The RESEARCH CONNECTION

Guest Columnist Ted Hipple

Articles About Young Adult Literature: A List

Compiled by Ted Hipple

Like miles to go or bottles of beer, articles about young adult literature are everywhere around for those of us enamored of the subject. And like those miles and those bottles there may be too many. ALAN president Teri Lesesne asked me if I’d compile a list of good articles, I said “sure,” thinking that the task would be easy, just finding a dozen or so articles and writing something about them; that would be that.

Wrong! I soon had a ton of articles I wanted to put on the list, way too many. Cuts were needed. And a finite number. 99 seemed okay, and not just for the introductory doggerel. It seemed manageable and, because I now have completed the task, I guess it was. But it was not easy setting aside some favorites, mine and my students’ and my colleagues’.

Decisions had to be made early on. Though I anticipated and felt I could handle comments about my sins of commission (“How could you have included that claptrap?”) and omission (“Why didn’t such and such make the final group?”), I did develop a few limiting proscriptions that may need some explanation. I decided against using any of the several fine book collections of original articles, works like Reading Their World (edited by Monseau and Salvner), the four volumes of Adolescent Literature as a Complement to the Classics (Kaywell), Rationales for Teaching Young Adult Literature (Reid), Into Focus: Understanding and Creating Middle School Readers (Beers and Samuels), and United in Diversity: Using Multicultural Young Adult Literature in the Classroom (Brown and Stephens). I chose not to use the often excellent material in book length reference works like Author Insights (Gallo) or Writers for Young Adults (Hipple). And state journals, hard to get for some readers, had to be excluded.

The choice between a narrow or broad range of topics presented another issue. Though it would have been easy to find 99 or 199 articles on, say, censorship, I elected to be eclectic, with a large number of different topics deliberately explored. I was partial to articles that included bibliographies, sometimes extensive ones, of YA works on the subject of the article.

Another tough problem: Some folks in our trade write a lot, really a lot. Students of the field know who they are and, indeed, they are listed below once, with the exception of a few scholars who are listed once for an article they wrote on their own and another they co-authored.

Finally came the task of grouping the articles: by topic like bibliotherapy or author studies or pedagogy? by journal? by chronology? I finally decided to list the authors of the articles alphabetically. I do hope the pages are of some value to you.

Doing this assignment has certainly been of value to me. I learned from it. And now, as King Arthur must have said at least once, “On to the list.”


AIm, Richard. “Dora Smith: Teacher, Leader, Legend.” English Journal 73 (March, 1984). Like Dwight Burton and Robert Carlsen, Dora Smith was one of the founding parents of YA literature study. This is AIm’s tribute to her work and her legacy.


few YA books, why English class reading lists omit such books, and why newspaper book reviews seldom review YA literature. He suggests answers and remedies.


Barron, Ronald. "Gary Paulsen: 'I Write Because It's All That I Can Do.'" The ALAN Review 20 (Spring, 1993). Barron examines Paulsen's stories and suggests why and how he achieves rapport with readers, particularly middle school students.

Beers, Kylene. "No Time, No Interest, No Way: The Three Voices of Aliteracy." School Library Journal 42 (March, 1996). Beers describes what teachers of the aliterate (who can read but will not) face daily and what they can do about it, included in which is the use of YA literature.

Brewbaker, Jim. "I Like Happy Endings. You Don't." English Journal 78 (October, 1989). Using his son's opinions as well as his own, Brewbaker explores the differences between adolescent and adult responses to the same YA literature.

Broderick, Dorothy. "Reviewing Young Adult Books: The VOYA Editor Speaks Out." Publishing Research Quarterly 8 (Spring, 1982). Longtime editor of VOYA, Broderick examines the complexities of book reviewing, centering her examples on YA literature.


Burton, Dwight and Bryant Fillion. "A Literature Program for the Middle School." Clearing House 54 (May, 1971). In the early days of the middle school movement, Burton, one of the pioneers in schoolhouse literature instruction using books for adolescents, and Fillion discuss guided independent reading programs for students in grades 5-8.

Bushman, John. "Young Adult Literature in the Classroom: Or Is It?" English Journal 86 (March, 1997). Surveying 380 students, grades 6 through 12, Bushman attempted to learn what students were assigned to read and what their favorites were. Classics dominated the former question, with some YA titles among the latter responses.

Campbell, Patty. "A Loving Farewell to Robert Cormier." The Horn Book Magazine 77 (March/April 2001). Beginning with "young adult literature has lost its grand master," Campbell provides a retrospective look at Cormier, the man and the writer, and at judgments about his highly praised 15 YA novels.

Carico, Kathleen. "Negotiating Meaning in Classroom Literature Discussions." Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy 44 (March, 2001). Carico examines what makes a good literature lesson, basing much of her argument on Lyddie (Paterson) and Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (Taylor).

Carlsen, G. Robert. "What Beginning English Teachers Need to Know about Adolescent Literature." English Education 10 (May, 1979). One of the major early scholars in YA literature, Carlsen here offers advice to new teachers, including a wish that they use YA literature.

Carroll, Pamela Sissi, and L. Penny Rosenblum. "Through Their Eyes: Are Characters with Visual Impairment Portrayed Realistically in Young Adult Literature?" Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy 43 (April, 2000). Carroll and Rosenblum provide a tool for judging the quality of YA literature that features characters with visual problems and include a bibliography of such works.

Carr, Michael. "Honoring Their Stories, Too: Literature for Gay and Lesbian Teens." The ALAN Review 25 (Fall, 1997). Carr cites evidence suggesting that perhaps 10 percent of teens are gay or lesbian but that YA literature about homosexuality is in short supply. He adds an extensive bibliography of works featuring gay or lesbian characters.

Carter, Betty. "Adult Books for Young Adults." English Journal 86 (March, 1997). Adolescents, some of them at least, read adult books. Carter provides both an argument for such books and a long list of them.


Charles, John and Joanna Morrison. "Clueless? Adult Mysteries with Young Adult Appeal." Voice of Youth Advocates 23 (December, 2000). Charles and Morrison annotate recent and not-so-recent mystery novels likely to be interesting to adolescents and hook them into reading even more such works.

Colman, Penny. "Nonfiction Is Literature, Too." The New Advocate 12 (Summer, 1999). Citing three reasons for negative perceptions of nonfiction for youth, Colman refutes them and then adds her own positive reasons for its use.

Cormier, Robert. "The Pleasure and Pains of Writing a Sequel." The ALAN Review 12 (Winter, 1985). Though he resisted for years the many requests that he write a sequel to The Chocolate War, Cormier finally decided to; this is the story of that decision.

Crowe, Chris. "Don Gallo: The Godfather of YA Short Stories." English Journal 86 (March, 1997). No one else has put together as many collections of original short stories by YA authors as Gallo and herein Crowe discusses these and adds an interview with Gallo.

Curry, Ann. "Where is Judy Blume? Controversial Fiction for Older Children and Young Adults." Journal of Youth Services in Libraries 14 (Spring, 2001). Focusing on the varieties of censorship, Curry reports on her own research on why some 220 novels, which she lists, were challenged between 1984 and 1999.

Dailey, Dan. "Culture Wars: It's Not About Taboos, But Whether Children Are Enabled by Violent Fiction." The Five Owls 13 (January/February, 1999). Using YA novels like Tenderness (Cormier), When She Was Good (N. F. Mazer), and Crosses (Stoehr), Dailey inquires into whether such books help youth.

 Dias-Mitchell, Laurie and Elizabeth Harris. "Multicultural Mosaic: A Family Book Club." Knowledge Quest 29 (March-April, 2001). The authors demonstrate how, using multicultural literature, they began family book discussion groups with teens and their parents.

Donelson, Kenneth. "What to Do When the Censor Comes."
The ALAN Review 65

Hannesdottir, Sigrun Klara. "Ten Effective Ideas To Promote

Hamilton, Virginia. "Everything of Value: Moral Realism in

Hall, M. Isabelle. "Contemporary Literature from the Pu­

Gregg, Gail and Pamela Sissi Carroll. "What's It Like to Be

Ghosn, Irma K. "Nurturing Emotional Intelligence Through


Gallo, Don. "How Classics Create an Aliterate Society."
Kahn, Norma. "A Proposal for Motivating More Students to Lifetime Reading of Literature." *English Journal* 63 (February, 1974). Kahn's advice today remains relevant for those who, like her, want students to read all their lives.


Kaywell, Joan. "If You Still Think an 'Open House' Is a PTA Meeting, Read This." *The ALAN Review* 13 (Spring, 1986). Arguing that teens' lives have changed and are changing, Kaywell discusses, with extensive lists of novels, the topics of drugs and alcohol, sex, divorce and separation, and suicide and death.

Kelly, Pat. "Before 'Teaching' a Novel: Some Considerations." *The ALAN Review* 11 (Winter, 1984). Kelly examines a number of pedagogical issues surrounding the teaching of novels, including whole class study, boys' and girls' different reading preferences, and the objectives of both teachers and students.


Landrum, Judith E. "Adolescent Novels That Feature Characters with Disabilities." *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy* 42 (December 1998-January, 1999). Landrum uses a rating scale on 16 YA novels that feature teens with disabilities and adds 22 criteria for judging such literature.

Lee, Vanessa Wayne. "'Unshelter Me': The Emerging Fictional Adolescent Lesbian." *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 23 (Fall, 1998). With an extensive discussion and bibliography, Lee examines the roles of lesbians in YA literature.

Lipsett, Laura R. "No Need To 'Duck, Run, and Hide': Young Adult Poetry That Taps into You." *The ALAN Review* (Spring-Summer, 2001). Lipsett offers practical advice on using poetry with teens and includes a substantial bibliography.

Mazer recalls the story of her invitation to speak at an Illinois high school that was subsequently withdrawn because of censorship problems about another author's book; the school felt that Mazer's own work might add "fuel to the fire."

Mertz, Maia Pank. "The New Realism: Traditional Cultural Values in Recent Young Adult Fiction." *Phi Delta Kappan* 59 (October, 1978). With examples from many of the 70s realistic YA novels, Mertz illustrates how much YA lit has changed from its romantic roots and credits authors like Hinton, Zindel, Cormier, Kerr, Holland, and others with being instrumental in bringing about these changes.

Mitchell, A. H. "Black Adolescent Novels in the English Curriculum." *English Journal* 77 (May, 1988). Mitchell cites a number of novels by black authors or featuring black characters or both and argues for their place in the standard English program.

Moffett, James and Betty Jane Wagner. "Student-Centered Reading Activities." *English Journal* 80 (October, 1991). Longtime advocates of student-centered teaching, Moffett and Wagner illustrate how to bring student-centered reading to the forefront; one way is with YA literature.

Murphy, Elaine. "In Search of Literature for the 21st Century." *English Journal* 90 (January, 2001). Murphy offers criteria for selecting novels, six useful classroom topics, and lists of novels fitting each topic, all geared to contemporary classroom use.


Odomell-Allen, Cindy and Bud Hunt. "Reading Adolescents: Book Clubs for Young Adult Readers." *English Journal* 90 (January, 2001). Odomell-Allen and Hunt placed their university adolescent literature class students with high...
school students in regular group discussions of YA novels. Poe, Elizabeth, Barbara Samuels, and Betty Carter. “Twenty-five Years of Research in Young Adult Literature: Past Perspectives and Future Directives.” *Journal of Youth Services in Libraries* 7 (Fall, 1993). Their title explains the authors’ report, an analysis of what has been studied in YA literature scholarship and of what still needs to be studied.

Probst, Robert. “‘Reader-Response Theory and the English Curriculum.” *English Journal* 83 (March, 1994). Probst recommends that teachers use reader-response pedagogy and provides six goals and six principles which will inform such use.

Randle, Kristen Downey. “Let It Be Hope.” *English Journal* 90 (March, 2001). Randle suggests balancing the bleakness of many YA novels with some hopeful ones and provides a list of the latter.


Reid, Suzanne and Sharon Stringer. “Ethical Dilemmas in Teaching Problem Novels: The Psychological Impact of Troubling Young Adult Literature on Adolescent Readers in the Classroom.” *The ALAN Review* 25 (Winter, 1997). What YA novels are troubling? What happens to their readers? The authors supply answers to both questions.

Rochman, Hazel. “Should You Teach Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl?” *Book Links* 7 (May, 1998). Warning that the very popular Anne Frank may be the only book adolescents read about the Holocaust, Rochman provides a pro/con discussion of that work and annotates 12 other books useful to consider as part of a larger literature unit on the Holocaust.


Roy, Joy K. “Bibliotherapy: An Important Service to Self.” *English Journal* 68 (March, 1979). “Know thyself,” urged the Greek philosophers. Roy argues that the study of literature will help, that bibliotherapy is not just for the other person.

Salvner, Gary. “A War of Words: Lessons from a Censorship Case.” *The ALAN Review* 25 (Winter, 1998). At Youngstown State University an annual celebration of reading and writing YA literature attracts national attention and thousands of participants. It once also attracted an angry body of censors, concerned about the use of Letters from the Inside (Marsden) and Salvner, chairing the conference that year, was caught in the maelstrom. He here appends six principles those who fight censorship should heed.

Samuels, Barbara, Rosemary Ingham, and Hollis Lowery-Moore. “Bringing the Basics: The Young Adult Novel in a Back-to-Basics Society.” *The ALAN Review* 14 (Winter 1997). Citing a number of YA novels, the authors write that such novels much more likely to be read.


Simmons, John. “Censorship in the Schools—No End in Sight.” *The ALAN Review* 18 (Spring, 1991). Simmons explores censorship and its continuing escalation in schools, particularly with YA literature, and worries that it may be a problem without a solution.

Small, Robert. “Censorship As We Enter 2000, or the Millenium, and Just Next Year: A Personal Look at Where We Are.” *Journal of Youth Services in Libraries* 13 (Winter, 2000). Small, using point-counterpoint arguments (“On the one hand...on the other hand”) offers both retrospective and prospective judgments about censorship issues.

Spencer, Patricia. “YA Novels in the AP Classroom: Crutcher Meets Carus.” *English Journal* 78 (November, 1989). Spencer argues that YA novels belong in AP classes; very much among such novels are those of Chris Crutcher.


Trites, Roberta. “Queer Discourse and the Young Adult Novel: Repression and Power in Gay Males’ Adolescent Literature.” *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly* 23 (Fall, 1998). Trites discusses four novels with gay protagonists: I’ll Get There. It Better Be Worth the Trip (Donovan); Trying Hard to Hear You (Scoppettone); Dance on My Grave (Chambers); and Baby Be-Bop (Block).


Van Allen, Lanny. “An Interview with Judy Blume.” *The ALAN Review* 20 (Fall, 1992). Van Allen and Blume discuss the latter’s novels, how she came to write them, how she sees them as useful for adolescents, and how she deals with the frequent censorship of them.


Weiss, Jerry. “Troubles in Ha-Ha Land?” *Signal* 20 (Fall, 1995). After describing the decline of teaching humorous literature, Weiss adds an extensive list of such literature.

and adult, that deal with gay and lesbian youth.
Zitlow, Connie. "Sounds and Pictures in Words: Images in Literature for Young Adults." *The ALAN Review* 27 (Winter, 2000). In this report of a four year research project Zitlow expands her view of literacy to include the aesthetic dimension of reading experiences among adolescents.


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**Have you tried these Web sites yet?**

**ALAN:**
http://www.alan-ya.org

**The ALAN Review:**
http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournal/ALAN/alan-review.html

**National Council of Teachers of English:**
http://www.ncte.org

*The ALAN Review* Web site has recently been recognized by researchers at Lightspan’s StudyWeb as "one of the best educational resources on the Web.” It will be featured on studyweb.com in the near future.

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