



From the Editors

Young adult literature continues to provide a voice for young people. And, as our nation's young people come from more and more diverse backgrounds, authors of young adult literature are ensuring that their works reflect that growing diversity.

In this issue, we share some of those voices and their stories with our fall theme of “The Many Ways to be Human.”

Leading off this issue is—most appropriately—one of young adults' favorite storytellers—Laurie Halse Anderson. Anderson uses her own magic of storytelling to share how such tales connect one heart to another. Taken from her address at the 2005 ALAN Workshop, Anderson encourages teachers to continue their efforts to help young people find stories that speak to them.

Marlinda White-Kaulaity examines the role of Native American voices in the lives of all young people and Native American literature as a valuable part of an education. This article also focuses on the necessity for an authentic, meaningful approach that allows all readers to develop an understanding and appreciation of Native American voices and includes a sidebar with thoughts about the article from Simon Ortiz, Laura Tohe and Cynthia Leitich Smith.

In The Library Connection, guest columnist Lisa Bowen details a survey of young adults regarding leisure reading. She goes on to provide a variety of lively approaches librarians and educators can implement to help keep reading at the forefront for teenagers in today's fast-paced, electronics-driven world.

Asian-American voices are highlighted in Virginia Loh's discussion on the need for culturally authentic trade books. Including an interview with Cynthia Kadohata, Loh documents the under-representation of Asian Americans in literature for young people and calls for a more substantial collection of authentic books addressing the Asian American experience.

In their article ““Today I'm Going to Meet a Boy:’ Teachers and Students Respond to *Fifteen* and *Speak*,” Marsha M. Sprague, Kara K. Keeling, and Paul Lawrence compare the two novels—written 43 years apart—but both detailing the lives of high school girls. The authors illustrate the varied responses when both books were read by a group of teachers in a graduate class on young adult literature and students in a tenth-grade honors class.

Kaavonia M. Hinton-Johnson visits with author Angela Johnson regarding her recurring theme of the search for self. In an accompanying article, Hinton-Johnson provides a look at the award-winning author and her successful approach to writing for young adults.

In “Rough Flight: Boys Fleeing the Feminine in Young Adult Literature,” Soofia Khan and Patricia Wachholz examine how masculinity is sometimes represented to young men and how teachers may help their students to question and challenge these representations.

In The Publishers' Connection, M. Jerry Weiss shares his thoughts on *No Child Left Behind* and what testing actually demonstrates about students' learning. He provides a list of quality young adult books organized by specific themes to help educators turn

their students into engaged readers rather than test-takers. Additionally, don't forget to read through our regular Clip and File section, featuring reviews of 31 young adult books published in 2006.

As you turn the pages of this issue, we believe you'll realize the voices of diversity that are speaking to all of us—and reminding us of “The Many Ways to be Human.” Young adult literature attempts to take us one more step toward understanding and acceptance.

Editors correction: On page 67 of the 2006 Summer issue, in “Growing Up Female around the Globe with Young Adult Literature,” at the top of the right hand column under “NOTE,” the text should read as follows: “. . . but none of us could find any book that addresses this issue in another country OUTSIDE OF THE WEST.”

Call for Manuscripts

2007 Winter theme: Young Adult Literature: Key to Open Minds

The theme for our 2007 winter issue will reflect the theme of the 2005 ALAN Workshop: “Young Adult Literature: Key to Open Minds.” This theme is meant to be open to interpretation and support a broad range of subtopics; in addition, articles about any of the authors scheduled to appear at the 2006 ALAN Workshop in Pittsburgh, as well as general articles on any topic dealing with young adult literature and its use, are welcome. October 15 submission deadline.

2007 Summer theme: Seeing Myself in the Story

This theme is intended to solicit articles dealing with the relationships between young adult readers and the characters in their reading. The theme is meant to be open to interpretation, but might, for example, deal with what kinds of protagonists individual readers find appealing and/or identify with, the effects this kind of reading may have on young readers and how teachers use this to help students on the path to making meaning of their reading and their lives. General submissions are also welcome. February 15 submission deadline.

2007 Fall theme: Young Adult Literature: No Genre Unwanted

This theme is intended to solicit articles about the many genres within young adult literature and the approaches teachers take in addressing them, from poetry to plays, from autobiography to horror. This theme is meant to be open to interpretation and support a broad range of subtopics, but some possibilities include choosing and using the best of young adult drama, helping students make the connections between their own lives in the present day and the lives of characters in historical fiction, creating a thematic unit on mysteries, performance poetry and more. The sky is the limit! We welcome and encourage other creative interpretations of this theme. General submissions are also welcome. May 15 submission deadline. 2008 Winter theme: TBA theme of 2007 ALAN Workshop. October 15, 2007 submission deadline.