

Booktalking the Best

WLA/PNLA 2010 Conference

University of Washington Information School graduates: Sarah Julsonnet, Sara Lachman, Erin Sterling, Sarah Wachter, Keli Yeats

Alsenas, Linas. 2008. *Gay America: struggle for equality*. New York: Amulet Books.

Photos and engaging text trace the social and political history of American gays.

Appelt, Kathi, and August Hall. 2010. *Keeper*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

10-year-old Keeper has had a horrible day in her tiny Texas coastal town, so she sets off in a rowboat at midnight to find her mermaid mother and set things right.

Bacigalupi, Paolo. 2010. *Ship breaker*. New York: Little, Brown and Co.

Nailer is a salvager in a post-apocalyptic world who discovers a wrecked ship rich with salvage and a mysterious young girl.

Barnes, John. 2009. *Tales of the Madman Underground: (an historical romance 1973)*. New York: Viking.

A group of teens from dysfunctional families bond together through hilarious late-night adventures.

Berger, Joe. 2009. *Bridget Fidget and the most perfect pet!* New York: Dial Books for Young Readers.

Bridget Fidget wonders if a mysterious package could hold her most perfect pet.

Brannen, Sarah S. 2008. *Uncle Bobby's wedding*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Chloe worries that her favorite uncle won't love her after he gets married.

Campbell, Chelsea M. 2010. *The rise of Renegade X*. New York, NY: Egmont USA.

Damien Locke must rethink his life's path as a super villain after he discovers his father is a super hero.

Chapman, Fern Schumer. 2010. *Is it night or day?* New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux

Jewish 12-year-old Edith is sent from Germany to Chicago to escape Nazi persecution. A heartbreaking and true immigration story.

Cohagan, Carolyn. 2010. ***The lost children***. New York: Aladdin.

Josephine Russing falls into a strange alternate world in which she meets a cast of unusual characters, and becomes involved in a dangerous plan to save the lost children of Gulm.

Cummings, Troy. 2010. ***The Eensy Weensy Spider freaks out! (Big time)***. New York: Random House.

The title says it all. This would be a great selection for storytime.

Friesner, Esther M. 2009. ***Sphinx's princess***. New York: Random House.

Teenage Nefertiti struggles to be seen as a brain rather than a beauty, as well as escape an unwelcome marriage to the son of her aunt, the Queen Tiye.

Doctorow, Cory. 2010. ***For the win***. New York: Tor.

Online gamers from around the world join forces to fight horrible working conditions for 'gold farmers' the real driving force behind the games.

Guiberson, Brenda Z. 2010. ***Disasters: natural and man-made catastrophes through the centuries***. New York: Henry Holt and Co.

Learn about the history of ten natural and man-made disasters over the years, covering everything from the 1918 flu pandemic to the Titanic to Hurricane Katrina.

Horner, Emily. 2010. ***A love story starring my dead best friend***. New York: Dial Books.

In the time between THEN (a cross-country bike ride with her best friend Julia's ashes) and NOW (rehearsals for "Totally Sweet Ninja Death Squad"), Cass Meyer learns about love, loss, friendship, bike repair, and dividing by zero.

Jinks, Catherine. 2009. ***The reformed vampire support group***. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

A hilarious twist on the vampire legend. These vamps are sickly and pathetic. Hardly the type thing on which epic romances are built.

Jurmain, Suzanne. 2005. ***The forbidden schoolhouse: the true and dramatic story of Prudence Crandall and her students***. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

The story of a 19th century woman and how she defied an entire town to provide an education for black girls.

Katcher, Brian. 2009. ***Almost perfect***. New York: Delacorte Press.

When new girl Sage Hendricks walks into his Missouri high school, Logan Witherspoon is immediately attracted. After he learns that Sage was born biologically male, he must decide what gender and love mean to him.

Klise, Kate, and M. Sarah Klise. 2010. ***Stand straight, Ella Kate: the true story of a real giant***. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers.

The true story of a Ella Kate Ewing, an 8'4" woman who stood up for herself and made a fortune in the circus.

Newman, Lesléa, and Carol Thompson. 2009. ***Mommy, mama, and me***. Berkeley, Calif: Tricycle Press.

Rhyming couplets and pastel illustrations tell the story of one couple's afternoons with their toddler.

Newman, Lesléa, and Carol Thompson. 2009. ***Daddy, papa, and me***. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press.

Rhyming couplets and pastel illustrations tell the story of one couple's afternoons with their toddler.

Oliver, Lauren. 2010. ***Before I fall***. New York: Harper.

Samantha must relive the day she dies over and over, forcing her to re-evaluate the choices she's made.

Pearce, Jackson. 2010. ***Sisters red***. New York: Little, Brown.

A gripping and lyric retelling of Little Red Riding Hood. Although they have rich emotional lives, these sisters are no damsels in distress.

Peck, Dale. 2009. ***Sprout***. New York: Bloomsbury.

Sprout's here (in Kansas), he's queer, and he has green hair. Also a dead mother, an alcoholic father, and a way with words that pulls the reader through his prep for the state essay contest and his complicated, confusing relationships.

Peña, Matt de la. 2009. ***We were here***. New York: Delacorte Press.

An unspeakable act has landed Miguel in a juvenile group home. When he breaks out with two guys to cross the border into Mexico, what he does not expect is to make lasting friendships.

Polacco, Patricia. 2009. ***In our mothers' house***. New York: Philomel Books.

The adopted daughter of a lesbian couple shares her experiences growing up in a loving, laughing family and a diverse Berkeley neighborhood.

Prineas, Sarah, and Javier Caparó. 2008. ***The magic thief***. New York: HarperCollinsPublishers.

Conn is a street thief who finds himself apprenticed to a wizard after he picks his pocket.

Roach, Mary. 2010. ***Packing for Mars: the curious science of life in the void***. New York: W.W. Norton.

Space has never been so funny. Roach offers a look at what it takes to get into space and the people who make it happen.

Shusterman, Neal. 2010. ***Bruiser***. New York: HarperTeen.

Brewster has an unpleasant power – whenever those he cares about are injured, the wounds instantly transfer themselves to his own body instead.

Smith, Charles R., and Shane Evans. 2010. ***Black Jack: the ballad of Jack Johnson***. New York: Roaring Brook Press.

Picture-book biography of black boxer Jack Johnson who was famous in the early 1900s for being the first heavyweight boxing champion and for refusing to be treated differently because of his skin color.

Smith, Sherri L. 2008. ***Flygirl***. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Based on the true lives of the Women Airforce Service Pilots in World War II. A black teenager who can pass as white fulfills her lifelong dream of being a pilot, but has to make hard decisions about her identity along the way.

Swanson, James L. 2009. ***Chasing Lincoln's killer***. New York: Scholastic Press.

Learn the history behind the plot to assassinate Lincoln and the subsequent manhunt for the assassin.

Trine, Greg, and Rhode Montijo. 2010. ***Invasion from planet Dork***. New York: Henry Holt and Co.

The newest book in the Melvin Beederman Superhero series. It is as fun and silly as Melvin Beederman fans have come to expect.

Underwood, Deborah, and Renata Liwska. 2010. *The quiet book*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children.

Beautifully illustrated picture book shows different types of quiet and the emotions behind them.

Whinnem, Reade Scott. 2009. *The pricker boy*. New York: Random House.

A terrifying, campfire-worthy tale in which a boy named Stucks discovers whether or not the stories of a disturbing, woods-dwelling, thorn-covered child known as “The Pricker Boy” are true.

Wooding, Chris, and Dan Chernet. 2009. *Malice*. New York: Scholastic Press.

In this half-text, half-comic novel, kids can get pulled into a comic book world full of steampunk creatures who will suck your life out. Will Luke and his friends be able to find a way out?

Zenz, Aaron. 2009. *The hiccupotamus*. New York: Marshall Cavendish Children.

A hippo suffers from a terrible case of the hiccups and his jungle friends help to get rid of them.