

Selective List of 2005 through 2007 Young Adult Titles for Booktalking Librarian to Librarian networking Summit

February 2, 2007

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Books with *s are booktalk titles.

47 by Walter Mosley. Little Brown, 2005.

A young slave meets mysterious Tall John and discovers there are other universes and that he will play a role in the freedom of his people. (MS up)

Anyone But You by Lara M. Zeises. Delacorte, 2005.

Seattle and Critter have been pseudo siblings and best friends since they were little kids, but now that they are teens they must redefine their relationship. (HS)

Beast by Ally Kennen. Scholastic, 2006.

Stephen lives in a foster home and sneaks away to feed the "pet" alligator his father gave him as a child. The alligator is penned up, but gets loose when they try to move him. (JH up)

***Before Midnight: A Retelling of "Cinderella"** by Cameron Dokey. Simon Pulse, 2007.

Disowned by her grieving and angry father when her mother dies in childbirth, Cendrillon is raised by servants until her new stepmother, who is forced into the marriage by the king, arrives with her two daughters. (MS up)

Blind Faith by Ellen Wittlinger. Simon & Schuster, 2006.

When Liz's grandmother Bunny dies her mother finds solace in a spiritualist church while Liz becomes friends with their new neighbors, whose mother is dying of leukemia. (JH up)

The Bonemender by Holly Bennett. Orca, 2005.

Gabrielle, a healer and the daughter of the royal family, falls in love with the elvish stranger who appears at the castle door. (JH up)

The Bonemender's Oath by Holly Bennett. Orca, 2006.

Gabrielle must search deep inside for her elf powers, while her younger brother Tristan fights a treasonous older man who will not take no for an answer from the woman Tristan loves. (JH up)

The Book of Mordred by Vivian Vande Velde. Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

A more likeable Mordred is revealed through the eyes of the widowed Alayna, her magically gifted daughter Keira, and Merlin's beloved Nimue. (JH up)

***The Book Thief** by Marcus Zusak. Knopf, 2006.

Liesel, a young foster child in 1940s Germany, becomes a book thief by rescuing her first book from a Nazi bonfire. Narrator is death. (JH up)

The Braid by Helen Frost. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006.

In a relocation of families from the Western Isles of Scotland during the 1850s two sisters are separated and must learn to survive without each other. Written in verse. (JH up)

Breathe: A Ghost Story by Cliff McNish. Carolrhoda, 2006.

Twelve-year-old Jack can see the ghosts that live in the house he and his mother move into and the Ghost Mother wants him to be her son. (MS up)

Burned by Ellen Hopkins. Simon & Schuster, 2006.

Pattyn wants to do things other teenage girls do that are not allowed by her abusive Mormon father, including spending time with boys. Written in verse. (HS)

Candy by Kevin Brooks. Scholastic, 2005.

Joey, a quiet musician type, falls for Candy, a drug addicted runaway who sells her body to stay alive on the streets. (HS)

A Certain Slant of Light by Laura Whitcomb. Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Helen, a ghost who is haunting an English teacher, falls in love with a teenage boy who can actually see her. (HS)

Chicken Boy by Frances O’Roark Dowell. Atheneum, 2005.

Wanting to avoid the chaos at home, Tobin spends time with his eccentric grandmother or his new friend and the chickens they are raising. (MS/JH)

Claiming Georgia Tate by Gigi Amateau. Candlewick, 2005.

Georgia Tate is protected and loved by her grandparents until her grandmother dies and she is sent to live with her sexually abusive father. (MS/JH)

The Cloud Chamber by Joyce Maynard. Atheneum, 2005.

When his father is taken away and friends begin to avoid him, Nate, with the help of his partner, a minister’s daughter, focuses on building a cloud chamber for the science fair. (MS/JH)

The Color of Fire by Ann Rinaldi. Hyperion, 2005.

During the war with Spain, Phoebe, a black servant in a wealthy NYC home, is caught up in the hysteria based on rumors that the blacks are setting fires and are about to revolt. (MS up)

Crackback by John Coy. Scholastic, 2005.

Miles wants to stay on the HS football team, but he is not sure he can deal with the new “win at all costs” coach and his teammates taking steroids. (JH up)

***Crunch Time** by Mariah Fredericks. Atheneum, 2006.

Four teens from a Manhattan high school, who would not normally associate with each other, skip their SAT preparation classes to study together and share their reasons for stressing about taking the test. (JH up)

Dark Angel by David Klass. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005.

Seventeen-year-old Jeff’s life changes for the worst when his manipulative older brother, who had been convicted of murder, is released early from prison. (HS)

The Dashwood Sisters’ Secrets of Love by Rosie Rushton. Hyperion, 2005.

Three English sisters, each with distinct personalities of their own and quite accustomed to wealth, must move to a small seaside village when their father dies. (HS)

The Diary of Pelly D by L.J. Adlington. Greenwillow, 2005.

In a futuristic world, Toni V finds Pelly D’s diary and reads about how she responded to the decline of her family’s status during holocaust like social changes. (JH up)

***Diva** by Alex Flinn. HarperCollins, 2006.

Caitlin, from *Breathing Underwater*, has been accepted into a Miami Performing Arts High School to study opera and is discovering that, though difficult at first, she can fit in with this group of talented teens. Partially told via blog entries. (JH up)

The Dream Merchant by Isabel Hoving. Candlewick, 2005.

Young Josh Cope finds himself dream traveling to other worlds and times to find new markets, as a pawn for an international corporation. (MS/JH)

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005.

After Liz dies in a bicycle accident she arrives in Elsewhere and learns that she will un-age back to infancy while she lives with the grandmother she has never met. (JH up)

Endgame by Nancy Garden. Harcourt, 2006.

Fifteen-year-old Gray loses control and puts an end to him and his best friend being the target of brutal bullying in his new school. (JH up)

Fade to Black by Alex Flinn. HarperCollins, 2005.

When Alex Crusan is attacked everyone thinks it is Clinton Cole, since he hasn't been shy about his dislike of HIV-positive Alex being in his classes or their younger sisters playing together. (HS)

Fallout by Trudy Krisher. Holiday House, 2006.

Set in North Carolina during the hurricane season of 1954, a different kind of storm is brewing in town when a family from California questions the government's handling of atomic testing and McCarthy's anticommunist actions. (MS up)

***Feels Like Home** by e.E. Charleton-Trujillio. Delacorte, 2007.

Seventeen-year-old Mickey is distraught when her older brother returns to their Texas border town to attend their father's funeral. He left several years before when his friend died in a fire at the HS football stadium, for which the town blames him. Many references to *The Outsiders*. (JH up)

Firestorm by David Klass. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006.

Eighteen-year-old Jack discovers he has been sent back from the future to save the world from man's destruction of the Earth's natural resources. (HS)

Flavor of the Week by Tucker Shaw. Hyperion, 2005.

Chubby Cyril cooks romantic meals for Rose, but he isn't the one on the other side of the table eating them with her. (JH up)

Fresh Off the Boat by Melissa De La Cruz. HarperCollins, 2005.

Having just moved to California from Manila, Vicenza is having difficulty adjusting to wearing thrift store clothes and being the new girl in her snooty high school. (MS/JH)

Full Service by Will Weaver. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005.

Sixteen-year-old Paul Sutton leaves the safety of his religious farm group and gets a summer job pumping gas in small town 1965 Northern Minnesota. (HS)

Girls Dinner Club by Jessie Elliot. HarperCollins, 2005.

Over plates of food, three best friends share their family and guy troubles as they cook favorite meals for each other. (HS)

Greenstone Grail by Amanda Hemingway. Ballantine, 2005.

Nathaniel dream travels to the planet Eos and discovers that the Greenstone Grail is one of three elements needed to save this world and that he plays a central role in bringing them together. (MS/JH)

***Hail Caesar** by Thu-Houng Ha. Scholastic Push, 2007.

John, who is even called Caesar by the teachers, is the good looking guy who gets all the girls and keeps track of his sexual conquests. But he falls for the one girl who isn't taken in by his charms. The author is a 17 year-old-female. Sexual content. (HS)

Hello Groin by Beth Goobie. Orca, 2006.

Dylan creates a book title display for her HS library that results in a confrontation with the principal over his censorship of the titles she's chosen to cover particular body parts and her eventual acceptance of her homosexuality. (HS)

The Hoopster by Alan Lawrence Sittomer. Hyperion, 2005.

Andre doesn't see racism as a problem for him until he is asked to write an article on race relations that results in an attack by a local hate group. (HS)

The Hour of the Cobra by Maiya Williams. Amulet, 2006.

African American twins, Xanthe and Xavier, join brother and sister Rowan and Nina on a time travel journey to 58 B.C. Egypt where Xanthe is mistaken for Cleopatra. Sequel to **The Golden Hour**. (MS/JH)

The Hunter's Moon by O.R. Meeling. The Chronicles of Faerie. Abrams, 2005.

Sixteen-year-old Gwen visits her cousin Findabhair and they set off to seek out the faeries they believe in. The King of the Faeries falls in love with Findabhair and Gwen must rescue her. (MS up)

Incantation by Alice Hoffman. Little Brown, 2006.

Sixteen-year-old Estrella discovers that her mother and grandparents are Jewish, but are in hiding as Catholics during the Inquisition in Spain. (JH up)

An Innocent Soldier by Josef Holub. Scholastic, 2005.

Sixteen-year-old Adam is conscripted into the army and joins the troops in Napoleon's Grande Armee headed for Russia. (JH up)

***The Innocent's Story** by Nicky Singer. Holiday House, 2007.

Thirteen-year-old Cassina becomes a para-spirit after she is killed in a London train station bombing and enters the mind of her father, the terrorist leader, and the bomber. (JH up)

Invisible by Pete Hautman. Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Something happened in the Tuttle place that has Doug Hanson building model train cities to try to forget, but his friend Andy keeps bringing back the painful memories. (JH up)

Ithaka by Adele Geras. Harcourt, 2006.

Klymene, the "adopted" daughter to Penelope, tells of how Penelope's suitors take over Ithaka and of Klymene's love for the young prince Telemachus. Companion novel to Geras' **Troy**. (JH up)

The Last Universe by William Sleator. Abrams, 2005.

Susan and her wheelchair bound brother Gary discover alternate worlds that can be entered via the maze in their garden, worlds where Gary is not ill. (JH up)

Letters from a Slave Boy by Mary E. Lyons. Simon & Schuster, 2007.

Harriett Jacobs's son flees from North Carolina to New York and continues to run from the slave catcher until he dies years later in Australia. Companion to *Letters from a Slave Girl*. (MS up)

Looking for Alaska by John Green. Dutton, 2005.

A naïve Miles leaves his protected home environment to attend the same Southern private school his father had and falls in love with Alaska, an older female student with emotional and drinking problems. (HS)

The Love Curse of the Rumbaughs by Jack Gantos. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006.

Ivy has inherited the curse of excess love for one's mother and does not consider the twins' use of taxidermy to keep their mother with them so unusual. (HS)

The Minister's Daughter by Julie Hearn. Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Nell, a herb gatherer and healer, is blamed by Grace, the manipulative minister's daughter, for her illness and is proclaimed a witch. (JH up)

My Brother's Keeper by Patricia McCormick. Hyperion, 2005.

Toby consoles his little brother and keeps his older brother's drug use a secret from their stressed out mother as he tries to keep his family together after their father leaves. (MS/JH)

Nailed by Patrick Jones. Walker, 2006.

Bret, with his long purple tinted hair and grunge clothes, does not allow himself to fit in at home or at school. (HS)

Naughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman. Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Sephy is a Cross and Callum is a naught. They grew up together, but white naughts do not fall in love with black Crosses, especially not the Prime Minister's daughter. (HS)

Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist by Rachel Cohn & David Levithan. Knopf, 2006.

Two NYC teens meet in a club and spend the night together club hopping, trying to get over past loves and falling for each other. Explicit language and sexual content. (HS)

The Order of the Phoenix by Brent Hartinger. HarperCollins, 2005.

Russell takes a job at a camp for burn victims to get away from being harassed after coming out about being gay and learns about life from a group of 10-year-old boys. (HS)

Part of Me by Kimberley Willis Holt. Holt, 2006.

The intergenerational journey of a rural Louisiana family that begins with the teenage daughter learning to drive the local library's book mobile. (MS up)

The Phoenix Dance by Dia Calhoun. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005.

Phoenix, an apprentice shoemaker, is determined to discover how the twelve princesses can be dancing their shoes to tatters each night when they are locked in their rooms. (MS up)

Pigboy by Vicki Grant. Orca Soundings. Orca, 2006.

During a field trip to a farm, a group of 14-year-olds are held captive by an escaped murderer and Dan Hogg, the class geek, is the hero. (JH up)

Poison by Chris Wooding. Orchard/Scholastic, 2005.

When Poison's little sister is stolen she goes to the Phaerie Lord to get her back and discovers she holds an integral role in the Phaerie World. (JH up)

The Prophecy by Hilari Bell. HarperCollins, 2006.

Young Prince Perryndon escapes the castle, befriends a scoundrel minstrel, and captures a unicorn so he can save the kingdom from a dragon. (MS/JH)

The Queen of Second Place by Laura Peyton Roberts. Delacorte, 2005.

Cassie Howard, with the help of her quirky best friend, is competing against one of the most popular girls for the attention of the new guy in school. (JH up)

***The Queen's Soprano** by Carol Dines. Harcourt, 2006.

Seventeen-year-old Angelica has the voice of an angel, but she has never performed due to the Pope's law against women singing in public. Rather than being married off to the highest bidder she runs away to Queen Christina's court, where she can sing. (JH up)

***Rash** by Pete Hautman. Simon & Schuster, 2006.

Bo Marsten, a teen who is not able to control his temper, is accused to starting a rash in his 21st century high school and is sent to an arctic region detention center where he is put to work in a factory. (JH up)

A Really Nice Prom Mess by Brian Sloan. Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Much to his dismay, Cameron's prom date is wildly voluptuous Virginia instead of his boyfriend Shane, resulting in a night of misunderstandings and realizations. (HS)

Red Sea by Diane Tullson. Orca, 2005.

Libby gets more than she bargains for when she shows up late and the other boats they are supposed to sail up the coast of Africa with are gone – now it's only Libby, her mom, and the step-dad she dislikes when disaster strikes. (MS/JH)

Rhymes with Witches by Lauren Myracle. Abrams, 2005.

Jane cannot believe she has been chosen as the new member of the most popular clique in school, but she soon finds out the nasty price she must pay to be popular. (HS)

Romeo's Ex: Rosaline's Story by Lisa Fiedler. Holt, 2006.

Rosaline, the 16-year-old cousin of Juliette, and who has spurned Romeo's declarations of love, becomes romantically involved with a different Montague. The story is told from multiple perspectives. (JH up)

A Room on Lorelei Street by Mary E. Pearson. Holt, 2005.

Fed up with taking care of her alcoholic mother, Zoe rents a room on Lorelei Street from the elderly, eccentric Opal Keats who helps rebuild Zoe's fragile self esteem. (HS)

Rooster by Don Trembath. Orca, 2005.

Rooster has his hands full with coaching the special needs bowling team, but he had better get it together if he wants to graduate from high school. (HS)

***The Rules of Survival** by Nancy Werlin. Dial, 2006.

Thirteen-year-old Matthew recounts the trauma of living with and trying to protect his little sister from their psychotic and abusive mother. Help comes in the form of a man who had once been abused himself. (MS up)

Sandpiper by Ellen Wittlinger. Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Sandy, who no longer is into one night hook-ups, is being harassed by an angry ex-boyfriend, one of many ex-boyfriends who still want her attention, and turns to the mysterious Walker for support. (JH up)

Sexy by Joyce Carol Oates. HarperCollins, 2005.

When Mr. Tracy, his English teacher, asks Darren for help when he is accused of sexual misconduct Darren refuses, even though he knows the teacher was set up by a group of his friends. (HS)

Skin by Adrienne Maria Vrettos. Simon & Schuster, 2006.

Fourteen-year-old Donnie, an outcast at school, is losing his older sister to anorexia and watching his family fall apart as his parents fight through a divorce. (MS up)

The Sledding Hill by Chris Crutcher. Greenwillow, 2005.

Billy views the affect his accidental death has had on his father as he and his still alive best friend Eddie have conversations about censorship and religion. (MS/JH)

The Sphere of Secrets by Catherine Fisher. Greenwillow, 2005.

A young boy, thought to be a god in human form, journeys across the desert, lead by a mysterious map, to the Well of Songs to put right a wrong of long ago. (MS up)

***The Squampkin Patch** by JT Petty. Simon & Schuster, 2006.

Milton and Chloe escape from an unscrupulous orphanage owner and hide out in a mysterious missing candy maker's house with a squampkin (pumpkin like creatures that live underground) patch. (MS)

Stained by Jennifer Richard Jacobson. Atheneum, 2005.

Jocelyn loves two boys - Gabe who has been her neighbor for years and Benny who just moved to town. Now Gabe is missing and Jocelyn suspects the priest is involved. (HS)

Storm Thief by Chris Wooding. Scholastic, 2006.

Set in a futuristic dystopia, Rail, who must use a respirator to breathe, and Moa, an orphan, join forces to stay alive in the ghetto of Orokos where storms can change everything, including what you are. (MS up)

Street Pharm by Allison van Diepen. Simon Pulse, 2006.

When his father is sent to prison seventeen-year-old Ty takes over as the main drug dealer in the neighborhood, until he is shot by a new drug dealer who wants Ty's territory. (HS)

Tell Me What You See by Zoran Drvenkar. Scholastic, 2005.

Sixteen-year-old Allisa is forced to ingest a strange purple plant growing out of a boy's corpse and discovers that she can see angel-like creatures and wants to find out what they are. (JH up)

The Telling Pool by David Clement-Davies. Abrams, 2005.

While his Welsh falconer father is fighting in the Crusades, Rhodri dreams of things to come and sees visions in the Telling Pool, just as young King Arthur did before him. (MS/JH)

Time's Memory by Julius Lester. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2006.

Amina is captured in her African village and after arriving in America she gives birth to full-grown Ekundayo, who is sent to save the spirits of the dead slaves. (JH up)

***Tripping to Somewhere** by Kristopher Reisz. Simon Pulse, 2006.

Gilly and Sam run away from home to find the supernatural Witches' Carnival lead by Christopher Marlow with the intent of joining them. They are pursued by Gilly's father because this lesbian teen has stolen the money he, a corrupt cop, has collected. Sexual content and drug use. (HS up)

True Confessions of a Hollywood Starlet by Lola Douglas. Penguin, 2005.

Rich girl actress goes into hiding in a small town and discovers a new side of herself. (JH up)

tftn by Lauren Myracle. Abrams, 2006.

The **tttl** best friends Angela, Maddie, and Zoe are back at their keyboards sending IMs and emails as they deal with sophomore year, family problems, and new boyfriends. (JH up)

Twilight by Stephenie Meyer. Little Brown, 2005.

Bella moves to a small NW town to live with her father and falls in love with a vampire, who is part of a group of vampires who do not feed on humans. They protect her when other vampires enter their area to hunt. (JH up)

Valiant: A Modern Tale of Faerie by Holly Black. Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Valerie runs away to NYC, lives in a subway tunnel with other teens, gets high on Nevermore, and learns how to sword fight from a troll. (HS)

Where the Kissing Never Stops by Ron Koertge. Candlewick, 1986, 2005.

Walker thinks life is getting better when he starts dating Rachel and his mom gets a job, but then he finds out she is working as a stripper. (HS)

The Year of My Miraculous Reappearance by Catherine Ryan Hyde. Random House, 2007.

Thirteen-year-old Cynn timer self medicates with alcohol when her grandparents take custody of her handicapped younger brother and she is left with her alcoholic mother. Cynn timer gets help when she wrecks the car she is driving after kidnapping her brother. (MS up)

Professional Titles:

Tantalizing Tidbits for Teens: Quick Booktalks for the Busy High School Library Media Specialist by Ruth Cox. Linworth, 2002.

Tantalizing Tidbits for Middle Schoolers: Quick Booktalks for the Busy Middle and Junior High School Library Media Specialist by Ruth Cox Clark. Linworth, 2005.

Upcoming in 2007:

Tantalizing Tidbits for Teen Volume II: More Quick Booktalks for the Busy High School Library Media Specialist by Ruth Cox Clark. Linworth, 2007.

Dr. Clark also has a blog in which she addresses books for all ages:

<http://madchatterya.blogspot.com>

Booktalking Styles:

First Person: Become one of the characters in the book, creating your own script to work from, not reading a first person excerpt from a book.

Discussion: Choose an interesting event or share a character description to pique interest in the book. This is not a plot summary.

Excerpt: Read a short, but interesting, section of text.

(Updated 1/24/07)