

**“From the Horse’s Mouth – writers who teach – teachers who write.”
Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009. Breakout Session / ALAN conference.**

Some books by the three workshop presenters:

- Chris Crowe: *Mississippi Trial, 1955*. Emmett Till case; racial violence; civil rights.
Getting Away with Murder: the true story of the Emmett Till case
(nonfiction.)
Up Close: Thurgood Marshall. YA biography of the Supreme Court Justice.
- David Gill: *Soul Enchilada*; YA novel; contemporary Latina teen in El Paso Texas fights to survive. Fantasy elements.
Graham Salisbury: Island Boy. Biography of Hawaiian-born children’s author.
- Jen Bryant: *The Trial*; novel in verse; 1935 Lindbergh baby kidnapping case.
Ringside 1925: Views from the Scopes Trial. Dayton, TN evolution case.
Kaleidoscope Eyes; 1968, small-town NJ. Vietnam, Beatles, civil rts, pirates.

More Historical Fiction Books for Teens

Prehistory

Auel, Jean. *The Clan of the Cave Bear*. 1980. An orphaned Cro-Magnon child, adopted into a clan of Neanderthal hunter-gatherers, gradually becomes aware that her survival is linked to that of humankind.

Dickinson, Peter. *A Bone from a Dry Sea*. 1992. In two parallel stories, an intelligent female member of a prehistoric tribe becomes instrumental in advancing the lot of her people, and the daughter of a paleontologist is visiting him on a dig in Africa when important fossil remains are discovered.

Harrison, Sue. *Mother Earth, Father Sky*. 1990. The saga of an Aleutian woman of some 9,000 years ago and her search for safety and security.

Africa and the Middle East

Levitin, Sonia. *Escape from Egypt*. 1994. Two very different friends escape with Moses' Exodus from Egypt.

Levitin, Sonia. *The Return*. 1987. Desta is one of 8,000 Ethiopian Jews who is secretly airlifted to Jerusalem in "Operation Moses."

Naidoo, Beverly. *Chain of Fire*. 1990. Naledi and her schoolmates discover strength in their resistance to the South African government's attempt to relocate them and their families.

Asia and the Pacific

Bosse, Malcolm. *The Examination*. 1994. 15-yr-old Hong and his older brother Chen face famine, flood, pirates, and jealous rivals on their journey through fifteenth century China.

Ho, Minfong. *Rice without Rain*. 1990. After social rebels convince the headman of a small village in Thailand to resist the land rent, his 17-year-old daughter finds herself caught up in the student uprising in Bangkok.

Watkins, Yoko. *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*. 1986. As World War II ends, a Japanese family tries to escape Korea to return to their homeland.

Watkins, Yoko. *My Brother, My Sister, and I*. 1994. The three remaining members of the family face homelessness, suspicion, and accidents in Japan following World War II.

Central American and the Caribbean

Alvarez, Julia. *In the Time of the Butterflies*. 1994. Set in the Dominican Republic, this novel was inspired by the true story of the three Mirabal sisters who, in 1960, were murdered for their part in an underground plot to overthrow the government.

Temple, Frances. *Taste of Salt: A Story of Modern Haiti*. 1992. In the hospital after being beaten by Macoutes, seventeen-year-old Djo tells his story of working with social reformer Father Aristide to fight the repression in Haiti.

Europe

Brooks, Geraldine. *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*. 2001. The "year of wonders" refers to 1666, the year in which an outbreak of bubonic plague struck England. The novel is a tale of devastation, grief, and madness as well as the attempts, both medicinal and spiritual, by the townspeople to combat the disease.

Cadnum, Michael. *The Book of the Lion*. 2000. In twelfth-century England, after his master, a maker of coins for the king, is brutally punished for alleged cheating, 17-year-old Edmund travels to the Holy Land as a squire to a knight crusader on his way to join the forces of Richard the Lionheart.

Cadnum, Michael. *In a Dark Wood*. 1998. On orders from the King, the Sheriff of Nottingham seeks to capture outlaw Robin Hood, but he finds him to be tricky and elusive.

Cushman, Karen. *The Midwife's Apprentice*. 1995. In medieval England, a nameless homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife.

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http://www.skokie.lib.il.us/s_teens/tn_books/tn_booklists/histfict.asp

Holman, Felice. *The Wild Children*. 1983. Left behind when his whole family is arrested by soldiers during the dark days following the Bolshevik Revolution, 12-y-old Alex falls in with a gang of desperate, homeless children.

Jinks, Catherine. *Pagan in Exile*. 2004. After fighting the infidels in Jerusalem in 1188, Lord Roland and his squire Pagan return to Roland's castle in France where they encounter violent family feuds and religious heretics.

Lester, Julius. *Othello: A Novel*. 1995. A prose retelling of Shakespeare's play in which a jealous general is duped into thinking that his wife has been unfaithful, with tragic consequences.

Lutzeier, Elizabeth. *The Wall*. 1991. After her mother is killed while trying to escape across the Berlin Wall in April 1989, Hannah and her father become caught up in the movement to change the repressive regime in East Germany.

Newth, Mette. *The Dark Light*. 1998. While dying of leprosy in a Norway hospital in the early 1800s, 13-year-old Tora tries to find meaning in a life surrounded by death.

Pullman, Phillip. *The Ruby in the Smoke*. 1985. In nineteenth-century London, 16-year-old Sally becomes involved in a deadly search for a mysterious ruby.

Pullman, Philip. *The Tin Princess*. 1994. In 1882, 16-year-old Becky applies for a tutoring job in London and becomes embroiled in assassination, intrigue and dangerous politics in the small European kingdom of Razkavia.

Sutcliff, Rosemary. *The Shining Company*. 1990. In 600 A.D. in northern Britain, Prosper becomes a shield bearer with the Companions, an army made up of 300 younger sons of minor kings and trained to act as one fighting brotherhood against the invading Saxons.

Temple, Frances. *The Ramsay Scallop*. 1994. At the end of the thirteenth century, a young couple is sent on a pilgrimage to Spain.

North America: Native Americans

Carter, Forrest. *The Education of Little Tree*. 1976. A boy is raised and educated by his Cherokee grandparents in the rural South in the first part of this century.

Craven, Margaret. *I Heard the Owl Call My Name*. 1980. A young minister who has two years to live learns about the meaning of life when he is sent to an Indian parish in British Columbia.

George, Jean Craighead. *The Talking Earth*. 1983. Billie Wind ventures out alone into the Florida Everglades to test the legends of her Indian ancestors.

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Hudson, Jan. *Sweetgrass*. 1984. A 15-year-old Blackfoot girl saves her family from a smallpox epidemic.

Richter, Conrad. *The Light in the Forest*. 1953. Though reared as a Lenni Lenape Indian, 15-year-old True Son, once called John Camera Butler, is ordered to return to the white man despite his having learned intense hatred for the white man.

Colonial and Revolutionary Days

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever, 1793*. 2000. In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is separated from her mother and forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Avi. *The Fighting Ground*. 1984. 13 yr-old Jonathan leaves to fight in the Revolutionary War.

Collier, James Lincoln. *My Brother Sam is Dead*. 1974. Tragedy strikes the Meeker family when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

Fast, Howard. *April Morning*. 1961. The story of one day in the life of a young American boy in colonial Lexington during the Revolutionary War, the day on which he joined the militia and sees his father shot down by the British.

Rees, Celia. *Witch Child*. 2000. Fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans near Salem, Massachusetts.

Rinaldi, Ann. *A Break with Charity: A Story about the Salem Witch Trials*. 1992. The daughter of a wealthy Salem merchant recalls the malice, fear and accusations of witchcraft that tore her village apart in 1692.

Rinaldi, Ann. *Time Enough for Drums*. 1986. 15-yr-old Jemina of New Jersey, is a member of a family divided between American patriots and Tories. She is a patriot but what would happen if she were to fall in love with her Tory tutor?

Nineteenth Century

Avi. *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*. 1990. As the only passenger on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

Butler, Octavia. *Kindred*. 1979. A young black woman is abruptly transported through time to save the life of the reckless young son of a plantation owner.

Charbonneau, Eileen. *In the Time of the Wolves*. 1994. Joshua Woods is 14 in 1824, the year without summer that wreaks devastation on his Catskill mountain home.

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Fleishman, Paul. *Bull Run*. 1995. The glory, the horror, the thrill, and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War is described in the voices of Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys, and worried sisters.

Forman, James D. *Becca's Story*. 1992. A Civil War romance concerning a Michigan girl and the two soldiers who are rivals for her hand.

Nixon, Joan Lowery. *High Trail to Danger*. 1991. In 1879, 17-year-old Sarah travels from Chicago to the violent town of Leadtown, Colorado to search for her missing father, but she finds that the mention of his name brings her strange looks and an attempt on her life.

Patterson, Katherine. *Lyddie*. 1991. An impoverished Vermont farm girl is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.

Paulsen, Gary. *Nightjohn*. 1993. A man allows himself to be captured as a slave so he can teach the enslaved children to read.

Paulsen, Gary. *Sarny: A Life Remembered*. 1997. At the end of the Civil War, Sarny heads for New Orleans, leaving slavery behind.

Rinaldi, Ann. *The Last Silk Dress*. 1988. Susan contributes to the Confederate war effort by collecting silk dresses to make a balloon for spying on the Yankees.

Rinaldi, Ann. *Wolf by the Ears*. 1991. Harriet Hemings, rumored to be the daughter of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings, one of his black slaves, struggles with the problems facing her to escape from Monticello and all she has known, or to stay and remain a slave.

Wisler, G. Clifton. *Red Cap*. 1991. A young Yankee drummer boy displays great courage when he is captured and sent to Andersonville Prison.

Immigration

Levitin, Sonia. *Silver Days*. 1989. Escaping from Hitler's Germany, a prosperous Jewish family lives in a NY City tenement until Papa decides to move the family to California.

Twentieth Century

Greene, Bette. *Summer of My German Soldier*. 1973. A young girl in Arkansas shelters an escaped World War II prisoner.

Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*. 1997. In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression. A Newbery Award winner.

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Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels*. 1988. Richie should never have even been in the army, but he ends up in the middle of the Vietnam War.

Rostkowski, Margaret. *After the Dancing Days*. 1986. A forbidden friendship with a badly disfigured soldier in the aftermath of World War I forces 13-year-old Annie to redefine the word "hero" and to question conventional ideas of patriotism.

Rylant, Cynthia. *I Had Seen Castles*. 1993. Now an old man, John is haunted by memories of enlisting to fight in World War II, a decision which forced him to face the horrors of war and changed his life forever.

Taylor, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. 1976. A black family in the South during the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand.

White, Ellen. *The Road Home*. 1995. A young nurse stationed in Vietnam during the war must come to grips with her wartime experience once she returns home to the United States.

World War II and the Holocaust

Baklanov, Grigorii. *Forever Nineteen*. 1989. A 19-year-old Soviet lieutenant during World War II as defends his Russian homeland from the Nazis. Translated from the Russian.

Bat Ami, Miriam. *Two Suns in the Sky*. 1999. Living in a New York refugee camp in 1944, a 15-year-old Yugoslavian Jew begins a star-crossed romance with a local Catholic girl.

Buckvar, Felice. *Dangerous Dream*. 1998. Thirteen-year-old Hella discovers that the man posing as her father is really a Nazi war criminal who is using her to slip by the military police following world War II.

Gehrts, Barbara. *Don't Say a Word*. 1986. Fictional memoir of teenage Anna Singelmann, whose once happy family was almost completely destroyed by the Nazi's regime.

Laird, Crista. *But Can the Phoenix Sing?* 1993. Seventeen-year-old Richard discovers the incredible details of his stern and remote stepfather's hidden past.

Magorian, Michelle. *Back Home*. 1984. Sent to America from England at age 7 to escape the war, Rusty returns five years later to go to a strict English boarding school and renew her relationship with her family, who now seem like strangers to her.

Magorian, Michelle. *Good Night, Mr. Tom*. 1981. An abused child from London is thrust into the care of a reluctant elderly man during World War II.

Matas, Carol. *Lisa's War*. 1987. Lisa and her family join the resistance groups against the Nazis in 1940 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

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Mazer, Harry. *The Last Mission*. 1979. Fifteen years old and Jewish, Jack Raab lied his way into the U.S. Air Corps only to become a prisoner of the Germans.

Orlev, Uri. *The Man from the Other Side*. 1991. Anti-semitic Marek makes profits in the sewers under the Warsaw ghetto during World War II, then his mother reveals his Jewish ancestry to him.

Roth-Hano, Renee. *Touch Wood: A Girlhood in Occupied France*. 1988. In this novel based on her own childhood, the author describes the terror of World War II for French Jews.

Sevela, Ephraim. *We Were Not Like Other People*. 1989. A boy caught up in the epic events in Russia from the Stalinist purges through World War II. Trans. from the Russian.

Van Dijk, Lutz. *Damned Strong Love: The True Story of Willi G. and Stefan K.: A Novel*. 1995. A gay Polish teen falls in love with a German soldier during World War II.

Westall, Robert. *Blitzcat*. 1989. The World War II adventures of Lord Gort, a cat.

Westall, Robert. *The Kingdom by the Sea*. 1990. Twelve-year-old Harry and a stray dog travel through war-torn England in search of safety.

Wulffson, Dean. *Soldier X*. 2001. In 1943, 16-year-old Erik Brandt experiences the horrors of war when he is drafted into the German army and sent to fight on the Russian front.

Zusak, Marcus. *The Book Thief*. 2006. At nine years old, Liesel Meminger is taken from her mother to live with a foster family in Molching, Germany during Hitler's rise to power. Liesel learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. Death is the narrator in this story about the ability of books to feed the soul.