would bring a book over and place it on her pile. Aurora carefully considered each one, examining the front and back covers and thoughtfully reading the first page or two before making her decisions. She rejected some of the books I offered and accepted others. In those silently shared moments, it seemed to me that Aurora had found her place in the world of books and developed a sense of herself as (dare I say it?) a “reader.”

Honor Moorman is a faculty member of the Department of English at Texas State University. She teaches English methods courses and mentors student teachers in secondary English. Honor is also a teacher consultant with the San Antonio Writing Project, the newsletter editor for the San Antonio Area Council of Teachers of English, and the associate editor for Voices from the Middle. This article is based on her work as an instructor for the Upward Bound Program at Trinity University. Honor previously taught English at the International School of the Americas and served as a secondary literacy specialist for the North East Independent School District in San Antonio. She can be reached at hm16@txstate.edu.

Works Cited
Robb, Laura. Teaching Reading in Middle School: A Strategic Approach to Teaching Reading That Improves Comprehension and Thinking. New York: Scholastic, 2000.

ALAN Foundation Research Grants

Members of ALAN may apply to the ALAN Foundation for funding (up to $1,500) for research in young adult literature. Proposals are reviewed by the five most recent presidents of ALAN. Awards are made annually in the fall and are announced at the ALAN breakfast during the NCTE convention in November. The application deadline each year is September 15th.
in their community. The nonfiction books presented were gateways to help young people hear, see, and vicariously experience truths not from the media, websites, or history texts, but from the souls of those who have lived through war. Adolescents want and deserve answers to their provocative questions that transcend mere facts, figures, maps, and political rhetoric. They need meaningful words and inspiration from those who have experiences to which they can relate. Thank God for authors who share their most intimate reflections of conflict. Young people need not only answers from yesterday, but answers for tomorrow that can be used forever.

Dr. Wayne Brinda is an Assistant Professor in the School of Education at Duquesne University, where he concentrates on issues related to adolescent literacy and aliteracy. He is also the Artistic Director and Founder of Prime Stage Theatre, a professional theatre for adolescents, educators, and families in Pittsburgh, and a Museum Teaching Fellow of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC where he conducts research of using theatre and young adult literature to teach the Holocaust.

Works Cited

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes seeks nominations for its 2008 awards. The Barron Prize honors young people ages 8 to 18 who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people and our planet. Each year, ten national winners each receive $2,000 to support their service work or higher education. Nomination deadline is April 30. More information is available at http://www.barronprize.org/index.html.


**Gallo Grants**

The Gallo Grants were established in 2003 by former ALAN Award and Hipple Award recipient Don Gallo to encourage educators in their early years of teaching to attend the ALAN Workshop for the first time. The grants provide funding—up to $500 each—for two classroom teachers in middle school or high school each year to attend the ALAN Workshop. (The amount of a grant may be less than $500 if the applicant lives within commuting distance of the convention location where airfare and housing would not be necessary.)

The Workshop is held at the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English on the Monday and Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving Day. Applicants must be teaching full-time; must have been classroom teachers for less than five years prior to the year in which they are applying; and must not have attended an ALAN Workshop previously. Membership in ALAN is not required for consideration, though applicants are expected to become ALAN members if they receive this grant.

Each applicant must fill out the grant application form and submit an essay of no more than 750 words explaining their interest in Young Adult Literature, what they hope to gain by attending this year’s ALAN Workshop, and how they hope to use the experience in their classrooms in the future. A letter of support must also come from the applicant’s school system. The deadline for submission is September 1. Applicants will be judged on their ability to articulate their understanding of the value of Young Adult Literature as well as their explanation of how they intend to use YA books and the information they gather at the Workshop in their own classrooms.

For further information about this grant, contact ALAN Executive Secretary Gary Salvner at gsalvner@ysu.edu or 330-941-3414. Information about the ALAN Workshop may be obtained from the ALAN Website—www.alan-ya.org. Information about the NCTE Convention may be obtained on the NCTE Website—www.ncte.org—or by writing to NCTE Headquarters at 1111 West Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801.


Leitch Smith, Cynthia. Personal communication. 21 Nov. 2006. NCTE, Nashville, TN.


---

**James Moffett Award**

NCTE’s Conference on English Education, in conjunction with the National Writing Project, offers this grant to support teacher research projects inspired by the scholarship of James Moffett. All K–12 classroom educators who teach at least three hours or three classes per day are eligible to apply for the grant. Moffett Award winners receive a certificate, a monetary award (up to $1,000) to be used toward implementation of the proposed project, and a copy of James Moffett’s last book, The Universal Schoolhouse. Proposals will be judged on such criteria as the strength of the connection to James Moffett’s scholarship and the perceived value and feasibility of the research. The deadline for nominations for the 2008 Moffett Award is May 1, 2008. Winners will be notified in July 2008 and announced at the 2008 NCTE Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Submit nominations to James Moffett Award, Kristen Suchor, NCTE, 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096. For more information, go to http://www.ncte.org/groups/cee/awards/moffett/108836.htm.

Application for ALAN Webmaster

ALAN Online
The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN) is seeking a webmaster for its popular, growing website. ALAN Online is the official website of the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents. It publishes information about the assembly and its activities, awards, grants, workshop, etc.

Summary
Under the direction of the ALAN Executive Committee, the ALAN Online Webmaster maintains the website, manages the site data, posts information, answers inquires, corresponds with the server host, and performs other duties as required.

Responsibilities
1. Creates and posts content from ALAN officers and others on the website using the Joomla CMS and other tools.
2. Creates timely backups of data.
3. Reviews all web content prior to and after release to maintain a professional quality of the pages.
4. Responds to e-mails about the site.
5. Attends the annual ALAN Board meeting and submits a report on the status of the site.

Requirements
Self-motivated person with skills in web site design, writing, data and site management, graphic design, and basic HTML knowledge. Experience with mysql, cpanel, CMS, and graphics software or willingness to learn is helpful.

Compensation
The ALAN Webmaster is a member of the ALAN Board of Directors and is an annual consultant for the ALAN Workshop. Compensation for consultants is free admission to the ALAN Workshop and $100.

Information
To apply for the position, send a letter of the interest stating your qualifications for the position as an attachment using the header “ALAN Webmaster” to gilld@uncw.edu. Application letters will be accepted until May 1, 2008. The webmaster will be chosen by the ALAN Executive Committee and will take office after a transitional period at the annual ALAN Board meeting in November 2008.

For more information regarding the position, please contact ALAN President David Gill at gilld@uncw.edu.
He goes on to name many other tribes to which he belongs: “the tribe of poverty,” “the tribe of small-town kids,” and “the tribe of boys who really miss their friends” (217).

Surely adolescence is mostly about figuring out which tribes you belong to and how to follow your dreams. We thank Sherman Alexie for sharing the story of how he did just that.

Jim Blasingame is an associate professor of English at Arizona State University, where he teaches classes in young adult literature and the teaching of writing. He also supervises student teachers and works with the Beta Project, a partnership between the Mesa School District and the Arizona State University Department of English.

---

**Call for 2008 Halle Award Nominations**

The NCTE Richard W. Halle Award for Outstanding Middle Level Educator honors a middle level educator who has consistently worked to improve the quality of middle school education and middle school educators, especially in the English language arts. Originally established in 1996 by the Junior High/Middle School Assembly, this award pays special tribute to the person who has worked to improve schools and schooling for the middle level—teacher, principal, college faculty, curriculum specialist, or supervisor.

Nomination packet information can be found on the NCTE website at [http://www.ncte.org/middle/awards/halle](http://www.ncte.org/middle/awards/halle) and must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2008**. Results will be announced in September 2008, and the award will be presented at the 2008 Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas, during the Middle Level Get-Together.

---

Call for Proposals: NCTE Theory and Research into Practice (TRIP) Book Series

The NCTE Books Program invites proposals for its TRIP series (Theory and Research into Practice). These books are single-authored and focus on a single topic, targeting a specified educational level (elementary, middle, or secondary). Each book will offer the following: solid theoretical foundation in a given subject area within English language arts; exposure to the pertinent research in that area; practice-oriented models designed to stimulate theory-based application in the reader’s own classroom. The series has an extremely wide range of subject matter; past titles include Creative Approaches to Sentence Combining, Unlocking Shakespeare’s Language, and Enhancing Aesthetic Reading and Response. For detailed submission guidelines, please visit the NCTE website at http://www.ncte.org/pubs/publish/books/122687.htm. Proposals to be considered for the TRIP series should include a short review of the theory and research, as well as examples of classroom practices that can be adapted to the teaching level specified. Send proposals to: Acquisitions Editor, NCTE, 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096,