talk through and across our cultural assumptions a lot. Very different from a YALSA committee whose members subscribe to a set of values that we have heard before and are likely attached to institutions we understand the workings of. Being an Eisner judge is more like working on an international space station.

Eva: Exactly, even though school librarians use different terminology than public librarians do, for example, we’re all talking about the same things.

Francisca: Both YALSA and Eisners share one kind of diversity: committee jury members come from all over the country, and not just from where the publishers are.

Eva: And this can make a huge difference in the way the list comes together.

Francisca: Exactly! In both cases, there can be years in which the Southeast suburbs leave a scent and in other years, it

really is a smorgasbord of different regions and population densities. I appreciate that fact about both kinds of lists.

Eva: But a thing that's different from most YALSA committees I've been on is that there is often a single female Eisner judge, where it's the other way around in the library world. It REALLY changed the flow of the discussion, and I found myself having to defend books that don't necessarily appeal to male readers. As a result I've become much more conscious of how boys might read a book differently than I do. It's changed not only how I read books but how I listen to the other committee members now on a YALSA committee.

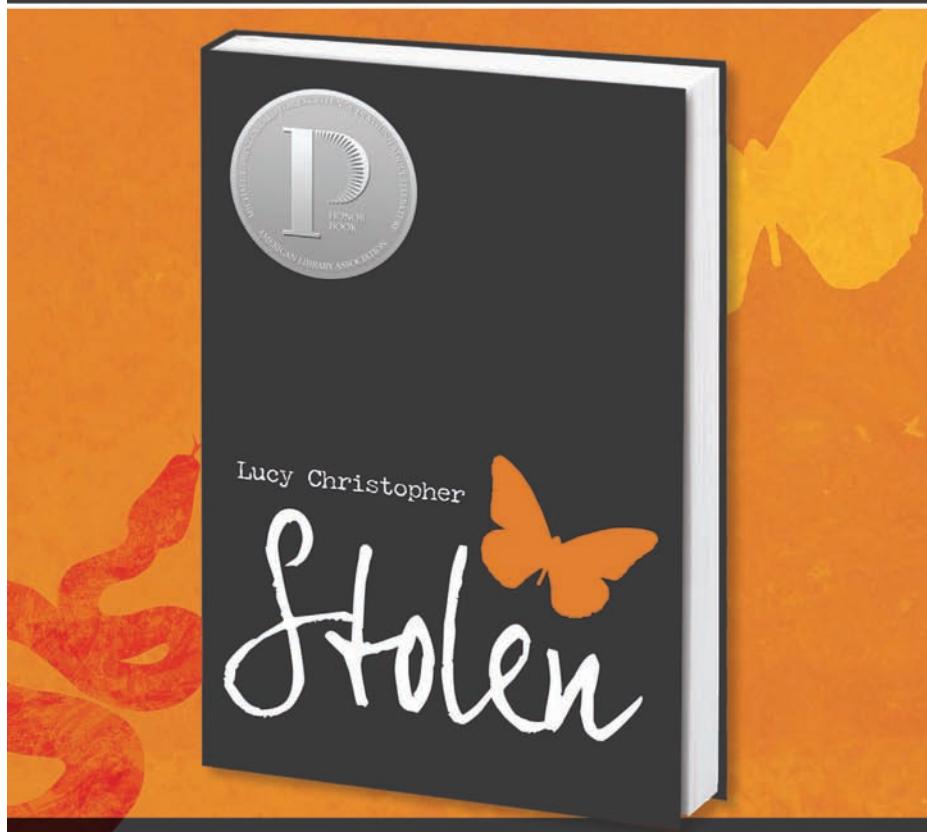
Francisca: That's great! We had a diversity issue my year on the Eisners that caught me up because it contrasted so sharply with YALSA. Forty percent of the panel was gay and an equal number were not particularly gay friendly. Not the library world!

Eva: Wow! Not at all!

Francisca: That helped me to appreciate the softer but necessary side of bonding with your committee. Both the YALSA committees on which I've served and the get-together with the Eisner jury work better when you can take a coffee break together or celebrate the final decisions with a drink or a meal.

Eva: Yup, no matter what kind of committee you're on, snacks make everything better. **YALS**

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Thousands of books are published for young adults every year, and YALSA has been a frontrunner in recognizing the best of the best. In 2009, YALSA bestowed the first William C. Morris YA Debut Award. The namesake of the award, Bill Morris, was a HarperCollins publisher who championed young adult literature and was beloved in librarianship. He left an endowment to YALSA, which has funded this award, among other endeavors. Thanks to his legacy, the Morris Award will help recognize the new voices among the thousands.

The Morris Award committee is composed of nine YALSA members, including a chair. They have the charge to find debut authors who display the highest quality storytelling and potential appeal to teens. According to the requirements, the award and honor book winner must be authors of original young adult works of fiction in any genre, nonfiction, poetry, a short story collection, or graphic work. This eliminates authors who have published works for other age groups, among other considerations.

Adela Peskorz, faculty librarian and associate professor at Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul, Minnesota, served on the 2011 committee. She stated,

Like any award committee, we were very focused on our charge in our vetting of eligible titles and had to be scrupulous about adherence to reviewing only true YA debut works, where the author was publishing a first ever book of any kind, in any market. That strict scrutiny was particular to this award and required constant vigilance for things like authorship in another market or co-authorship only with another debut contributor, and while we all looked for red flags, I can tell you the task would have been impossible without the extraordinary efforts of our chair, Summer Hayes,

Discovering the Next Great YA Author

The William C. Morris YA Debut Award

By Angela Frederick

and our administrative assistant, Amy Anderson; they were the very definition of tireless and dedicated in hunting down the specifics, which helped all of us enormously. I think all of us had some disappointment in realizing books were ineligible for whatever reason—in fact, for me it was a *deja vu* moment when I realized that, *exactly* like my experience on the first Printz Committee, I had to boot a book from contention because it was officially published for the adult market though they both were screaming YA.¹

Being on a newly formed committee is a unique experience. Judy Nelson, youth services director at Pierce County Public

Library in Washington and the chair of the 2010 committee, compared being on the Morris Award during only its second year to an exciting adventure. Says Nelson: “Everyone in YALSA is so collegial that I was able to brainstorm with the previous chair of the committee to work out any situations that arose.”² Another aspect that Nelson enjoyed was helping to set a standard for the award for the committees that followed. “It allow[ed] for really wonderful, constructive and critical discussions that are unique because the committee does not have examples of success to fall back on. When you are new, you are the example, and you get to define what you want to accomplish within the description you are given to work with.”³

ANGELA FREDERICK is a Teen Services Librarian at the Nashville Public Library in Tennessee. She was honored to serve on the 2010 William C. Morris YA Debut Award committee.

Because the Morris Award committee announces a shortlist of finalists in December every year, the committee must stay in touch online and through conference calls to complete its work.

Peskorz admits

I was actually really surprised how well the virtual committee process worked. Because we had to have our shortlist unveiled before Midwinter, all post-Annual nominated books had to be discussed through a chat function hosted through ALA Connect. This was definitely unique to this committee process and a new way of interacting to fulfill our responsibilities—certainly one with some challenges, not the least of which was synchronizing scheduling arrangements. There were a few technical glitches (and it's still a little challenging to track the spool of committee voices in real time), but we were definitely able to have vibrant conversations across the wires, which paved the way for what was ultimately a very smooth voting process.⁴

Reading so many debuts in one year helps one to understand what a great challenge and triumph it is to actually write a book and have it published. One thing is

clear: good storytelling is always good storytelling, even if the author is a novice. For Nelson, reading debuts was “an interesting look at the complete writing process. I loved it. . . it was fun to potentially discover the next great Jacqueline Woodson or M.T. Anderson.”⁵ Angie Manfredi is the head of youth services at Los Alamos County Library System in New Mexico and served on the 2011 committee. She said “I think Morris books will always be in my favorites because, in a way, they represent all the struggle and hope and work that goes into getting a book published that very first time.”⁶

Peskorz points out that

[the committee was] looking for books that embodied all the expectations of the award, but also writers we wanted to encourage and support—to launch them into the wider world and nurture them in the true spirit of William Morris’s legacy. I can’t count the number of times we asked, Would you want to read this author’s next book? in our discussions, as a kind of marker for both current and future potential—what kind of promise was indicated in the initial launch? When I was on other committees, authors were often already established, but here was this opportunity to open doorways for new

and profound voices in the literature—exactly what separates this particular award from all the other selection processes. [In looking for a debut], I looked for the same level of quality I would in any other selection process. Excellence in crafting; strong writing; richly developed, fully dimensional characters and dialogue; developmental resonance—features that speak directly to the teen experience and emotional arc; solid narrative and appropriate (to the work genre) structure; but also the intangibles: a book that stays with you and transports you, a book that gets you thinking, seeing the world in a unique or different way, a voice that haunts, leaving a vivid impression—those are still essential indicators of strong works and strong voices. Like the Printz, this is an award not defined by proven popularity but rather potential teen appeal—a book that may not speak to every teen, but when it does, its impact will be profound. I loved our shortlist this year and am particularly proud that we covered such a wide range of genres and styles. These are books that I believe represent the timeless and enduring quality always intended for this award.⁷

As a member of the 2010 committee, I found the most enjoyable part of the whole experience was celebrating all the hard work of both the authors and the committee. I feel a connection to my other committee members and “our authors,” as we like to call them. Knowing that we helped change their careers for the better was an amazing feeling. Manfredi agrees. At the 2011 reception, she

heard, first-hand, the way the Morris Award. . . changes authors’ lives. [The] Morris reception was immensely moving to me, seeing [three of our authors] in attendance (winner Blythe Woolston and honorees Lish McBride

2011 Morris Award

Winner: *The Freak Observer* by Blythe Woolston

Finalists: *Hush* by Eishes Chayil, *Guardian of the Dead* by Karen Healey, *Hold Me Closer*, *Necromancer* by Lish McBride, and *Crossing the Tracks* by Barbara Stuber.

2010 Morris Award

Winner: *Flash Burnout* by L.K. Madigan

Finalists: *Beautiful Creatures* by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl, *The Everafter* by Amy Huntley, *Hold Still* by Nina LaCour, and *Ash* by Malinda Lo.

2009 Morris Award

Winner: *A Curse Dark As Gold* by Elizabeth C. Bunce

Finalists: *Graceling* by Kristin Cashore, *Absolute Brightness* by James Lecesne, *Madapple* by Christina Meldrum, and *Me, the Missing, and the Dead* by Jenny Valentine

and Barbara Stuber) and hearing them talk about what writing meant in their lives and knowing that the Morris Award recognition was going to make their publishing even a little bit easier, well, it was significant to me.⁸

Of course, as librarians and professionals who work with teens, we also hope that the winners and finalists will speak to the readers who frequent our libraries and media centers.

The committee welcomes field nominations. Please visit www.ala.org/yalsa/morris for more information.

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feature

Hot Spot: Awards

WARNING! This List Contains Drugs, Violence, Language, Sex, Abuse, and Some of the Most Amazing Things on the Planet!

YALSA's Quick Picks List

By Heather Gruenthal

The Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers committee is made up of eleven library

professionals from all over the United States who represent our nation's teens. They work in public schools, private

HEATHER GRUENTHAL is a Teacher Librarian in the Anaheim Union High School District serving both Orangeview Junior High School and Western High School in Anaheim, California. Heather currently chairs the Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers Selection Committee. She has published articles in the *California School Library Association Journal* and *Knowledge Quest*, the journal of the American Association of School Librarians.

schools, arts academies, youth shelters, public libraries, and juvenile detention centers. Members of the Quick Picks Committee read hundreds of books and lurk in teen hangouts such as bookstores, comic book and craft stores, their local teen room, Walmart, Urban Outfitters, and Hot Topic to find some fun, interesting, and downright crazy books. We survey books published in the last eighteen months that will get even the most reluctant teen to pick up a book and READ!

The committee relies heavily on teen feedback to determine what books other reluctant readers will find interesting. When a book gets the approval of teens from our focus groups across the country, chances are they will work with your teens too. Through my work with Quick Picks, I must admit I've become a reluctant reader; I won't read anything unless it captures my attention immediately. There are too many good books out there to waste any time on something I don't love. The same rule should apply to our reluctant readers. Quick Picks is a list that appeals to a wide variety of teens, from the kid who never finished a whole book in his life, to the Advanced Placement student who doesn't have time to read for fun, but will stay up all night reading Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* and go on to devour the trilogy. Sometimes we do our job too well, and our students go on from not reading at all to becoming avid readers once they find their reading niche.

What is a Quick Pick?

The charge for Quick Picks is "To prepare an annual annotated list of recommended books appropriate for reluctant young adult readers. The list is for young adults (ages 12–18) who, for whatever reasons, do not like to read. The purpose of this list is to identify titles for recreational reading, not for curricular or remedial use."¹

It is important to note that Quick Picks are not instructional books for teens taking remedial reading classes; that is another kind of literacy problem that requires special books and instruction. In the past, YALSA had a selection group called the *High Interest/Low Literacy Level Materials Evaluation Committee*, but the committee's charge was changed to what is now known as Quick Picks when they found that remedial books "did not accomplish the purpose of improving reading because kids wouldn't select them. Teens hated being labeled as remedial and singled out with special books."² As a result of these findings, the Quick Picks committee changed its focus to a more teen centered rather than a materials centered approach.

What is a Reluctant Reader?

According to Gregory Lum, 2011 Quick Picks chair,

[A reluctant reader] is a girl who does not like to read. It may be a boy more interested in nonfiction than in fiction. It is a girl who turns to the end of the book to see the number of pages. It is an AP student who is 'overbooked' with studying, an afterschool job, sports, and activities. It is a boy who wants to read what everyone else is reading. It is a girl who has never found the 'right' book. A reluctant teen reader can be from any demographic.³

Our target audience, the reluctant reader, **can** read, but chooses not to because the books they are exposed to are not interesting to them. This is particularly understandable in these tough budget times when there are very few new books to choose from in schools and libraries. Probably the only books

these teens get exposure to are instructional materials that teachers make them read.

- "I read books because my teachers make me."
- "I would rather watch TV, play sports, and hang out with my friends."⁶

The Importance of Self Selection

Self selection is important to reluctant readers. The quickest way to kill interest in reading is to force teens to read something. For example, Walter Dean Myers has been a Quick Picks author multiple times for books such as: *Shooter*, *Street Love*, *What They Found: Love on 145th Street*, *Dope Sick*, and most recently, *Lockdown*; proving he can win over a teen audience again and again. However, teens in focus groups in which Myers' books are required reading in schools were not interested. Anne Rouyer, a 2009–2011 committee member from New York, reported one teen refusing to pick up the book saying, "Ma'am, that's a SCHOOL book."⁴

When a book is taught in schools, often the joy is taken out of reading. Kelly Gallagher has written a book on the topic called *Readicide: How Schools are Killing Reading and What You Can Do About It*. "Readicide" is defined by Gallagher as: "the systematic killing of the love of reading, often exacerbated by the inane, mind-numbing practices found in schools. . . . Many of the reading practices found in today's classroom are actually contributing to the death of reading." Central to this practice is focusing on test preparation rather than reading to learn.⁵ To illustrate his point, Gallagher asked his 2007–2008 students what they thought about reading, and some of the answers they gave were enlightening:

- "Reading, I hate it because of the lack of fun it brings me."
- "Hate runs through me when I spend hours of time I could be spending doing something enjoyable."

Letting teens self-select their reading from new and interesting books is key to getting reluctant readers invested in their reading experience. In *The 2010 Kids and Family Reading Report* written by the Harrison Group and funded by Scholastic, teens ages 12–17 who were surveyed on their reading habits reported that 90 percent were more likely to finish a book they choose themselves.⁷ In a study published in 2008 by Scholastic and Yankelovich, among the top reasons teens stated they do not read is they can't find what they like. More than half of the participants said they didn't think there were enough good books for boys or girls their age.⁸ The job of the Quick Picks committee is to find those good books teens love and let the professionals who work with teen groups know about them through the annual Quick Picks book list.

The Cover is Key

The covers of Quick Picks books need to be eye catching and interesting. You've heard the saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover," but that's exactly what we do. The cover is the advertisement for the book. Many of the popular books feature photos of real teens that look like them such as the Bluford High series, Drama High series, Kimani Tru imprint, and Urban Underground series. If teens are going to be seen with a book, it's an extension of who they are. They want to look cool; they want something that reflects them and their interests. According to Amy Cheney, 2010 Quick Picks chair, most important of all, the cover has to reflect what is inside the book. Teens are really turned off by

"false advertising," when the inside of the book does not live up to the cover image.⁹

Gateway Books

Sometimes the cool packaging is a factor that draws teens to a book. My teens are crazy about DK's *The Soccer Book*, because it looks and feels like a real soccer ball. Smash hits like *Farts: A Spotter's Guide* by Crai Bower and Steve Mockus and *How to Speak Zombie: A Guide for the Living* by Steve Mockus and Travis Millard attract teens with their sound effects buttons. These books are what we call the gateway books. If we can get a teen interested in a book and have a positive experience with books and libraries; that is the first step towards growing a reader. Rouyer explains the appeal of these gateway books:

Browsing books end up being some of the best books we get. If you look at past lists you will see that the non-fiction books are almost all these type of books. Books that touch on subjects that interest teens are IMPORTANT! It doesn't matter if they read word for word, what's important is that they are excited about a book, about opening that book and sharing that book with friends and family. Some of the best experiences on the committee that you will have is looking at a book like that with a teen or group of teens and talking about it together whether it has text or not.¹⁰

The way you can use these gateway books is to help draw teens to your teen area. A Quick Picks committee member from 2010–2011 calls these her coffee table books. She puts them on a table near the entrance of the library and just watches the teens pick up and interact with the books. The conversations among teens overheard browsing this section gives great insight to what teens like and don't like.

What's Hot

A really hot book will take off like a chain letter. A teen loves a book and recommends it to two friends, and they tell two friends, and so on and so on and so on (like the old *Suave* commercial if you remember the '70s). To find out what my teens are interested in, I do an activity called "What's Hot and What's Not?" I show the teens books that were popular with the previous year's group, and ask them if the topic is still Hot? or Not! You can use a show of hands or colored signs that say "Hot" in red, and "Not" in blue; that way you can see at a quick glance what topics your teens will go for. The popular topics that have appeared on Quick Picks recently are: prison, abuse, tattoos, vampires (not romantic – my teens say *Twilight* is *so over!*), zombies, werewolves, funny foods, real life memoirs, high school drama, gangs, gross stuff, dystopias, love gone wrong, suicide, cute animals, strange but true, and all things weird and amazing.

Why the List Contains Controversial Materials

Over the years, the Quick Picks list has been the center of controversy regarding some of our nominations. Teens love controversy. It gives them something to think about, engages them in a discussion about things they care about. An example reported by Cheney, from a teen in Alameda County Library Juvenile Hall, of what teens like to read is "My fav book is drugs, money, sex, violence, drama, fighting, guns, gangs, cussing. . ."¹¹ Sometimes this type of interest stems simply from teens' desires to live vicariously, but most often, teens face a lot of problems in their daily lives. They like to read the trauma fiction that portrays teens that are in gangs, in jail, pregnant, abused,

addicted to drugs, or homeless. It helps them cope with their own daily dramas to know there are other teens that are worse off than themselves.

Librarians sometimes ask why the Quick Picks committee puts controversial and sometimes adult books on the list. Our charge is to serve teens from age 12–18, so what is appropriate for an eighteen-year-old (a legal adult) is not necessarily appropriate for a twelve-year-old. Unlike other selection committees, Quick Picks relies heavily on teen input. One of our most controversial adult book nominations were the books by Bodhi Oser, *Fuck This Book* and *Fuck the World*. These books made the list because the teen response to them was tremendous! What could be better to give to a teen who hates to read? Handing a teen *Fuck This Book* proves that we really mean it when we try to find books that teens will want to read.

To prove that teen input really is the determining factor in making the final list, one of our adult book nominations that was not approved by teens last year was Andrew Kipple's *The People of Walmart*. The Walmart book is like a train wreck: you can't help looking at it. You have to ask yourself, "How could those people leave the house looking like that?" . . . and what is it about Walmart that draws people who bring their pet goats shopping?" This is one book that did not make the list because many of our teens shop at Walmart, and they thought it was classist, and making fun of poor people. One Quick Picks member reported a discussion among her teens in which one said that she felt like a bad person for laughing at it.

Some critics of the Quick Picks list say, "Shouldn't we be giving teens 'good' books?" In our opinion, any book that gets teens to read is a good book. Our testers expose their teens to all kinds of books. Sometimes we get our hearts crushed when a book we love is flat out rejected by our teens. It may be a great book, but has a lousy cover or is more

appropriate for the Michael L. Printz Award or Best Fiction for Young Adults. But in fact, a good book will appeal to readers of all types. Many years there are books that are featured both on the Quick Picks list and the Best Fiction for Young Adults. The crossover titles in 2011 are: *Matched* by Ally Condie, *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner, *Girl Stolen* by April Henry, *Lockdown* by Walter Dean Myers, *Scrawl* by Mark Shulman, and *Some Girls Are* by Courtney Summers.

Give Your Teens the Freedom to Read

Although the Quick Picks is a great selection tool, it is not a buy list. Every book is not for every teen in every library. It is important to read reviews and evaluate the appropriateness of the selections for your demographic. The Quick Picks policies and procedures remind us that "All titles should have appeal as self-selected leisure reading for young adults. Books should be evaluated by subject, cover art, readability, format, style and teen feedback. Teen feedback from reluctant readers is encouraged. Standard selection criteria consonant with the ALA Library Bill of Rights shall be applied."¹² In conclusion, although we may feel personally that a book is not appropriate for teens, it is our charge to make all books available and let the patrons decide what is appropriate for their reading. Keep in mind these words from ALA's Freedom to Read Statement:

Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or esthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.¹³

How Can I Participate?

We're always on the lookout for new hot books, so if you have something that's taking off with your teens, be sure to submit a field nomination on the YALSA Web site. Nominate a title at www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/quickpicks

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feature

Hot Spot: Awards

Too Old? Too Young? Just Right? YALSA Award Winners and Selection List Possibilities for Middle School Aged Library Users

By Pam Spencer Holley

YALSA often receives inquiries from librarians, teachers, and parents asking which of the titles on the selection or award lists are suitable for middle grade students. That's a difficult question to answer as not only is every middle school aged reader different, but middle schools vary from grades 5 to 8, 6 to 8, 7 to 9, or other permutations. YALSA award and selection list committee members choose books for readers aged 12

to 18 years of age based on interest, appeal, and literary quality. These decisions result in titles that offer readers a wide selection of subject matter and reading levels.

The list below is culled from the 2011 lists of the Best Fiction for Young Adults, Morris Award finalists, Printz Award, and Excellence in Nonfiction Award finalists (refer to pages 14–17 for more information). The suggested grade levels are based on an average of the grade levels recommended by a variety

of reviewers, but as with any title, there's no guarantee that a child within the suggested grade level will love, like, or even be a good candidate for reading any specific title.

Interestingly, of the 114 total books found on this list, twenty-three were for grades eight and up, twenty-eight were for grades seven and up, and fifteen were for grades six and up, which makes 58 percent of the books useful for eighth graders; 38 percent possible for seventh graders; and 13 percent in a range for sixth graders. Another source that is useful for those working with middle school students is the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) list entitled Children's Notables that can be found at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/notableists/ncb/index.cfm.

Books Suggested for Grades Eight and Above

The "and above" is a clue that these books are intended for high schoolers, but may be of interest to special eighth grade readers.

Paolo Bacigalupi. *Ship Breaker*. (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010). 2011 Printz Winner, 2011 BFYA. Near a drowned New Orleans ravaged by hurricanes and global warming, Nailer and his young crew eke out a meager existence by scavenging materials found on the ship-littered coast.

Holly Black. *White Cat*. (Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Cassel comes from a family of curse workers and suspects his brothers have cursed him to use him as a tool in their quest for power.

Elizabeth C. Bunce. *Star Crossed*. (Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books). 2011 BFYA. Escaping the city, the thief Digger ends up in a remote castle filled with nobles and becomes involved in political intrigue in a country where magic is forbidden.

PAM SPENCER HOLLEY is currently serving on the Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Committee for YALSA. She has chaired the Best Books for Young Adults Committee, the Printz Award Committee, and the Odyssey Award Committee, in addition to serving as YALSA President. Pam has written or edited two books for YALSA: *Quick and Popular Reads for Teens* (ALA Editions, 2009) and co-authored *Annotated Book Lists for Every Teen Reader* (Neal-Schuman, 2010).

Don Calame. *Beat the Band.* (Candlewick, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Coop, along with his buddies, plans to win the battle of the bands to regain his status after being paired with an outcast partner in Health class, but none of them plays any instruments.

Elisa Carbone. *Jump.* (Penguin Group/Viking Juvenile, 2010). 2011 BFYA. P.K. refuses to attend boarding school and Critter escapes from the psych ward, but a chance encounter at a rock-climbing wall brings them to Yosemite for an unforgettable adventure.

Elisabeth Combes. *Broken Memory: A Novel of Rwanda.* (Groundwood Books, 2009). 2011 BFYA. Emma is still haunted by images of her mother's brutal murder during the 1994 genocide massacres in Rwanda.

James Dashner. *The Maze Runner.* (Random House/Delacorte, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Thomas awakes on an elevator, only to find himself in the Glade where he's trapped by monsters and a maze that changes every day.

Keren David. *When I Was Joe.* (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2010). 2011 BFYA. After seeing another teen murdered, fourteen-year-old Ty becomes a witness for the prosecution, but his truth is costly for Ty and his family.

Alice Hoffman. *Green Witch.* (Scholastic, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Green journeys to learn the histories of the local witches and free her soul mate from prison.

Beth Kephart. *The Heart Is Not a Size.* (Harper Collins/Harper Teen, 2010). 2011 BFYA. A service trip to Mexico affords Georgia time to gain perspective on her life and challenge the things she never discusses with her best friend Riley.

Han Nolan. *Crazy.* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Jason fears he's crazy as he tries to adjust to his mother's death, his father's mental

illness, and the voices he hears in his own head.

Caragh M. O'Brien. *Birthmarked.* (Roaring Brook Press, 2010). 2011 BFYA. After her parents' arrest, Gaia assumes her mother's role as midwife, but questions her allegiance to the strictness of the Enclave's rules.

Matthew Quick. *Sorta Like a Rock Star.* (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Despite the fact that she lives in a school bus, Amber Appleton is the biggest optimist you'll ever meet, until one tragic event makes her question everything.

Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw. *Every Bone Tells a Story: Hominin Discoveries, Deductions, and Debates.* (Charlesbridge, 2010). 2011 Nonfiction Finalist. Through fieldwork, laboratory analysis, and scientific debate, the bones of Turkana Boy, Lapede Child, Kennewick Man and Iceman are used to tell the fascinating stories of four members of the human family tree.

Louis Sachar. *The Cardturner.* (Random House/Delacorte, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Alton's summer job is turning cards at bridge games for his blind great-uncle Trapp, but he learns more than how to play bridge.

Natalie Standiford. *Confessions of the Sullivan Sisters.* (Scholastic, 2010). 2011 BFYA. When their grandmother "Almighty" threatens to cut the family out of her will after an unknown offense by one of the granddaughters, each of the three siblings writes out a confession.

Francisco X. Stork. *The Last Summer of the Death Warriors.* (Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Seventeen-year-old Pancho grapples with the mysterious death of his sister while accompanying his new friend, D.Q., on his own quest to face down death.

Allan Stratton. *Borderline.* (Harper Collins/Harper Teen, 2010).

2011 BFYA. After Homeland Security breaks into his house and hauls his father away as a person of interest in a possible terrorist attack, Sami sets out to prove his father's innocence.

Suzanne Supplee. *Somebody Everybody Listens To.* (Penguin Group, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Retta Lee's dreams of making it as a country singer have a chance of coming true if she can survive the reality of life on her own in Nashville.

Janne Teller. *Nothing.* (Simon and Schuster/Atheneum, 2010). 2011 Printz Honor Book, 2011 BFYA. When a classmate says "nothing matters," his peers reinforce the opposite and sacrifice what matters to them in progressively intense challenges as they assemble a pile of meaning.

Rachel Ward. *Numbers.* (Scholastic/The Chicken House, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Jem, a 15-year-old British girl, and her boyfriend Spider, are on the run because of complications from her "talent" of seeing the date people will die when she looks into their eyes.

Gabrielle Williams. *Beatle Meets Destiny.* (Marshall Cavendish, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Superstitious John "Beatle" Lennon meets Destiny McCartney on Friday the 13th and their romance begins, complicated by Beatle's current girlfriend, his angry twin sister, and a stalker. Can love survive?

Blythe Woolston. *The Freak Observer.* (Carolrhoda Lab/Lerner, 2010). 2011 Morris Winner. Sixteen-year-old Loa experiences a year of loss during which she tries to heal her family and make it through school, using the laws of physics to try to understand what can never make sense.

Books Suggested for Grades Seven and Above

Again, the “and above” lets you know that the book is likely to also be recommended for high school students.

Sandra Alonzo. *Riding Invisible.* (Disney-Hyperion Books for Children, 2010). 2011 BFYA. His older brother Will has behavioral issues and when he threatens Yancy's horse, Yancy runs away, recording his thoughts in his Adventure Journal.

Susan Campbell Bartoletti. *They Called Themselves the KKK: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group.* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010). 2011 Nonfiction Finalist. This in-depth look at the KKK uses primary source material to trace its history from formation to its subsequent evolution into a violent organization.

Erin Bow. *Plain Kate.* (Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books). 2011 BFYA. After her father's death, Plain Kate has nothing but her carving tools, her cat Taggle, and a vulnerability to witches and to those town folk who think she is one.

Rick Bowers. *Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement.* (National Geographic Society, 2010). 2011 Nonfiction Finalist. In 1958, the Sovereignty Commission was established in Mississippi to spy on and squelch the civil rights movement as part of a secret mission to retain segregation in the state.

Cinda Williams Chima. *The Demon King: A Seven Realms Novel.* (Disney-Hyperion Press, 2009). 2011 BFYA. The lives of Princess Raisa and former street lord Han intertwine when Han finds an amulet that helps him discover his true heritage and Raisa uncovers treachery in the castle.

Kate De Goldi. *The 10 PM Question.* (Candlewick, 2010). 2011 BFYA. When a free-spirited new girl arrives at school, Frankie questions the way she looks at his life.

Emily Diamand. *Raider's Ransom.* (Scholastic/Chicken House, 2009). 2011 BFYA. Pirate raiders kidnap the prime minister's daughter, prompting 13-year-old Lilly to set out on a rescue mission accompanied by a mysterious talking jewel to cover the ransom.

Cornelia Funke. *Reckless.* (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Jacob Reckless knows about the fantasy world behind the mirror but his brother doesn't and now he is turning to stone and needs Jacob's help.

Morris Gleitzman. *Once.* (Macmillan/Henry Holt, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Felix, a naïve Jewish boy in a Catholic orphanage, runs away to find his parents in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Hiromi Goto. *Half World.* (Penguin Group/Viking, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Overweight and over-teased, Melanie Tamaki follows her mother into Half-world where the cycles are out of balance and require her to fight the horrible Mr. Glueskin.

April Henry. *Girl, Stolen.* (Macmillan/Henry Holt, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Sick with pneumonia, blind teen Cheyenne is asleep in the backseat of the car while her stepmother picks up her medicine, when the car is stolen and Cheyenne unintentionally kidnapped.

Ron Koertge. *Shakespeare Makes the Playoffs.* (Candlewick, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Fourteen-year-old Kevin Boland's biggest problem isn't the baseball playoffs, it's what to do when he's dating one girl but e-mailing poems to another.

Margaret McMullan. *Sources of Light.* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010). 2011 BFYA. After her father dies in Vietnam, Sam and her mother move to

Jackson, Mississippi, where they encounter the prejudice and violence of the segregated South.

Andy Mulligan. *Trash.* (David Fickling Books, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Three garbage-picker boys find an item of great value in the huge trash landfill, which leads them on a treasure hunt while keeping one eye out to see if the police are still following them.

Kenneth Oppel. *Half Brother.* (Scholastic, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Ben begins to see the chimpanzee his father uses to study language acquisition as more than a test subject, which leads to problems when funding runs low.

Lynne Rae Perkins. *As Easy as Falling Off the Face of the Earth.* (HarperCollins/Greenwillow, 2010). 2011 BFYA. On the way to camp, Ry finds himself in the middle of nowhere when his train leaves him behind, leading to a remarkable journey full of surprises and adventure.

Mitali Perkins. *Bamboo People.* (Charlesbridge, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Burmese soldier Chiko and Kerenni refugee Tu Reh meet on opposite sides of a war and each must learn what it means to be a man of his people.

Philip Reeve. *Fever Crumb.* (Scholastic, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Fever Crumb, raised by the Order of Engineers and the only female among its ranks, finds her engineer rationality continually tested as she discovers more about her past.

Jame Richards. *Three Rivers Rising: A Novel of the Johnstown Flood.* (Random House/Knopf). 2011 BFYA. This novel in verse revolves around the people whose lives intertwine before and after the 1889 failure of the earthen dam above Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Jennifer Roy. *Mindblind.* (Marshall Cavendish, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Fourteen-year-old Nathaniel is a high functioning “Aspie” who struggles with

social interactions but can solve mathematical problems that elude graduate students.

Carlos Ruiz Zafon. *The Prince of Mist.* (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Roland, Max, and Alicia battle the mysterious Prince of Mist, a diabolical character who returns from the sea to collect on a debt from the past.

Marcus Sedgwick. *Revolver.* (Roaring Brook Press, 2010). 2011 Printz Honor Book, 2011 BFYA. Sig is alone with his father's body when the lawless man his father thinks he's escaped appears out of the icy wilderness.

Sharon Shinn. *Gateway.* (Penguin Group, 2009). 2011 BFYA. Daiyu finds herself in the alternate world of Shenglang where her help is needed to send an evil traveler back to his own iteration before he can wreak chaos in Shenglang.

Mark Shulman. *Scrawl.* (Roaring Brook Press, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Sent to detention, eighth grade bully Tod uses the time to journal his thoughts and experiences, which expose the bleak private agonies of life behind his actions.

Arthur Slade. *The Hunchback Assignments.* (Random House Children's Books, 2009). 2011 BFYA. Modo is a gifted spy, fighter, and scholar who always hides his disfigured face, but when children go missing in London, his skills just might locate them.

Barbara Stuber. *Crossing the Tracks.* (Simon and Schuster/McElderry, 2010). 2011 Morris Finalist, 2011 BFYA. Iris finds love and acceptance in unexpected places in the summer of 1926 after her father sends her away to work for a doctor and his elderly mother in rural Missouri.

Heather Tomlinson. *Toads and Diamonds.* (Macmillan/Henry Holt,

2010). 2011 BFYA. In a Perrault fairy tale relocated to pre-British India, impoverished stepsisters encounter a goddess whose gifts bless or curse, leaving one speaking jewels and flowers while the other spews toads and snakes.

Megan Whalen Turner. *A Conspiracy of Kings.* (HarperCollins/Greenwillow, 2010). 2011 BFYA. When his uncle the king is murdered, Sophos must set aside his self-doubt, accept his role as Sounis, and unite the kingdom against invaders.

Books Suggested for Grades Six and Above

These books might enter into the upper realm of high school students, but most likely will top out at grades nine. In some cases they cover an important topic or have appeal to lots of readers and could range from grades six to twelve.

Laurie Halse Anderson. *Forge.* (Simon and Schuster/Atheneum, 2010). 2011 BFYA. All that stands between runaway slave Curzon and his freedom is continuing to serve in George Washington's army and enduring a winter at Valley Forge.

Fran Boyce. *Cosmic.* (Walden Pond Press, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Twelve-year-old Liam, who could pass for a thirty-year-old, poses as the adult chaperone on a kids' mission to space but grows up fast when he must save the group.

Kathryn Erskine. *Mockingbird.* (Penguin Group/Philomel, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Ten-year-old Caitlin has to figure out how to make the world work now that her brother Devon is dead.

Nancy Bo Flood. *Warriors in the Crossfire.* (Boyd's Mill Press, 2010). 2011 BFYA. In 1944 the Japanese and Americans fight a bloody battle for the island of Saipan where twelve-year-old Joseph must decide who to trust so that he can save his family.

Jessica Day George. *Princess of Glass.* (Bloomsbury, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Poppy, one of the twelve dancing princesses, witnesses events surrounding a mysterious princess at court who wears glass slippers to the balls.

Christina Diaz Gonzalez. *The Red Umbrella.* (Random House/Knopf, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Lucia and her brother live an idyllic life in Cuba until the 1961 revolution when they are sent to live with strangers in Nebraska until their parents can escape.

Kimberly Willis Holt. *The Water Seeker.* (Macmillan/Henry Holt, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Amos Kincaid comes from a family of men who are able to find underground water, a gift that accompanies him and his family as they travel west.

Paul Janeczkol. *The Dark Game: True Spy Stories.* (Candlewick Press, 2010). 2011 Nonfiction Finalist. In this compilation of spy stories from the Revolutionary War through the Cold War era, readers learn about the Choctaw Code Talkers of WWII, Soviet moles, Mata Hari and their impact on history.

Geraldine McCaughrean. *The Death-Defying Pepper Roux.* (HarperCollins, 2010). 2011 BFYA. When Pepper Roux is born, his aunt has a vision from Saint Constance that the boy will die on his 14th birthday, but Pepper Roux has other ideas.

Glenda Milford. *The Boneshaker.* (Clarion, 2010). 2011 BFYA. In 1914 Arcane, Missouri, Natalie stands at the crossroads, looks the devil directly in his face, and saves both her family and her town.

Glenda Millard. *A Small Free Kiss in the Dark.* (Holiday House, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Runaway Skip struggles to survive during an unexpected war, living in an abandoned amusement park with an older homeless man, a young orphan, a teenage ballerina and a newborn.

Gary Paulsen. *Woods Runner.* (Random House/Wendy Lamb, 2010).

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2011 BFYA. In 1776, thirteen-year-old Samuel returns home from hunting to find his settlement burned and most of the settlers murdered.

Bonnie Shimko. *The Private Thoughts of Amelia E. Rye.* (Macmillan/Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Growing up in

the 1960s, Amelia finds her one true friend and the courage to stand up to the town bullies, local bigots and her train-wreck family.

Polly Shulman. *The Grimm Legacy.* (Penguin Group/Putnam, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Elizabeth begins work in a strange lending library that has everything, including

the original items from the Grimm's fairytales, but she realizes items are going missing.

Jordan Sonnenblick. *After Ever After.* (Scholastic, 2010). 2011 BFYA. Jeffrey must figure out how to live as a cancer survivor as well as graduate from eighth grade. **YALS**

Gates, Pamela S., and Dianne L. Hall Mark. *Cultural Journeys: Multicultural Literature for Elementary and Middle School Students*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780810850798. 257p; \$24.95.

Published in 2006, this paperback edition is a standard in classes for multicultural literature. Although written for educators, the contents can be utilized by librarians to spark discussions. The first chapters explain the importance of purchasing a variety of multicultural books and identifying the quality stories from stereotypical depictions. The following six chapters divide the material into picture books, folktales and fairy tales, historical and realistic fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Many book titles are given throughout the text to emphasize points made in all chapters. After each genre chapter, readers are treated to unit lessons within the topic, such as "Japanese Internment" in historical fiction. An excellent works cited list appears after each unit plan to aid the librarian who wants to lead a discussion or create displays. The appendix covers additional resources for unit plans not discussed in the earlier chapters. An extensive thirty-five page bibliography and fifteen page index aid in the search for topics and thematic books. Do not let the age of this book scare you from the list of resources included. The 1990s seem to be the peak for publishing in multicultural literature, and most titles are staples on library shelves. Although, the audience for this book is teachers for the younger grades, librarians can use the same units for young adults and conduct dynamic discussions using folktales and fairy tales, picture books, and historical fiction. —Maggie Moran, Director of Learning Resources, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Senatobia, Miss.

Carruth, Debi, Annette Y. Goldsmith, and Melissa Gross. *HIV/AIDS in Young Adult Novels: An Annotated Bibliography*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780810874435. 231p; \$49.95.

This book demonstrates teamwork at its best. Gross, Goldsmith and Carruth found a gap in our professional bookshelf and set out to correct the lack of representation. The daunting question they began with was: What books are out there that might help young adults project or empathize with a character who is HIV positive or has full-blown AIDS? Most reviewers did not mention HIV/AIDS characters, and this created a challenge in finding books. Once titles were identified, all three read the books and qualified their findings as to which character had

HIV/AIDS, source of the infection, protagonist concerns or fears, controllability of the disease, and fate of the character. The bibliography opens with a key to qualify each title (1981 to 2008) included. These include whether the story is an accurate depiction of HIV/AIDS, if the role of HIV/AIDS is central to the plot, and the book's literary merit. For example, in the entry for *Push* by Sapphire, acquisition librarians and students alike will find the annotation easy to read. The book's treatment of HIV/AIDS is rated as accurate and central to the plot, and the book itself is rated excellent in literary merit. The study was well thought out and executed by the authors, and it can stand as a "how to" for other bibliographies. This timely book belongs on every high school and college reference shelf. —Maggie Moran, Director of Learning Resources, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Senatobia, Miss.

Fletcher-Spear, Kristin, and Merideth Jenson-Benjamin. *Library Collections for Teens: Manga and Graphic Novels*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2011. ISBN: 978-1555707453. 175p; \$55.

Only six years since the publication of Francisca Goldsmith's essential *Graphic Novels Now* (ALA, 2005), do we really need a new book on graphic novel collections? Fletcher-Spear and Jenson-Benjamin's answer comes in one word: Manga. Whereas Goldsmith only rarely mentioned the then newly-burgeoning Manga market, Fletcher-Spear and Jenson-Benjamin understand, from the title of their book on, the seismic shift that has made Manga the centerpiece of most libraries' graphic novel collections. So, despite largely following Goldsmith's structure—definitions, history, collection development, special issues, programming—this book offers an entirely new and important focus on the way libraries today approach this format. Additionally, at almost twice the length, Fletcher-Spear and Jenson-Benjamin's text has ample space for heaps of recommendations, including excellent capsule reviews, and notations of which titles or series are good starters, for either a collection or a new reader. The text is not without its oddities: the authors, for example, reprint (strangely, without citation) an apparently un-updated 2005 VOYA article by Fletcher-Spear and Kat Kan which includes broken links and outdated information about Anime programs. Nor do the authors include a bibliography for further reading. Nevertheless, the authors' fleet, engaging prose, and the sheer density of information make this work the new standard professional guide to graphic novels. —Mark Flowers, John F. Kennedy Library, Vallejo, California.

Cvetkovic Bowman, Vibiana, and Katie Elson Anderson. *Stop Plagiarism: A Guide to Understanding and Prevention.* New York: Neal-Schuman, 2010. ISBN: 9781555707163. 285p. \$65.

This guide to teaching ethical research and the methods for avoiding plagiarism is presented as a sequel to the editors' 2004 title, *Stop the Plagiarism Plague* (Neal-Schuman, 2004). Essays by university librarians and educators provide background and practical tips for teaching "generation M" students to select and use resources appropriately and to understand copyright guidelines as they are presently interpreted by the academic community.

The book is presented in three parts. "Part I: Understanding the Problem" provides an overview of information access from several viewpoints, including those of the editors, several educators, and a college student. The philosophy and changing attitudes toward understanding copyright are presented, with reference to the ease of buying papers online and analysis of the difficulty of trying to prevent students from turning in work that they have not done themselves. "Part II: Finding Remedies" is perhaps the weakest section of the book despite its stated intention; attempts by several universities to address issues of plagiarism are presented but no solution to the problem is suggested, likely because there is no one solution that will suffice. "Part III: Practitioner's Toolkit" is a very helpful collection of policies, legal guidelines, and mechanisms for teaching research, annotation, and citation, and it includes an annotated bibliography of print and online resources. Some of the suggested reading is already a bit dated—given the fast-changing world of the Internet, books that are five or six years old may be of limited use. However, there are many suggested resources with 2010 publication dates.

A CD is included that contains tutorials and Web site links. The CD runs only on Windows machines and was not reviewed. Readers are also directed to a Wiki site that purports to keep the book's information current by allowing readers to post new information and discuss issues that arise. For any school or academic library this book will be a very useful resource—in fact, this reviewer has taken it to several recent plagiarism policy meetings with good success. This book is highly recommended. —Cathy Rettberg, Head Librarian, Menlo School, Atherton, California.

MacKellar, Pamela H., and Stephanie Gerding. *Winning Grants: A How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians with Multimedia Tutorials and Grant Development Tools.* New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2010. ISBN: 9781555707002. 275p. \$99.95.

This updated and expanded edition of *Grants for Libraries* (2006), also by MacKellar and Gerding, is an impressive resource that certainly lives up to both its name and the notable qualifications of the authors included at the end of the book. From the foreword whose author praises that she "can confidently say that every person responsible for writing a grant would benefit greatly from reading" this book through to the very end of the extensive and seemingly exhaustive resource, readers will grow increasingly confident that they will be better equipped to take on the grant process. While someone new to the process may be overwhelmed by the volume, reading the preface that clearly spells out what each chapter covers will allow users to digest the flow of process in smaller parcels. The authors also set up the process with the caveat that "grants are not free money that will magically solve your library's budget problems." The early chapters are also helpful in focusing on how a library's strategic plan, mission, and goals need to be kept current and revisited so that they are relevant when grants are available that could support them. Methods for approaching these critical guiding principles and documents are also included which further aid in preventing libraries from mission creep and possibly going after grants or creating projects ill-advisedly to "simply" get funding streams. The authors provide solid examples, tables, sidebars, documentation, and figures throughout each chapter. In addition, when there are resources on the accompanying DVD and available through the author-maintained blog relating to topics covered, there are icons indicating such. With the inclusion of such helpful guidance from sample grant applications and submissions, some from libraries that have received multiple grants, a listing of funders with descriptions of their project focuses, and a section devoted to what libraries should do if their project is not funded, it is hard to imagine a more complete and well-rounded resource than this book. While the accompanying DVD is a little tricky to navigate, once users get to the resources they want, they can be downloaded and edited. There are also videos that could be used in group training sessions, further making the purchase of this book a valuable investment for either a single branch or a system, for grant newbies and experienced alike. —Stephanie A. Squicciarini, Teen Services Librarian, Fairport (N.Y.) Public Library. **YALS**

Guidelines for Authors

Young Adult Library Services is the official publication of the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association. *Young Adult Library Services* is a vehicle for continuing education of librarians working with young adults (ages twelve through eighteen) that showcases current research and

practice relating to teen services and spotlights significant activities and programs of the division.

For submission and author guidelines, please visit www.ala.org/yalsa and click on “Publications.”

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Ages 8–12

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"Lubar has a way of starting his stories off with the seemingly mundane daily horror that is public schooling and then twisting it. There's [sic] some hilarious scenes...this one was lots of fun."

—SFRevu.com on *My Rotten Life*

"The over-the-top narrative will appeal to readers who like their humor twisted, and might even have some wishing that they, too, could be a half-dead zombie."

—Publishers Weekly on *My Rotten Life*

"Nathan is a delightful hero—a former semi-nerd and frequent subject of smackdowns, adventitiously turned cool customer—which, to zombies, comes naturally." —Kirkus Reviews

"The first book in a promising new series introduces likable characters beset by unusual but humorous circumstances. This book will have a large following." —School Library Journal on *My Rotten Life*

"*Dead Guy Spy* is a hilarious adventure in true Lubar fashion. The characters are well-developed and entertaining. The plot is unique and fun to read. Readers will have a hard time keeping a straight face while enjoying this book." —Teensreadtoo.com



tor-forge.com/starscape

the YALSA update

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Find the latest YALSA news every Friday at the YALSA Blog, <http://yalsa.ala.org/blog>.

Join YALSA at ALA Annual Conference!

YALSA has big plans for Annual 2011—join us in New Orleans, June 23–28.

YALSA will offer two half-day preconferences on June 24:

**Give Them What They Want:
Reaching Reluctant YA Readers**
12:30–4:30 p.m., \$129, includes refreshments

Reluctant YA readers are everywhere, except maybe in your library. Meet seven popular YA authors and learn strategies for reaching today's teen reluctant readers through collection development, marketing, outreach and more at this half-day preconference! Hear insights from YA authors Jay Asher, Sarah Dessen, Chris Grabenstein, Julie Halpern, James Kennedy, Carolyn Mackler, and Walter Dean Meyers. From passive programs to use of web 2.0 tools, explore ways to get more teens in your community reading and using the library.

**The Nuts & Bolts of Serving Teens:
Practical Tips for the Library Generalist or New YA Librarian**
12:30–4:30 p.m., \$129, includes refreshments.

Teens are a key audience for libraries, but their unique needs can make designing services and programs for this audience a challenge. At this session, presenters Erin Helmrich, Jesse Vieau, and Mari Hardacre will crack open their tool box and share

simple strategies for providing basic but effective programs and services for teens. Presentations will focus on why teens need each other, must-have teen services, teen programming, and ideas on incorporating technology to deliver these services and programs.

YALSA will also host three additional ticketed events: the Edwards Award Luncheon featuring winner Sir Terry Pratchett; the YA Author Coffee Klatch, featuring several popular YA authors; the Printz Awards Program and Reception, featuring winner Paolo Bacigalupi and honor book winners Lucy Christopher, A.S. King, Marcus Sedgwick, and Janne Teller.

In addition, YALSA programs will highlight the 2011 Alex Award winners, the 2011 Odyssey Award winner and honor recordings, the YA Services Mashup Table Talk, Research Paper Presentations and much more. Be sure to arrive in time on Friday for YALSA's popular YALSA 101.

Advanced registration ends May 13—YALSA members save \$65 over onsite registration costs.

Find more details about registration and housing at the ALA Annual Web site, www.alaannual.org. For more details on YALSA's Annual schedule, visit the YALSA Annual Conference Wiki, <http://www.tinyurl.com/yalsaac11>.

YALSA Board of Directors Update

The YALSA Board met at the 2011 ALA Midwinter Meeting in January in

San Diego, California, and again via conference call, on March 2, 2011. Minutes for both meetings, as well as documents for all agenda items, can be found by visiting www.ala.org/yalsa and clicking "Governance," then "Board Meeting Agendas, Documents and Minutes."

Board highlights from Midwinter 2011 include:

- **Approving the Teen Services Evaluation Tool.** YALSA developed a tool for library administrators, librarians, and other public library workers to use to evaluate an individual institution's overall level of success in providing teen services, with a framework provided by YALSA's latest competencies for serving young adults in libraries, *Young Adults Deserve The Best*
- **Adding proposed bylaws changes to the ALA/YALSA Ballot.** The board proposed a number of updates to the YALSA bylaws, to make sure that YALSA's governing document is timely and accurate. The bylaws changes were voted on by the membership in the spring 2011 elections.
- **Approving a new white paper.** The board approved a new white paper, "The Importance of a Whole Library Approach to Public Library Young Adult Services" by Linda Braun, which was published on the YALSA website.
- **Updating YALSA's sponsor and vendor policy.** The board approved an updated sponsor and vendor

policy, which was posted on the YALSA website.

On March 2, the Board met via conference call to discuss post-conference committee reports.

To see the latest developments from the YALSA Board, visit <http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/tag/yalsa-board/>.

YALSA's Current Online CE Opportunities

Looking for continuing education online? Look no further than YALSA! YALSA has several ways for you to find continuing education:

- **YALSA's Third Thursdays webinars**
Held the third Thursday of each month, these interactive sessions provide an hour of training with YALSA trainer on timely topics in youth services. Each session includes time for questions and answers. Webinar registration costs \$29 for students, \$39 for individual YALSA members, \$49 for all other individuals, and \$195 for group registrations. YALSA's group rate applies to a group of people that will watch the webinar together in one location. All YALSA members receive complimentary access to webinars two months after they take place. Learn more at www.ala.org/yalsa/webinars or contact Eve Gaus, YALSA program officer for continuing education, at egaus@ala.org or 1-800-545-2433, ext. 5293.
- **Navigating the Divide: Teens and Tweens Online Course.** This new online course will run July 11 to Aug. 8, co-taught by Beth Gallaway and Alissa Lauzon. Registration for this online course will cost \$135 for YALSA members, \$175 for ALA members, and \$195 for nonmembers. Registration now open at www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinecourses for more information.
- **YA Forum.** YALSA will host a monthly asynchronous discussion for members only in ALA Connect called YA Forum. The discussion will be moderated by a YALSA expert and

will take place in YALSA's ALA Connect space (<http://connect.ala.org/yalsa>) during the first full week of each month. Topics will change monthly.

Propose a 2012 Annual Conference Program for YALSA

YALSA is currently accepting proposals for programs for the 2012 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, Calif., June 22-26. Proposals may be submitted through May 31 at www.surveymonkey.com/s/YALSA2012rfp.

YALSA seeks creative, innovative proposals that address new topics or that address current topics in a unique way. Proposals must fall within one of the following categories:

- Advocacy
- Leadership
- Outreach
- Programming
- Readers' Advisory
- Research
- Young Adult Literature
- Youth Participation

Individuals may submit multiple proposals, although no individual will be chosen to present or co-present more than one program. Proposals that are largely sales pitches or that focus only one particular product will not be accepted. All presenters, moderators, speakers, or anyone otherwise affiliated with giving the presentation will be expected to cover their own travel and conference registration costs. Programs need to be either 90 or 120 minutes in length.

Those who submitted proposals will be notified of their status by July 31, 2011.

YALSA Member Award and Grant Winners

Each year, YALSA gives more than \$40,000 in awards and grants to its members. The deadline to apply is December 1 and applicants must be current members of YALSA.

The 2011 award and grant winners are:

- Yvonne Miller and Sarah Wethern, YALSA/Baker & Taylor Scholarship Grant, which provides up to \$1,000 to each recipient to attend ALA's Annual Conference for the first time.
- Melanie Feyerherm and Keri Weston, YALSA/BWI Collection Development Grant, which provides up to \$1,000 to public librarians for collection development
- Shannon Crawford Barniskis, YALSA/VOYA/Frances Henne Research Grant, which provides \$1,000 in seed money for small-scale research projects
- Oakhurst Middle School, Clarksdale, Miss., for the Great Books Giveaway, in which YALSA and publishers donate a years' worth of review materials to a needy library. YALSA received enough materials in 2010 to award second place to Colleton County High School, Walterboro, S.C., and third place to Fletcher (Okla.) Public School.
- Katie George, MAE Award for Best Literature Program for Teens, which provides \$500 to the winner and \$500 to the winner's library for an excellent teen reading program

For more information or to access an application, visit www.ala.org/yalsa/awards&grants.

YALSA, WWE Name WrestleMania Reading Challenge Champions

Eric Jose, Marinna Vela and Brandy Eggleston were crowned national champions in the WrestleMania® XXVII Reading Challenge on April 2, sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association, and WWE, with support from Mattel, Penguin, Cold Stone Creamery, DK Publishing, E1 Entertainment and Topps.

Twenty regional winners in grades 5-12 from across the United States and Canada won the chance to compete in the WrestleMania® Reading Challenge World Finals.

Students competed in a trivia contest to win the title of World Champion for their age division and ringside tickets to WrestleMania. WWE Legend Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart served as emcee and WrestleMania Reading Challenge spokespeople included WWE Superstars Big Show®, Kofi Kingston®, Hornswoggle® and WWE Diva Eve™, who asked the questions of the finalists during the competition. Joan Bauer, author of *Stand Tall and Peeled*, served as a judge for the competition.

Each regional winner won: a trip for two to Atlanta, tickets to WrestleMania XXVII, and \$2,000 for their sponsoring library. More than 50,000 students at 1,800 libraries participated in this year's competition. Students pledged to read five books or graphic novels between Teen Read Week and WrestleMania XXVII, then designed and submitted artwork to encourage reading.

The 2011 regional finalists included:

Grades 9-12

- Anthony Alakwe, Atlanta;
- Roberto Cortez, San Diego;
- Brandy Eggleston, Durham, N.C.;
- Hilary Hunsley, Edmonton, Alb.;
- Elmaz Mohmutovic, Sioux Falls, S.D.;
- Rebecca Murrell, Courtice, Ont.; and
- Sarah Walker, Philadelphia.

Grades 7-8

- Khalid Hamin, Atlanta;
- Kyain Jones, Schenectady, N.Y.;
- Courtney Brown, Julian, N.C.;
- Luke Taylor, Dundas, Ont.;
- Marinna Vela, Zillah, Wash.; and
- Caitlan Wolkenhauer, Fessenden, N.D.

Grades 5-6

- Trey Johnson, Swedesboro, N.J.;
- Eric Jose, Oshawa, Ont.;
- Chase Leclair, Sherwood Park, Alb.;

- Bryant Martin Jr., Atlanta;
- Cristian Patino, Hammond, Ind.;
- Selina Rosas, Marion, Texas; and
- Angel Solis, Los Angeles.

Picture It @ your library®

Get Ready for Teen Read Week, Oct. 16–22, 2011

YALSA kicked off Teen Read Week 2011 on April 14, Support Teen Literature Day, by launching the Teen Read Week website, opening registration, and offering resources for the annual celebration of teen reading, including activity ideas, planning resources, publicity tools, products, and more. YALSA members can apply for one of ten \$1,000 grants for Teen Read Week programming, funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. More information, including registration benefits, can be found at www.ala.org/teenread. Teen Read Week is Oct. 16–22 and will be celebrated with a theme of Picture It @ your library, which encourages teens to read graphic novels and other illustrated materials, seek out creative books, or imagine the world through literature, just for the fun of it.

In addition, librarians prepping for Teen Read Week have a unique resource to look to for help: the TRW Wiki. The TRW Wiki is a great place to find creative program ideas; smart professional resources; and recommendations for theme-appropriate books, media, movies, and Web sites to share with teens.

But the wiki is far from complete—and that's where YALSA members come in! YALSA invites its members and any other TRW stakeholders to visit and contribute to the TRW Wiki. Librarians, teachers, parents, or anyone else who wants to participate in Teen Read Week can add book recommendations for the Picture It theme, provide links to articles that may

help others plan their TRW celebrations, or brainstorm creative program and activity ideas. There's even space for librarians to provide links and information about their own TRW plans!

The Teen Read Week Wiki is located at http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Teen_Read_Week.

Teen Read Week is a national literacy initiative aimed at teens, their parents, librarians, educators, booksellers and other concerned adults. For more information, contact the YALSA office by e-mail at yalsa@ala.org or by phone at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 4390.

Keep Teens Reading This Summer with the Teens' Top Ten

YALSA announced the twenty-five nominees for the 2011 Teens' Top Ten at www.ala.org/teenstopten, as selected by sixteen teen book groups from throughout the United States. Encourages teens at your library to read the nominees before the national Teens' Top Ten vote, which will take place in August and September at www.ala.org/teenstopten. The winners will be announced during Teen Read Week, Oct. 16–22.

The Teens' Top Ten is a teen choice list, in which teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year. Nominators are members of the YA Galley Group — teen book groups in 16 school and public libraries around the country. Teen book groups for YA Galley are chosen every two years; applications will be accepted in spring 2012 for the next round.

Nominations are posted on Support Teen Literature Day during National Library Week. The 10 nominations that receive the most votes will be named the official Teens' Top Ten. Nominated titles were published between January 2010 and March 15, 2011. [YALS](#)

YALSA's Third Thursday Webinars



Upcoming Webinars:

May 19: Best Practices in Teen Space Design

June 16: Street Smart: Serving Teen Street Lit Readers

July 14: Reading Unbound: E-Readers and Your Library

Aug. 18: From 140 Characters to 10 Pages: Teens, Social Media and Information Literacy

Sept. 15: Tweet, Like, Link: Creating a Social Media Policy for Your Library

For a full schedule, visit
www.ala.org/yalsa/webinars

YALSA's monthly webinar series takes place every third Thursday! Join us for these interactive, hour-long sessions at 2 p.m. Eastern. To register, visit www.ala.org/yalsa/webinars.

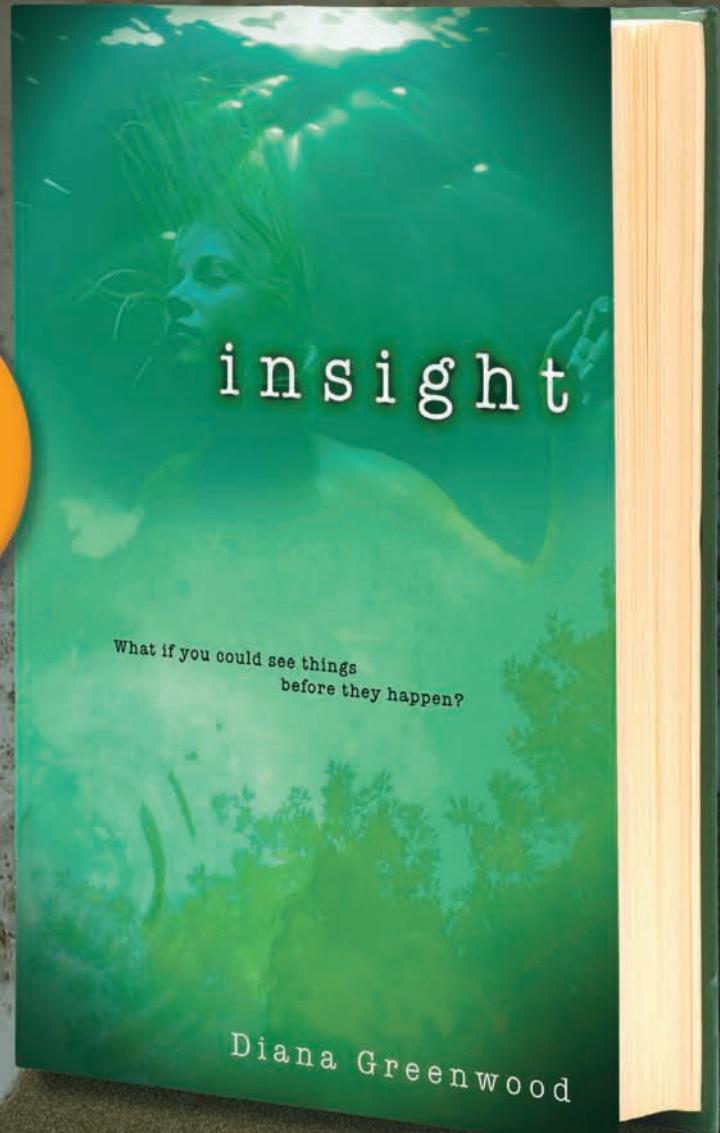
Webinars cost \$29 for students, \$39 for members, \$49 for nonmembers. Group rates cost \$195.

Contact Eve Gaus, YALSA program officer for continuing education, for more information, including group registration, at egaus@ala.org or 1-800-545-2433, ext. 5293.

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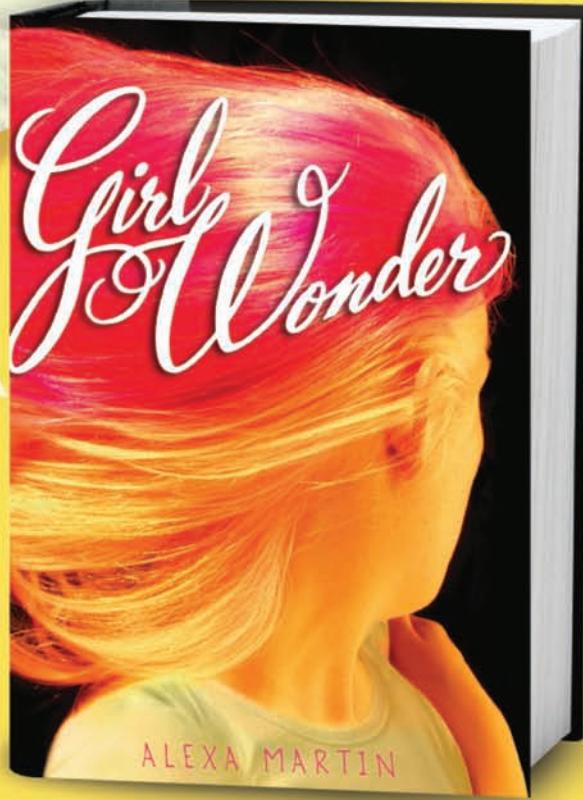
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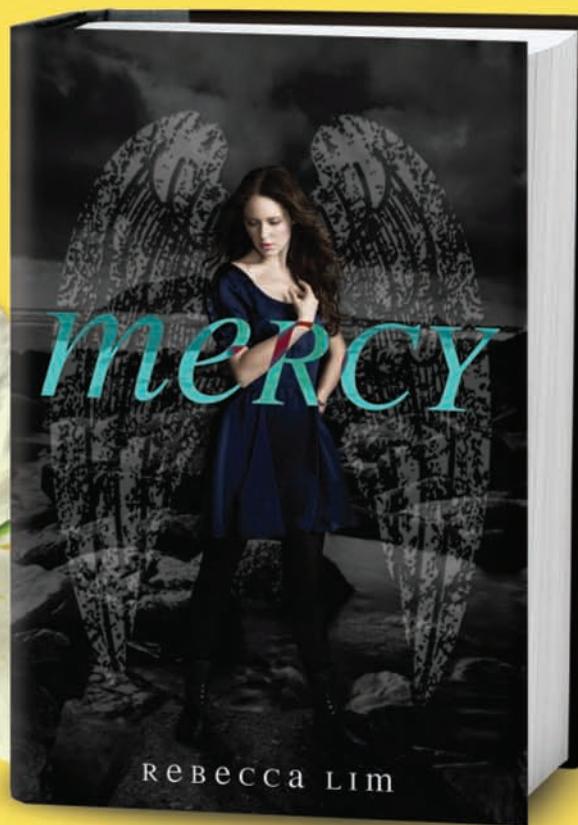


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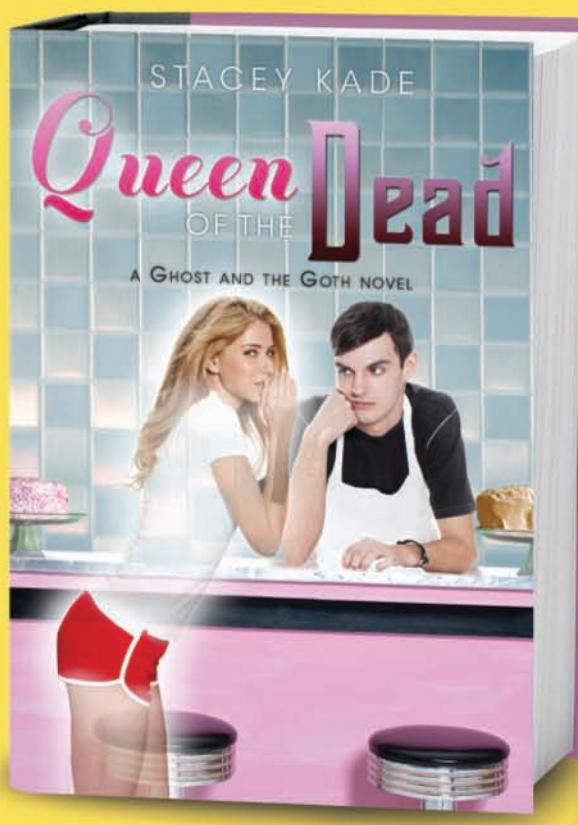


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