

western washington university

CLAC

children's literature alternative conference

2011

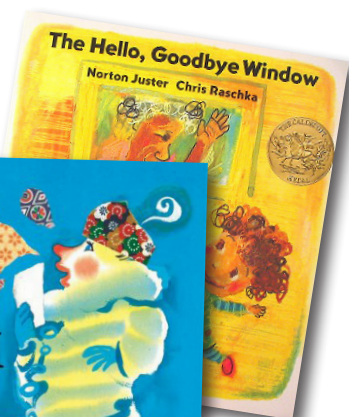
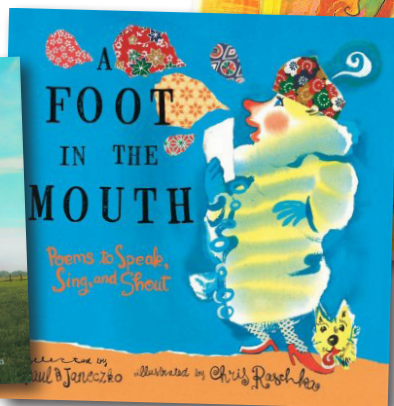
Western Washington University
Children's Literature Alternative Conference

Saturday, March 5, 2011

Performing Arts Center

Concert Hall

9:00 am -- 12:30 pm



Dear Conference Participant,

Welcome to The 8th Annual Western Washington University Children's Literature Conference!

This year has been designated as an "alternative" conference because we're doing things a bit differently. As many of you know, the founder of the conference, Nancy Johnson, is on a two-year teaching appointment in Singapore – but of course she is with us in spirit! The momentum to keep this annual celebration going is unstoppable. Indeed, the fact that this conference continues to flourish because of *you* has never been more actualized.

There is a lot of talk these days about social networking. One way to interpret the growth of connectivity is to acknowledge our innate curiosity to learn about others and also share something of ourselves. And yet, in the midst of the rush to gain "friends" we still ask, what can bring us together in meaningful ways? This morning will be brim full of opportunities to network and socialize around our shared passion for children's and young adult literature. We come together for a short while to revel in the extraordinary world of the writing, illustration, craft, and the serendipity of books.

Our two amazing, award-winning presenters, Kirby Larson and Chris Raschka, are prepared to inspire, illuminate, and teach. As a supplement to their talks, enjoy the author "status updates," "texts," and "links" within this program. Launch into more exploration, follow up with a new acquaintance, and invigorate a hesitant passion: this morning is only the beginning. Our conference is designed to encourage generous social networking between students, educators, librarians, writers, and artists. Let the "friending" begin!

We hope you'll continue to mark your calendar for the first Saturday of March as a reminder to return to Western's campus for this annual celebration of literature and illustration for children and young adults.

Welcome and enjoy the conference!

Sylvia Tag

Librarian, The Western Libraries, and Conference Coordinator
March 2011

WWU Children's Literature Conference
Saturday, March 5, 2011
Performing Arts Center ~ Concert Hall

8:00-8:55 a.m.Registration, coffee/muffins, book sales &
autographing
PAC lobby areas

9:00-9:10 a.m.Welcome: Sylvia Tag
Concert Hall

9:10-10:10 a.m.Author Presentation
~ **Kirby Larson**

10:15-11:15 a.m.Author/Illustrator Presentation
~ **Chris Raschka**

11:15-11:45 a.m.Question and Answer Panel

11:45-12:30 p.m.Book Sales & Autographing
PAC lobby areas

Kirby Larson

Kirby Larson Status Update

"I am a fan of so many writers, some of whom haven't been published yet. Actually, I am a special fan of those who haven't been published yet, because that's such a fragile time in one's writing life."

Reading Arnold Lobel's *Ming Lo Moves the Mountain* (1993) when her children were young, sparked Kirby Larson's writing career; "I wanted to write a story that would touch other families the way this one had touched mine."

This memory inspired her to write her early books, *Second-Grade Pig Pals* (1994) and *Cody and Quinn, Sitting in a Tree* (1996). During this time, Larson, assisted her husband in his office, ran the family home, and actively served on the school board. Her story ideas draw on the rich experiences of home life and community involvement. The true story of a dog caring for a cat during Hurricane Katrina inspired Larson to coauthor with Mary Nethery, *Two Bobbies* (2008). It is a story of unlikely friendship and survival during tough circumstances. Inspired by the life of her great-grandmother, who homesteaded in Eastern Montana, her book *Hattie Big Sky* won the 2007 Newberry Honor. Invited by the publishers of Scholastic to write a book for the *Dear America Series*, Larson authored *The Fences Between Us: The Diary of Piper Davis* (2010). Set during the Pearl Harbor bombings, this layered story tells of an American girl's relationship with the members of her father's Japanese-American church. Her newest work, *The Friendship Doll*, will be published in May 2011. Also based on historical events, it tells a story about America as seen through the eyes of a "Japanese friendship doll."



Larson moved frequently with her family as a child. Although she was often the new girl in school, her loneliness was diminished due to the company of books. Larson now resides with her husband near Seattle, WA. She is a Western Washington University Alumni. She enjoys walking her dog Winston, bird watching, traveling, gardening, knitting, and drinking lattes

with friends. She has presented at over 200 schools, maintains a website, and writes a blog. In a potential sequel to *Hattie Big Sky*, Larson may reveal the answer to her most frequently asked question, “Did Hattie marry Charlie?”

A Selection of Kirby Larson’s Work

Second-Grade Pig Pals, Holiday House (New York, NY), 1994 (illustrated by Nancy Poydar).

Cody and Quinn, Sitting in a Tree, Holiday House (New York, NY), 1996. (illustrated by Nancy Poydar).

The Magic Kerchief, Holiday House (New York, NY), 2000 (illustrated by Rosanne Litzinger).

Hattie Big Sky, Delacorte (New York, NY), 2006.

The Tale of Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship and Survival, Walker (New York, NY), 2008 (co-author Mary Nethery, illustrated by Jean Cassels).

Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, and a Miracle, Little, Brown (New York, NY), 2009 (co-author Mary Nethery, illustrated by Brian Dennis).

The Friendship Doll, Delacorte Books for Young Readers (Forthcoming, May 10, 2011).

Significant Awards and Honors

2007 Newbery Honor winner, American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults, Montana Book Award, Cybils Award finalist, Winner of Young Readers Choice Awards in ten States -- *Hattie Big Sky*

2010 Alabama Camellia Award, 2009-2010 Pennsylvania Keystone Readers Award, Washington Children’s Choice Picture Book Award, North Dakota Flicker Tale Children’s Book Award, North Carolina Children’s Book Award, Montana Treasure State Award, 2009 Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People, IRA Teachers Choice Award, 2008 ASPCA Henry Bergh Award, SIBA (Southern Independent Bookseller Association) Award – *Two Bobbies: A Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival*

2010 Christopher Medal, 2009 National Parenting Publication Gold Award, New York Times Bestseller, Wall Street Journal Bestseller – *Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, & a Miracle*

'Texts' from Larson

What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?

How much I prefer revising to writing first drafts!

What do you think makes a good story?

If I knew that answer, it wouldn't take me 97 drafts to get a story right. ;-)
This answer varies from reader to reader, writer to writer, but for me a good story needs a compelling character. I'm not overly fond of plot driven books. I'm also drawn to stories where the writer leaves space for me as a reader to experience the main character's journey.

What would you say is your interesting writing quirk?

One life is not enough for me: I shop on eBay for diaries, letters and photos because I am a snoop and enjoy collecting records of other peoples' lives.

Have you ever invented a word? What was it and what did it mean?

I invent perfectly good words every day and generally the copyeditor makes me take them out. The Larson family lexicon includes words like "ridicle-dockle," (used to express dismay, as in "That outfit is ridicle-dockle," and "tick-a-lock," which is used when you want someone to stop talking.

What would you say to a young student who has already decided they want to be a writer/illustrator "when they grow up"?

My advice is to play with paints and/or words as much as possible, read as much as possible and learn to finish things. We put too much pressure on kids to perform, i.e., get published. A kid's job is to experiment and have fun; publication (and its pressures and pleasures) can come much later.

What draws you to historical fiction? Who are your favorite children's authors for historical fiction?

I love the challenge of trying to figure out how ordinary people lived in other times and places. Karen Cushman writes historical fiction exclusively and I adore her work; and I love Rodman Philbrick's *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*; Gary Schmidt's *Wednesday Wars*; Jennifer Holm's *Our Only May Amelia*, Jennifer Connelly's *A Northern Light* and, of course, Karen Hesse's *Out of the Dust*. I also adored *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier.

Bookmark Kirby Larson:

Kirby's Homepage —

<http://www.kirbylarson.com/>

Kirby's Blog —

<http://kirbyslane.blogspot.com/>

"The Scrapbook of Piper Davis" —

<http://www.scholastic.com/dearamerica/piperscrapbook.htm#/0>

Video Interview with Author Magazine —

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3g_3_tr1K0s

Scholastic *Dear America* Video Interview —

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoewO0Y3KVo>

Two Bobbies Video Book Trailer —

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MByhbft6x3o>

Two Bobbies Website —

<http://www.twobobbies.com/>

Nubs Website —

<http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/features/storyofnubs/index.html>

Hattie Big Sky Website —

<http://www.hattiebigsky.com/>

Podcast with Montana Public Radio for The Write Question

About *Hattie Big Sky* —

http://kirbylarson.podomatic.com/entry/index/2007-11-05T20_30_40-08_00

Podcast with Sandusky Radio About *Hattie Big Sky* —

http://kirbylarson.podomatic.com/entry/index/2006-11-13T08_14_56-08_00

Video Interview About *Hattie Big Sky* —

http://kirbylarson.podomatic.com/player/web/2006-07-18T19_11_29-07_00

Chris Raschka

Chris Raschka Status Update

"I always try to treat the book itself as the artwork. I don't want you to stop while you're reading one of my books and say, 'Oh! What a gorgeous illustration!' I want you to stop at the end of the book and say, 'This is a good book.'"

Raschka's youth was spent between America and Europe. As a child, he spoke both English and German; played piano, recorder, and viola; drew pictures; and listened to his mother's retelling of Viennese fairy tales. Although the arts and music were an integral part of his life, he graduated with a Biology degree (at one point he hoped to restore India's native crocodile population). He then aspired to pursue a medical career after working in a German pediatric orthopedic clinic, about which he recalls, "I learned so much from those kids." Ultimately shifting away from medicine towards the arts, Raschka entered the illustrating business as both a cartoonist and freelance illustrator for regional newspapers and magazines. A final move to New York City solidified Raschka's decision to become an author and illustrator.



Raschka branched into children's literature with his first book *R and R* (1990), a bilingual, English-Russian, story about a friendship between two alphabets. He received his first Caldecott Honor award for *Yo! Yes?* in 1994. This thirty-four word picture book exemplifies Raschka's ability to create rich, illustrative details. *A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing, and Shout* (2009), written by Paul Janeczko and illustrated by Chris Raschka, depicts loose torn paper of brilliant colors. In 2006, Raschka won the Caldecott Medal for *The Hello, Goodbye Window*, a gentle story about the fancies of a little girl as seen through her grandparent's window. The illustrations are full spread pages with bright swirls of color and lively tones. These masterful illustrations hint at the drawings of a child. When not writing

or illustrating children's books, Raschka enjoys knitting without patterns, going to the opera, practicing yoga, and surfing (a pastime that once cost him a tooth). Raschka most recently illustrated Albert Bitterman's *Fortune Cookies* (2011), an interactive book depicting life enhanced by kittens.

A Selection of Chris Raschka's Work:

R and R: A Story about Two Alphabets, Brethren Press, 1990.

Charlie Parker Played Be Bop, Orchard (New York, NY), 1992.

Yo! Yes?, Orchard (New York, NY), 1993.

Arlene Sardine, Orchard (New York, NY), 1998.

Ring! Yo?, DK (New York, NY), 2000.

A Poke in the Eye, Candlewick (Cambridge, MA), 2001 (edited by Paul Janeczko).

John Coltrane's Giant Steps, Atheneum (New York, NY), 2003.

New York is English, Chattanooga is Creek, Atheneum (New York, NY), 2005.

A Kick in the Head, Candlewick (Cambridge, MA), 2005 (edited by Paul Janeczko).

The Hello, Good-bye Window, Hyperion (New York, NY), 2005 (written by Norton Juster).

Five for a Little One, Atheneum (New York, NY), 2006.

The Purple Balloon, Schwartz and Wade (New York, NY), 2007.

A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing and Shout, Candlewick (Cambridge, MA), 2009 (edited by Paul Janeczko).

Significant Awards and Honors:

1992 Best Books of the Year citation, Publisher's Weekly, the Notable Children's Book citation, American Library Association, and the Pick of the Lists citation, American Booksellers Association – *Charlie Parker Played Be Bop*

1994 Caldecott Honor Book, New York Times Best Illustrated Book of the Year, ALA and US winner of UNICEF-Ezra Jack Keats Award – *Yo! Yes?*

2006 Kirkus Editor's Choice ALA Notable Children's Book Nominee – *Five for a Little One*

2006 Caldecott Medal, 2005 Horn Book Award Picture Book Honor, Parents' Choice Recommended Award – *The Hello, Goodbye Window*

'Texts' from Raschka:

What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?

Well, I guess that would be that while doing research for one of the very first books I've written I discovered that there was no such thing as a sardine swimming around in the ocean; that by definition a sardine was a little fish in a can. This led to my creating my most notorious book, *Arlene Sardine*, wherein our heroine, Arlene, dies on page 15.

What do you think makes a good story?

Following the above, I'd say something surprising is required. This may be in the plot, or in the manner of the book itself. Generally, in my picture books I have tried for the manner itself to be surprising. Thus, sometimes there's been no story per se at all. Instead, there might be a song form.

What would you say is your interesting writing quirk?

Quirk noun odd piece I also ways try to see the everyday from an odd angle.

Have you ever invented a word? What was it and what did it mean?

Not necessarily, though my son has invented many phrases. For instance, "The cat licked the butter" stands for any argument which is apparently pointless.

What would you say to a young student who has already decided they want to be a writer/illustrator "when they grow up"?

I would say great! Now read E. Nesbit and look at Roger Duvoisin.

We know that you are interested in environmental work; is that something you are continuing in or have you ever considered writing about?

Well, I recently wrote a kind of musing book about a crow which was inspired by my old biology teacher and is kind of an ecology book.

You have talked about hearing your mother tell Viennese fairy tales. Have you ever considered putting any in a book?

Yes. I have written a modern devil story much along the old Viennese lines, wherein our hero in a weak moment makes a pact with the devil and then must craftily outwit the devil which he does in the end. However, my story is not quite in the proper form yet. I think I may try to turn it into something of a graphic novel some day. Not yet.

Bookmark Chris Raschka:

Biography About Chris —

<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/2026/Raschka-Chris-1959.html>

Chris' Image Gallery —

http://www.rmichelson.com/Artist_Pages/Raschka/Chris-Raschka.html

Interview with Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast —

<http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=1771>

“Once Upon a Book” Video Interview with Chris —

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8x5GYm-jHHM>

About *The Purple Balloon* Video —

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_VqsdeX2JU

Hip Hop Dog Video Trailer —

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc9PGceHSY0>

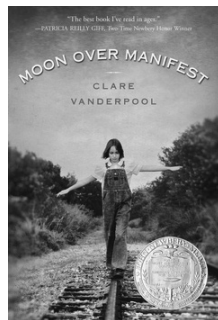
Interview About *Arlene Sardine* —

<http://www.bookpage.com/books-5526-Arlene+Sardine>

2011 Newbery and Caldecott Medal Winners

2011 Newbery Medal Winner

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool (Delacorte Press)

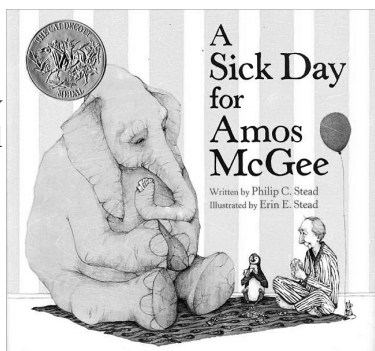


2011 Newbery Honor Books

- *Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer L. Holm (Random House)
- *Heart of a Samurai* by Margi Preus (Amulet Books)
- *Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night* by Joyce Kilmer, illustrated by Rick Allen (Houghton Mifflin Books)
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia (Amistad)

2011 Caldecott Medal Winner

A Sick Day for Amos McGee illustrated by Erin E. Stead, written by Philip C. Stead (Roaring Brook Press)



2011 Caldecott Honor Books

- *Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave* illustrated by Bryan Collier, written by Laban Carrick Hill (Little, Brown)
- *Interrupting Chicken* written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein (Candlewick Press)

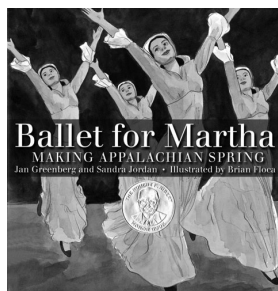
2011 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award

Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot written by Sy Montgomery, photos by Nic Bishop (Houghton Mifflin)



2011 Sibert Honor Books

- *Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring* written by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, illustrated by Brian Floca (Flash Point)
- *Lafayette and the American Revolution* written by Russell Freedman (Holiday House)

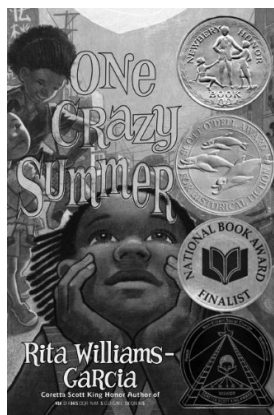


2011 Coretta Scott King Author Award

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia (Amistad)

2011 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Books

- *Lockdown* by Walter Dean Myers (Amistad)
- *Ninth Ward* by Jewell Parker Rhodes (Little, Brown)
- *Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty* written by G. Neri, illustrated by Randy DuBurke (Lee & Low)



2011 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award

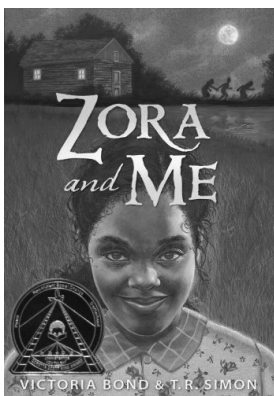
Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave illustrated by Bryan Collier, written by Laban Carrick Hill (Little, Brown)

2011 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book

Jimi Sounds Like a Rainbow: A Story of the Young Jimi Hendrix illustrated by Javaka Steptoe, written by Gary Golio (Clarion)

2011 John Steptoe New Talent Award-Author

Zora and Me written by Victoria Bond and T.R. Simon (Candlewick)

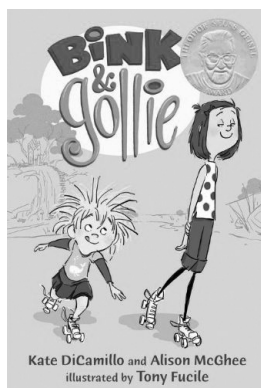


2011 John Steptoe New Talent Award-Illustrator

Seeds of Change illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler, written by Jen Cullerton Johnson (Lee & Low)

2011 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

Bink and Gollie written by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee, illustrated by Tony Fucile (Candlewick)



2011 Geisel Honor Books

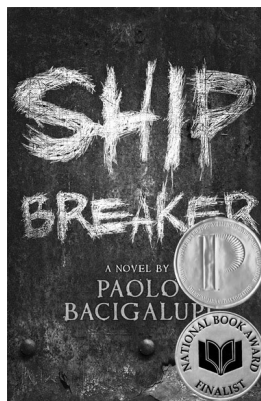
- *Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!* written and illustrated by Grace Lin (Little, Brown)
- *We Are in a Book!* written and illustrated by Mo Willems (Hyperion)

2011 Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Literature for Young Adults

Ship Breaker by Paolo Bacigalupi (Little, Brown)

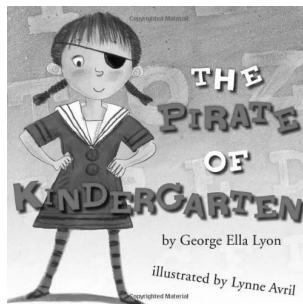
2011 Printz Honor Books

- *Stolen* by Lucy Christopher (Chicken House)
- *Please Ignore Vera Dietz* by A.S. King (Alfred A. Knopf)
- *Revolver* by Marcus Sedgwick (Roaring Brook Press)
- *Nothing* by Janne Teller (Atheneum)



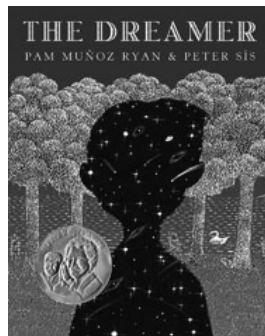
2011 Schneider Family Book Awards

- *The Pirate of Kindergarten* written by George Ella Lyon, illustrated by Lynne Avril (Atheneum)
- *After Ever After* by Jordan Sonnenblick (Scholastic)
- *Five Flavors of Dumb* by Antony John (Dial)



2011 Pura Belpré Author Medal

The Dreamer written by Pam Muñoz Ryan,
illustrated by Peter Sís (Scholastic)

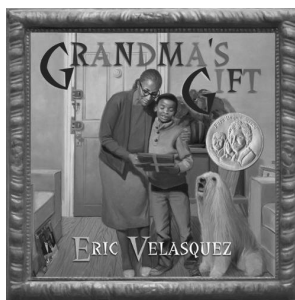


2011 Belpré Author Honor Books

- *¡Olé! Flamenco* written and illustrated by George Ancona (Lee & Low)
- *The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba* by Margarita Engle (Henry Holt)
- *90 Miles to Havana* by Enrique Flores-Galbis (Roaring Brook Press)

2011 Pura Belpré Illustrator Medal

Grandma's Gift illustrated and written by Eric Velasquez (Walker Publishing)



2011 Belpré Illustrator Honor Books

- *Fiesta Babies* illustrated by Amy Córdova, written by Carmen Tafolla (Tricycle Press)
- *Me, Frida* illustrated by David Diaz, written by Amy Novesky (Abrams Books)
- *Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin* illustrated and written by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books)

2011 Orbis Pictus Award

Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, illustrated by Brian Floca (Roaring Brook Press)

2011 Orbis Pictus Honor Books

- *Birmingham Sunday* by Larry Dane Brimner (Calkins Creek)
- *Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"* by Michael O. Tunnell (Charlesbridge)
- *If Stones Could Speak: Unlocking the Secrets of Stonehenge* by Mark Aronson (National Geographic)

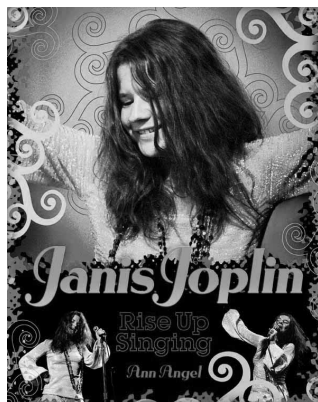
- *Journey into the Deep: Discovering New Ocean Creatures* by Rebecca L. Johnson (Millbrook Press)
- *Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age* by Cheryl Bardoe (Abrams Books for Young Readers)

2011 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults

Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing by Ann Angel
(Amulet/Abrams)

2011 YALSA Nonfiction Finalists

- *They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Houghton Mifflin)
- *Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement* by Rick Bowers (National Geographic)
- *The Dark Game: True Spy Stories* by Paul Janeczko (Candlewick)
- *Every Bone Tells a Story: Hominin Discoveries, Deductions, and Debates* by Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw (Charlesbridge)



Our Previous Speakers

WWU Children's Literature Conference over the years . . .

2004 Speakers

Keith Baker
Pam Muñoz Ryan
Suzanne Fisher Staples

2005 Speakers

Avi
Nina Laden
Katherine Paterson
Janet Wong

2006 Speakers

Jon Agee
Laurie Halse Anderson
Emily Arnold McCully
Deborah Wiles

2007 Speakers

Candace Fleming
Lois Lowry
Pat Mora
David Wiesner

2008 Speakers

Chris Crutcher
Christopher Paul Curtis
John Rocco
Eric Rohmann

2009 Speakers

Joan Bauer
Kadir Nelson
Sara Pennypacker
Brian Selznick

2010 Speakers

Marla Frazee
John Green
Allyn Johnston
Gerald McDermott
Linda Sue Park

2011 Speakers

Kirby Larson
Chris Raschka

Notes

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A Note of Thanks

Today's conference exists due to many believers - people who contributed time, energy, talent, and hard work. A great round of thanks to our WWU English students, English education students, Woodring students, and Whatcom Community College students who have volunteered behind the scenes over the course of the last month and up through today. Additional gratitude goes to the English Department, Western Libraries, Conference Services, the PAC facilities team, and the following individuals whose tremendous effort and spirit has contributed to the success of this year's conference:

Julie Addis Smith
Chris Baker
Diana Bakkom
Maggie Barklind
Andrew Blick
Kathryn Boyd
Lindsey Evans
Janel Gustafson
Julia Gifford
Amanda Holden

Julie Hunter
Logen LaBlond
Connie Mallison
Virginia Nix
Pam Pottle
Donna Qualley
Chuck and Dee Robinson
Shirley Shimer
Sandi Sutterman
Keith Turley

The folks at Village Books and Launching Success Learning Store and those who generously donated scholarships for this conference!

Children's Literature Conference Board:

Bethany Hoglund

Aubri Keleman

Sher Ross Smith

Nancy Johnson is just a mouse click away!

Visit Nancy's online blog: <http://nancyjohnson.com/blog/>

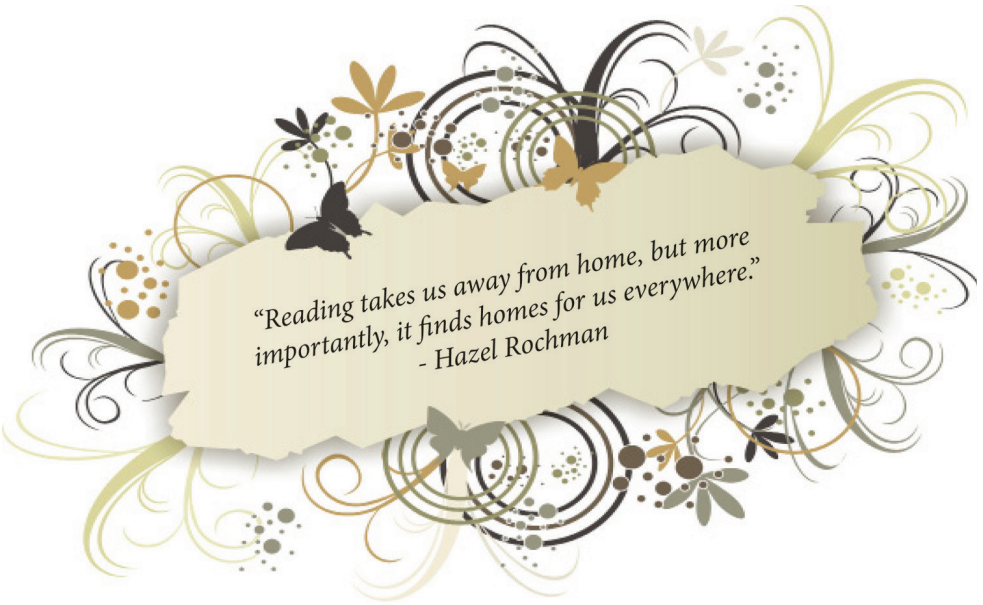
Evaluation

Please take a few minutes today to provide us with feedback about this 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 2012 WWU CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE ALTERNATIVE CONFERENCE:
Tentatively Scheduled for March 3, 2012

A decorative border at the bottom of the page featuring swirling lines in gold, black, and gray, interspersed with small flowers, leaves, and butterflies in matching colors.

*"Reading takes us away from home, but more
importantly, it finds homes for us everywhere."
- Hazel Rochman*