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library services



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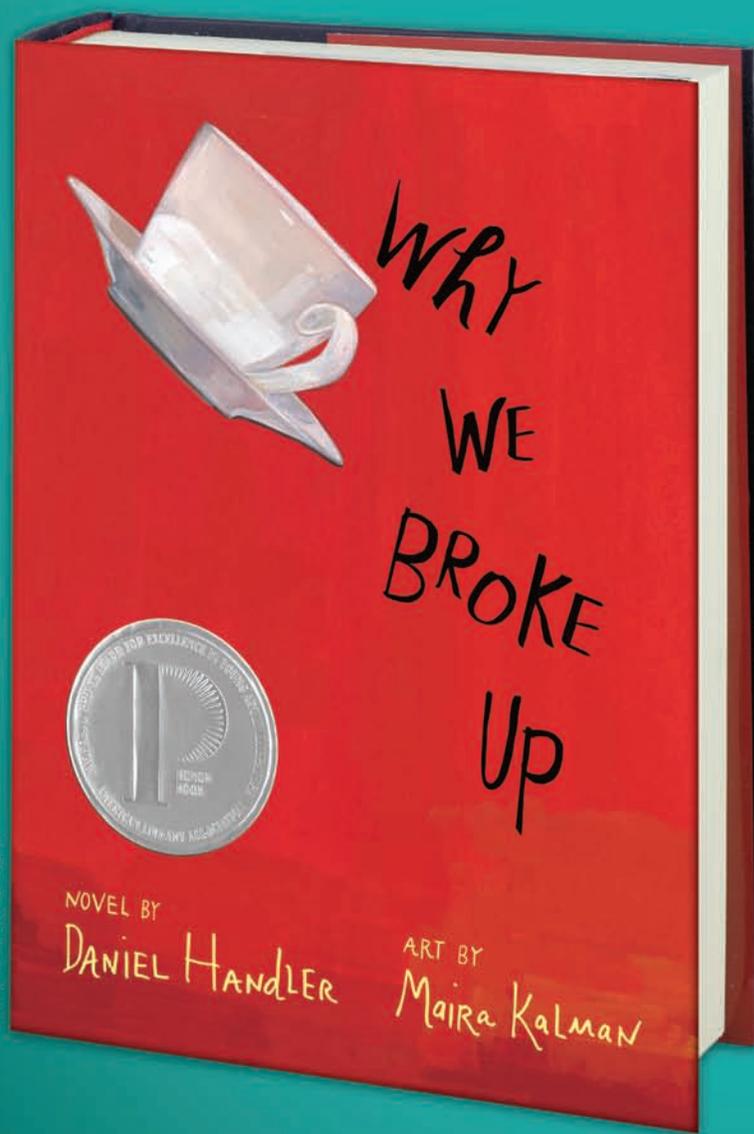
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The View from ALA

- 4 All About Amelia**
The Amelia Bloomer Project
By Jennie. S. Law, Maureen McCoy, Beth Olshewsky,
and Angela Semifero

YALSA Perspectives

- 7 Save the Date for November's Young
Adult Literature Symposium!**
By Patty Carleton
- 9 From Best Books to Best Fiction**
Embracing Change in YALSA's Selection Lists
By Terri Snethen

Hot Spot: Awards

- 12 YALSA Announces 2012 Award Winners
and Book and Media Lists**
- 30 Listening for the Best**
Amazing Audiobooks for Teens
By Jeri W. Cohen and Cathy Andronik
- 32 Cultivating Latino Cultural Literacy**
Pura Belpré Award-Winning Books in Library
Programming for Teens and Tweens
By Jamie Campbell Naidoo
- 37 Evildoings, Deadly Exes, and Rock and Roll!
Read- and Listen-Alikes Supporting the
Fabulous Films for Young Adults 2012 List**
By the 2012 Fabulous Films for Young Adults
Committee
- 39 Discovering Greatness: YALSA's Great
Graphic Novels for Teens List**
By Joy Kim and Rachael Myers
- 42 The Cybils: Book Awards from the
Blogosphere**
By Jackie Parker

Plus:

- 2 From the Editor**
Megan Honig
- 3 From the President**
Sarah Flowers
- 45 Guidelines for Authors**
- 45 Index to Advertisers**
- 46 The YALSA Update**

About This Cover

Find the best books and media for young adults each year with YALSA's Best of the Best! At www.ala.org/yalsa/best, you'll find downloadable tools to promote these titles in your library. Materials were created through funding from the Friends of YALSA, www.ala.org/givetoyalsa.

You can also join the Best of the Best Reading Challenge at The Hub, <http://yalsa.ala.org/thehub>, through July 1.

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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

Megan Honig

As the range of materials available to and published for young adults continues to grow, keeping up with what's new, well crafted, and appealing to teens becomes a bigger and bigger task. YALSA's awards and lists are a powerful tool for navigating the growing field of young adult media.

In this issue, learn about some of the many awards, lists, and committees that help librarians, teens, and fans discover the best of the best. Insiders from several YALSA committees—and a couple of committees outside YALSA—discuss what makes their work unique and how librarians across the country can use a variety of awards and lists in their own collection development and programming.

What books complement the titles on the Fabulous Films for Young Adults list? How can librarians use Pura Belpré award-winning titles to promote Latino cultural literacy? What makes an "Amazing Audiobook" amazing? Find the answers to these questions and more, as well as copies of all YALSA of YALSA's 2012 awards and lists.

Plus, get up to date on the Best Fiction for Young Adults Committee (formerly Best Books for Young Adults) and an introduction to the Cybils, a list created by book bloggers.

If you appreciate this issue of *Young Adult Library Services* (or even if you don't), we need your help! Take our YALS readership survey, available on the web at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/yals2012>. This short survey will help us determine what kind of articles and topics to cover in future issues and will give you a chance to share your needs and opinions. And as always, you can send feedback, article submissions, and more to yalseditor@gmail.com. YALS

from the President

Sarah Flowers



I find that I have been thinking quite a bit about YALSA's awards and selected lists recently.

For one thing, I am back from Dallas, and ALA's Midwinter Meeting, where I had the privilege of emceeding this year's Youth Media Awards program and announcing all of YALSA's winners: Printz, Morris, Nonfiction, Edwards, and Alex (it was ALSC's turn to announce *Odyssey*). One of the great pleasures of that event is watching the committee members as their awards are announced and seeing their joy as the rest of the audience acknowledges their choices. It is also fun to spend the rest of the day running into friends and colleagues and asking, "Have you read . . . ?" "What did you think about . . . ?" "Can you believe . . . ?"

This year, it was also quite interesting to watch how our awards can really make a difference to an author and a book. John Corey Whaley's book *Where Things Come Back*, winner of both the Morris and Printz Awards, stood at #97,910 on Amazon sales rankings before the announcement. Two hours later, it was at #328, rising to #76 later in the day, and settling back down to #117 the following day. Next year, it would be interesting to check WorldCat to find out how many library copies were owned before and after the announcements.¹ In any case, it is clear that YALSA's awards have a dramatic ripple effect.

And then came the week after Midwinter, when the selected lists were rolled out: Best Fiction, Amazing Audiobooks, Fabulous Films, Great Graphic Novels, Quick Picks, and Popular Paperbacks. In addition, the vetted nomination lists for the Nonfiction and Alex Awards were released. (You can find

all of these at www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists.) All of these lists give us plenty to read and talk about, and offer us guidance in selecting materials for our libraries.

Immediately after Midwinter, YALSA previewed its new free iPhone app, Teen Book Finder, at the Congressional Internet Caucus's Tech Expo. By the time you read this, the app should be available on the App Store (and will be coming soon to Android, as well). It will help teens, librarians, teachers, and parents search (by author, title, genre, and award/list) the past several years' worth of books from YALSA's awards and selected lists, and link immediately to the nearest library where users can find the books. It will be a great opportunity to get the word out about some terrific books.

Then, I have been thinking about YALSA's lists and awards because there were several related issues on the board's Midwinter agenda. (See www.ala.org/yalsa/2012-midwinter-board-documents for links to the board documents.) We discussed a new social media policy for YALSA's committee members. We saw a draft of the new manual for the *Odyssey* Award Committee. We had a report from the Awards and Selected Lists Evaluation task force. This task force spent a year looking in particular at the usefulness and effectiveness of the new expanded nominations lists for the Alex and Nonfiction Awards, and at how the new structure of the Best Fiction for Young Adults Committee was working. The task force surveyed current and past members of all three committees, analyzed the lists created by the committees, and surveyed YALSA members. Generally, both

committee members and YALSA members at large were satisfied with the lists, with no major changes recommended. One concrete result that came from the task force's work is that there will be a new task force to create a manual for the Excellence in Nonfiction Award Committee. The board also discussed the feasibility of piloting one of our awards or lists as an all-virtual committee; an ad hoc committee of the board will continue to explore that option.

YALSA's awards and selected lists are a huge part of what we are known for. And the committees that create these lists provide many of the opportunities for our members to be engaged and participate in YALSA's work. But think about it: we're talking about twelve committees, with a total of 124 members, which means only about 2.5 percent of YALSA's more than 5,200 members are involved on selection and award committees at any one time.

Yet, there are other ways every member can be involved in YALSA's awards and selected lists. Here are a few suggestions:

- Read YALSA's literature-based blog, *The Hub*, every day, and contribute in the comments section (www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub). There's a Monday poll every week (favorite

(continued on page 8)

All About Amelia The Amelia Bloomer Project

*By Jennie. S. Law,
Maureen McCoy,
Beth Olshewsky,
and Angela Semifero*

Each year, the Amelia Bloomer Project creates an annotated list of recommended books for children and teens that embody feminist principles. Initiated in 2001, the project is named for Amelia Jenks Bloomer (1818–1894), an American writer and newspaper editor who campaigned for temperance, women’s rights, and dress reform. She helped

popularize the style of dress known as “bloomers”: full-cut pantaloons worn under a shorter skirt. Like its namesake, the project is unique: among ALA book selection committees, it differs in both its content and its process. Books on the Amelia Bloomer Project list are selected for subject—significant feminism—not format, language, or translation, and the

committee uses the process of consensus, taken from traditional feminist decision-making, to determine selection.

When many books continue to present stereotypical images of women and girls, young people of all genders need to be able to find books that celebrate courageous women and girls who are portrayed not simply as “spunky” or “feisty,” but as brave, confident females actively shaping their own destinies and breaking barriers to defy stereotypes and societal limitations. Girls need books that will help them to recognize, understand, and resist systemic sexism around them, to claim their voices, and to be self-possessed. These books also encourage girls and young women to overcome issues of body image and to love themselves for whom they really are, in defiance of the mainstream media’s ongoing obsession with glamour, weight loss, and conventional appearance. In the process, new cultural contexts are created, honoring the diversity, validity, and beauty of all girls and women.

Finding current, high-quality books with significant feminist content and strong appeal to young readers cannot generally be accomplished using library catalogs or databases. Although other online bibliographies can help, they can quickly become dated, may be limited to the creator’s personal experience, and may include feminist titles mixed in with a wide variety of other books.

To identify suitable titles, committee members read hundreds of promising books every year. They seek beyond the better-known review sources, delving into small press catalogs, websites, and popular and feminist media to find books that meet all four criteria for nomination: 1. Significant feminist content, 2. Excellence in writing, 3. Appealing format, and 4. Age appropriateness for young readers.

Potential titles must also be published in the United States within the previous

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BETH OLSHEWSKY is the Library Media Supervisor for the Tulare County Office of Education, working collaboratively with school districts in the Central Valley of California and the western foothills of the Sierras. She is an Immediate Past Cochair for The Amelia Bloomer Project 2012.

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eighteen months of the current calendar year—this year, the committee considered books published between July 2010 and December 2011. This generous window allows members to consider any titles that may have been overlooked the previous year. Books published outside the United States must have a US publication date that falls within the stated range. Previously published books can be considered if they are reissued with significant changes or additional content. Books for adults, with crossover appeal to teens, are also considered.

While committee members work hard to identify potential titles, this task cannot be accomplished alone. The committee welcomes field recommendations that meet the stated criteria, from youth and the adults who care about them. Field nominations are read by one or more committee members, who evaluate them according to the same criteria used for nominations generated internally. After reading, field nominations are either confirmed and made official, or disallowed for not adequately meeting one or more of the criteria. The committee members then read, take notes, and deliberate upon all the nominated titles—no small task. This year saw 133 nominations!

During Midwinter Meeting, each nomination is discussed individually until consensus is reached about whether or not to include the book on the list. The diversity of subjects and reading levels found in these books is also reflected in the committee's membership. Representing a range of geographic regions around the United States, members work in public, academic, and school libraries, in urban centers, mid-sized cities, and rural regions. Their individual experiences enrich Midwinter discussions but they share a common love of youth literature and a passion for feminism reflected in these materials.

Once the list is created, its range of age levels and reading interests lends itself to a multiplicity of uses. From reader's advisory and recreational reading, to teen book clubs and assignment help, the list's annual production ensures that there are always current titles to reflect the ever-shifting needs and interests of children and teens. The list provides a great starting point for women's history displays and programming—many of the authors represented by the list are spread around the country and can be contacted to speak at school and public libraries.

During other months of the year, let your imaginations run wild! Host a “make your own” female superhero comic program! How about a self-defense workshop, a riot grrrl music party, or a T-shirt program featuring feminist slogans? The Project recently celebrated ten years of selecting quality feminist literature for youth, and there are many more titles to enjoy and celebrate—consult a complete archive of past lists through the blog or via the ALA Feminist Task Force website at <http://libr.org/ftf/bloomer.html>.

Support for the Amelia Bloomer Project is not limited to reading and recommending the titles on the list. The Amelia Bloomer Project Facebook group allows users to connect with a variety of people who support the work of the Project. These include committee members, Feminist Task Force members, authors, publishers, and educators across the country. The latest information about committee activities is posted to the group wall along with current nominations. Users can also find pictures from events such as the Amelia Bloomer Breakfast at the ALA Annual Conference. Past events have featured speakers such as Laurie Halse Anderson, Sharyn November, and Margarita Engle. A Twitter feed (@ameliabloomer) connects followers with feminist publications and organizations.

There are a variety of online spaces to find information and connect with the Project, including the ALA Connect discussion forums.

There are also several online forums for readers to participate in book discussions and to learn about feminist authors and events. The Amelia Bloomer Project has had a participatory web presence since 2008, when a MySpace site was established. In 2009, the committee established a blog at www.ameliabloomer.wordpress.com. Each official nomination is posted to this site throughout the nomination year. Readers are always welcome to comment on nominations and participate in discussions on the blog. Recommendations can be submitted through the blog or via e-mail at ameliabloomerlist@gmail.com. Teen opinions on nominated titles are encouraged because this feedback is a valuable resource to the committee during deliberations.

Ideally, any programming or reader's advisory related to the Amelia Bloomer Project list will include both young people of all genders. A major purpose of the list is to expose children and teens to these extraordinary stories of girls and women, both real and imagined. As they broaden their understanding of women's history and the ongoing struggles for equality and respect faced by girls and women at home and around the world, they shape their awareness not only of the world as it is but also of the world as it could be.

This year's list is filled with books that clearly illustrate the struggles of the past, the balance of the present, and hope for the future in feminism. Ellen Levine's *In Trouble*, inspired by the author's interviews with American women who came of age during the 1950s and 1960s, tells the story of two teen girls from that era who accidentally become pregnant, the decisions they make regarding their condition, and

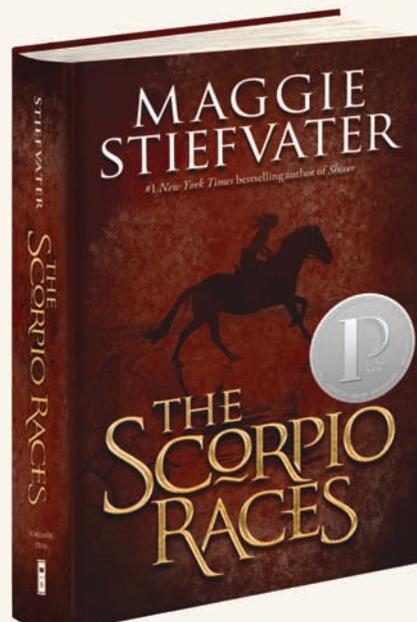
how they push into the unknown to create a future for themselves. *The Mockingbirds* by Daisy Whitney is a contemporary story about a young woman, Alex, who is drugged and date-raped on her private school campus. *The Mockingbirds*, a secret student-led organization, offer Alex a chance at justice when she is faced with institutional ignorance, marking a big change in cultural attitudes toward young women who are sexually assaulted. Malinda Lo's *Huntress* exemplifies a futuristic vision of feminism, set in a society where women are autonomous, brave, and powerful people as a matter of course. The list can be accessed at <http://ameliabloomer.wordpress.com/2012/01/22/announcing-the-2012-ameliabloomer-project-top-10-list/>.

Now more than ever, girls and boys, men and women, need positive feminist role models. We need to be reminded that brave people of all genders paved the way to the rights we enjoy today. We need to see a new future with greater equality for all—regardless of gender. We need real-life heroes and positive, fully realized female superheroes. The Amelia Bloomer Project celebrates women who have shaped history, who are blazing new paths, and who are identifying solutions to contemporary challenges. Our members hope that all young readers will have an opportunity to experience the spectrum of feminism represented in these titles. These books help make transformations possible, in young people, in the actions they take to transform the world around them, and in the shaping of the future we share. YALS

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November is just around the corner. Make plans now to attend the YA Literature Symposium in St. Louis, November 2–4. Put it in your budget request; save your nickels. Plans are shaping up for the best symposium ever—and why not? It is THE NEXT BIG THING!

More than sixty-five applications for programs and research papers were received, and from those, the planning committee selected three preconferences and seventeen programs. Other events include a presentation of three selected research papers and a luncheon with authors Patricia McCormick and David Levithan. This will be one busy and enriching weekend!

As we considered the proposals, several themes emerged.

Trend-Spotting

Predicting fads, staying ahead of ever-more savvy teens—this seems to be a concern of many YA librarians. Nothing says “uncool” like last year’s fad. Fortunately, there are tools and tips to help us spot the next big thing—whether in literature, publishing, reading programs, or technology—before it’s passé.

Transliteracy and Transmedia

Using video, websites, apps, and text messages, publishers are taking stories beyond books and across media. How can YA librarians capitalize on these tools to help the next generation become a generation of readers? What role can social media play in getting teens talking about what they are reading? Even as teens abandon paper books, how can YA librarians help them have rich reading experiences?

Post-Apocalypse

Dystopian fantasy is hot now, but what happens when we’re done with

the apocalypse? Where are science fiction, fantasy, and steampunk heading? Several presenters offer their predictions.

Looking to the Past to Predict Our Future

Even as we move forward, we want to look backward. Several presenters will look to what *was* hot to predict the next big thing. They address the question of “staying power” as we

redefine the classic canon to include today’s popular titles.

Diversity

Teens ask for, and increasingly find, contemporary realistic fiction that will help them find their way in an ever-more diverse and shrinking world. Rural or urban, in the United States or in Australia, gay or straight, white, black, multiethnic, or biracial, teens want to see themselves in the books they read. Workshops will address these concerns.

PATTY CARLETON earned her MLS at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1989. She has worked at St. Louis Public Library since 1989, as an assistant branch manager, manager, and children’s librarian. Since 2004, she has been Director of Youth Services at SLPL. She is an active member of ALA, ALA-SC, and YALSA. She served on the 2002 Newbery Committee, the Coretta Scott King Award Committee (2003–2004), and the 2007 Sibert Award Committee, and currently serves on the Children’s Notable Books Committee. She was a member of the YALSA Wrestlemania Reading Challenge Jury in 2010.

Blurring Genre Lines

As young adult literature grows, it moves into new frontiers and challenges boundaries. The old genre classifications don't work anymore. A sci-fi-mystery-romance, written in verse, with graphic illustrations, about an angst-ridden vampire or time-traveling zombie who doesn't get along with their parental unit could be the next bestseller. The Young Adult Literature Symposium will help you understand, appreciate, and sell these blended and evolving genres.

Practical Programs and Services to Help You Help Teens Find "The Next Big Thing"

Presenters will share programs that have worked. A panel of authors will

suggest ways to make author visits more interactive (and interesting) for both the author and the teen audience. Other programs will model ways to use technology in literature-based programs and explore the effect participatory fan culture and Internet publishing have on teen literature.

Hearing from Teens and Authors

In keeping with YALSA tradition and good YA practice, many programs include input and feedback from outside the library profession. The YA Lit Symposium promises an exciting mix of viewpoints, from teen guys talking to guy writers, publishers, and editors, to well-known authors and fresh voices with new perspectives.

At this writing, presenters are not confirmed, so we can't divulge details. But anticipate a visionary keynote speaker, exciting workshops, networking with colleagues, and FUN! Registration will be open by April 1; meanwhile, stay up to date on the latest symposium news at www.ala.org/yalitsymposium.

And I hope you'll join me for a tour of St. Louis Libraries—one of the preconference offerings. See you in St. Louis—Gateway to the West, and in November, gateway to The Next Big Thing. YALS

from the President (continued from page 3)

- star-crossed lovers, best made-up profanity, best siblings) and tweets of the week every Friday. There are author interviews, booklists, and essays about anything to do with YA literature. I know there are plenty of you out there with opinions: here's a great chance to share them.
- Encourage your teens and your colleagues to nominate books for YALSA's Reader's Choice list (www.ala.org/yalsa/readerschoice) and be sure to vote for your choices when the nominations are announced in November.
 - Get your teens or your library or school colleagues to read the Morris and Nonfiction shortlists in December and January and have your own mock award discussion.
 - Do a Mock Printz with teens or colleagues.
 - Encourage your teens to vote for the Teens' Top Ten (www.ala.org/yalsa/

teenstopten). The nominations are posted on Support Teen Literature Day in April, and readers ages 12 to 18 vote online in August and September, with the list announced during Teen Read Week in October.

- Promote the lists and awards in your library or school, with teachers and parents, and, of course, with teens. Go to www.ala.org/yalsa/best to find downloadable tools that will help you promote YALSA's Best of the Best. Logos, bookmarks (that you can customize with your library's information), spine labels, and more are available to help you get the word out.

So now it is time for me to get back to reading all of this year's award winners and honor books. Full disclosure: at the time of the announcement, I had read only one of the five Printz Award and Honor books. I did

better on the Morris and Nonfiction Awards, thanks to the fact that their shortlists were revealed in December, having read four of the five Morris finalists (of course, the one I hadn't read was the winner!) and three of the five Nonfiction finalists, including the winner. I had read one of the ten Alex winners, and had listened to none of the Odyssey winners. I had read all of the books by Susan Cooper named in the Edwards citation, but it has been so long that I am reading them again. So I have my work cut out for me, although it's nothing in comparison to the work of the committees who are already reading and listening for next year's winners. YALS

Reference

1. "Newbery/Caldecott/Printz winners equal sales," *EarlyWord (blog)*, Jan. 23, 2012, www.earlyword.com/2012/01/23/newberycaldecottprintz-winners-equal-sales/.

As a new high school librarian in 2002, I was given the task of beefing up our young adult literature collection. I immediately turned to YALSA's booklists and book awards as a starting point. The Best Books for Young Adults (BBYA) list in particular was extremely valuable, and I'm proud to say that my high school library now has a superb collection of young adult fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels that continues to grow.

As my knowledge of young adult literature expanded, I decided to complete the YALSA application form and volunteer for a selection committee. I remember squealing out loud in October 2008 when I received word that I had been chosen to serve on the BBYA 2009 committee. After two years, I was asked to serve as chair for BBYA 2011. As the beginning of my term as chair approached, I became aware that changes were being proposed to several of YALSA's lists and awards—including BBYA—that would impact the work and focus of the committee. The YA library world was abuzz with what these changes would mean for BBYA. What have I gotten myself into? I wondered.

A little history might be in order here. Since the 1930s, ALA committees have been compiling a yearly list of the best books for young people. The committee and list have undergone several modifications in both name and charge over the years, and in 1966 became Best Books for Young Adults. At Midwinter Meeting 2010, the YALSA board proposed and approved the first significant alterations to BBYA since its inception. These alterations included changing the name from Best Books for Young Adults to Best Fiction for Young Adults (BFYA) and updating the committee charge to focus only on works of fiction published for young adults. This meant no graphic novels, no nonfiction, and no adult fiction.

From Best Books to Best Fiction

Embracing Change in YALSA's Selection Lists

By Terri Snethen

The reasons for these changes were to allow each award and list committee to focus on a single format, genre, or audience and to make sure that the workload for committee members was manageable. In recent years, YALSA has added awards and lists that focus on nonfiction, graphic novels, adult novels for young adults, and various other formats, such as films and audiobooks, and it was thought to make sense for each group to focus on one genre or format.

There were a few other changes in the proposal as well. Previously, titles that had won the Printz Award and Honors were automatically included in the BBYA list, but under the new proposals, those titles would no longer be automatically added to BFYA. Another difference from previous years was that all selection committee members would now have two-year terms rather than the previous three-year terms.

The YALSA board also specified that at the end of the first year a task force would be formed to evaluate the success of the modifications to the committee and its charge.

In January 2011, the first-ever BFYA list was released with ninety-nine titles. As chair, I was so proud of the work of the committee. We worked tirelessly to ensure that our readership was high and spent hours at the committee table during Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting to create a list and top ten. Overall, the revisions in the committee charge did not have much of an impact on our actual work. While veteran members commented on missing the chance to read new nonfiction and graphic novels, overall our reading load was about the same as before, and we found a great deal of YA fiction to recommend and discuss. While there was, as always, discussion and some

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criticism from YALSA membership about what did and did not make our list, we were confident that our list comprised the best YA fiction from the previous sixteen months.

In 2011, YALSA formed the Book Committee Evaluation Task Force to evaluate the changes in BFYA as well as the Alex Award and the Nonfiction Award. Because I had been the first chair of BFYA, it made sense for me to be part of this task force. Our group was led by Pam Spencer Holley, and Shari Fesko and I agreed to head up the evaluation of BFYA. Our first task was to create an evaluation tool—a survey—that would be used to gather feedback from current BFYA members, former BBYA members, and the library community at large. We came up with questions designed to determine usage of the list, the quality and number of titles for the designated age range, the genre makeup of the list, the workload and term lengths of committee members, the effectiveness of the list as a collection development tool, and the effect on the list from revisions to the Alex Award and Excellence in Nonfiction Award. The nineteen-question survey was sent to committee members from BBYA 2009 and 2010 and BFYA 2011 and 2012. Other task force members created surveys to evaluate the changes to the Alex Award and the Excellence in Nonfiction Award.

As we waited for responses to the surveys, we took a look at the first BFYA list and compared it to the last few BBYA lists. Here are some of the things that stood out to us: In general, the BBYA and BFYA lists tend to lean to the older teens in the age range. The length of the list has been steadily growing: eighty-six titles in 2009, ninety in 2010, and ninety-nine in 2011 (the 2012 list has 113!). We wondered if this increase reflects the increasing number and quality of YA books being published in recent years. We also found that realistic fiction made up about

50 percent of the lists, with fantasy, paranormal, dystopian, and historical fiction being the next largest genres represented. We found that the lists all contained relatively few titles in the genres of science fiction, horror, and comedy, again perhaps reflecting trends in the YA publishing industry.

After the surveys had been distributed and compiled, we had a lot of data to dissect. Most of the questions allowed respondents to add comments, which were extremely helpful. Here are some of the BBYA and BFYA survey highlights:

- Fifty-seven percent of respondents thought that the right number of books was selected.
- Sixty-one percent thought that no quota or maximum number of titles should be required.
- Fifty-four percent thought that titles for the younger end of YA were underrepresented.
- Sixty-five percent thought that limiting BFYA to only those titles published for YA was not a problem.
- Fifty-six percent responded that removing adult titles from BFYA improved the quality of the list.
- Fifty-nine percent responded that the Nonfiction list of vetted titles did not compensate for removing nonfiction from BFYA.
- Results were split 50/50 on whether the Alex Award list of vetted titles compensated for removing adult titles from BFYA.
- Sixty-seven percent felt historical fiction was the most underrepresented genre in the 2011 BFYA list.
- Comments about genre and age representation favored not attempting to balance the list.
- Librarians use the list primarily for collection development, booktalking, displays, reader's advisory, and book clubs. To a lesser degree, the list is

used for training and curriculum support.

- Committee members overwhelmingly (79 percent) replied that the reading load was “about what I expected” for both BBYA and BFYA.
- Many felt that reducing the BFYA term to two years would negatively impact the quality of discussion, continuity of the committee, and balance of new and veteran members. Some suggested a third optional year.
- Seventy-seven percent felt that serving on BBYA and BFYA enhanced their ability to discuss and select books for teens.
- One hundred percent appreciated the chance to interact with peers who are also passionate about teens and reading and felt that it was a valuable opportunity to lend their time and talents to YALSA.

In October 2011, the task force sent a summary of the survey results to the YALSA board for their fall meeting. The last order of business for our task force was to distill all this information down into just a few recommendations that the YALSA board would consider at Midwinter Meeting 2012. Our recommendations were:

1. The length of the BFYA list should not be limited to a specific number but kept as it is and determined by the votes of the committee.
2. Because adult titles and nonfiction are adequately represented on other lists, it is appropriate for BFYA not to contain either of these.
3. The number of titles representing a certain genre, age group, or gender should not be limited or required.
4. YALSA should keep careful watch that there is an equal balance of first-year members and more veteran members on each year's BFYA

committee to maintain the continuity and quality of the list.

It seems clear from the survey responses and comments that BFYA is a valuable tool for YA librarians and one about which many feel passionate. All who serve on this committee do a tremendous amount of work, and we should be grateful that there are people willing to put other aspects of their lives on hold to spend a couple of years reading approximately a book a day. Several respondents commented that the changes from BBYA to BFYA have simply created a different list—not better or worse, just different. It will remain to be seen how the changes to BFYA will affect the list over time, but I think it can be said that BFYA is one of YALSA's most valuable tools.

For me, my years on BBYA and BFYA were extremely rewarding. Although I was nervous about chairing the inaugural BFYA Committee, the other members took to the changes with enthusiasm and hard work and made it one of the most outstanding endeavors of my career. I made countless new friends and gained a new appreciation for how passionate YA librarians are about books and teens. I read more than I ever thought possible and spent countless hours making notes and organizing and reorganizing the stacks of books that overtook my house. In the last year, since ending my tenure on the book selection committee, I have read more adult titles and have gone back to some old hobbies that went by the wayside. I will always cherish my BBYA and BFYA days. In all, my experience has lasted four years, ending with this task force. Maybe it's time to volunteer for another committee. YALS

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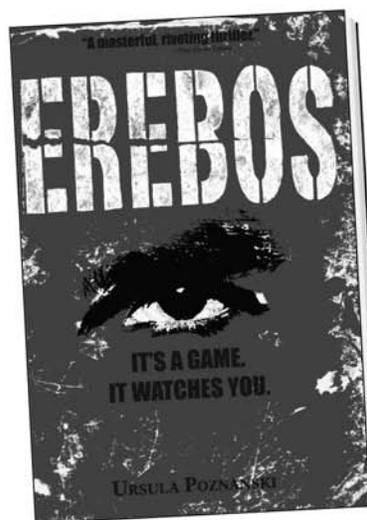
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Hot Spot: Awards

YALSA Announces 2012 Award Winners and Book and Media Lists

As part of ALA's annual Youth Media Awards, YALSA announced its six literary awards at Midwinter Meeting in Dallas on January 23: the Alex, Edwards, Morris, Nonfiction, Odyssey, and Printz awards. In addition, YALSA announced the titles on its selected booklists: 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.

Awards

Alex Awards

The Alex Awards are given to ten books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults, ages twelve through eighteen. The winning titles are selected from the previous year's published books. The award is sponsored by the Margaret A. Edwards Trust. The 2012 winners are:

- *Big Girl Small* by Rachel DeWoskin, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (ISBN: 9780374112578)

- *In Zanesville* by Jo Ann Beard, published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group (ISBN: 9780316084475)
- *The Lover's Dictionary* by David Levithan, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (ISBN: 9780374193683)
- *The New Kids: Big Dreams and Brave Journeys at a High School for Immigrant Teens* by Brooke Hauser, published by Free Press, a division of Simon and Schuster (ISBN: 9781439163283)
- *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, published by Doubleday, a division of Random House (ISBN: 9780385534635)
- *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline, published by Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House (ISBN: 9780307887436)
- *Robopocalypse: A Novel* by Daniel H. Wilson, published by Doubleday, a division of Random House (ISBN: 978038553850)
- *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward, published by Bloomsbury USA (ISBN: 9781608195220)

- *The Scrapbook of Frankie Pratt: A Novel in Pictures* by Caroline Preston, published by Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers (ISBN: 9780061966903)
- *The Talk-Funny Girl* by Roland Merullo, published by Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House (ISBN: 9780307452924)

The official nominations for the 2012 awards are available online at www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/alex.

The 2012 Alex Awards committee is: Chair Karen Keys, Queens Library, Long Island City, N.Y.; Amy Cheney, Alameda County Juvenile Hall Library, San Leandro, Calif.; Meghan Cirrito, Queens (N.Y.) Library; Danielle Dreger-Babbitt, Sno-Isle Regional Library Mill Creek (Wash.) Library; Crystal Faris, Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library; Ann Perrigo, Allegan (Mich.) District Library; Tina Pounds, Edison High School Alexandria, Va.; Scott Rader, Hays (Kan.) Public Library; Ellen R. Wathen, Walnut Hills High School, Cincinnati; and Ian Chipman, *Booklist* magazine, Chicago.

Margaret A. Edwards Award

The Margaret A. Edwards Award, established in 1988, honors an author, as well as a specific body of his or her work, for significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature. The annual award is administered by YALSA and sponsored by *School Library Journal* magazine. It recognizes an author's work in helping adolescents become aware of themselves and addressing questions about their role and importance in relationships, society, and in the world.

Susan Cooper is the recipient of the 2012 Margaret A. Edwards Award

honoring her significant and lasting contribution to writing for teens for *The Dark Is Rising Sequence: Over Sea, Under Stone; The Dark Is Rising; Greenwitch; The Gray King*; and *Silver on the Tree*.

Susan Cooper will be honored at the YALSA Edwards Award Luncheon and presented with a citation and cash prize of \$2,000 during the 2012 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, June 21–26.

Members of the 2012 Edwards Committee are: Chair Susan Fichtelberg, Woodbridge (N.J.) Public Library; Amy Joanne Chow, The Brearley School, New York; Jonathan Hunt, Modesto City (Calif.) Schools; Walter M. Mayes, The Girls' Middle School, Palo Alto, Calif.; and Kate McNair, Johnson County Library, Shawnee Mission, Kan.

For more information, please visit www.ala.org/yalsa/edwards.

William C. Morris Award

The William C. Morris YA Debut Award, first awarded in 2009, honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens and celebrates impressive new voices in young adult literature. The award's namesake is William C. Morris, an influential innovator in the publishing world and an advocate for marketing books for children and young adults.

Where Things Come Back by John Corey Whaley and published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing, won the 2012 Morris Award. The 2012 Morris Award finalists, announced in December, include *The Girl of Fire and Thorns* by Rae Carson, published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; *Paper Covers Rock* by Jenny Hubbard, published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books; *Under the*

Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall, published by Lee and Low Books; and *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys, published by Philomel Books, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers Group USA.

Members of the 2012 William C. Morris Award are: Chair Teri Lesesne, Department of Library Science, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Tex.; Adrienne Butler, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City; Sarah English, Omaha (Neb.) Public Library; Krista Hutley, Englewood (Colo.) Public Library; Angela Leeper, University of Richmond (Va.) Curriculum Materials Center; Rachel McDonald, King County Library System, Issaquah, Wash.; Amanda L. S. Murphy, Warren-Trumbull County Public Library, Warren, Ohio; Sarah Okner, Three Rivers Public Library District, Channahon, Ill.; Ed Spicer, Reviewer, *Michigan Reading Journal*, Allegan, Mich.; Betsy Levine, San Francisco Public Library, Administrative Assistant; and Gillian Engberg, *Booklist* magazine, consultant, Chicago.

YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction

The YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults (ages 12–18) during a November 1–October 31 publishing year.

The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism and Treachery by Steve Sheinkin won the 2012 award. Finalists are *Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom and Science* by Mark Aronson and Marina Budhos, published by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; *Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition* by Karen Blumenthal, published by Flash Point/Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group;

Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way) by Sue Macy, published by National Geographic Children's Books; and *Music Was IT: Young Leonard Bernstein* by Susan Goldman Rubin, published by Charlesbridge.

For more information, including a list of official nominations, please visit www.ala.org/yalsa/nonfiction.

Members of the 2012 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults award committee are: Chair Jennifer Hubert, Little Red School House and Elisabeth Irwin High School, New York; Mary Burkey, Olentangy Local Schools, Columbus, Ohio; Elizabeth Burns, New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center, Trenton, N.J.; Betty Carter, Consultant, Coppell, Tex.; Diane Colson, Youth Services Librarian, Palm Harbor (Fla.) Library; Megan Fink, Charlotte (N.C.) Country Day Middle School; Pam Spencer Holley, Consultant, Hallwood, Va.; David C. Mowery, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library; Mary Anne Nichols, Kent State University of Library and Information Science, Kent, Ohio; John Sexton, Greenburgh, New York; and Dan Kraus, *Booklist* magazine, Chicago.

Odyssey Award

The Odyssey Award is given to the producer of the best audiobook for children and/or young adults, available in English in the United States. The award is jointly administered by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), divisions of the ALA, and is sponsored by *Booklist* magazine.

The 2012 Odyssey Award was given to Listening Library, an imprint of Random House Audio Publishing Group, Random House, Inc., for its production of

the audiobook *Rotters* by Dan Kraus, narrated by Kirby Heyborne. Honor recordings were *Ghetto Cowboy* by G. Neri, narrated by JD Jackson and produced by Brilliance Audio; *Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt, narrated by Lincoln Hoppe and produced by Listening Library, an imprint of Random House Audio Publishing Group, Random House, Inc.; *The Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater, narrated by Steve West and Fiona Hardingham and produced by Scholastic Inc., Scholastic Audiobooks; and *Young Fredle* by Cynthia Voigt, narrated by Wendy Carter and produced by Listening Library, an imprint of Random House Audio Publishing Group, Random House, Inc.

For more information, please visit www.ala.org/yalsa/odyssey.

Members of the 2012 Odyssey Award Committee are: Chair Lizette D. Hannegan, Easton, Md.; Carrie Scott Banks, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library; Kate Capps, Olathe (Kan.) Public Library—Indian Creek Branch; Viola Dyas, Oakland, Calif.; Cathy Lichtman, Plymouth (Mich.) District Library; Barbara Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, N.Y.; Jennifer R. Sommer, Wright Memorial Public Library, Dayton, Ohio; Beatriz Pascual Wallace, Seattle Public Library; and Sue-Ellen Beauregard, consultant, *Booklist* magazine, Chicago.

Michael L. Printz Award

The Michael L. Printz Award honors the best book written for teens each year. The award, first given in 2000, is named for the late Michael L. Printz, a Topeka, Kansas, school librarian known for discovering and promoting quality books for young adults. The award is administered annually by YALSA and is sponsored by *Booklist* magazine.

Where Things Come Back by John Corey Whaley, published by Atheneum

Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing, won the 2012 Printz Award. Honor books are *Why We Broke Up* by Daniel Handler, art by Maira Kalman and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group; *The Returning* by Christine Hinwood and published by Dial Books, an imprint of Penguin Group Young Readers Group USA; *Jasper Jones* by Craig Silvey and published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House; and *The Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater and published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic, Inc.

For more information, please visit www.ala.org/yalsa/printz.

Members of the 2012 Printz Award Committee are: Chair Erin Helmrich, Ann Arbor (Mich.) District Library; Jerene Battisti, King County Library System, Issaquah, Wash.; Sophie Brookover, LibraryLinkNJ, Piscataway, N.J.; Patty Campbell, Fallbrook, Calif.; Todd Krueger, Baltimore County (Md.) Public Library; Gregory Lum, Jesuit High School, Portland, Ore.; Joy Millam, Valencia High School, Fountain Valley, Calif.; Elizabeth Saxton, Cleveland Public Library; Drue Wagner-Mees, Los Angeles Public Library; Gail Zachariah, Keene (N.H.) Public Library; and Ilene Cooper, *Booklist* magazine, Chicago.

Book and Media Lists

Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults

The 2012 Amazing Audiobooks list, comprised of thirty-two fiction titles and one nonfiction, features recordings covering a wide range of interests for young adults from realistic fiction to fantasy and humor. In addition to the full list, the committee chose the following recordings as its top ten:

- *Are These My Basoomas I See Before Me?* by Louise Rennison, read by Stina Nielson. Recorded Books, 2010.
- *Beauty Queens* by Libba Bray, read by Libba Bray. Scholastic Audio, 2011.
- *Carter's Big Break* by Brent Crawford, read by Nick Podehl. Brilliance Audio, 2011.
- *Chime* by Franny Billingsley, read by Susan Duerden. Listening Library, 2011.
- *Curse of the Wendigo* by Rick Yancey, read by Steven Boyer. Recorded Books, 2010.
- *Fever Crumb* by Philip Reeve, read by Philip Reeve. Scholastic Audio, 2011.
- *How They Croaked* by Georgia Bragg, read by L.J. Ganser. Recorded Books, 2011.
- *Marbury Lens* by Andrew Smith, read by Mark Boyett. Brilliance Audio, 2010.
- *Ring of Solomon* by Jonathan Stroud, read by Simon Jones. Listening Library, 2010.
- *Wake of the Lorelei Lee* by L.A. Meyer, read by Katherine Kellgren. Listen and Live Audio, 2010.

For more information, including the full list, please visit www.ala.org/yalsa/audiobooks or see page XX of this issue.

Members of the 2011 Amazing Audiobooks Committee are: Chair Jennifer Lawson, San Diego County Library; Catherine Andronik, Brien McMahon High School, Norwalk, Conn.; Joanna Axelrod, Escondido (Calif.) Public Library; Jennifer Campbell, Notre Dame de Sion High School, Kansas City, Mo.; Lynn Piper Carpenter, Birmingham (Ala.) Public Library; Jeri W. Cohen, Patchogue-Medford (N.Y.) Library; Donna S. Cook, Central High School, Independent School

District, Pollok, Texas; Sara E. Fitzgerald, Martin County Library System, Stuart, Fla.; Gretchen Kolderup, New Canaan (Conn.) Library; and Courtney Saldana, administrative assistant, Ontario (Calif.) City Library.

Best Fiction for Young Adults

YALSA's Best Fiction for Young Adults booklist annually selects outstanding titles of fiction written for young adults that are of interest and value to teenagers. This year's list of 112 books was drawn from 211 official nominations and comprises a wide range of genres and styles, including contemporary realistic fiction, fantasy, horror, historical fiction, and novels in verse.

The Best Fiction for Young Adults committee also created a Top Ten list of titles from the final list:

- Carson, Rae. *The Girl of Fire and Thorns*. HarperCollins Publishers/Greenwillow Books, 2011.
- Cohen, Joshua C. *Leverage*. Penguin Group USA/Dutton Juvenile, 2011.
- King, A.S. *Everybody Sees the Ants*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011.
- McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. *Under the Mesquite*. Lee and Low Books, 2011.
- Myracle, Lauren. *Shine*. Abrams/Amulet Books, 2011.
- Ness, Patrick. *A Monster Calls*. Illus. by Jim Kay. Candlewick Press, 2011.
- Sepetys, Ruta. *Between Shades of Gray*. Penguin Group/Philomel Books, 2011.
- Stiefvater, Maggie. *The Scorpio Races*. Scholastic Incorporated/Scholastic Press, 2011.
- Taylor, Laini. *Daughter of Smoke and Bone*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011.
- Zarr, Sara. *How to Save a Life*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011.

The full list with annotations can be found at www.ala.org/yalsa/bfya; reproducibles of the full list are available at www.ala.org/yalsa/bfya.

The members of the Best Fiction for Young Adults Committee are: Chair Patti Tjomsland, Mark Morris High School, Longview, Wash.; Jennifer Barnes, Malden (Mass.) Public Library; Carol A. Edwards, Denver Public Library; Debbie Fisher, Central Falls (R.I.) High School; Michael L. Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School Library, Issaquah, Wash.; Clio Hathaway, Hayward (Calif.) Public Library; Diana Tixier Herald, Genrefluent.com, Glade Park, Colo.; Janet Hilbun, University of North Texas Department of Library and Information Science, Denton; Alissa Lauzon, Haverhill (Mass.) Public Library; Shelly Mc Nerney, Blue Valley West High School, Overland Park, Kan.; Stacey McCracken, W.F. West High School, Chehalis, Wash.; Shilo Pearson, Chicago Public Library; Judith E. Rodgers, Wayzata Central Middle School, Plymouth, Minn.; Ted Schelvan, Chief Umtuch Middle School, Battle Ground, Wash.; Gillian Engberg, *Booklist* consultant, Chicago; and Carol Steen, administrative assistant, Columbia Valley Gardens, Longview, Wash.

Fabulous Films for Young Adults

The 2012 Fabulous Films for Young Adults offers twenty-five titles based on the theme "Song and Dance." The list includes films, both fiction and nonfiction, that showcase varying genres of music and dance from around the world. The complete list, including annotations, can be found at www.ala.org/yalsa/fabfilms and on page XX of this issue.

Members of the Fabulous Films for Young Adults Committee are: Chair Sarah Sogigian, Massachusetts Library System, Marlborough, Mass.; Amy Anderson, King

County Library System, Bellevue (Wash.) Library; Sarah Chaar, Kansas City (Kan.) Library; Kim Christofferson, Garden Grove (Calif.) Regional Library; Molly Collins, Burlington (Mass.) Public Library; Jennifer Longee, Durham (N.C.) Academy Middle School; Nicola McDonald, Brooklyn Public Library (N.Y.); Andrea Sowers, Joliet (Ill.) Public Library; and Sarah Bean Thompson, The Library Center, Springfield, Mo.

Great Graphic Novels for Teens

YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens committee named its 2012 list of fifty-six titles, drawn from seventy-eight official nominations. The graphic novels, recommended for those ages 12–18, meet the criteria of both good quality literature and appealing reading for teens.

In addition, the committee created a top ten list of titles that exemplify the quality and range of graphic novels appropriate for teen audiences:

- Amir and Khalil. *Zahra's Paradise*. First Second, 2011.
- Bendis, Brian Michael and Alex Maleev. *Scarlet*. Marvel/Icon Comics, 2011.
- Brosnal, Vera. *Anya's Ghost*. First Second, 2011.
- Gladstone, Brooke, Josh Neufeld, and others. *The Influencing Machine: Brooke Gladstone on the Media*. W. W. Norton and Company, 2011.
- Langridge, Roger, Chris Samnee, and others.
- *Thor: The Mighty Avenger V. 1*. Marvel, 2010.
- *Thor: The Mighty Avenger V. 2*. Marvel, 2011.
- McLeod, Kagan. *Infinite Kung Fu*. Top Shelf, 2011.
- Mori, Kaoru. *A Bride's Story V. 1*. Yen Press, 2011.

- Nicolle, Malachai and Ethan Nicolle. *Axe Cop V. 1*. Dark Horse, 2011.
- Ralph, Brian. *Daybreak*. Drawn and Quarterly, 2011.
- Shimura, Takako. *Wandering Son V. 1*. Fantagraphics Books, 2011.

The complete list with annotations can be found at www.ala.org/yalsa/ggnt; a reproducible of the full list can be found on page xx of this issue.

Members of the Great Graphic Novels for Teens Committee are: Chair Joy Kim, Pierce County Library System, Tacoma, Wash.; Tessa Barber, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (Pa.); Chris Durr, Kirkwood (Mo.) Public Library; Summer Hayes, King County Library System, Tukwila, Wash.; Jesse Karp, Little Red School House/Elizabeth Irwin High School, New York; Candice Mack, Los Angeles Public Library; Matthew Moffett, Fairfax (Va.) County Public Library; Rachael Myers, Horace Mann School, Bronx, N.Y.; Jessica Lorentz Smith, Bend (Ore.) Senior High School; Steve Teeri, Detroit Public Library; Dorcas Wong, San Francisco Public Library; Katy Hepner, administrative assistant, St. Tammany Parish Library, Mandeville, La.; and Ian Chipman, *Booklist* consultant, Chicago.

Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults

The Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Committee creates lists of books to encourage young adults to read for pleasure. The lists of popular or topical titles are widely available in paperback and represent a broad variety of accessible themes and genres.

This year's PPYA committee produced four lists of titles arranged by the following topics:

- Adventure Seekers: Discover Your Destiny; Accept the Challenge; Tights and Cape Not Required.
- Forbidden Romance: Oh So Wrong, But Oh So Right.
- Get Your Geek On: Talk Nerdy to Me.
- Sticks and Stones: From Cyberbullying to Cold Shoulders, It All Hurts.

The committee also selected the following titles as its Top Ten list:

- Black, Holly and Cecil Castellucci, eds. *Geektastic: Stories from the Nerd Herd*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 2010.
- Carroll, Michael. *Super Human*. Speak. 2010.
- Falkner, Brian. *Brain Jack*. Ember. 2011.
- Giles, Gail. *Shattering Glass*. Simon Pulse. 2003.
- Harbison, Paige. *Here Lies Bridget*. Harlequin Teen. 2011
- Lindner, April. Jane. *Poppy*. 2011
- Loux, Matthew. *Sidescrollers*. Oni Press. 2006.
- Moore, Perry. *Hero*. Hyperion. 2009.
- Tsang, Evonne. *My Boyfriend Is a Monster 1: I Love You to Pieces*. Lerner/Graphic Universe. 2011.
- Waldorf, Heather. *Tripping*. Red Deer Press. 2009.

The full list, with annotations, can be found at www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/poppaper; reproducibles of the full list can be seen on page xx of this issue.

Members of the Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Committee are: Chair Valerie Davis, Campbell County Public Library, Newport, Ky.; Amber Creger, Chicago Public Library, Woodson Regional Library; Franklin Escobedo, Oceanside (Calif.) Public Library; Lisa

Goldstein, Brooklyn Public Library, Cypress Hill Branch; Sarah B. Hill, Paris (Ill.) Cooperative High School; Jennifer H. Korn, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio; Ellen Loughran, Pratt Institute, New York; Kelly C. Metzger, Dedham (Mass.) Middle School; Elizabeth Schneider, Monrovia (Calif.) Public Library; Shanna Smith, Mesa County Public Library District, Grand Junction, Colo.; Mari S. Smith, Cicero, Ill.; Sandy Sumner, Morehead (Ky.) State University; 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, Tex.

Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

The Quick Picks list suggests books that teens, ages twelve through eighteen, will pick up on their own and read for pleasure; it is geared to the teenager who, for whatever reason, does not like to read. The 2012 committee selected 117 titles, drawn from 227 nominations, as well as a Top Ten list:

- Aguirre, Ann. *Enclave*. Macmillan/Feiwel and Friends, 2011.
- Almerico, Kendall and Tess Hottenroth. *Whoogles: Can a Dog Make a Woman Pregnant? . . . and Hundreds of Other Searches That Make You Ask "Who Would Google That?"* F + W Media/Adams Media, 2010.
- Beever, Julian. *Pavement Chalk Artist: The Three-Dimensional Drawings of Julian Beever*. Firefly Books, 2010.
- Booth, Coe. *Bronxwood*. Scholastic, Inc./Push, 2011.
- Dugard, Jaycee. *A Stolen Life: A Memoir*. Simon and Schuster, 2011.
- Elkeles, Simone. *Chain Reaction*. Walker and Company, 2011.

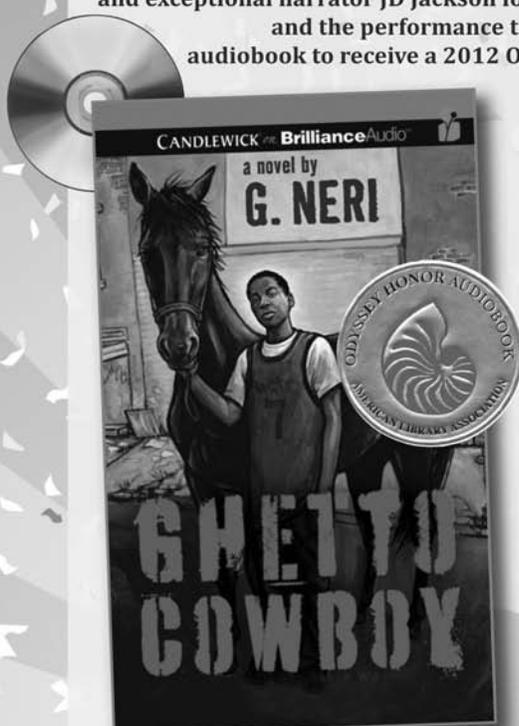
- Haugen, Brenda. *The Zodiac Killer: Terror and Mystery*. Capstone/Compass Point Books, 2010.
- Patterson, James. *Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life*. Illus. by Lara Park and Chris Tebbets. Little, Brown and Company, 2011.
- Snider, Brandon. *D.C. Comics: The Ultimate Character Guide*. DK, 2011.
- TenNapel, Doug. *Ghostopolis*. Scholastic Inc./Graphix, 2011.

The full list of Quick Picks with annotations can be found at www.ala.org/yalsa/quickpicks; a reproducible of the full list is available on page xx of this issue.

Members of the Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers Committee are: Chair, Heather Gruenthal, Anaheim (Calif.) Union High School District; Elsa Black, Phoenix Public Library; Tammy DiBartolo, Rapides Parish Library, Alexandria, La.; Jamison Hedin, Ludlow (Mass.) High School; Becky Jackman, New Providence Middle School, Clarksville, Tenn.; Brenda Kilmer, Miami-Dade College, Florida; Stacy Lickteig, Omaha (Neb.) Public Schools; Ann Pechacek, Worthington (Ohio) Libraries; Sherry Rampey, Gaston, S.C.; Ellen Spring, Rockland (Maine) District Middle School; and Anita Buers, administrative assistant, Anaheim (Calif.) Union High School District. YALS

Our Honor Is Their Honor

Brilliance Audio would like to thank gifted author **G. Neri** and exceptional narrator **JD Jackson** for the book **GHETTO COWBOY** and the performance that drove our audiobook to receive a 2012 Odyssey Award Honor.



Jackson's rich baritone performance delivers G. Neri's street-smart tale that was inspired by the real-life inner-city horsemen of Philadelphia and Brooklyn. **Ghetto Cowboy** is a timeless urban western about learning to stand for what's right—the Cowboy Way.

"A master of urban dialects, Jackson captures Cole's voice, mixing the right amount of angst and awe into his tones as Cole adjusts to his new home—and the horses as well. Various accents, including longhorn twangs and Jamaican island lilt, are reflected with ease."
—*Booklist*

GHETTO COWBOY
Written by **G. Neri**
Narrated by **JD Jackson**
Print Book illustrated by Jesse Joshua Watson

GHETTO COWBOY, also published in print by Candlewick Press, is produced under the Candlewick on Brilliance Audio imprint at Brilliance Audio. We are truly honored to be considered one of the best producers of audiobooks for children and/or young adults. **We congratulate all of the 2012 American Library Association Youth Media Award Winners.**

TO LEARN MORE about upcoming releases from authors like Rick Riordan, Orson Scott Card, Jacqueline Woodson, John Green, and so many more, we welcome your emails to libsales@brillianceaudio.com, your visit to www.brillianceaudio.com/library or calls to 1-800-648-2312. **Brilliance Audio provides a 45% DISCOUNT on the direct through Brilliance Audio purchase of our Library Edition CDs and MP3-CDs.**

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2012 Selected Lists



Nonfiction

**How They Croaked* by Georgia Bragg, read by L.J. Ganser. Recorded Books, 2011.

Fiction

- After Ever After* by Jordan Sonnenblick, read by Nick Podehl. Brilliance Audio, 2011.
- **Are These My Basoomas I See Before Me?* by Louise Rennison, read by Stina Nielson. Recorded Books, 2010.
- Ask and the Answer* by Patrick Ness, read by Angela Dawe and Nick Podehl. Candlewick on Brilliance Audio, 2010.
- **Beauty Queens* by Libba Bray, read by Libba Bray. Scholastic Audio, 2011.
- Behemoth* by Scott Westerfeld, read by Alan Cumming. Simon and Schuster Audio, 2011.
- Books of UMBER: Dragon Games* by P.W. Catanese, read by Richard Poe. Recorded Books, 2010.
- Bruiser* by Neal Shusterman, read by Nick Podehl, Kate Rudd, Luke Daniels and Laura Hamilton. Brilliance Audio, 2011.
- **Carter's Big Break* by Brent Crawford, read by Nick Podehl. Brilliance Audio, 2011.
- Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading* by Tommy Greenwald, read by MacLeod Andrews. Brilliance Audio, 2011.
- **Chime* by Franny Billingsley, read by Susan Duerden. Listening Library, 2011.
- Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell Boyce, read by Kirby Heyborne. Listening Library, 2011.
- **Curse of the Wendigo*, by Rick Yancey, read by Steven Boyer. Recorded Books, 2010.
- **Fever Crumb* by Philip Reeve, read by Philip Reeve. Scholastic Audio, 2011.
- Ghetto Cowboy* by G. Neri, read by JD Jackson. Candlewick on Brilliance Audio, 2011.
- Hero* by Perry Moore, read by Michael Urie. Brilliance Audio, 2011.
- **Marbury Lens* by Andrew Smith, read by Mark Boyett. Brilliance Audio, 2010.
- Okay for Now* by Gary Schmidt, read by Lincoln Hoppe. Listening Library, 2011.
- Operation Yes* by Sara Lewis Holmes, read by Jessica Almasy. Brilliance Audio, 2011.

Paintings from the Cave by Gary Paulsen, read by Jim Bond, Kevin R. Free, Sarah Grace and Nick Podehl. Brilliance Audio, 2011.

Pick-Up Game: A Full Day of Full Court edited by Marc Aronson and Charles R. Smith Jr., read by Dion Graham and Quincy Tyler Berstine. Candlewick on Brilliance Audio, 2011.

**Ring of Solomon* by Jonathan Stroud, read by Simon Jones. Listening Library, 2010.

Rotters by Daniel Kraus, read by Kirby Heyborne. Random House Audio, 2011.

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

Scorch Trials by James Dashner, read by Mark Deakins. Listening Library, 2010.

The Scorpio Races by Maggie Stiefvater, read by Steve West and Fiona Hardingham. Scholastic Audiobooks, 2011.

The Sky is Everywhere by Jandy Nelson, read by Julia Whelan. Brilliance Audio, 2010.

Some Girls Are by Courtney Summers, read by Katie Schorr. Brilliance Audio, 2010.

Sophomore Switch by Abby McDonald, read by Katherine Kellgren. Candlewick on Brilliance Audio, 2010.

Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger, read by Mark Turetsky, Greg Steinbruner, Jonathan Todd Ross, Julia Gibson, and Charlotte Parry. Recorded Books, 2010.

**Wake of the Lorelei Lee* by L.A. Meyer, read by Katherine Kellgren. Listen and Live Audio, 2010.

Water Seeker by Kimberly Willis Holt, read by Will Patton. Listening Library, 2010.

Zombies v. Unicorns edited by Holly Black and Justine Larbalestier, read by Ellen Grafton, Nick Podehl, Kate Rudd, Julia Whelan and Phil Gigante. Brilliance Audio, 2010.

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2012 Selected Lists



Abel-Fattah, Randa. *Where the Streets had a Name*. Scholastic Incorporated/Scholastic Press, 2010

Aguirre, Ann. *Enclave*. Feiwel & Friends, 2011

Almond, David. *My Name is Mina*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Press, 2011

Altebrando, Tara. *Dreamland Social Club*. Penguin Group/Dutton Juvenile, 2011

Bauer, Joan. *Close to Famous*. Penguin Group/Viking Juvenile, 2011

Beam, Chris. *I am J*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011

Billingsley, Franny. *Chime*. Penguin Group/Dial Books, 2011

Black, Holly. *Red Glove*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing /Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2011

Blake, Kendare. *Anna Dressed in Blood*. Thomas Doherty Associates/Tor Teen, 2011

Blundell, Judy. *Strings Attached*. Scholastic Incorporated, 2011

Bondoux, Anne-Laure. *A Time of Miracles*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2010

Booth, Coe. *Bronxwood*. Scholastic Incorporated/Push, 2011

Bray, Libba. *Beauty Queens*. Scholastic Incorporated, 2011

Brezenoff, Steve. *Brooklyn, Burning*. Lerner Publishing Group/Carolrhoda Lab, 2011

Brooks, Martha. *Queen of Hearts*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011

Brown, Jennifer. *Bitter End*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011

Bunce, Elizabeth C. *Liar's Moon*. Scholastic Incorporated / Arthur A. Levine, 2011

Caletti, Deb. *Stay*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/Simon Pulse, 2011

*Carson, Rae. *The Girl of Fire and Thorns*. HarperCollins Publishers/Greenwillow Books, 2011

Castle, Jennifer. *The Beginning of After*. HarperCollins Publishers/HarperTeen, 2011

Chayil, Eishes. *Hush*. Walker and Company, 2010

Chow, Cara. *Bitter Melon*. Egmont USA, 2011

Clement-Moore, Rosemary. *Texas Gothic*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Press, 2011

*Cohen, Joshua C. *Leverage*. Penguin Group USA/Dutton Juvenile, 2011

Cooper, Michelle. *The FitzOsbornes in Exile*. Random House Children's Books/Alfred A. Knopf, 2011

Cross, Gillian. *Where I Belong*. Holiday House, 2011

de la Pena, Matt. *I Will Save You*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte, 2010

Dessen, Sarah. *What Happened to Goodbye*. Penguin Group/Viking Juvenile, 2011

DeStefano, Lauren. *Wither*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2011

Deuker, Carl. *Payback Time*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2010

Dixon, Heather. *Entwined*. HarperCollins Publishers/Greenwillow Books, 2011

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Ten Miles Past Normal*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing /Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2011

Downham, Jenny. *You Against Me*. Random House Children's Books/David Fickling Books, 2011

Edwardson, Debby Dahl. *My Name is Not Easy*. Marshall Cavendish, 2011

Fisher, Catherine. *The Dark City*. Penguin Group/Dial Books, 2011

Forman, Gayle. *Where She Went*. Penguin Group/Dutton Juvenile, 2011

Freitas, Donna. *The Survival Kit*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011

Friesner, Esther. *Threads and Flames*. Penguin Group/Viking Juvenile, 2010

Gantos, Jack. *Dead End in Norvelt*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011

Gier, Kerstin. *Ruby Red*. Henry Holt & Company, 2011

Goldberg Sloan, Holly. *I'll Be There*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011

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2012 Selected Lists



Goodman, Shawn. *Something Like Hope*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2010

Handler, Daniel; *Why We Broke Up*. Illus. by Maira Kalman. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011

Hautman, Pete. *The Big Crunch*. Scholastic Incorporated/Scholastic Press, 2011

Herback, Geoff. *Stupid Fast*. Sourcebooks/Sourcebooks Fire, 2011

Johnson, Maureen. *The Last Little Blue Envelope*. HarperCollins Publishers /HarperTeen, 2011

Johnson, Maureen. *The Name of the Star*. Penguin Group/Putnam Juvenile, 2011

*King, A.S. *Everybody Sees the Ants*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011

Kirby, Matthew J. *Icefall*. Scholastic Incorporated/Scholastic Press, 2011

Kittredge, Caitlin. *The Iron Thorn*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Press, 2011

Knowles, Jo. *Pearl*. Henry Holt & Company, 2011

Leavitt, Lindsey. *Sean Griswold's Head*. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2011

Lo, Malinda. *Huntress*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011

Lu, Marie. *Legend*. Penguin Group/Putnam Juvenile, 2011

Marchetta, Melina. *The Piper's Son*. Candlewick Press, 2011

Marcus, Kimberly. *Exposed*. Random House Children's Books, 2011

Martinez, Jessica. *Virtuosity*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/Simon Pulse, 2011

*McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. *Under the Mesquite*. Lee & Low Books, 2011

McMann, Lisa. *Cryer's Cross*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/Simon Pulse, 2011

Meloy, Maile. *The Apothecary*. Penguin Group/Putnam Juvenile, 2011

Mullin, Mike. *Ashfall*. Tanglewood, 2011

*Miracle, Lauren. *Shine*. Abrams/Amulet Books, 2011

Nelson, Blake. *Recovery Road*. Scholastic Incorporated/Scholastic Press, 2011

*Ness, Patrick. *A Monster Calls*. Illus. by Jim Kay. Candlewick Press, 2011

Neumeier, Rachel. *The Floating Islands*. Random House Children's Books/Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2011

O'Brien, Caragh. *Prized*. Roaring Brook Press, 2011

O'Neal, Eilis. *The False Princess*. Egmont, 2011

Ockler, Sarah. *Fixing Delilah*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010

Okorafor, Nnedi. *Akata Witch*. Penguin Group/Viking, 2011

Oliver, Lauren. *Delirium*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2011

Oppel, Kenneth. *This Dark Endeavor: The Apprenticeship of Victor Frankenstein*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2011

Ostlere, Cathy. *Karma, A Novel in Verse*. Penguin Group/RazorBill, 2011

Perera, Anna. *Guantanamo Boy*. Albert Whitman & Company, 2011

Pérez, Ashley Hope. *What Can(t) Wait*. Lerner Publishing Group/Carolrhoda Lab, 2011

Perkins, Stephanie. *Anna and the French Kiss*. Penguin Group/Dutton Juvenile, 2010

Perkins, Stephanie. *Lola and the Boy Next Door*. Penguin Group/Dutton Juvenile, 2011

Porter, Tracey. *Lark*. HarperCollins Publishers/HarperTeen, 2011

Powers, J. L. *This Thing Called the Future*. Cinco Puntos Press, 2011

Price, Charlie. *Desert Angel*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011

Riggs, Ransom. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. Quirk Books, 2011

Reedy, Trent. *Words in the Dust*. Scholastic Incorporated/Arthur A. Levine Books, 2011

Reeve, Philip. *A Web of Air*. Scholastic Incorporated, 2011 forces to build a flying machine.

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2012 Selected Lists



Resau, Laura & Maria Virginia Farinango. *Queen of Water*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2011

Riordan, Rick. *The Lost Hero*. Disney Book Group/Hyperion Press, 2010

Roth, Veronica. *Divergent*. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen Books, 2011

Sales, Leila. *Past Perfect*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/Simon Pulse, 2011

Schmidt, Gary. *Okay for Now*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Clarion Books, 2011

Sedgwick, Marcus. *White Crow*. Roaring Brook Press, 2011

Selznick, Brian. *Wonderstruck*. Scholastic Incorporated / Scholastic Press, 2011

*Sepetys, Ruta. *Between Shades of Gray*. Penguin Group/Philomel Books, 2011

Sharenow, Robert. *The Berlin Boxing Club*. HarperCollins Publishers /HarperTeen, 2011

Silvey, Craig. *Jasper Jones*. Random House/Alfred A. Knopf, 2011

Smith, Andrew. *Stick*. Feiwel and Friends, 2011

Stiefvater, Maggie. *The Scorpio Races*. Scholastic Incorporated/Scholastic Press, 2011

*Taylor, Laini. *Daughter of Smoke and Bone*. Little, Brown, Books for Young Readers, 2011

Thompson, Holly. *Orchards*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Press, 2011

Valente, Catherynne M. *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*. Feiwel & Friends, 2011

Van Allsberg, Chris, ed. *The Chronicles of Harris Burdick: Fourteen Amazing Authors Tell the Tales*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2011

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *The Running Dream*. Random House Children's Books/Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2011

Venkatraman, Padma. *Island's End*. Penguin Group/Putnam Juvenile, 2011

Vernick, Shirley Reva. *The Blood Lie*. Cinco Puntos Press, 2011

Wallace, Jason. *Out of Shadows*. Holiday House, 2011

Warman, Jessica. *Between*. Walker & Company, 2011

Whaley, John Corey. *Where Things Come Back*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2011

Williams, Carol Lynch. *Miles from Ordinary*. St. Martin's Press/St. Martin's Griffin, 2011

Williams, Michael. *Now is the Time for Running*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011

Wolf, Allan. *The Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic*. Candlewick Press, 2011

Wynne-Jones, Tim. *Blink and Caution*. Candlewick Press, 2011

Yee, Lisa. *Warp Speed*. Scholastic Incorporated/Arthur A. Levine Books, 2011

Young, Moira. *Blood Red Road*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2011

Yovanoff, Brenna. *The Space Between*. Penguin Group/Razorbill, 2011

*Zarr, Sara. *How to Save a Life*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011.

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2012 Selected Lists



2012 Theme: Song and Dance

Feature Films

- Almost Famous*, Dreamworks. 122 min. DVD Rated R.
Bride and Prejudice, Miramax Home Video. DVD 107 min. Rated PG-13.
Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog, Mutant Enemy, INC. DVD Not Rated.
Drumline, Fox. 118 min. DVD Rated PG-13.
Hairspray (2007), New Line Home Video. 117 min. PG.
Idlewild, Universal Studios. 121 min. DVD Rated R.
Newsies, Walt Disney Home Video. 121 min. DVD Rated PG.
Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist, Sony Pictures. 90 min. DVD Rated PG-13.
Once Upon a Mattress, Buena Vista Home Entertainment. 90 min. DVD Rated PG.
Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella, (2003) Walt Disney Video. 88 min. DVD Rated G.
Save the Last Dance, Paramount. 112 min. DVD Rated PG-13.
Scott Pilgrim vs. The World, Universal Studios. 112 min. DVD Rated PG-13
Selena, Warner Home Video. 128 min. DVD Rated PG.
The Sound of Music, Fox. 175 min. DVD Rated G.
Step Up, Touchstone/Disney. 104 min. DVD Rated PG-13.
Strictly Ballroom, Miramax. 94 min. DVD Rated PG.
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. Dreamworks. 116 min. DVD Rated R.
West Side Story, MGM. 152 min. DVD Not Rated.
8 Mile, Universal Studios. 110 min. DVD Rated R.

Nonfiction

- Chops*, Virgil Films and Entertainment. 88 min. DVD Not Rated
Every Little Step, Sony Pictures Home Entertainment. 93 min. DVD Rated PG-13.
Foo Fighters: Back and Forth, RCA. 135 min. DVD Not Rated.
Mao's Last Dancer, 20th Century Fox. 117 min. DVD Rated PG.
Only When I Dance, Film Movement. 78 min. DVD Not Rated.
War Dance, Thinkfilm. 107 min. DVD Rated PG-13

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2012 Selected Lists



Nonfiction

- Ebine, Kazuki. *Gandhi: A Manga Biography*. Illus. Penguin, 2010.
- Geary, Rick. *The Lives of Sacco and Vanzetti: A Treasury of XXth Century Murder*. Illus. NBM/Comicslit, 2011.
- * Gladstone, Brooke, Josh Neufeld, and others. *The Influencing Machine: Brooke Gladstone on the Media*. Illus. W. W. Norton and Company, 2011.
- Glidden, Sarah. *How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less*. Illus. DC Comics/Vertigo, 2010.
- Hosler, Jay, Kevin Cannon, and others. *Evolution: The Story of Life on Earth*. Illus. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux/Hill and Wang, 2011.
- O'Connor, George. *Hera: The Goddess and Her Glory: Olympians V. 3*. Illus. First Second/Neal Porter, 2011.
- Ottaviani, Jim, Leland Myrick, and others. *Feynman*. Illus. First Second, 2011.
- Phelan, Matt. *Around the World*. Illus. Candlewick Press, 2011.
- Santiago, Wilfred. *21: The Story of Roberto Clemente*. Illus. Fantagraphics Books, 2011.
- Sowa, Marzena and Sylvain Savoia. *Marzi: A Memoir*. Trans. Anjali Singh, Illus. DC Comics/Vertigo, 2011.

Fiction

- * Amir and Khalil. *Zahra's Paradise*. Illus. First Second, 2011.
- Austen, Jane, Nancy Butler, and others. *Sense and Sensibility*. Illus. Marvel, 2010.
- * Bendis, Brian Michael and Alex Maleev. *Scarlet*. Illus. Marvel/Icon, 2011.
- Bendis, Brian Michael and Michael Avon Oeming. *Takio*. Illus. Marvel/Icon, 2011.
- * Brosgol, Vera. *Anya's Ghost*. Illus. First Second, 2011.
- Brubaker, Jason. *reMIND V. 1*. Illus. Coffee Table Comics, 2011.
- Bruchac, Joseph and Will Davis. *Dawn Land*. Illus. First Second, 2010.
- Bunn, Cullen and Brian Hurtt. *Cold Dead Fingers: The Sixth Gun V. 1*. Illus. Oni Press, 2011.
- Card, Orson Scott, Emily Janice Card, and others. *Laddertop V. 1*. Illus. Tor/Seven Seas, 2011.
- Dawson, Mike. *Troop 142*. Illus. Secret Acres, 2011.
- DeFillippis, Nunzio, Christina Weir, and others. *Amazing Agent Jennifer V. 1*. Illus. Seven Seas, 2011.

- Delgado, Ricardo. *Age of Reptiles Omnibus V. 1*. Illus. Dark Horse, 2011.
- Fawkes, Ray. *One Soul*. Illus. Oni Press, 2011.
- Gage, Christos, Mike McKone, and others. *Permanent Record: Avengers Academy V. 1*. Illus. Marvel, 2011.
- Gullledge, Laura Lee. *Page by Paige*. Illus. Abrams/Amulet Books, 2011.
- Hastings, Christopher, Benito Cereno, and others. *The Adventures of Dr. McNinja: Night Powers*. Illus. Dark Horse, 2011.
- Kato, Kazue. *Blue Exorcist V. 1*. Trans. John Werry, Illus. VIZ Media/Shonen Jump, 2011.
- * Langridge, Roger, Chris Samnee, and others. *Thor: The Mighty Avenger V. 1*. Illus. Marvel, 2010.
- Thor: The Mighty Avenger V. 2*. Illus. Marvel, 2011.
- Lee, Tony and Sam Hart. *Excalibur: The Legend of King Arthur*. Illus. Candlewick Press, 2011.
- Lyga, Barry and Colleen Doran. *Mangaman*. Illus. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2011.
- * McLeod, Kagan. *Infinite Kung Fu*. Illus. Top Shelf, 2011.
- Mignola, Mike, Christopher Golden, and others. *Baltimore: The Plague Ships*. Illus. Dark Horse, 2011.
- * Mori, Kaoru. *A Bride's Story V. 1*. Trans. William Flanagan, Illus. Yen Press, 2011.
- Mucha, Corinne. *Freshman: Tales of 9th Grade Obsessions, Revelations, and Other Nonsense*. Illus. Zest Books, 2011.
- * Nicolle, Malachai and Ethan Nicolle. *Axe Cop V. 1*. Illus. Dark Horse, 2011.
- Oleksyk, Sarah. *Ivy*. Illus. Oni Press, 2011.
- Raiku, Makoto. *Animal Land V. 1*. Trans. Stephen Paul, Illus. Kodansha Comics, 2011.

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.

2012 Selected Lists



* Ralph, Brian. *Daybreak*. Illus. Drawn and Quarterly, 2011.
Reed, M. K. and Jonathan Hill. *Americus*. Illus. First Second, 2011.
Snyder, Scott, Jock, and others. *Batman: The Black Mirror*. Illus. DC Comics, 2011.
Soule, Charles, Renzo Podesta, and others. *27: First Set*. Illus. Image Comics/Shadowline, 2011.
Spencer, Nick and Joe Eisma. *Morning Glories V. 1*. 2011, illus. Image Comics/Shadowline, 2011.
Suzuki, Julietta
Kamisama Kiss V. 1. Trans. Tomo Kimura, Illus. VIZ Media/Shojo Beat, 2010.
Kamisama Kiss V. 2. Trans. Tomo Kimura, Illus. VIZ Media/Shojo Beat, 2011.
* Shimura, Takako. *Wandering Son V. 1*. Trans. Matt Thorn, Illus. Fantagraphics Books, 2011.
TenNapel, Doug. *Bad Island*. Illus. Scholastic/Graphix

Thomas, Brandon and Lee Ferguson. *The Many Adventures of Miranda Mercury V. 1: Time Runs Out*. Illus. Archaia, 2011.
Varon, Sara. *Bake Sale*. Illus. First Second, 2011.
Waid, Mark, Mirco Pierfederici, and others. *Ruse: The Victorian Guide to Murder*. Illus. Marvel/Crossgen, 2011.
Wood, Brian and Ryan Kelly. *The New York Five*. Illus. DC Comics/Vertigo, 2011.
Yang, Gene and Thien Pham. *Level Up*. Illus. First Second, 2011.
Yolen, Jane and Rebecca Guay. *The Last Dragon*. Illus. Dark Horse, 2011.
Yukino, Sai and Kairi Yura.
The Story of Saiunkoku V. 1. Trans. Su Mon Han, Illus. VIZ Media/Shojo Beat, 2010.
The Story of Saiunkoku V. 2. Trans. Su Mon Han, Illus. VIZ Media/Shojo Beat, 2011.
Zubkavich, Jim, Edwin Huang, and others. *1000 Opas and a Dead Body: Skullkickers V. 1*. Illus. Image Comics, 2011.

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2012 Selected Lists



Adventure Seekers

Discover Your Destiny; Accept the Challenge; Tights and Cape Not Required

- Bray, Libba. *Going Bovine*. Delacorte Press, 2010.
- *Carroll, Michael. *Super Human*. Speak, 2010.
- Cashore, Kristin. *Graceling*. Graphia, 2008.
- Chima, Cinda Williams. *The Demon King: A Seven Realms Novel*. Hyperion Books CH, 2010.
- Cohn, Rachel and David Levithan. *Dash and Lily's Book of Dares*. Ember, 2011.
- Fisher, Catherine. *Incarceron*. Dial/Firebird, 2011.
- Flanagan, John. *Ranger's Apprentice: Book One: The Ruins of Gorlan*. Puffin, 2006.
- Headley, Justina Chen. *North of Beautiful*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- MacHale, DJ. *The Merchant of Death: Pendragon Series #1*. Aladdin, 2002.
- Marchetta, Melina. *Finnikin of the Rock*. Candlewick, 2011.
- Matson, Morgan. *Amy & Roger's Epic Detour*. Simon & Schuster, 2011.
- McClintock, Norah. *Taken*. Orca, 2009.
- Meyer, L.A. *Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary Jacky" Faber*. Graphia, 2010.
- Millar, Mark. *Wolverine: Old Man Logan*. Marvel, 2010.
- *Moore, Perry. *Hero*. Hyperion, 2009.
- Paolini, Christopher. *Eragon: The Inheritance Cycle*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2005.
- Pierce, Tamora. *Trickster's Choice: Daughter of the Lioness, Book 1*. Random House, 2003.
- Polly, Matthew. *American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch: An Odyssey in the New China*. Gotham, 2007.
- Reeve, Philip. *Fever Crumb*. Scholastic, 2011.
- Scott, Michael. *The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*. Delacorte Press, 2008.
- Shulman, Polly. *Grimm Legacy*. Puffin, 2011.
- Smith, Roland. *Peak*. Harcourt, 2008.
- Walden, Mark. *H.I.V.E: The Overlord Protocol*. Simon & Schuster, 2009.
- Waldorf, Heather. *Tripping*. Red Deer Press, 2009.
- Zusak, Markus. *I am the Messenger*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2006.

Forbidden Romance

Oh so wrong, but oh so right.

- Adornetto, Alexandra. *Halo*. Square Fish, 2011.
- Booth, Coe. *Kendra*. Push, 2010.
- Cohn, Rachel and David Levithan. *Naomi and Ely's No Kiss List*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2008.
- Conde, Ally. *Matched*. Speak, 2011.
- Cremer, Andrea. *Nightshade*. Speak, 2011.
- Divine, L. *Drama High: Second Chance*. Kensington, 2006.
- Elkeles, Simone. *Perfect Chemistry*. Walker Books for Young Readers, 2008.
- Godbersen, Anna. *Bright Young Things*. HarperCollins, 2011.
- Hino, Matsuri. *Vampire Knights: Vol. 1 & 2*. Viz Media, 2007.
- Hopkins, Ellen. *Burned*. McElderry, 2007.
- Jordan, Sophie. *Firelight*. HarperCollins, 2010.
- Katcher, Brian. *Almost Perfect*. Delacorte Press, 2009.
- Korman, Gordan. *Son of the Mob*. Hyperion Book CH, 2004.
- Kulver, Cayla. *Legacy*. HarlequinTeen, 2011.
- *Lindner, April. *Jane*. Poppy, 2011.
- Meyer, Stephenie. *Twilight*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2008.
- Nelson, Jandy. *The Sky is Everywhere*. Speak, 2011.
- Nelson, RA. *Teach Me*. Razorbill, 2007.
- Perkins, Stephanie. *Anna and the French Kiss*, 2011.
- Ravel, Edeet. *Held*. Annick Press, 2011.
- Shusterman, Neal. *Bruiser*. HarperTeen, 2011.
- Scott, Elizabeth. *The Unwritten Rule*. Simon & Schuster, 2011.
- Simone, Ni-Ni. *Shortie Like Mine*. Dafina, 2008.
- Tracey, Scott. *Witch Eyes*. Flux, 2011. *Tsang, Evonne. *My Boyfriend is a Monster: I Love Him to Pieces*. Lerner/Graphic Universe, 2011.

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2012 Selected Lists



Get Your Geek On

Talk nerdy to me.

- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Twisted*. Speak, 2008.
- Bancks, Tristan. *Mac Slater Hunts the Cool*. Simon & Schuster, 2011.
- Banks, Piper. *Geek High*. NAL Trade, 2007.
- Beal, Susan. *World of Geekcraft: Step-by-Step Instructions for 25 Super-Cool Craft Projects*. Chronicle Books, 2011.
- *Black, Holly and Cecil Castellucci (ed.) *Geektastic: Stories from the Nerd Herd*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Brande, Robin. *Fat Cat*. Ember, 2011.
- Burton, Bonnie. *The Star Wars Craft Book*. Lucas Books, 2011.
- Chmakova, Svetlana. *Dramacon Vol 1*. TokyoPop, 2005.
- Dessen, Sarah. *Along for the Ride*. Penguin, 2011.
- Doyle, Larry. *I Love You, Beth Cooper*. Ecco, 2009.
- *Falkner, Brian. *Brain Jack*. Ember, 2011.
- Green, John. *Paper Towns*. Speak, 2009.
- Going, K.L. *Fat Kid Rules the World*. Speak, 2004.
- Halpern, Julie. *Into the Wild Nerd Yonder*. Square Fish, 2011.
- *Loux, Matthew. *Sidescrollers*. Oni Press, 2006.
- Lyga, Barry. *Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy & Goth Girl*. Graphia, 2007.
- Luen Yang, Gene. *Level Up*. First Second, 2011.
- Mancusi, Mari. *Gamer Girl*. Dutton Children's Books, 2010.
- Portman, Frank. *King Dork*. Delacorte Press, 2008.
- Scott, Keiran. *Geek Magnet*. Speak, 2009.
- Soto, Gary. *Accidental Love*. Graphia, 2008.
- St. Onge, Cassie. *Jane Jones: Worst. Vampire. Ever*. Random House, 2011.
- Tahmaseb, Charity and Darcy Vance. *The Geek Girl's Guide to Cheerleading*. Simon Pulse, 2009.

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- Wittlinger, Ellen. *Parrotfish*. Simon & Schuster, 2011.
- Zadoff, Allen. *Food, Girls, and Other Things I Can't Have*. Egmont USA, 2011.

Sticks and Stones

- From cyberbullying to cold shoulders, it all hurts.
- Asher, Jay. *THIRTEEN REASONS WHY*. Razorbill, 2011.
- Berk, Josh. *The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin*. Ember, 2011.
- Brande, Robin. *Evolution, Me and Other Freaks of Nature*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2009.
- Broskol, Vera. *Any's Ghost*. First Second, 2011.
- Brown, Jennifer. *Hate List*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Cassidy, Kay. *The Cinderella Society*. Egmont USA, 2011.
- *Giles, Gail. *Shattering Glass*. Simon Pulse, 2003.
- Griffin, Adele. *The Julian Game*. Speak, 2011.
- Hall, Megan Kelley and Carrie Jones. *Dear Bully: 70 Authors Tell Their Stories*. HarperTeen, 2011.
- *Harbison, Paige. *Here Lies Bridget*. Harlequin Teen, 2011.
- Harmon, Michael. *Brutal*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2011.
- Hawkins, Rachel. *Hex Hall*. Hyperion, 2011.
- Knowles, Jo. *Lessons from a Dead Girl*. Candlewick Press, 2009.
- Langan, Paul. *Payback*. Scholastic Inc., 2007.
- Myers, Walter Dean. *Shooter*. Amistad, 2005.
- Oliver Lauren. *Before I Fall*. HarperCollins, 2011.
- Peters, Julie Anne. *By the Time You Read This, I'll Be Dead*. Hyperion Book CH, 2011.
- Phillips, Suzanne. *Burn*. Little, Brown Books for Young Adults, 2009.
- Summers, Courtney. *Some Girls Are*. St. Martin's Griffin, 2010.
- Williams, Carol Lynch. *The Chosen One*. St. Martin's Griffin, 2010.
- Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Jumped*. Amistad, 2010.
- Wiseman, Rosalind. *Boys, Girls & Other Hazardous Materials*. Speak, 2011.
- Zarr, Sarah. *Story of a Girl*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2008.

2012 Selected Lists



Nonfiction

- *Almerico, Kendall and Tess Hottenroth. *Whoogles: Can a Dog Make a Woman Pregnant?...and Hundreds of Other Searches That Make You Ask "Who Would Google That?"* F + W Media/Adams Media, 2010.
- Barton, Chris. *Can I See Your I.D.? True Stories of False Identities*. Illus. by Paul Hoppe. Penguin Group/Dial, 2011.
- Beecroft, Simon. *Star Wars Character Encyclopedia*. DK, 2011.
- *Beever, Julian. *Pavement Chalk Artist: The Three-Dimensional Drawings of Julian Beever*. Illus. Firefly Books, 2010.
- Benson, Richard. *F in Exams, The Very Best Totally Wrong Test Answers*. Chronicle Books, 2011.
- Black, Jake. *The Ultimate Guide to WWE*. Penguin Group/Grosset & Dunlap, 2011.
- Bleiman, Andrew; Eastland, Chris. *ZooBorns: The Newest, Cutest Animals From the World's Zoos and Aquariums*. Simon & Schuster, 2010.
- Brady Games. *Guinness World Records, Gamers Edition 2011*. The Jim Pattison Group/ Guinness World Records LTD, 2011.
- Bragg, Georgia. *How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous*. Illus. by Kevin O'Malley. Walker & Company, 2011.
- Buchholz, Rachel. *How to Survive Anything*. Illus. by Chris Philpot. National Geographic, 2011.
- Claybourne, Anna. *100 Most Awesome Things On The Planet*. Scholastic, 2011.
- Conrad, Lauren. *Lauren Conrad Style*. HarperCollins, 2010.
- Cowsill, Alan. *Marvel Avengers: The Ultimate Character Guide*. DK/Marvel, 2010.
- DK Publishing. *Big Questions*. DK Publishing /DK Children, 2011.
- *Dugard, Jaycee. *A Stolen Life: A Memoir*. Simon & Schuster, 2011.
- Guinness World Records. *Guinness World Records 2011*. Guinness Worlds Records, 2010.
- Hammond, Paula. *The World's Strangest Animals*. Scholastic/Scholastic Paperbacks, 2011.
- *Haugen, Brenda. *The Zodiac Killer: Terror and Mystery*. 2010. Capstone/Compass Point Books.
- Kaelin, Lauren and Sophia Fraioli. *When Parents Text, So Much Said...So Little Understood*. Workman, 2011.
- Lee, J.H. *Boo: The Life of the World's Cutest Dog*. Chronicle Books, 2011.
- Levy, Joel. *Phobiapedia: All the Things We Fear the Most!*. Scholastic/Scholastic Paperbacks, 2011.
- Murray, Peter and Angela Sanchez. *Memorable Moments in NFL Football*. Murray Books/Toots, 2010.
- Murray, Peter. *Soccer*. Murray Books/Toots, 2010.
- Murray, Peter. *Basketball*. Murray Books/Toots, 2010.
- Murray, Peter. *Memorable Moments in Baseball*. Murray Books/Toots, 2010.
- Murrie, Steve and Matthew Murrie. *Every Day on Earth*. Illus. by Tom Bloom. Scholastic, 2011.
- Ripley's Believe It or Not! *Curioddities*. Scholastic, 2011.
- Scholastic. *Ripley's Believe It or Not! Special Edition 2012*. Scholastic, Inc./Ripley's Publishing, 2011.
- Sherman, M. Zachary. *Fighting Phantoms*. Capstone, 2011.
- Shoket, Ann. *Seventeen Ultimate Guide to Style: How to Find Your Perfect Look*. Running Press, 2011.
- Shoreline Publishing. *Year in Sports 2012*. Scholastic Paperbacks, 2011.
- *Snider, Brandon T. *DC Comics: The Ultimate Character Guide*. DK, 2011.
- Tebow, Tim. *Through My Eyes: A Quarterback's Journey*. HarperCollins Publishers/Zondervan, 2011.
- Tibballs, Geoff, Judy Barratt, and Sally McFall (eds). *Ripley's Believe it or Not!: Strikingly True*. Ripley Entertainment, 2011.
- Willin, Melvyn, Dr. *Monsters Caught on Film*. David and Charles, 2010.

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2012 Selected Lists



Fiction

50 Cent. *Playground*. Illus. by Lizzi Akana. Penguin Group/Razorbill, 2011.

*Aguirre, Ann. *Enclave*. Macmillan/Feiweil and Friends, 2011.

Barnholdt, Lauren. *Sometimes it Happens*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, 2011.

Beam, Cris. *I Am J*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011.

Binns, B. A. *Pull*. WestSide Books, 2010.

Blake, Kendare. *Anna Dressed in Blood*. Tom Doherty Associates/Tor Teen, 2011.

*Booth, Coe. *Bronxwood*. Scholastic/Push, 2011.

Brooks, Kevin. *iBoy*. Scholastic/The Chicken House, 2011.

Broskol, Vera. *Anya's Ghost*. Macmillan/First Second, 2011.

Busch, Jeff. *Zombie High Yearbook '64*. Sterling Publishing, 2011.

Cerrito, Angela. *The End of the Line*. Holiday House, 2011.

Dean, Carolee. *Take Me There*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, 2010.

*Elkeles, Simone. *Chain Reaction*. Walker & Company, 2011.

Ford, Christopher. *Stickman Odyssey: An Epic Doodle Book One*. Penguin Group/Philomel, 2011.

Gidwitz, Adam. *A Tale Dark and Grimm*. Penguin Group/Penguin Young Readers Group, 2010.

Greenman, Catherine. *Hooked*. Random House/Delacorte, 2011.

Harrington, Kim. *Clarity*. Scholastic/Point, 2011.

Harris, Carrie. *Bad Taste in Boys*. Random House/Delacorte, 2011.

Hopkins, Ellen. *Perfect*. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2011.

Hunter, Travis. *Two the Hard Way*. Kensington/Dafina, 2010.

Riders of the Apocalypse Series.

Kessler, Jackie Morse. *Hunger*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Graphia, 2010.

Kessler, Jackie Morse. *Rage*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Graphia, 2011.

Kowalski, William. *The Barrio Kings*. Orca Book Publishers/Raven Books, 2010.

Lancaster, Mike A. *Human.4*. Egmont, 2011.

Lewis, Stewart. *You Have Seven Messages*. Random House/Delacorte Press, 2011.

Littman, Sarah Darer. *Want to Go Private?* Scholastic Press, 2011.

Lore, Pittacus. *I Am Number Four (Lorien Legacies #1)*. HarperCollins Publishers/Harper, 2010.

Lost Zombies. *Dead Inside Do Not Enter: Notes from the Zombie Apocalypse*. Chronicle Books, 2011.

Marcus, Kimberly. *Exposed*. Random House Children's Books, 2011.

McClintock, Norah. *She Said/She Saw*. Orca, 2011.

McMann, Lisa. *Cryer's Cross*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, 2011.

Mlynowski, Sarah. *Ten Things We Did (And Probably Shouldn't Have)*. HarperCollins Publishers/HarperTeen, 2011.

Nelson, Blake. *Recovery Road*. Scholastic Press, 2011.

Northrop, Michael. *Trapped*. Scholastic Press, 2011.

*Patterson, James. *Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life*. Illus. by Lara Park and Chris Tebbets. Little, Brown and Company, 2011.

Peirce, Lincoln. *Big Nate on a Roll*. HarperCollins/Harper, 2011.

Proimos, James. *12 Things to Do Before You Crash and Burn*. Roaring Book Press, 2011.

Reed, Amy. *Clean*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, 2011.

Restrepo, Bettina. *Illegal*. HarperCollins Publishers/Katherine Tegen Books, 2011.

Roth, Veronica. *Divergent*. HarperCollins Publishers/Katherine Tegen Books, 2011.

Rue, Ginger. *Jump*. Random House/Tricycle Press, 2010.

Sanchez, Alex. *Boyfriends with Girlfriends*. Simon & Schuster, 2011.

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2012 Selected Lists



Santat, Dan. *Sidekicks*. Scholastic, Inc./Arthur A. Levine Books, 2011.

Urban Underground Series

Schraff, Anne. *To Catch a Dream*. Saddleback Educational, 2010.

Schraff, Anne. *The Unforgiven*. Saddleback Educational, 2011.

Schraff, Anne. *The Fairest*. Saddleback Educational, 2011.

Schraff, Anne. *The Quality of Mercy*. Saddleback Educational, 2011.

Schraff, Anne. *Wildflower*. Saddleback Educational, 2010.

Schraff, Anne. *Dark Secrets*. Saddleback Educational, 2010.

Schraff, Anne. *Deliverance*. Saddleback Educational, 2011.

Schraff, Anne. *Leap of Faith*. Saddleback Educational, 2011.

Schraff, Anne. *The Lost*. Saddleback Educational, 2011.

Schraff, Anne. *No Fear*. Saddleback Educational, 2010.

Schraff, Anne. *The Stranger*. Saddleback Educational, 2010.

Schraff, Anne. *Time of Courage*. Saddleback Educational, 2010.

Schraff, Anne. *The Water's Edge*. Saddleback Educational, 2011.

Schroeder, Lisa. *The Day Before*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, 2011.

Schreiber, Joe. *Au Revoir, Crazy European Chick*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011.

Shepard, Sara. *The Lying Game*. HarperCollins Publishers/HarperTeen, 2010.

Smith, Alexander Gordon. *Death Sentence (Escape From Furnace #3)*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011.

Springer, Kristina. *My Fake Boyfriend is Better Than Yours*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010.

Strasnick, Lauren. *Her and Me and You*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, 2010.

Summers, Courtney. *Fall For Anything*. Macmillan/St. Martin's Griffin, 2010.

*TenNapel, Doug. *Ghostopolis*. Scholastic, Inc./Graphix, 2010.

Bluford Series

Folan, Karyn Langhorne. *Breaking Point*. Townsend Press, 2011.

Folan, Karyn Langhorne. *Pretty Ugly*. Townsend Press, 2011.

Kern, Peggy. *The Test*. Townsend Press, 2011.

Various Authors: Night Fall Series

Atwood, Megan. *Last Desserts*. Lerner Publishing Group/Darby Creek, 2011.

Carr, Elias. *The Combination*. Lerner Publishing Group/Darby Creek, 2011.

Jasper, Rick. *The Late Bus*. Lerner Publishing Group/Darby Creek, 2011.

Harris, Ashley Rae. *The Prank*. Lerner Publishing Group/Darby Creek, 2011.

Hoblin, Paul. *Foul*. Lerner Publishing Group/Darby Creek, 2011. Surviving South Side Series

Fontes, Justine. *Benito Runs*. Lerner Publishing Group/Darby Creek, 2011.

Korman, Susan. *Bad Deal*. Lerner Publishing Group/Darby Creek, 2011.

Simon, Charnan. *Shattered Star*. Lerner Publishing Group/Darby Creek, 2011.

Simon, Charnan. *Plan B*. 2011. Lerner Publishing Group/Darby Creek, 2011.

Weyn, Suzanne. *Beaten*. 2011. Lerner Publishing Group/Darby Creek, 2011.

Weyn, Suzanne. *Recruited*. Lerner Publishing Group/Darby Creek, 2011.

Van Cleave, Ryan G. *Unlocked*. Bloomsbury Publishing/Walker Books for Young Readers, 2011.

Vrettos, Adrienne Maria. *Burnout*. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2011.

Wells, Robison. *Variant*. HarperCollins Publishers/HarperTeen, 2011.

Wilkerson, Lili. *Pink*. HarperCollins Publishers /HarperTeen, 2011.

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feature

Hot Spot: Awards

Listening for the Best Amazing Audiobooks for Teens

By Jeri W. Cohen
and Cathy Andronik

“I tried listening to an audiobook once. I didn’t like it.” How often have you heard that from teens in your library? Maybe they just didn’t listen to the *right* audiobook! That’s just one of the reasons YALSA’s Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults Committee creates an annual list.

Of course, the committee includes members who have been die-hard audiobook addicts for years, but just as many might come to the group with few experiences—or even negative

experiences—with the medium. A year of listening to, literally, hundreds of books opens one’s ears to the finer points of audiobook production.

One fact quickly becomes clear: audiobooks are just like print books in that they’re not all alike in quality. Some are better than others, and the good ones can be good in a variety of ways. Many readers say they like using their imaginations to see and hear characters in their minds and feel that the listening experience interferes with this process. A good audiobook production

can actually expand the personal reading experience, revealing nuances in interpretation and characterization that a casual reader might miss. Some readers, for instance, find Todd’s frequent repetition of words and phrases in *The Knife of Never Letting Go* redundant and annoying. But in Nick Podehl’s narration, which was named an Odyssey Honor title in 2011, the repetitions are inflected to give each one a slightly different meaning, just as repetitions in a piece of classical music are not meant to be identical, but subtly different, with forward momentum.

And, just as readers tend to have favorite authors, audiobook listeners quickly discover the major voices in the world of narration. Katherine Kellgren, Nick Podehl, and MacLeod Andrews are joining the ranks of people like Jim Dale, whose outstanding work on the Harry Potter series audiobooks helped make him the star of the previous generation of narrators. Contrary to popular opinion, not all audiobook personalities are stage, screen, or television actors—and acting credentials are not a prerequisite for an amazing performance. In the same way, while authors may know their characters intimately, “read by the author” is far from a guarantee of a quality narration; some are better than others at an oral interpretation of their work. This year’s list includes two books read by the author, *Fever Crumb* by Philip Reeve and *Beauty Queens* by Libba Bray. In both cases, the authors’ intimate knowledge of their stories lent extra depth and greater understanding of the characters and setting.

The mission of the Amazing Audiobooks Committee is to “select, annotate, and present for publication an annual list of notable audio recordings significant to young adults from those released in the past two years.” We hope this list will function not only as a list for recommended listening, but also as an aid when libraries are deciding on purchases.

JERI W. COHEN is the Assistant Department Head of the Young Adult/Audiovisual Services Department at the Patchogue-Medford (N.Y.) Library. Although she has been an avid audiobook listener for more years than she cares to remember, this is her first YALSA committee involvement. She has written a chapter for the forthcoming ALA publication *Bringing Visual, Literary, and Performing Arts into the Library*.

CATHY ANDRONIK is the Library Media Specialist at Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk, Connecticut. Besides being a member of YALSA, she also belongs to ALA, AASL, and CASL (Connecticut Association of School Librarians). She has written several biographies for children and young adults, including *Hatshepsut: His Majesty, Herself*; *Wildly Romantic*; and *Stephen Colbert*.

Each book on the completed list has been listened to by at least six librarians, each bringing a unique perspective, knowledge, and preferences. This year's list comprises thirty-two titles, covering a range of genres, settings, characters, and target age ranges, all beautifully narrated and produced. A top ten list was also selected. As Committee Chair Jennifer Lawson said, "We hope this list will have something that every teen will enjoy."

Eight librarians from around the country, with the invaluable help of an administrative assistant assigned by YALSA, listen to two to three hours of audiobooks a day to determine the best of the best, based on quality and teen appeal. Committee members receive titles from the publishers. The committee chair is responsible for maintaining the connection with the publishers, making sure they appreciate why they should submit titles for consideration, and being the contact point for any questions. The nomination period starts February 1 and ends December 1, so our list of titles to consider is complete before Midwinter Meeting where the list is compiled. FedEx and UPS delivery persons made almost daily visits at some points during the year, and we were all excited to open the boxes and see what goodies we had received! Field nominations made by the public and ALA members were also accepted for consideration.

Each title received or nominated was assigned to a committee member. The first listener made a determination of how to proceed with the book: nominate, request a second listener to help decide, or not nominate for the list. Courtney Saldana, our able and dedicated administrative assistant, maintained lists of all the titles we received and divided them among the committee members by length, so we each had an equal amount of listening to do. A Web forum provided by ALA let the committee members discuss the titles online. While we all had personal favorites to champion,

discussion was always civil and we learned from each other as we delved into the nuances of what makes an audiobook "amazing." We considered production quality, narration quality, tone, tempo, and suitability of the production to the material. We found cases where the narration enhanced the text; we also found cases where we felt the narration did not do the book justice. We discussed the finer aspects of a variety of foreign accents, the pronunciation of individual words, the range of the narrator's voicing of the different characters—using accent, inflection, tone, and qualities that either brought the characters and story to life, or did not.

According to ALA policy, the committee's criteria to consider when listening and making selections include the following:

- Content should appeal to listeners between the ages of twelve and eighteen. Each title selected can be suited to part of that range; material does not need to be family-friendly or appeal to adults. In all cases, the committee considers the intended audience.
- If material has been adapted, it must remain true to, expand upon, or complement the original work. For example, sound effects were often used to enhance the audiobook. Graphic elements cannot be heard, so the audiobook must stand without them.
- Voices, music, sound effects, and language must be used effectively. Inappropriate sound effects or badly pronounced words distract listeners from the story being told.
- The material must be suited for audio presentation. A work that is primarily illustrations, for example, may not translate well into audio.
- The performer or performers and the text must complement each other, forming a cohesive presentation.
- Does the audiobook help make the material accessible? In some cases, the target audience may find the audiobook more accessible than the print version.
- Production quality must be professional, without obvious flaws. The volume, tone, and voice quality must be consistent, without obvious dubbing or sudden, inexplicable changes.
- All words must be pronounced correctly, although a title is not automatically disqualified if an error is minor. Pronunciations can be regional, and the committee must verify if a word that seems to be wrong is actually correct for the place and time where the story is set.
- All recordings submitted to the committee must include informative packaging.

We hope this year's list, online at www.ala.org/yalsa/audiobooks and in print here in *Young Adult Library Services*, will be useful to libraries in making recommendations and purchasing decisions. The Top Ten list will be distributed to libraries that registered for Teen Tech Week.

Interested in joining the committee? Use the online application form found at <http://yalsa.ala.org/forms/selectionvolunteer.php>. Members must belong to YALSA, and new committee appointments are made annually. Each appointment is for two years. Members meet at both Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting and maintain an active online discussion throughout the year. You don't need to love audiobooks going into the committee, but you must commit to many hours of listening, and you will certainly appreciate them and your fellow committee members at the end of your term. YALS

feature

Hot Spot: Awards

Cultivating Latino Cultural Literacy

Pura Belpré Award-Winning Books in Library Programming for Teens and Tweens

By Jamie Campbell Naidoo

Established in 1996 by the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA) and the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), the Pura Belpré Award recognizes Latino authors and illustrators “whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino

cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.”¹ The award’s namesake, the first Puerto Rican librarian in the New York Public Library system, was dedicated to bringing rich stories imbued with Latino cultural elements to the children and youth that she served in barrios and ethnically diverse neighborhoods throughout the city from

JAMIE CAMPBELL NAIDOO is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies where he teaches courses in diversity, public libraries, and children’s and young adult services. A former youth services coordinator and school librarian, he is the Chair of the 2012 Pura Belpré Award Committee, a member of REFORMA, and the Director of the National Latino Children’s Literature Conference. His book *Celebrating Cuentos: Promoting Latino Children’s Literature and Literacy in Classrooms & Libraries* is available from Libraries Unlimited.

the 1920s and 1930s and later in the 1960s and 1970s. In 2011, the Pura Belpré Award celebrated its *quinceañera*, marking fifteen years of works that carry on the mission first started by that energetic and visionary librarian so long ago.

Collectively, books receiving the award represent multiple Latino cultures and introduce readers to protagonists exploring what it means to be Latino throughout the United States and Latin America. These titles range from picture books and poetry collections to informational books and novels with appeal to not only children but also tweens and teens. Belpré award-winning works are excellent resources for YA librarians seeking avenues to cultivate an appreciation and understanding of the many voices that represent the Latino cultural experience. These books allow Latino youth to explore elements of their own cultural heritage and to find other tweens and teens like themselves who are often living between two worlds: one representing the predominant American culture with a strong emphasis on independence, and one encompassing their home culture that stresses the importance of family and community. For Latino youth, Belpré titles can assist with their ethnic identity development, promoting cultural pride and reinforcing a positive self-image.

Tweens and teens that are non-Latino can also greatly benefit from reading Belpré Award books. These titles offer non-Latino youths an opportunity to learn about the rich cultures of their classmates and help them develop an appreciation for the contributions of Latinos to U.S. history and culture, thereby promoting Latino cultural literacy. For non-Latino youths, Belpré works provide a window into a world that may not be too different from their own. These youths learn that their Latino counterparts also struggle for independence from their families, undergo similar social challenges associated with

adolescence, and experience the same desire to develop a unique identity. In other words, Belpré books help non-Latino youths to understand real Latino cultural experiences, rather than the ones painted by stereotypical literature, outdated instructional materials, and inaccurate textbooks.

Belpré Winners and Honor Books for Young Adults

Approximately seventy books have been recipients of either Belpré medals or honors since the award's inception. While many of the books can be used with tweens and teens by creative YA librarians, specific titles hold special appeal for this audience and provide librarians with springboards for vibrant book discussions, art projects, studies in visual literacy, digital storytelling activities, and much more. The sections that follow profile various Belpré books under thematic headings and provide suggestions for youth programming for tweens and teens.

Daily Experiences of Latino Youth

Books that examine the day-to-day lives of Latino tweens and teens are often some of the most powerful and heart-wrenching titles on the Pura Belpré Award list. These books cover topics such as terminal illness, anti-immigration laws, poverty, gangs, and substance abuse. Like other YA books, these titles also include their fair share of teenage angst, teen-family conflicts, school and peer relationships, and typical teen drama. However, because these books are strongly rooted in the Latino cultural experience, they also highlight the close bonds of family and community, conflicts with machismo attitudes, and distinct cultural elements endemic to particular

Pura Belpré Award-Winning Titles with Tween & Teen Appeal

- Alvarez, Julia. *Before We Were Free*. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2002.
- Alvarez, Julia. *Return to Sender*. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2009.
- Bernier-Grand, Carmen and David Diaz. *César: ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!* Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2004.
- Bernier-Grand, Carmen and David Diaz. *Diego Bigger Than Life*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2009.
- Bernier-Grand, Carmen. *Frida: ¡Viva la vida! Long Live Life!* Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2007.
- Cofer, Judith Ortiz. *An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio*. New York: Orchard/Scholastic, 1995.
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Latino subcultures: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, etc. Tween and teen characters are often portrayed in these books as fluidly moving across borders real and metaphoric.

In the 2012 Belpré Author Award book, *Under the Mesquite*, written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall, the main character, fourteen-year-old Lupita, faces the loss of her mother to cancer.² The oldest of eight children, Lupita has always

had a hand in caring for her brothers and sisters. As the first child and oldest daughter in the family, she has a very strong connection to her mother, which strengthens as she matures. Lupita's family is not rich, but they have always had enough. When her mother is diagnosed with cancer, everything changes for Lupita. Written in an emotive, sometimes funny, sometimes heartbreaking voice, this novel



in free verse captures Lupita's journey to self-discovery. From the opening poem, readers are immediately drawn into the world of Lupita, sneaking glances in long-forgotten purses and holding gross *tesoros* that bind the teenager to her mother. The well-executed poems slide effortlessly across the page in a beautiful rhythm, conveying Lupita's joys and sorrows. The book radiates with many Mexican and Mexican American cultural references, from Mexican folktales to passages that underscore the strong sense of community and family present in Latino cultures. The text also paints a vivid picture of a Latino family juggling past and present cultures and lives. Garcia McCall's depiction of a Latina youth wanting to assimilate into the American school system mirrors the lives of many Latino tweens and teens today. However, never does the author suggest that the American culture is better than the Mexican one—a strong feature of the book. It is also quite refreshing to read a border-crossing story that depicts Latinos freely visiting family on both sides of the border without fear of *la migra*.

Not just a book for Latino youth, Lupita's story holds appeal to teen girls from all cultural backgrounds that enjoy books about overcoming life's heartbreaks and struggles such as those presented in Lurlene McDaniel's titles. The book will also attract tweens and teens that have lost a parent or relative, particularly to cancer, serving as a form of bibliotherapy.

Belpré-winning titles such as *Under the Mesquite*, *Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida* by Victor Martinez, or *An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio* by Judith Ortiz Cofer provide readers with insight into the private thoughts and secret emotions of the Latino teen protagonists.³ By exploring these experiences with the characters, tweens and teens can be encouraged to record their own personal narratives through journal-style writing, poetry, or digital storytelling. A digital storytelling program can ask young adults to write a script for a specific event or instance in their lives and then create a digital story with personal photos, music, and narration or record a live version of the story via a digital video recorder. If young adults write journal-style narratives or poetry, they can share their work at an open mic night. Alternatively, the library can compile teens' writings in a zine or self-published book and add the compilation to the YA collection.

In the recent Belpré Author Honor book *Maximilian and the Mystery of the Guardian Angel: A Bilingual Lucha Libre Thriller*, written by Xavier Garza, readers are also drawn into the life of a Latino youth via a lighthearted romp overflowing with elements of the Latino cultural experience.⁴ In Garza's bilingual English/Spanish novel, eleven-year-old Max is a huge fan of *lucha libre* wrestling with a particular penchant for the masked *luchador* called the Guardian Angel. While at one of the Guardian Angel's wrestling matches with his uncle Lalo, Max discovers that his uncle and the Guardian Angel bear a striking resemblance. Soon the boy

discovers that the Guardian Angel is his mother's long-lost brother that the family thought was dead or at the very least missing in action. The Guardian Angel decides that he would like to retire and have someone carry on the *luchador* tradition in the family—will it be Lalo or Max? The humorous text beckons readers into Max's story, and there is just enough suspense to carry the narrative forward. Drawing upon his own enthusiasm for *lucha libre*, Garza successfully captures the thrilling excitement that a Mexican American tween demonstrates when he discovers that his favorite *lucha libre* wrestler will be in his hometown and might be a family relation.

Non-Latino readers are introduced to an aspect of Mexican culture unknown to most outsiders and can make intercultural connections between WWE wrestling and that of *lucha libre* wrestling. The strong bond of *familia* and community in the Latino culture is realistically portrayed in the interactions of Max and his extended family. Male youth from all cultural backgrounds will devour this book, and it would be perfect for reluctant readers because librarians can convince them that the book is only half as long as it looks due to the bilingual format. A great way to introduce reluctant readers to elements of the Mexican and Mexican American culture, the book has a contemporary setting but is not issue-focused.

Books like *Maximilian and the Mystery of the Guardian Angel* lend themselves to exciting and funny book trailers that tweens and teens can create themselves. Considering that the elements of mystery and humor are combined with the topic of wrestling, activities with this book can have high appeal for reluctant readers and attract a male audience that is often scarce in young adult programming. Add a wrestling mask or costume or invite someone from the local school wrestling team, and let the possibilities begin!

Another, equally funny and endearing Belpré Award book for teens is Nancy Osa's *Cuba 15*, which follows fifteen-year-old bicultural Cuban-Polish-American Violet Paz as she explores her Cuban heritage while resisting her abuela's tragic attempts to get her into an outlandish gown for a *quinceañera* birthday celebration out of this world.⁵ Tween and teen readers, particularly young women, will revel in Violet's witty and biting observations about her tragic life as she tries to develop her own personal identity. Both Latino and non-Latino young adults can see reflections of their families in Violet's, and are sure to gain an appreciation for the odd behaviors of parents, grandmothers, and other relatives. Osa's writing, like Garza's, is both lighthearted and refreshing, and introduces readers to an aspect of Latino culture that may be unfamiliar. The fact that Violet does not fit the stereotypical image of Latinas painted in the media is another boon for the book.

YA librarians wanting to use this book in a program can consider having teens create either digital stories or handwritten accounts of their most embarrassing family moments. In a community with a significant Latino population, a fashion show of *quince* dresses or a workshop for planning *quinceañeras* on a dime might also be successful. Programs might also draw comparisons between sweet sixteen parties and *quinceañeras*, and YA librarians can even host a special *quinceañera* in honor of Pura Belpré, showcasing the fifteen years of relevant tween and teen books.

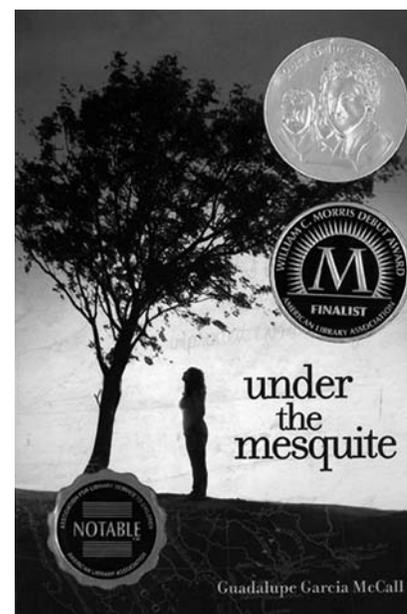
Latino History

A large number of the Belpré Award books depict specific events or time periods in Latin American history, taking the form of historical fiction and novels in verse for tweens and teens. These important titles introduce readers to historical events that

are often glossed over, inaccurately represented, or entirely missing from history textbooks. Like other historical fiction books, Belpré award-winning titles in this genre provide opportunities for youth to step into the shoes of characters and experience events firsthand with all the emotions and drama that are missing from dry historical texts.

Perhaps one of the most well known Belpré winning authors of historical fiction is Margarita Engle. Her historical works, often set in Cuba and heavily researched, give a voice to the voiceless and introduce readers to the horrors of slavery outside the United States. Teens in U.S. schools often study the slave trade from Africa to America, but rarely do they have the chance to learn about slavery in Cuba, some of the first reconcentration camps, or Taíno natives' encounters with pirates. Using free-flowing, highly emotive prose, Engle leads teens along to times long past and horrific histories some feel are best forgotten. Her accessible offerings can often be read in one sitting but present youth with problems and conflicts that linger long after the last page. Some of her past Belpré-winning titles with particular appeal to teens include *Hurricane Dancers: The First Caribbean Pirate Shipwreck*, *The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano*, and *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*.⁶

Since many of Engle's books include poems told through the viewpoint of a particular character, librarians interested in creating programs with her novels might consider having teens choose different characters from one of the books and performing either dramatized readings or even digital storytelling snapshots that summarize the main emotions and struggles of their character. Librarians could also encourage youth to do background research on the time period being described in order to add extra historically accurate elements or visual



details to their storytelling. School librarians might consider using Engle's books and some of her recommended resources to have students explore the historical differences between Engle's books and popular history textbooks or novels on the same topic. Certainly, the various examples of Cuban slavery and struggles for freedom could be compared to events in other cultures such as South African apartheid or the Holocaust.

Set during the Trujillo regime in the Dominican Republic during the early 1960s, the Belpré winning title *Before We Were Free* by Julia Alvarez builds upon the author's childhood experiences and that of her cousins.⁷ *Before We Were Free* introduces tweens and teens to twelve-year-old Anita, who is struggling to understand the political and social changes brought about by life under a dictatorship. Along with Anita, readers begin to understand how first one little change and then another, accompanied by secret meetings and disappearances of friends and relatives, can lead to tragic, life-altering events. Through suspenseful scenes, teens

and tweens have an opportunity to experience the tension that youth living in war-torn and politically oppressive environments undergo throughout Latin American and other parts of the world. A book that is sure to spark discussion about governmental control, freedom of speech, and the loss of innocence, this Belpré title can be used by librarians not only in book discussions but also in structured debates. Teens can read this title along with books such as *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* or *The Red Umbrella* and critically examine the lives of three adolescents in war-torn countries around the world and in different time periods.⁸

Great Lives of Latinos

In addition to depicting the lives of average Latino youth in both contemporary and historical settings, the Belpré Award books also highlight the achievements of great Latinos and their contributions to society. These books are significant in promoting Latino cultural literacy because they provide Latino youth with examples of successful men and women from their own cultural heritage. This is particularly important since many of the famous individuals studied throughout the formative years are predominantly European. Through literary experiences with role models from their cultural background, Latino tweens and teens strengthen their ethnic identity and can be proud of their roots. At the same time, books about great Latinos can assist non-Latino youth in understanding the noteworthy past and present contributions of Latinos to our world. This positive association can also help them gain a better appreciation for their Latino peers.

Belpré-winning titles about famous Latinos include three titles by poet and author Carmen T. Bernier-Grand. In her books *César: ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!*; *Diego: Bigger Than Life*; and *Frida: ¡Viva La*

Vida! Long Live Life!, Bernier-Grand introduces both tweens and teens to the hopes, dreams, joys, sorrows, and major accomplishments of world-renowned artists and important civil rights activists.⁹ Each book is a collection of poems providing biographical information on César Chávez, Diego Rivera, and Frida Kahlo, respectively. Extensive research and author notes are provided on the important roles that these Latinos played not only in Latin American art and history but also in history and art throughout the world. Readers learn about César Chávez's nonviolent methods and can compare them to those of Martin Luther King, Jr., making connections between their own culture and Latino and African American cultures. Tweens and teens can be inspired by the artistic styles of Rivera and Kahlo and learn how contemporary art has been influenced by their works.

Librarians considering programming ideas around these titles can develop programs related to art history and creation where teens study the artwork of Rivera, Kahlo, and other famous Latinos and then create their own masterpieces incorporating the artistic styles of the masters. For a program on César Chávez, librarians can have teens and tweens practice civic engagement by researching an injustice in their community and developing a plan to assist those who are suffering. Youth can also research other civil rights activists throughout the world to learn about world issues and problems that need nonviolent solutions. Teens might develop digital stories related to empowerment in their lives and in the lives of others and share them with community organizations such as the Rotary Club, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Big Brothers Big Sisters programs.

Another Belpré-winning book that gives a nod toward Latin American history and culture is the picture book *Los Gatos Black on Halloween* by Marisa Montes and illustrated by Yuyi Morales.¹⁰ In this

unassuming book, readers are introduced to both Halloween and *Día de los Muertos* through lyrical language sprinkled with Spanish phrases. Lurking in many of the illustrations are ghosts, ghouls, and spirits galore representing important characters from Mexican and Latino history and folklore. These cultural and historical allusions include Simon Bolívar, Sor Juana Ines, Señora de las Iguanas, Cabeza Olmeca, La Planchada, La Llorona, and Diego Rivera to name a few. When tweens and teens first encounter the book, they may not notice these references if they are unfamiliar with Mexican or Latino culture. But, with the guidance of a knowledgeable librarian interested in visual literacy, youth can be directed towards the Internet to gain background information on these characters from the illustrator web page or resources on Latin American history and culture, and then return to the book to develop a richer understanding.¹¹ Librarians can extend programming by delving deeper into Day of the Dead celebrations and encouraging tweens and teens to build *ofrendas* to honor deceased loved ones or important historical figures. Young adults can also create their own artwork with hidden visual references. The artwork can then be displayed in the library, and other librarians and teens can search for visual clues that will unlock the secrets within. With an activity such as this one, the possibilities are virtually limitless and youth are certain to have a ghoul of a time!

Long Live Pura Belpré

Only a few of the Belpré award-winning books with special appeal for tweens and teens have been profiled in this article. Librarians working with young adults to promote Latino cultural literacy and intercultural connections between Latino and non-Latino youth can use many other

(continued on page 41)

YALSA's Fabulous Films for Young Adults 2012 list has been announced! The 2012 theme was "Song and Dance," and over the ten-month nomination period, committee members, fellow librarians, YALSA members, and teens nominated more than one hundred titles. The committee was pleased and surprised to see that nominators found many ways to interpret our theme, and we selected the best of the best films that would appeal to young adults ages 12–18. The committee is especially pleased to have selected titles that will enhance library collections as well as support young adult programming.

Our committee's function is to annually select films especially significant to young adults from those currently available for purchase. The committee is then charged to prepare one annotated list, based on the chosen theme, of at least ten and no more than twenty-five recommended titles. The Fabulous Films for Young Adults list is tangible evidence that YALSA believes moving images play an important role in the life of a young adult.

Some titles present beloved tales, while others take on social issues that span the past and present. Still other films offer fun, catchy songs and conversations that will have you singing and quoting your way through the stacks.

To support our list, the committee has created a list of read/listen alike titles that will enhance your collection and programming.

Classic musicals like *The Sound of Music* can be explored further in *Memories Before and After the Sound of Music: An Autobiography* by Agathe von Trapp, the oldest daughter in the von Trapp family. *Bride and Prejudice*, a Bollywood musical retelling of *Pride and Prejudice*, will be enjoyed by readers of the countless retellings of the original. The book *Bindi Babes* by Narinder Dhama will

provide teens with more details of Indian culture.

Established musicians in their own right have created some of the best-remembered titles on our list. Fans of Eminem will enjoy his semiautobiographical movie *8 Mile*, and may enjoy reading *The*

Rose That Grew from Concrete by fellow rapper and writer Tupac Shakur, *Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes, and *Gangsta Rap* by Benjamin Zephaniah. Musical duo Outkast provides the music and stars in the film *Idlewild*; their CD *Speakerboxx/The Love Below* will be enjoyed by viewers of the film.

Evildoings, Deadly Exes, and Rock and Roll! Read- and Listen-Alikes Supporting the Fabulous Films for Young Adults 2012 List

By the 2012 Fabulous Films for Young Adults Committee

Read- and Listen-Alike Titles Mentioned

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. New York: Dover, 1995.
 Azzarad, Michael. *Our Band Could Be Your Life*. Boston: Back Bay Books, 2002.
 Beah, Ishmael. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2008.
 Benway, Robin. *Audrey, Wait!* New York: Razorbill, 2009.
 Brannigan, Paul. *This is A Call: The Life and Times of Dave Grohl*. New York: Da Capo Press, 2011.
 Briggs, Andy. *Council of Evil*. Boston: Walker Books, 2009.
 Dhami, Narinder. *Bindi Babes*. New York: Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2004.
 Dunn, Jancee. *But Enough About Me: A Jersey Girl's Unlikely Adventures Among the Absurdly Famous*. New York: Harper Collins, 2006.
 Flack, Sophie. *Bunheads*. New York: Poppy, 2011.
 Foo Fighters. *Greatest Hits*. RCA, 2009. Compact disc.
 Foo Fighters. *Wasting Light*. RCA, 2011. Compact disc.
 Grimes, Nikki. *Bronx Masquerade*. New York: Speak, 2003.
 Kamara, Mariatu. *The Bite of the Mango*. Toronto: Annick Press, 2008.
 Marks, Craig. *I Want My MTV: The Uncensored Story of the Music Video Revolution*. New York: Dutton, 2011.
 Marrin, Albert. *Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire and its Legacy*. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2011.
 Moriarty, Chirs. *Inquisitor's Apprentice*. Boston: Harcourt, 2011.
 O'Malley, Bryan Lee. *Scott Pilgrim* series. Portland: Oni Press, 2004.
 Ostow, Micol. *So Punk Rock (And Other Ways to Disappoint Your Mother)*. New York: Flux, 2009.
 Outkast. *Speakerboxx/The Love Below*. La Face Records, 2003. Compact disc.
 Shakur, Tupac. *The Rose that Grew From Concrete*. New York: MTV Books, 1999.
 Siegel, Siena and Mark Siegel. *To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel*. New York: Atheneum Books, 2006.
 Viaga, Robert. *One the Line: The Creation of A Chorus Line*. New York: Limelight Editions, 2006.
 Wenner, Jann and Joe Levy. *The Rolling Stone Interviews*. Boston: Back Bay Books, 2007.
 Whedon, Zach. *Dr. Horrible and Other Stories*. Milwaukee: Dark Horse, 2010.
 Wood, Maryrose. *My Life: The Musical*. New York: Delacorte, 2008.
 Von Trapp, Agathe. *Memories Before and After the Sound of Music: An Autobiography*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2010.
 Zephaniah, Benjamin. *Gangsta Rap*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2004.

But Enough about Me: A Jersey Girl's Unlikely Adventures Among the Absurdly Famous by Jancee Dunn and *The Rolling Stone Interviews* by Jann S. Wenner and Joe Levy, eds., will entice readers who loved following William's adventures in *Almost Famous*. For those who enjoy a little grunge in their rock, there's *Foo Fighters: Back and Forth*. *Our Band Could Be Your Life* by Michael Azzarad, *I Want My MTV: The Uncensored Story of the Music Video Revolution* by Craig Marks and *This Is a Call: The Life and Times of Dave Grohl* by Paul Brannigan are great companions to *Back and*

Forth. And, as many of our committee members can attest, stock up on Foo Fighters CDs; the film will have your patrons clamoring for more by this talented band.

Newsies and *War Dance* showcase social issues of the past and present, and several books lend themselves well to further exploration: *Flesh and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy* by Albert Marrin, *Inquisitor's Apprentice* by Chris Moriarty, *The Bite of the Mango* by Mariatu Kamara, and *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah.

Many of the documentaries on the list depict nontraditional looks at our theme. Young adults who are considering dancing as a profession will relate to *Only When I Dance* and *Every Little Step*. Likewise, they may enjoy *Bunheads* by Sophie Flack, *To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel* by Siena Siegel and Mark Siegel, *My Life, the Musical* by Maryrose Wood, and *On the Line: The Creation of a Chorus Line* by Robert Viaga.

Finally, the committee was surprised and pleased to see a couple of nontraditional films that fit our theme on the list: *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog* and *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*. While both films were favorites among committee members, it was their unique blend of song, dance, and visual style that made them standouts. Both films have direct ties to books: *Scott Pilgrim* was first a graphic novel series by Bryan Lee O'Malley and *Dr. Horrible* has been adapted for a graphic novel by Zach Whedon. *Council of Evil* by Andy Briggs, *Audrey, Wait* by Robin Benway, and *So Punk Rock (And Other Ways to Disappoint Your Mother)* by Micol Ostow will be enjoyed by fans of these films.

We hope librarians from all types of libraries find this list, and their read/listen alike, usable in their libraries. It is the FFYA committee's wish that the young adults in your community are able to use this list to relive some favorites and discover new films. While this list was created specifically for the young adult in the library, we encourage you to share this list with librarians working with all ages!

If you are interested in being a member of future Fabulous Films committees, please fill out a YALSA Committee Volunteer form at <http://yalsa.ala.org/forms/selectionvolunteer.php>.

The entire list of selected titles appears in this issue of *Young Adult Library Services* and can also be viewed at <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/fabfilms/fabfilms2012>. YALS

YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens (GGNT) Committee is a group of eleven public and school librarians charged with preparing "an annual annotated list of recommended graphic novels appropriate for teen readers."¹ The GGNT Committee and list were formed after YALSA's "Get Graphic @ Your Library" preconference in June 2002, planned by the Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults Committee, revealed a great demand for more graphic novel recommendations for teens. A subsequent task force recommended establishing a new selection list focusing on graphic novels.² Now in its seventh year, the GGNT list has become a valued collection development, reader's advisory, and program planning tool for teen librarians.

Every year, the GGNT Committee reads and considers graphic novels published during a sixteen-month period for inclusion on the list. Both original graphic novels and trade compilations of individual comics are eligible for the list, and the list includes fiction and nonfiction titles. Because so much graphic novel publishing takes place outside the "Big Six," GGNT titles come from all over the publishing world; works from independent publishers such as Fantagraphics, Oni Press, Image Comics, Drawn and Quarterly, SLG, and Top Shelf regularly appear on the GGNT list. In addition, since self-publishing is a vibrant part of the comics scene, it's not uncommon to see self-published works on the GGNT list. Brandon Dayton's self-published *Green Monk* was a Top Ten selection on the 2011 list, and the 2012 list includes Jason Brubaker's *reMIND V. 1*, which Brubaker self-published after winning a Xeric Foundation grant for comic book self-publishing and setting up a Kickstarter project.³

What makes the graphic novels on the GGNT list great for teens? The answer to that question can vary a lot from title to

Discovering Greatness: YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens List

By Joy Kim and Rachael Myers

title, largely because teens are such a diverse group of readers. What's great for an older teen may not be interesting to a younger teen, and what's great for a hardcore manga fan may not even be accessible to a graphic novel newbie. We don't expect every book on the list to be great for every hypothetical teen reader—that would make for a pretty short list each year!—but we do insist that each title is great in some way for some teens. Some of

the common cases made for greatness during our meetings at Annual and Midwinter include demonstrating overall excellence and integration of story and art; having particular teen appeal or popularity; being especially relevant or timely to teen concerns and information needs; pushing the boundaries of the graphic novel format through daring or experimental techniques; and representing themes, ideas, and audiences that are not often addressed by

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RACHAEL MYERS is a middle and high school librarian at the Horace Mann School in New York City. She currently chairs the 2013 Great Graphic Novels for Teens Committee and the Teens' Top Ten Committee.

the format. Of course, the best graphic novels are great in multiple ways, especially the titles highlighted in our Top Ten.

The committee also needs to determine if and how nominated titles are really for teens. This can be especially tricky when we are considering graphic novels from comics publishers who don't have a well-established market for teen books. Their publications may have a "Teen" or "Older Teen" age rating printed on the back cover, but that does not necessarily make the narrative between the covers appealing to or even intended for actual teen readers. For this reason, the committee goes to great lengths to get teen input on the nominated titles before we make our final selections at Midwinter.

Some committee members have had great success gathering teen input. One example is at the Katz Library, which serves sixth through twelfth grade students at the Horace Mann School, a coeducational independent day school in New York City. Librarian Rachael Myers created an online form that gives students a convenient way to leave feedback on a nominated title after reading it. The online form is easy for students to access and keeps all of their reviews in a spreadsheet that can be sorted by title. The Horace Mann School library currently keeps all of the GGNT-nominated titles on a centrally located shelf in the library. Each nominated title bears a neon green sticker on the spine to help students find the nominated titles and to remind library staff to shelve them separately. This year, the library also attached QR codes to titles selected by the GGNT Committee. The codes can be scanned with a smartphone, which opens up the online GGNT feedback form where readers can leave a review about what they've just read. Goodreads, a social-networking website that allows users to connect about books, has also proven successful at garnering student input about

the GGNT-nominated titles. It's important to meet teens where they are: some prefer to use the online form, some prefer Goodreads, and some prefer to dictate to librarians. Teens are constantly reminded of the importance of their opinions and that their reviews can make or break a nominated title. Some titles have ended up on the list because of overwhelming enthusiasm from teen readers, and others have struggled for the opposite reason.

Student forums, such as the Horace Mann Graphic Novel Club, which meets every other week in the mornings before school starts, are a chance for students to discuss which graphic novels they've read and which ones they'd recommend to the rest of the club. Offline social networking is a great way to introduce graphic novels to students. They may just stop in with their friends, but they leave with a pile of graphic novels to peruse.

As librarians, we are able to connect with teachers who might be able to use graphic novels in their curriculum—another layer that committee members consider when discussing nominated titles. A title may make it on the list if the committee believes it could have an important role in the classroom. By reaching out to teachers who are open to using graphic novels in the classroom, committee members can gather a diverse group of opinions for each title, which both supports collection policies and the strength of our final list.

One of the most important things about the GGNT list is that it elevates graphic novels as a format. YALSA's leadership in creating this list encourages people to take graphic novels seriously and gives graphic novel publishers a better idea of what librarians are looking for in their teen collections. The list obviously has a place as a valuable collection development tool, particularly at small libraries that may not have a dedicated graphic novel selector.

The list could also be used in case of a challenge: for example, the format's reputation for adult subject matter may make some librarians hesitant to purchase or include *any* graphic novels in a teen collection. However, the GGNT Committee has selected titles for the list only if we believe they are appropriate for teens, and that any mature graphic scenes are important in the context of the entire work. Also, the list is a great place for teen librarians who are unfamiliar with the format to begin their own reading. They'll find many new and exciting graphic novels to recommend to the teens they serve.

Programming is another way the GGNT list can be used. With a special display or by using a promotional sticker, librarians can highlight titles on the GGNT list to encourage teens to check them out. At the Horace Mann School library, the students in the Graphic Novel Club created a student-nominated Mock GGNT 2012 list of top ten titles. Since all of GGNT's nominations are public and posted to the YALSA website, any library could conduct its own teen vote and compare titles to the final list put out by the GGNT Committee. The ways that the list can be used in a library are as varied as the teens served, but the important thing is that they know the list was created with them in mind.

Are you interested in participating in the work of GGNT? There are lots of ways to be involved. Nominations are open every year from February 1 to October 31, and anyone can submit a field nomination for the list through the YALSA website. Many of the titles you see on the final list each year were originally field nominations. Another way to learn more about the committee and the list is to sit in on GGNT meetings at Annual or Midwinter. All GGNT meetings are open to all registered conference attendees, and observers may contribute brief comments

to discussions when recognized by the chair.

Finally, if you'd like to serve on the committee itself, be sure to submit your selection committee volunteer form through the YALSA website no later than September 30. Selection committee appointments are made in the fall by the YALSA president-elect, and you'll need to have your form in by this date to be considered for a spot. Serving on the committee will expose you to types of storytelling you won't find in any other

format, and even if you're already a graphic novel fan, it will stretch your horizons as a reader. It's the best sort of challenge—and a blast, too! **YALS**

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Cultivating Latino Cultural Literacy *(continued from page 36)*

suggested titles in their programming. The list included in this article contains all of the recommended Belpré titles appropriate for this age group. Hopefully, young adult librarians will be inspired to take the suggestions provided in this article along with their own past programming experiences and integrate the Belpré books into their library programs, proclaiming to the community "¡Viva Pura Belpré! Long Live Pura Belpré!" **YALS**

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feature

Hot Spot: Awards

The Cybils: Book Awards from the Blogosphere

By Jackie Parker

The Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Awards, commonly known as the Cybils (www.cybils.com), have only two criteria: literary merit and appeal. Created in 2006 by children's literature bloggers Kelly Herold and Anne Levy, the Cybils initially aimed to recognize books that were not only well-written but would also be enjoyed by the demographic for whom they were intended.

At the time, the focus on appeal was partially in reaction to the perceived shortcomings in that department of literary children's awards, and the lack of literary merit for the popularity-driven awards like the now-defunct Quill Award.¹ Herold and Levy sought to fill the hole between the disparate criteria of established awards.² They realized that the growing population of children's literature bloggers

was filled with both the traditional literary gatekeepers as well as passionate well-versed enthusiasts. Pulling from the online community in which they were both steeped, and with administrative support from the likes of Betsy Bird, Liz Burns (both now blogging for *School Library Journal*), and Jen Robinson (<http://jkrbooks.typepad.com/blog>), they created a youth-centric literary award with eight categories staffed only by children's literature bloggers.

In 2006, those eight categories netted 482 nominations.³ In 2011, there were 1,289 titles nominated by the general public across thirteen award categories. Everyone with an e-mail address is allowed to nominate one title per category. The nomination period is short, lasting only fifteen days, from October 1 to 15. Books published between October 15 of the

preceding year and October 15 of the current year are eligible. A title can be nominated and considered only once. Additional nominations for identical titles, if not blocked by the database recognizing the ISBN, are marked ineligible, eliminating the popular choice mind-set and diversifying the field of nominees. Nominators who put forth an ineligible title are welcome to submit another nominee for consideration.

Thinking about preconceptions held before her involvement in the Cybils, author Carrie Harris (*Bad Taste in Boys; Bad Hair Day*) remarks, "The number of nominations for any given title doesn't influence the final results. At one point, I was under the misconception that the Cybils were a bit of a popularity contest, and the titles with the most nominations made the finals. So as an author, I could pad the results by asking everyone I've ever met to vote for me. I was so glad to find out that isn't the case at all!"

"Many people I talked to were surprised with how many books are read and how much discussion goes into each book. The Cybils aren't a bunch of bloggers who got together and compared their Top Ten lists from the year, but a group of people who thoughtfully consider each nomination," echoes Kellie Tilton (<http://thereshelf.wordpress.com>), an assistant professor of Library Sciences at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Who judges this award? The bulk of volunteer participants are librarians, teachers, booksellers, authors, and parents, but the only eligibility requirement is that they write for a blog that is somehow connected to children's and teen literature. This could be a blog that reviews books or a blog written by an author or illustrator of children's or teen literature. Nontraditional volunteers have been engineers, historians, and graphic designers, among other careers. Teen bloggers have even been panelists,

JACKIE PARKER is a teen librarian for Lynnwood Library, part of the Sno-Isle Libraries in Western Washington State. She has been involved with the Cybils since the first year and is currently the Chair of the YA Fiction category. She is a member of the 2013 YALSA Quick Picks Committee and YALSA's Local Arrangements Committee for Midwinter Meeting 2013. She will be presenting a session on transmedia at the 2012 YA Lit Symposium. Parker also occasionally blogs at interactivereader.blogspot.com.

although, if they are under sixteen, parents have to consent.

Founder Levy requests that chairs aim to populate their categories with approximately a 60/40 ratio of veteran volunteers to new in order to infuse the awards with new perspectives, prevent stagnation, and involve as many people as possible over the years. On the one hand, organizers want the award to reflect the knowledge and perspectives of multitudes. On the other, with such a short window of evaluation—less than three months for the first panel—known, reliable panelists are important. As with any committee, replacing members mid-season can be disruptive to the committee and difficult for whomever must join late and start behind.

Judging occurs in two rounds. The first panel, often containing seven bloggers, reads through all of the nominated titles. Each title should receive at least two readers; however, readers may quit books that are deemed not to meet the dual criteria of literary quality and appeal. Every title is discussed by the two panelists who read it, and if the response is positive or split, the title will be read by additional committee members. Round one starts as soon as the first books are nominated on October 1 and concludes when panelists have decided on five to seven finalists, usually near the end of December. The short lists, or finalists, are announced each year on New Year's Day. Participating in the first panel is demanding, and volunteers in some of the larger categories should expect to read around seventy-five novels within three months. In the Fiction Picture Book category, it is not uncommon for panelists to read over 200 titles within that period.⁴

Make no mistake, the first round is a serious commitment. Tilton remarked,

The entire process was incredibly intense and time-consuming. I would

even argue to call it life-consuming. While I normally travel with a book, during the Cybils, I usually traveled with two—just in case I finished the first one. The first e-mails I read in the morning were from fellow panelists, as were the last e-mails I read at night. At times I was completely overwhelmed by the sheer number of books to be read, but I never once wanted to stop. Every time I finished a book that I loved and could share that love with fellow panelists, it was worth each overwhelming moment. It really was a labor of love, and I'm so proud to have been a part of it.

Arguably, the most valuable resource created by the Cybils is not the list of winners—it is the list of finalists. Sheila Ruth (www.wandsandworlds.com), the Cybils science fiction and fantasy chair and publisher liaison, says, "It's a good place to

Cybils Categories

1. Book Apps
2. Early Chapter Books
3. Easy Readers
4. Fantasy and Science Fiction, Middle Grade
5. Fantasy and Science Fiction, Young Adult
6. Graphic Novels, Middle Grade
7. Graphic Novels, Young Adult
8. Middle Grade, Fiction
9. Middle Grade and Young Adult, Nonfiction
10. Picture Books, Fiction
11. Picture Books, Nonfiction
12. Poetry
13. Young Adult Fiction

sometimes find unexpected books. We have our share of hyped books on the shortlists and winners, but sometimes we have hidden treasures that aren't the same

Selected Past Winners

YA Fiction

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan
Boy Toy by Barry Lyga
Cracked Up to Be by Courtney Summers
Split by Swati Avasthi

Science Fiction and Fantasy, Middle Grade and YA

The True Meaning of Smekday by Adam Rex
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
Rot and Ruin by Jonathan Maberry
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Nonfiction

Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott by Russell Freedman
The Year We Disappeared: A Father-Daughter Memoir by Cylín Busby and John Busby
The Frog Scientist by Pamela S. Turner; illustrated by Andy Comins
The Secret of the Yellow Death: A True Story of Medical Sleuthing by Suzanne Jurmain

Graphic Novels

The Professor's Daughter by Joann Sfar; illustrated by Emmanuel Guibert
Emiko Superstar written by Mariko Tamaki; illustrated by Steve Rolston
Gunnerkrigg Court: Orientation by Tom Siddell
Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty by G. Neri

2011 Cybils Winners

Book Apps

The Monster at the End of This Book, Callaway Digital Arts, Inc.

Fiction Picture Books

McDonnell, Patrick. *Me...Jane*, Little, Brown

Nonfiction Picture Books

Beccia, Carlyn. *I Feel Better with a Frog in My Throat: History's Strangest Cures*, Houghton Mifflin Books for Children

Easy Readers

Willems, Mo. *I Broke My Trunk!* Hyperion

Early Chapter Books

Atinuke, *Have Fun, Anna Hibiscus*, Kane/Miller Book Pub

Poetry

Janezko, Paul B., *Requiem: Poems of the Terezin Ghetto*, Candlewick Press

Middle Grade Graphic Novels

Hatke, Ben. *Zita the Spacegirl*, First Second Books

Young Adult Graphic Novels

Broskol, Vera. *Anya's Ghost*, First Second Books

Middle Grade Fantasy & Science Fiction

Deedy, Barmen Agra and Randall Wright; illustrations by Barry Moser. *The Cheshire Cheese Cat: A Dickens of a Tale*, Peachtree

Young Adult Fantasy & Science Fiction

Young, Moira. *Blood Red Road*, Margaret K. McElderry

Middle Grade Fiction

Weissman, Elissa Brent. *Nerd Camp*, Atheneum

Middle Grade & Young Adult Nonfiction

Fleming, Candace. *Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart*, Schwartz and Wade Books

Young Adult Fiction

Herback, Geoff. *Stupid Fast*, Sourcebooks Fire

books you see everywhere." For instance, *Skin Hunger* by Kathleen Duey is a favorite that Ruth would love to see more readers find. It was a National Book Award Finalist, as well as a Cybils Finalist, but Ruth feels it deserves more attention than it received.

Asked how she uses the Cybils in the public library, youth librarian Kelly Jensen (www.stackedbooks.org) says, "For me, they're kind of go-tos for teens looking for a good read. Generally the short lists are diverse enough to capture a wide range of interests and I know they'll have appeal to them."

The Cybils strives for transparency. Nominations appear on their website as they are submitted from the public. Category chairs are responsible for

checking the eligibility of each book and revealing the rationale for any book that is considered ineligible. First-round judges are encouraged to review nominated titles on their blogs, and the lists of nominees are periodically updated with links to new reviews as first-round judges post about them. This is an incredibly useful resource for those looking for reviews of books that might not have garnered much publicity. As with the finalists, as Ruth pointed out, the reviews attached to the nomination lists can lead to hidden gems that for one reason or another didn't make the short lists, but nonetheless may find enthusiastic readers.

However, even with the goal of transparency, the veil of secrecy does descend for the second round of judges.

The second round consists of five bloggers who have from January 1 to February 14, when the winners are announced, to read and reread the finalists to decide on one winning title. Unlike the first round, this group is forbidden from posting new reviews of the finalists, although linking or referring to previously posted reviews and opinions is allowed and posting personal thoughts about the finalists after the winner is announced is encouraged. Committee deliberations in both rounds are completely confidential.

Why do the Cybils have two rounds? The biggest reason is simply so that more people can be involved. In 2011, while 263 bloggers volunteered to be a panelist, there were only 132 positions. Having two phases of judging also raises the bar for the winning title. Not only does the winner need to stand out from the incredible number of nominated titles—196 novels for YA Fiction in 2011—and woo that first panel of seven readers, it must withstand the intense scrutiny of the second panel who have relatively much longer time to deliberate and dissect. It also offers participation opportunities to interested bloggers who may not be able to commit to the intensity of the first panel.

While Ruth obtained 100 percent publisher support for the second round, occasionally books are unobtainable. In 2011, of the 1,289 nominees, only five books were not able to be considered due to access issues.⁵ Publisher support is growing, and finalist and winning statuses are even cropping up on future editions and advertisements, but most of the copies panelists used in their deliberations came from their local public libraries.

The Cybils attempt to be as open as possible to nontraditional publishing. Following a long tradition of accepting self-published titles, 2011 saw an experiment with accepting born digital titles, books with no physical version, in SFF Teen and

YA Fiction categories only. While YA Fiction surprisingly received no born digital submissions, SFF Teen had several, and one, *Angelfall* by Susan Ee, earned a spot as a finalist.

Also in 2011, the award created a category for book apps. Limiting to the largest market, in this first year only apps available in the iTunes store were eligible. The apps were to be geared primarily toward storytelling or literacy; gaming submissions were not accepted. Making that panel's task difficult, however, is the wide range of the category. The Book App category accepts titles from across the youth audience, birth to the high reaches of teen, both fiction and nonfiction, making their evaluation especially difficult given the breadth of that scope.

No one, from cofounder Anne Levy down, receives any compensation for participation. Panelists are not allowed to sell any review copies they receive through

their involvement and are instead encouraged to donate unwanted books to their local Reading Is Fundamental chapter, public library, or local school.⁶ As Tilton said, it is truly a labor of love for all involved.

"Cybils season is frantic and demanding, but the experience of reading that much in that short a time period and discussing books in terms of their literary merit and teen appeal makes the work worthwhile," Jensen says. *YALS*

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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."

Index to Advertisers

AASL 48
 Annick Press 11
 Brilliance Audio 17
 Disney-Hyperion Books Cover 4

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 Scholastic 6
 Tor/Forge Books Cover 3

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 2012—join us in Anaheim, Calif., June 21-26 for five action-packed days with plenty of opportunities for learning, networking, and meeting your favorite authors.

To register, please visit www.alaannual.org. Already registered? You can add special events to your existing registration in two ways: (1) **by phone:** Call ALA Registration at 1 (800) 974-3084 and ask to add the Edwards Luncheon to your existing registration; or (2) **Online:** Add an event to your existing registration by visiting <http://www.alaannual.org/content/register-now-0>. Use your login and password to access your existing Annual registration and add events in the “Your Events” section (screen 6). Then simply check out and pay for the events you’ve added.

Preconferences

YALSA will offer two half-day preconferences on June 22 from noon to 4:30 p.m.! Each costs \$89 for students and \$129 for all others and includes a snack break and a certificate of completion. Join us for:

Books We’ll Still Talk About 45 Years from Now 12:30 to 4:30

Have you always wanted to be on a YALSA book selection committee but couldn’t bring yourself to dedicating a full year to reading? Participants in this preconference will evaluate dozens of YA books, explore the styles and themes of YA

fiction through recent years, and make educated guesses on which titles will have staying power. Moderator: Rollie Welch. Authors participating: Jacqueline Woodson, Ally Condie.

Source Code: Digital Youth Participation 12:30 to 4:30

As virtual and physical worlds continue to converge, teens need tools and support to harness information in a way that is meaningful to their particular needs and interests and as participants in diverse social and learning environments. Join our panel of experts who use technology to provide cutting edge and high impact programming to help young adults build 21st century skills as content creators and leaders in their library communities.

Author Events

YALSA will also host three additional ticketed events:

- the Margaret A. Edwards Award Luncheon featuring winner Susan Cooper for *The Dark Is Rising Sequence*. Tickets cost \$65 and the award is sponsored by *School Library Journal*.
- the YA Author Coffee Klatch, with more than 40 YA authors attending. A full list of authors is available at www.tinyurl.com/yalsaac12. Tickets cost \$25.
- the Michael L. Printz Awards Program and Reception, featuring 2012 Printz (and Morris) winner John Corey Whaley (*Where Things Come Back*); honor book author Daniel Handler and

illustrator Maira Kalman (*Why We Broke Up*); honor book author Christine Hinwood (*The Returning*); honor book author Craig Silvey (*Jasper Jones*); and honor book author Maggie Stiefvater (*The Scorpio Races*). Reception with refreshments to follow. Tickets cost \$34. The award is sponsored by *Booklist*.

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/yalsaac12>.

Early Bird Registration for YA Literature Symposium Open through September 16

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) opened registration for its third Young Adult Literature Symposium, Nov. 2–4, at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch in St. Louis, Mo. Early bird pricing begins at \$195 for YALSA members; registration is available at www.ala.org/yalitsymposium.

The 2012 theme is “The Future of Young Adult Literature: Hit Me with the Next Big Thing.” The Young Adult Literature Symposium is funded in part by the William C. Morris Endowment.

Registration for the symposium includes a welcome reception on

Friday night, educational sessions on Saturday and Sunday, coffee breaks on Saturday and Sunday, a reception on Saturday evening and a general closing session on Sunday. Details, including a preliminary program, are available at www.ala.org/yalitsymposium by clicking on "Programs and Presenters."

Early bird registration costs

- \$195 for YALSA members, Missouri Library Association, and Missouri Association of School Librarians members;
- \$245 for ALA personal members;
- \$300 for nonmembers; and
- \$50 for students

Rooms at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch are offered at a special rate for registrants of \$105 per night.

YALSA will also offer pre-symposium special events that require additional registration on Friday, including:

- A half-day forum on dystopian teen literature (\$59);
- A half-day forum on engaging students with e-readers and social networking (\$59);
- A half-day forum on new trends in publishing for teens and (\$59); and
- A guided library tour of public libraries in St. Louis (\$25)

In addition, symposium attendees can register for one of two Bill Morris Memorial Author Luncheons, featuring David Levithan ("Boy Meets Boy"; "The Lover's Dictionary") or Patricia McCormick ("Sold," "Purple Heart"). Tickets for each luncheon cost \$45.

To read program descriptions, download the preliminary program, find out how to reserve a hotel room and see the full list of registration rates, visit www.ala.org/yalitsymposium, www.ala.org/yalsa/academy.

YALSA Member Award and Grant Winners

Each year, YALSA gives more than \$90,000 in awards and grants to its members. The deadline to apply is

December 1 and applicants must be current members of YALSA.

The 2012 award and grant winners are:

- Baker & Taylor Conference Grants: Heather Schubert and Susan J. Smallsreed
- BWI/YALSA Collection Development Grants: Erik Carlson and Cynthia Shutts
- MAE Award for Best Literature Program for Teens: Allison Cabaj
- Frances Henne/YALSA/VOYA Research Grant: Sylvia Vardell
- Great Books Giveaway: Southeast Arkansas Regional Library, Monticello (1st); Jefferson High School, Edgewater, Colo. (2nd); Barton Library, El Dorado, Ark. (3rd)

To apply for 2013 awards and grants, visit www.ala.org/yalsa/awards&grants. All applications are due Dec. 1, 2012.

Congratulations to the YALSA Writing Award Winners

YALSA named the winners of its first YALSA Writing Award, with members winning prizes in four categories:

- Sarah Ludwig for best article in the previous volume of *Young Adult Library Services*, for "Teen Tech Camp" (Vol. 9, Number 2)
- Casey H. Rawson for best article in the previous volume of *The Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults* for "Are All Lists Created Equal? Diversity in Award-Winning and Bestselling Young Adult Fiction" Vol. 1, Number 3 (Spring)
- Linda Braun for best post on the YALSABlog between Dec. 1, 2010, and Nov. 30, 2011, for "The Internet IS a Toaster"
- Maria Kramer for best post on The Hub between Dec. 1, 2010, and Nov. 30, 2011, for "In Which Our Author Tips Her Cog-Bedecked Top Hat to Steampunk"

The journal authors each won \$500 and the blog authors each won \$200. The YALSA Writing Award recognizes the contribution of YALSA members who have written an article or blog post for the association's journals or blogs that is timely, original, relevant to YALSA members, and well-written.

YALSA, WWE name WrestleMania Reading Challenge Champions

The WrestleMania Reading Challenge Championships were held this weekend! Congratulations to our three champions, who won ringside tickets to the big event, WrestleMania XXVIII in Miami:

- Chase Leclair, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada, sponsored by Jessica Bates
- Nicole Jones, Mentone, Alabama, sponsored by Sarah Cruce
- Jesus Reyes, Denver, Colorado, sponsored by Kristin Roper

Leclair's bookmark will be published by World Wrestling Entertainment, and the winning essays from Jones and Reyes will be published online.

Twenty finalists competed in Miami for ringside tickets at WrestleMania XXVIII. All finalists win \$2,000 for their library, airfare, ground transportation from airport to hotel, and three nights' hotel for the finalist and a chaperone to Miami, tickets to WrestleMania XXVIII, and \$300 spending money. The library will also receive a set of Penguin Young Readers books, donated by Penguin.

Each finalist from grades 5-6 will be provided a copy of *Underdogs* by Mike Lupica. Each finalist from grades 7-8 will be provided a copy of *After Tupac and D Foster* by Jacqueline Woodson, and each finalist from grades 9-12 will be provided a copy of *Rikers High* by Paul Volponi to read in preparation for the final competition on March 31, 2012.

Grades 5-6

- Isaac Rodriguez, Perris CA, sponsored by Julie Brower

- Maeve Murphy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, sponsored by Donna Maggio
- Stephanie Rodriguez, Homestead, FL, sponsored by Rita Fassbender
- Dustin Kramer, Allentown, PA, sponsored by Barbara Jaindl
- Ayla Deuel, Oak Grove, MN, sponsored by Linda Schonnirg
- Chase Leclair, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada, sponsored by Jessica Bates
- Caitlyn Gass, Lr. Sackville, Nova Scotia, Canada, sponsored by Erin Purcell

Grades 7-8

- Andrew Gray, Port Hueneme, CA, sponsored by Renata Hundley
- Nicole Jones, Mentone, AL, sponsored by Sarah Cruce
- Vachariya Dotson, North Miami, FL, sponsored by Stella Williams
- Cierra Grubb, West Mifflin, PA, sponsored by James Klipa
- Josh Hoffer, Fessenden, ND, sponsored by Sandra Olschlager
- Bianca Tavares, London, Ontario, Canada, sponsored by Deb Fiveash-Bradley

- Harneek Kapoor, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, sponsored by Jessica Bates

Grades 9-12

- Jesus Reyes, Denver, CO, sponsored by Kristin Roper
- Cody Allen, Parrick Olmulgee, OK, sponsored by Jeana Robinson
- Jose Turner, Hialeah, FL, sponsored by Gloria Flores
- Alex Herrera, Long Island City, NY, sponsored by Jose Aremano
- Kenyan Gustafson, Sleepy Hollow, IL, sponsored by Danielle Pacini
- Gurbir Johal, Burnaby, B.C., Canada, sponsored by Rhona Giles

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Challenge this year! Keep an eye on www.ala.org/wrestlemania for future updates.

Get Ready for Teen Read Week™, Oct. 14–20, 2012

YALSA kicked off Teen Read Week 2012 on April 12, 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. More information, including registration benefits, can be found at www.ala.org/teenread. Teen Read Week is Oct. 14–20 and will be celebrated with a theme of It Came from the Library!, which dares teens to dare to read for the fun of it.

You can also buy official Teen Read Week products from YALSA and ALA Graphics at www.alastore.ala.org/trw12, including the downloadable Teen Read Week Manual, created by the 2012 Teen Read Week committee, with tips on programming, publicity, displays, and more relating to the 2012 theme. Other products include posters, bookmarks and more, all featuring this year's retro-horror theme art. Purchases support the work of YALSA and ALA.

In addition, YALSA will be distributing twenty Teen Read Week program grants, funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Details, including an application form, can be found at www.ala.org/teenread. Applications are due July 1. YALS



TRANSLITERACY AND THE SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAM

Transliteracy and the School Library Program is designed to help school librarians develop strategies to effectively integrate transmedia skills into the curriculum creating opportunities for students and teachers to engage in the participatory online environment.

As school librarians redesign their roles in learning as online and offline information facilitators and strategists, they must provide instruction on new media literacies, alongside traditional literacies.

Don't miss this opportunity to convene with other leaders in the school library field for a unique and interactive professional development event focused around this critical topic in the profession.



HENRY JENKINS, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Renowned media studies scholar and author on media and popular culture, Henry Jenkins believes that research skills are more important than ever to the learning occurring in K–12 classrooms. He will share his research in “participatory culture” and work directly with attendees to develop strategies that leverage students’ online behavior and integrate transliteracy skills into the curriculum.



GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

An intimate event which focuses on one topic of importance to the profession for concentrated study and discussion, the multi-day national institute will be held at the Embassy Suites Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center nestled in the foothills of the South Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains.

SATELLITE SITES

Unable to join us in Greenville? New this year, attend the Fall Forum at one of four satellite sites. To learn more, visit www.ala.org/aasl/fallforum/sites.

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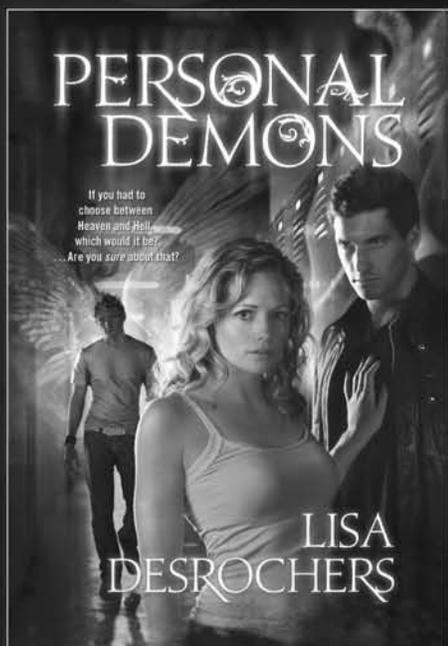


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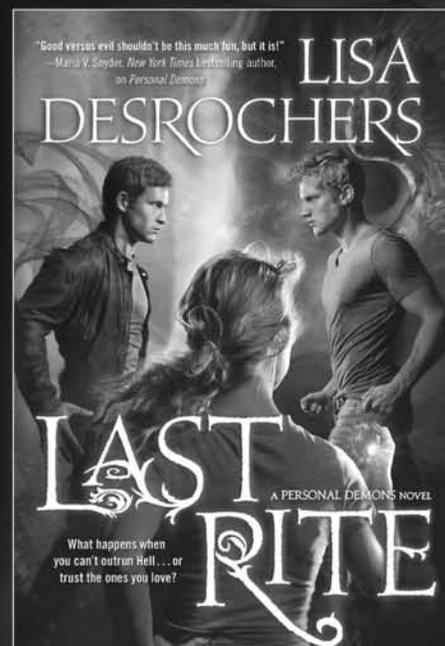
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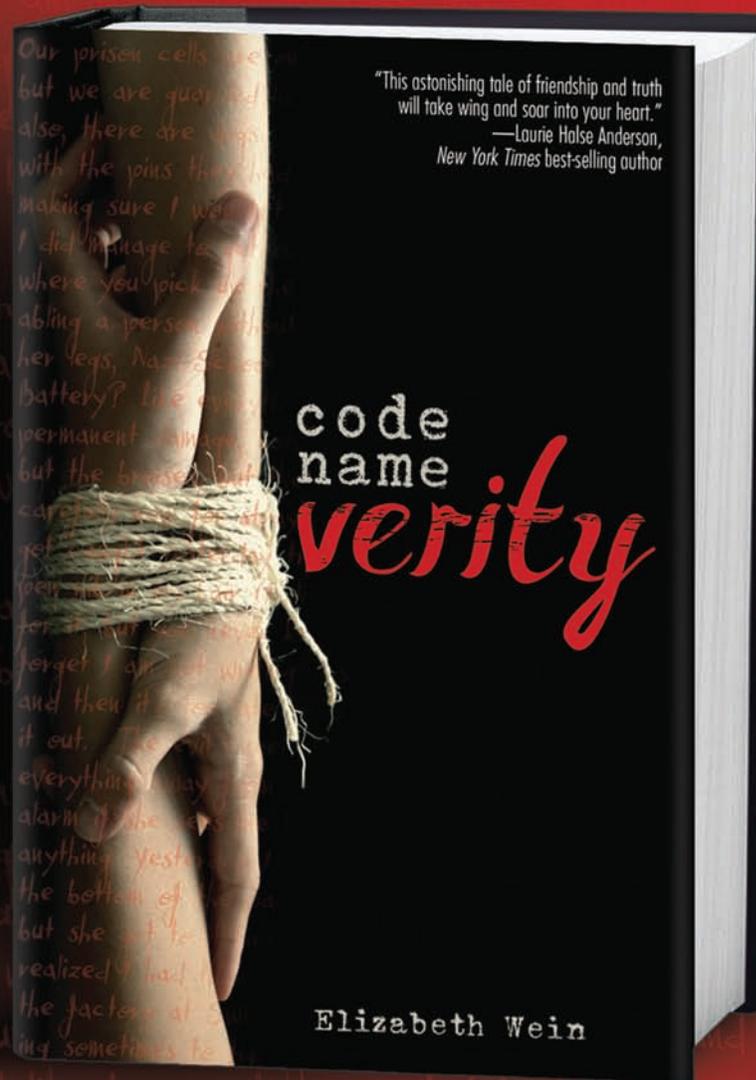
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