

# Western Washington University Bond Children's Literature Conference

Saturday, March 7, 2009
Performing Arts Center
Concert Hall
9:00 am -- 3:30 pm



### Dear Participant,

Welcome to our 6th annual Bond Children's Literature Conference! When we started this gathering in 2004, just about 120 teachers, librarians, and children's literature aficionados traveled to Western's campus for a day of inspiration, education, and a shared commitment to the power of masterfully written, magically illustrated literature. Since then, we have doubled, tripled, even quadrupled our attendance and we've welcomed authors and illustrators who create wonder in all genres, some having written over fifty books, others just getting started in the book-publishing world.

This year seems an especially important time to gather and celebrate what we know and love about children's/young adult literature. It's a time when our energies and efforts are being challenged by myriad constraints, distractions, and demands. We're bombarded with bad news about the economy, about school funding, about library closures. We're living and teaching, writing and reading with enormous weight on our shoulders. And yet, we've all set aside this one day to counter the adversity of bad times and to seek renewal by recharging our literary batteries through the world of stories.

So today, we give you the literary version of a stimulus package . . . a full day to immerse yourself in the world of books written and illustrated by our four award-winning guests: Joan Bauer, Kadir Nelson, Sara Pennypacker, and Brian Selznick. They're prepared to illuminate the art and craft of creating children's and young adult literature. In so doing, we're convinced they'll inspire you first and foremost as appreciative readers and then as teachers, librarians, parents, writers, and artists. We've planned this conference to grant you a brief respite from whatever hard times you're feeling by inviting you into the world of the book. May it stimulate your mind and your spirit, your heart and your soul.

We hope you'll continue to mark your calendar each year on the first Saturday of March as a reminder to return to Western's campus for our annual stimulus package of authors and illustrators who write for children and young adults. And now, sit back and enjoy today's optimistic tribute to literature, to stories, and to the imagination.

Welcome and enjoy the day!

Nancy J. Johnson

Professor, WWU English Department and Conference Coordinator March 2009

### WWU Bond Children's Literature Conference Saturday, March 7, 2009 Performing Arts Center ~ Concert Hall

8:00-8:55 a.m	Registration, coffee/muffins, book sales & autographing  PAC lobby areas
9:00 a.m	.Welcome: Nancy J. Johnson Concert Hall
9:10-10:10	.Author Presentation <b>- Joan Bauer</b> (Introduced by Aubri Keleman)
10:15-11:15	.Author Presentation <b>- Kadir Nelson</b> (Introduced by Kjersten Anna Hayes)
11:15-12:55	Lunch (box lunches) Viking Union, MultiPurpose Room
11:50-12:55	Book Sales & Autographing  PAC lobby areas
1:00-2:00 p.m	.Author Presentation <b>- Sara Pennypacker</b> (Introduced by Kate Norem)
2:05-3:05 p.m	.Author/Illustrator Presentation <b>- Brian Selznick</b> (Introduced by Sherri Ballew)
3:10-3:30 p.m	Panel of Authors - Question/Answer
Closing Remarks followed by book sales and autographing	

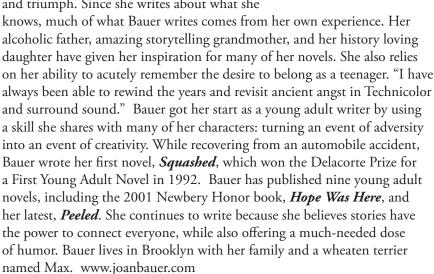
in PAC lobby areas.

# Joan Bauer

### At a Glance

"I need to find hope in the world. I need to laugh. That's why I write."

Joan Bauer writes about teenagers, tough times and triumph. Since she writes about what she





Peeled, Putnam, 2008
Best Foot Forward, Putnam, 2005
Stand Tall, Putnam, 2002
Hope was Here, Putnam, 2000
Backwater, Putnam, 1999

Rules of the Road, Putnam, 1998 Sticks, Delactore, 1996 Thwonk, Delacorte, 1995 Squashed, Delacorte, 1992

### **Awards and Honors**

2007 ASTAL/RIC Award for Outstanding Contribution to Literature for Young People

ALA Notable Book recognition for *Stand Tall*, 2003, *Hope was Here*, 2001, *Rules of the Road*, 1999

New York Public Library Best Book for the Teenager: *Stand Tall*, 2003, *Thwonk*, 1996

ALA Best Book for Young Adults: *Rules of the Road*, 1999, *Thwonk*, 1996 2001 Newbery Honor: *Rules of the Road* 

### **Musings and Motivations**

As a child, what was your favorite book or book character and why? As a teen I read To Kill a Mockingbird and was overwhelmed by that story, particularly with the father, Atticus Finch. I've never read a story that moved me more. I was thirteen, Martin Luther King was marching for civil rights, and this novel helped me grab tight to Dr. King's dream. Also, I hadn't seen my dad for a long time -- he was a messed up alcoholic. Believe me, I was looking for father figures, and when I came to Atticus Finch, I knew I'd found one. He seemed so real. There were times in high school when I actually asked myself, what would Atticus say right now if he was here? I guess that novel was preparing me to be a writer.

### What was the most intriguing question a reader ever asked you?

That question came from a smirking, swaggering boy who I was sure was going to throw me a snide question. But he didn't. "Mrs. Bauer, if you were to describe yourself in one word, what would it be?" It was my fourth presentation of the day, and "depleted" didn't seem like a responsible answer. I thought through all these possibilities -- funny, but I wasn't always; tall, but that didn't seem too insightful; middle-aged seemed limiting; grateful was a little better; survivor was okay, but it sounded like I'd been on an island for too long. "Overcomer," I told him and he smiled at me brightly. I had the feeling he was an overcomer, too.

# If you could meet your 15-year-old self, what advice would you give - about becoming a writer/illustrator, or anything else?

I would say to 15-year old Joan, "Now listen. You're wasting a great deal of time wanting to be someone that you're not and were never meant to be. You only think you want to hang with the in-crowd, and be a cheerleader. You don't. You're ignoring your instincts; you're a sensitive person, and being sensitive is not a bad thing -- it's a good thing. I don't want to see you hide in the corner with such bad self esteem. But, let me tell you something -- all this angst? You're going to use it someday. You're going to write about middle school and high school. Wait, don't leave. Come back here. Just trust me. Joan, sit down! I know you hate it now, but you're learning to survive the tough stuff and find your voice. Yes, you are going to find your voice, but not like you imagine. Do you know what Mark Twain said about humor? He said the secret ingredient of humor isn't joy, it's pain. That pain is going to work out for you. And the rejection, it's so tough, but it's all in the soil, kiddo. All growing there. Don't doubt you can write or speak to people. Just let it happen."

## **Kadir Nelson**



### At a Glance

Born in Washington, D.C., Kadir Nelson began drawing and painting as a young child. Noting that his uncle, an artist and art instructor, was a major influence, Nelson remarks "I have always been an artist - it's part of my DNA." After graduating from Pratt

Institute, Nelson began his professional career working with publishers and production studios, from Steven Spielberg's "Amistad" to the United States Postal Service. His artwork inspirations include Ernie Barnes, Norman Rockwell, N. C. Wyeth, Thomas Blackshear -- and Michael Jordan. "Jordan was so expressive in the way he played [basketball]. And drawing him, I learned how to express emotion in my artwork." Nelson's collaboration as illustrator with several distinguished authors of picture books, including Ntozake Shange, Roslyn Jordan, Carol Boston Weatherford, and Spike and Tonya Lee, has resulted in numerous awards. For his most recent book, Nelson spent eight years of research to write and illustrate We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball, which won the 2009 Coretta Scott King Author Award and Illustrator Honor, and the 2009 Robert F. Sibert Medal. Through his variety of styles and subjects, Nelson's work communicates his unique vision "to create images of people who demonstrate a sense of hope and nobility ... to show the strength and integrity of the human being and the human spirit." Nelson lives in San Diego with his family. www.kadirnelson.com www.wearetheship.com

### A Selection of Kadir Nelson's Work

Coretta Scott, HarperCollins, 2009 (written by Ntozake Shange)

Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln, Hyperion, 2009

(written by Doreen Rappaport)

*Change Has Come: An Artist Celebrates Our American Spirit*, Simon & Schuster, 2009 (words of Barack Obama)

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball, Jump at the Sun/ Hyperion, 2008

*Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad*, Scholastic, 2007 (written by Ellen Levine)

*Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*, Hyperion, 2006 (written by Carole Boston Weatherford)

*Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life*, Simon & Schuster, 2005 (written by Jerdine Nolen)

*Ellington Was Not a Stree*t, Simon & Schuster, 2004 (written by Ntozake Shange)

*Thunder Rose*, Silver Whistle/Harcourt, 2003 (written by Jerdine Nolen)

### **Awards and Honors**

2009 Coretta Scott King Author Award and 2009 CSK Illustrator Honor Book, 2009 Robert F. Sibert Medal: *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* 

2008 Caldecott Honor: Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad

2007 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, 2007 Caldecott Honor, 2007 NAACP Image Award: *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom* 

2005 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award: *Ellington Was Not a Street* 2004 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor: *Thunder Rose* 2001 NAACP Image Award: *Just the Two of Us* 

### **Musings and Motivations**

As a child, what was your favorite book or book character and why? I loved Where the Wild Things Are. I'm not totally sure why; most likely because of the wonderful images. They seemed perfectly suited to the subject matter and story. They were honest and fun.

# Who was an important mentor for you as a writer/illustrator, and what was a significant lesson learned from that person?

My biggest mentor was my uncle Michael Morris, who is an artist and art instructor. He taught me my art foundation (i.e., drawing, lighting, color, perspective). But most important, he taught me to take my talent seriously; to hone my drawing and painting skills into something that I could be proud of. He taught me how to be an artist.

# How do you think the field of children's literature has changed and what trends do you see in the future?

I think in many cases the art of children's books has gotten better and more varied. There are many styles of art in books today that wouldn't have had a prayer of being published in a children's book some fifteen to twenty years ago. As far as future trends, I haven't a clue. I stick to what I enjoy most, and that's trendy enough for me.

# **Sara Pennypacker**

### At a Glance

"All through my childhood, my dream was to play shortstop for the Boston Red Sox."

After a time as a serious watercolor painter, Sara Pennypacker discovered she loved making books for children--maybe even more than playing baseball--and has been doing it ever since! Author of the acclaimed series about the irrepressible Clementine, Pennypacker has also written the Stuart books, *Pierre in Love* and two books in the *Flat Stanley* series. "The point of my books is really about the kindness of the family." She's found inspiration from her children and their friends and from everyday



life. The *Clementine* books are inspired by experiences of her two (at the time) elementary-aged children. Even the drugstore toiletries aisle yields quirky character names like Clementine's cat, Moisturizer! Pennypacker's books focus on themes of functional families and friendship, even in the face of difficulties. From a personal standpoint, she also writes to correct unfairness. Her latest projects include the just-published picture book, *Sparrow Girl* and the forthcoming, *Clementine: Friend of the Week!* Pennypacker has also taken over the *Flat Stanley* series and is scheduled to write five more books. Attesting to the universal appeal of her writing and her characters' experiences, several of her books have been translated into Spanish, French, Italian, German, Chinese and Japanese. Pennypacker lives with her family on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. www.sarapennypacker.com

### A Selection of Sara Pennypacker's Work

*Sparrow Girl*, Disney/Hyperion, 2009 *Flat Stanley* series (created by Jeff Brown), HarperCollins:

The Mt. Rushmore Calamity, 2009
The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery, 2009

*Clementine* series, Hyperion:

Clementine's Letter, 2008 The Talented Clementine, 2007 Clementine, 2006 Pierre in Love, Orchard, 2007 Stuart Goes to School, Scholastic, 2003 Stuart's Cape, Orchard, 2002 Dumbstruck, Holiday House, 1994

### **Awards and Honors**

2008 Rhode Island Children's Book Award, 2007 Boston Globe/Horn Book Honor, School Library Journal Best Book of 2006, 2006-2007 Book Sense Children's Top Pick: *Clementine* 

2008 Chicago Public Library Best of the Best, School Library Journal Best Books of 2007, Kirkus Reviews Best Books of 2007: *The Talented Clementine* 

New York Public Library's 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing, Maryland Blue Crab Award Winner: *Stuart's Cape* 

Charlotte Zolotow Highly Recommended Picture Books, Golden Kite Award for Best Picture Book Text: *Pierre in Love* 

### **Musings and Motivations**

As a child, what was your favorite book or book character and why? I loved reading as a kid, and had many favorite books. One I can remember the "why" about is *The Secret Garden*. I just loved the idea of a secret world that only the children knew about and could enter.

# If you could meet your 15-year-old self, what advice would you give – about becoming a writer/illustrator, or anything else?

If I could meet my 15 year old self, I would tell the poor girl not to be so afraid of making mistakes! "You're human," I would tell her. "That's fine, that's beautiful. The mistakes are what make all of us human!"

# How do you think the field of children's literature has changed and what trends do you see in the future?

One trend I've seen over the past 20 years that I HOPE is continuing is a raising of the excellence bar. Better and better illustrators and writers are entering the field and they keep doing better and better books.

# **Brian Selznick**

### At a Glance

"I think about those (bookstore) windows and think, "How would this look nine feet tall? "Would this catch someone's attention?"

As a youth, Brian Selznick was told he would make a good children's book illustrator. So he tried to avoid becoming



one. At the Rhode Island School of Design, he did not take any classes from renowned illustrators such as Chris Van Allsburg or David Macaulay; nor did he attend Maurice Sendak's talk there. Instead, Selznick studied theater, hoping to study set design in graduate school. When he wasn't accepted into his desired program, Selznick traveled, wrote, and drew. Upon returning to New York, he knew that children's books were best for him, but he didn't know much about them. His education in children's literature began as a bookseller at Eeyore's Books for Children in New York City. His boss sent him home with books every night. While at Eeyore's, Selznick painted the store windows for holidays and author/illustrator talks. At that time, he wrote his first book *The Houdini Box* in 1991. After it was published, Selznick began freelance work. Since then he has collaborated as an illustrator with authors such Pam Conrad, Andrew Clements, and Pam Muñoz Ryan. Most recently, he wrote and illustrated *The Invention of* Hugo Cabret, which recieved the 2008 Caldecott Medal. Selznick divides his time between Brooklyn and San Diego. www.theinventionofhugocabret.com

### A Selection of Brian Selznick's Work

*The Runaway Dolls* (the *Doll People* series), Hyperion, 2008 (written by Ann M. Martin & Ann Godwin)

The Invention of Hugo Cabret, Scholastic, 2007

*Walt Whitman: Words for America*, Scholastic, 2004 (written by Barbara Kerley)

When Marian Sang: The True Story of Marian Anderson, Scholastic, 2002 (written by Pam Muñoz Ryan)

The Boy of Thousand Faces, HarperCollins, 2000

Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride, Scholastic, 1999 (written by Pam Muñoz Ryan)

*Frindle*, Simon and Schuster, 1996 (written by Andrew Clements) *The Houdini Box*, Scholastic, 1991

### **Awards and Honors**

2008 Caldecott Medal, 2007 National Book Award Finalist, New York Times Best Illustrated Book of 2007 -- *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* 

2004 New York Times Ten Best Illustrated book, 2004 Robert F. Sibert Honor -- Walt Whitman: Words for America

2003 Orbis Pictus Award, 2004 Norman Sugarman Award -- When Marian Sang

2000 Book Sense Book of the Year Finalist, 2000 IRA Teachers' Choice -- *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride* 

1993 Texas Bluebonnet Award, 1993 Rhode Island Children's Book Award
-- The Houdini Box

### **Musings and Motivations**

As a child, what was your favorite book or book character and why? I loved *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton, illustrated by Joe and Beth Krush. I was sure this was a true story and was fascinated with the idea that little people lived beneath the floorboards in my room. I made them little furniture out of spools and matchboxes, just like I saw in the wonderfully detailed illustrations. I hoped one day to see the Borrowers with my own eyes.

# Who was an important mentor for you as a writer/illustrator, and what was a significant lesson learned from that person?

When I graduated from college I didn't know I was going to become an illustrator. When I finally figured it out, I got a job at Eeyore's Books for Children in New York City. My boss Steve Geck became my mentor and taught me so much about books. Every day he'd send me home with bags of books and this really became my education in children's literature. He showed me what made a good story, which illustrated books were well paced and well told and why, and he always encouraged me with my own work. In fact he and his girlfriend (now wife) Diana Blough helped get my first book, *The Houdini Box*, published.

### What was the most intriguing question a reader ever asked you?

I was once asked by a kid at a school in New York, "Are you part man and part woman?" I was intrigued. In response I asked why he raised that question. It turned out that in an anecdote during my presentation I impersonated a screaming doll (Now that's a long story!) and that lead to his question. To this day, I wish I'd just said, "Yes, I am part man and part woman," and left it at that.

# 2008 Newbery and Caldecott Medal Winners

### 2009 Newbery Medal Winner

**The Graveyard Book** by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Dave McKean (HarperCollins)

### 2009 Newbery Honor Books

- The Underneath by Kathi Appelt, illustrated by David Small (Atheneum/Simon & Schuster)
- *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom* by Margarita Engle (Holt)
- Savvy by Ingrid Law (Dial)
- After Tupac and D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson (Putnam)

### 2009 Caldecott Medal Winner

**The House in the Night** illustrated by Beth Krommes, written by Susan Marie Swanson (Houghton Mifflin)

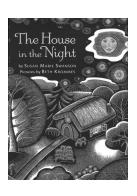
### 2009 Caldecott Honor Books

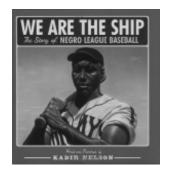
- A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever by Marla Frazee (Harcourt)
- How I Learned Geography by Uri Shulevitz (Farrar)
- A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams illustrated by Melissa Sweet, written by Jen Bryant (Eerdman)

# 2009 Robert F. Silbert Informational Book Award

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League
Baseball by Kadir Nelson (Jump at the Sun/
Hyperion)







### 2009 Sibert Honor Books

- *Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past* by James M. Deem (Houghton Mifflin)
- What to Do About Alice?: How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules,
   Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy! by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (Scholastic)

# 2009 Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner

*We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson (Jump at the Sun/Hyperion)

### 2009 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Books

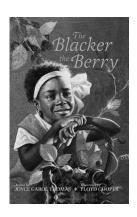
- *Keeping the Night Watch* by Hope Anita Smith, illustrated by E.B.Lewis (Holt)
- The Blacker the Berry by Joyce Carole Thomas, illustrated by Floyd Cooper (Amistad)
- *Becoming Billie Holiday* by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Floyd Cooper (Wordsong/Boyds Mills Press)

# 2009 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Winner

*The Blacker the Berry* illustrated by Floyd Cooper, written by Joyce Carol Thomas (Amistad)

### 2009 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Books

- We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson (Jump at the Sun/ Hyperion)
- The Moon Over Star illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, written by Dianna Hutts (Dial)
- *Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Story of John Coltrane* illustrated by Sean Qualls, written by Carole Boston Weatherford (Holt)



### John Steptoe New Talent Award—Author

Bird by Zetta Elliot, illustrated by Shadra Strickland (Lee & Low)

### 2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

*Are You Ready to Play Outside?* by Mo Willems (Hyperion)

### 2009 Geisel Honor Books

- Chicken Said, Cluck by Judyann Ackerman Grant, illustrated by Sue Truesdell (HarperCollins)
- One Boy by Laura Vaccaro Seeger (Roaring Book/ Neal Porter)
- *Stinky* by Eleanor Davis (The Little Lit Library)
- Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator by Sarah
   C. Campbell, photographs by Sarah C. Campbell & Richard Posey
   Campbell (Boyds Mills)

# 2009 Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Literature for Young Adults

*Jellicoe Road* by Melina Marchetta (HarperTeen)

### 2009 Printz Honor Books

- The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume II, The Kingdom on the Waves by M.T. Anderson (Candlewick)
- The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by E. Lockhart (Hyperion)
- *Nation* by Terry Pratchett (HarperCollins)
- Tender Morsels by Margo Lanagan (Alfred A. Knopf)



Are You Ready

## 2009 Schneider Family Book Awards

- Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum by Robert Andrew Parker (Schwartz & Wade/Random House)
- Waiting for Normal by Leslie Connor (HarperCollins)
- Jerk, California by Jonathan Friesen (Speak/Penguin)

### 2009 Pura Belpré Author Medal

The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom by Margarita Engle (Holt)

### 2009 Belpré Author Honor Books

- Just in Case by Yuyi Morales (Roaring Brook/Neal Porter)
- Reaching Out by Francisco Jiménez (Houghton Mifflin)
- The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos by Lucia Gonzalez, illustrated by Lulu Delacre (Children's Book Press)



### 2009 Pura Belpré Illustrator Medal

Just in Case by Yuyi Morales (Roaring Brook/Neal Porter)

### 2009 Belpré Illustrator Honor Books

- Papa and Me illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez, written by Arthur Dorros (Rayo/ HarperCollins)
- *The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos* illustrated by Lulu Delacre, written by Lucia Gonzalez (Children's Book Press)
- What Can You Do with a Rebozo illustrated by Amy Cordova, written by Carmen Tafolla (Tricycle)

### 2009 Orbis Pictus Award

Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator by Shelley Tanaka, illustrated by David Craig (Abrams Books)

### 2009 Orbis Pictus Honor Books

- George Washington Carver by Tonya Bolden (Abrams Books)
- The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade Books)
- Washington at Valley Forge by Russell Freedman (Holiday House)
- *We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson (Hyperion)
- When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, illustrated by Dan and Cassie Hartman (Walker Books)

# **Notes**

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### A Note of Thanks

A literary event of this kind involves many people who have devoted talent, energy, and enthusiasm. Hearty appreciation goes out to WWU English education students, Woodring students, and Whatcom Community College students who volunteered behind the scenes on numerous tasks. In addition, we're grateful to the English Department, Western Libraries, Conference Services, the PAC facilities team, and the following individuals whose commitment of time, resources, expertise, and inspiration served to make this year's conference a success:

Julie Addis SmithMartha MautinoDiana BakkomEiledon McClellanMaggie BarklindDiane ParkerKathryn BoydKim Schwartzman

Heather Dalzell Chuck and Dee Robinson

Shona Fahland Sher Smith Ross
Shalon Hurlbert Sandi Sutterman
Aubri Keleman Sylvia Tag
Thea Kleiber Keith Turley

Beth Lama Bellingham SCBWI members

Connie Mallison

and the wonderful folks at Village Books and Launching Success Learning Store.

### Evaluation

Please take a few minutes today to provide us with feedback so that we can plan for next year's conference. An evaluation form is located in your packet -- boxes to collect these forms will be available in the PAC lobby at day's end.

Thank you!

### PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 2010 BOND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CONFERENCE

Tentatively Scheduled For March 6, 2010

For details, please check our web site at http://www.wwuclc.com or contact Nancy Johnson at Nancy.Johnson@wwu.edu.

