



## From the Editors

**A**s the song says, “School’s out for the summer,” and summer has truly been a great time to load up on the latest in young adult literature, grab a frosty glass of iced tea, and settle into that comfortable chair by the pool.

OK, maybe your summer hasn’t been as tranquil as all that, but YA lit can certainly take you miles away from the syllabus begging for revision, lesson plans needing to be written, books waiting to be catalogued and filed, and all the around-the-house chores, as well.

And, while you’re thumbing through the great young adult literature that is hitting the shelves, we hope you will enjoy our issue, which focuses on the past, present, and future of young adult literature. Speaking of the future of young adult literature, we feature an extensive interview with a rising star in the field, Kevin Brooks, as well as reviews of his most recent books, *Kissing the Rain* and *Lucas*. You’re also welcome to dive into our wide array of articles dealing with the past—from Debra Seely, author of books set in 19th century Kansas ranching country, discussing the role of historical fiction, to Eleanor Ramrath Garner sharing her insights into the use of memoirs in adolescent literature, including her notable autobiographical work, *Eleanor’s Story: An American Girl in Hitler’s Germany* recalling her time as a young girl in Hitler’s World War II Germany. We also include features on both award-winning authors.

In this issue’s Library Connection, we welcome guest columnist Karen Peterson, who provides ample information about an outstanding city library’s web page designed to link teens with books. She details the teen web page created by the City of Mesa, Arizona, in an effort to encourage other cities and schools to generate their own web pages. We also welcome the first column from our Middle School Connection columnist, Claudia Katz, and her co-author, Karen Boran.

And then there’s our focus on African American mothers and daughters. KaaVonnia Hinton-Johnson’s article examines mother-daughter relationships in contemporary young adult novels, through black feminist theory.

Pam B. Cole’s article demonstrates the current and future uses of young adult literature, and the genre’s abilities to help teenagers, especially boys, maneuver through their first relationships.

Truly, young adult literature has a rich past, a robust present, and an ever-expanding future. We’re excited about where the genre has been, its current vitality, and the unlimited possibilities that loom in the future.

Yes, summer is ending, but we hope you’ll agree that there are plenty of lessons within the pages of this issue. Grab a chair and enjoy.

# The ALAN Preview Fall 2004 Workshop:

The Art of Young Adult Literature

**T**he fall 2004 ALAN Workshop is scheduled for Nov. 22 and 23 in Indianapolis, Ind., and the lineup is filled with well-known authors, publishers, and experts in the field of young adult literature. The activities actually kick off with the annual breakfast featuring author E.L. Konigsburg on Saturday, Nov. 20.

But, before you head to Indianapolis, we've provided this workshop preview to give you a sampling of what to expect. Then get your suitcase out and start packing.—*JB & LG*

## **The Art of Young Adult Literature: A Welcome from ALAN President, Michael Cart**

Welcome to the 2004 ALAN Workshop. The theme I've selected—"The Art of Young Adult Literature"—reflects my long-held belief that YA has come of age and that if the term "Young Adult Literature" might once have been regarded as an oxymoron (like "jumbo shrimp" and "military intelligence"), that surely is no longer the case. For the genre is now arguably the liveliest in publishing, enriched and informed by so many dynamic trends, artistic innovations, and examples of creative risk-taking that I do not hesitate to call this a new "Golden Age" of young adult literature.

I hope you'll find proof of this extravagant claim in the workshop that has been assembled for you. More than fifty authors, editors, and experts in the field will participate in an extraordinarily content-rich

conference, the tone of which will be set by keynote speaker Stephen Roxburgh, the distinguished publisher of Front Street Books and staunch advocate of literary fiction. Other speakers include the likes of Printz Award-winner An Na, Printz Honor Award recipients Jennifer Donnelley, Garret Freymann-Weyr, Helen Frost, Jan Greenberg, Terry Trueman, and Ellen Wittlinger; National Book Award-winner Han Nolan, Newbery Medalist Christopher Paul Curtis, 2004 ALAN Award recipient Jacqueline Woodson, two-time Eisner Award-winner Eric Shanower, and many, many more. They will address an array of topics that range from "The Art of Story" to "Discovering Sexual Identity in Literature," from "The Art of the Graphic Novel" to "The Art of Poetry" and from "The Art of the Short Story" to "The Art of the Novel." Indeed, virtually every aspect of the now artful and newly expansive field of young adult literature will be addressed.

As a result, the conference is, admittedly, an ambitious one and one that is very, very tightly scheduled. It will invite your patience and occasional indulgence with the briskness of its pace and the—well, *ampleness* of its content. To accommodate that, please note that we will be starting at 8:00 both Monday and Tuesday mornings.

If it all seems, from time to time, a bit overwhelming, it will, I promise you, never be dull. And it will also be a continuous exercise in intellectual excitement and personal and professional growth.

I look forward to sharing this excitement and to greeting each of you in Indianapolis!

Michael Cart, ALAN President

## 2004 ALAN WORKSHOP (TENTATIVE) SCHEDULE

### Monday, 11/22/04:

- 8:00-8:10: Welcome and a Few Words about ALAN  
Michael Cart, ALAN President
- 8:10-8:20: A Few Words about the ALAN Review  
James Blasingame and Lori Goodson,  
Co-Editors
- 8:20-8:50: KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
Stephen Roxburgh, Publisher, Front Street
- 8:50-9:40: THE ART OF FICTION. I  
Carolyn Coman  
Garret Freymann-Weyr  
An Na  
Han Nolan  
Ellen Wittlinger
- 9:40-10:20: THE ART OF FANTASY  
L.G. Bass  
Steven Gould  
Edith Pattou  
E. Rose Sabin
- 10:20-10:35: COFFEE BREAK
- 10:35-11:00: ADULT AUTHORS FOR YOUNG ADULTS. I  
Clive Barker
- 11:00-11:40: ART IN LITERATURE  
Jan Greenberg  
Kathe Koja  
Tracy Mack
- 11:40-12:00: THE ART OF POETRY  
Paul B. Janeczko
- 12:00-1:00: LUNCH
- 1:00-1:40: THE ART OF THE NOVEL IN VERSE  
Helen Frost  
Paul B. Janeczko  
Sonya Sones
- 1:40-2:30: THE ART OF FICTION. II. *New Narrative Strategies*  
Terry Davis  
Jaclyn Moriarty  
Lauren Myracle  
Terry Trueman  
Hilary Frank
- 2:30-2:50: COFFEE BREAK
- 2:50-3:40: BREAKOUT SESSIONS  
Steven T. Beckmore: YA Literature and the Pre-  
Service Teacher  
Jim Blasingame: The Art of Humor in YA Books  
Lois Buckman: Beyond Prose  
Lisa A. Hazlett: Examining Artistry in YA  
Literature  
Ted Hipple: How Do We Evaluate Young Adult  
Novels  
Teri Lesesne: Art and YA Literature  
Walter Mayes: The Best New YA Books  
John Noell Moore  
M. Jerry Weiss: All the World's a Stage—or Is It?
- 3:40-4:20: THE ART OF THE SHORT STORY  
Sharon Flake  
Marilyn Singer  
Ellen Wittlinger

- 4:20-5:00: THE ART OF MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERATURE  
David Lubar  
Gerald Morris  
Rod Philbrick  
Sarah Weeks

### Tuesday, 11/23/04:

- 8:00-8:40: ARTFUL NEW YA IMPRINTS  
Patty Campbell. Moderator  
Eden Edwards (Graphia)  
David Levithan (PUSH)  
Sharon November (Firebird)  
Susan Van Metre (Amulet)
- 8:40-9:05: THE ART OF THE GRAPHIC NOVEL  
Eric Shanower
- 9:05-9:55: THE ART OF TEACHING YA WRITING  
Ann Angel  
M.T. Anderson  
An Na  
Anita Riggio  
Jackie Woodson
- 9:55-10:10: COFFEE BREAK
- 10:10-10:50: THE ART OF HISTORICAL FICTION  
Julie Chibbaro  
Jennifer Donnelly  
Kelly Easton  
Trudy Krisher
- 10:50-11:15: ADULT AUTHORS FOR YOUNG ADULTS. II  
Joyce Maynard
- 11:15-11:55: THE ART OF GENRE FICTION  
Carl Deuker  
Lynne Ewing  
William Sleator
- 11:55-1:05: LUNCH
- 1:05-1:30: THE ART OF HUMOR AND HEART  
Christopher Paul Curtis
- 1:30-2:10: FINDING SEXUAL IDENTITY IN YA FICTION  
Brent Hartinger  
David Levithan  
Jackie Woodson  
Sharon Dennis Wyeth
- 2:10-2:30: COFFEE BREAK
- 2:30-3:20: BREAKOUT SESSIONS  
Pamela Sissi Carroll: The Art and Science of  
Young Adult Literature  
Kristin Fletcher-Spear: Graphic Reads  
Wendy Glenn: Hole in My Life (and Theirs)  
Lori & Todd Goodson: The Art of Performance  
Patrick Jones: A Core Collection for Young Adults  
Jeff Kaplan: Looking on the Inside  
Joan Kaywell & Neil Shusterman: What Daddy  
Did—What Teachers Do  
Lois Stover: The Art of Jacqueline Woodson  
Alan B. Teasley: Out of the Closet and Onto the  
Shelves!
- 3:20-3:55 Panel: HEARING NEW VOICES  
Mark Delaney  
Brian James  
Patrick Jones  
Ned Vizzini
- 3:55-4:00: Patty Campbell, A Preview of ALAN 2005 &  
Farewell

# Call for Manuscripts

## The Art of Adolescent Literature

**Winter 2005.** The theme for our 2005 winter issue, *The Art of Adolescent Literature*, is intended to accompany and develop the theme of the 2004 ALAN Workshop and to provide a means for examining the artistry inherent in adolescent literature and its teaching, in any form that bears examination or discussion. This theme is meant to be broad enough to cover a wide range of topics and flexible and open enough for many different interpretations. Some ideas for manuscript topics might be found in the titles of author presentations at the 2004 ALAN Workshop in Indianapolis, which include: New Narrative Strategies, The Art of the Novel, Adult Authors for Young Adults, Art in Literature, The Art of Poetry, The Novel in Verse, The Art of Fantasy, The Art of the Short Story, The Art of Middle School Literature, The Art of Teaching YA Writing, The Art of Historical Fiction, The Art of Horror Fiction, Sexual Identity in YA Fiction, and New Voices in YA Literature. Manuscripts dealing with the artistry of the authors (listed below) appearing at the 2004 ALAN Workshop are also welcome. The deadline for manuscripts for the winter 2004 issue is October 15. Please see the **Instructions for Authors** page for specific instructions about submitting manuscripts.

M.T. Anderson	Lynne Ewing	Trudy Krisher	Anita Riggio
Ann Angel	Sharon Flake	David Levithan	E. Rose Sabin
Clive Barker	Hilary Frank	David Lubar	Eric Shanower
L.G. Bass	Garret Freymann-Weyr	Tracy Mack	Marilyn Singer
Julie Chibbaro	Helen Frost	Joyce Maynard	William Sleator
Carolyn Coman	Steven Gould	Jaclyn Moriarty	Sonya Sones
Christopher Paul Curtis	Jan Greenberg	Gerald Morris	Terry Trueman
Terry Davis	Brent Hartinger	Lauren Myracle	Ned Vizzini
Mark Delaney	Brian James	An Na	Sarah Weeks
Carl Deuker	Paul B. Janeczko	Han Nolan	Ellen Wittlinger
Jennifer Donnelley	Patrick Jones	Edith Pattou	Jacqueline Woodson
Kelly Easton	Kathe Koja	Rodman Philbrick	Sharon Dennis Wyeth

### 2005 Spring/Summer theme: A Road Less Traveled (Deadline February 15)

This theme is intended to solicit articles about young adult literature and its use that examine people or paths in young adult literature that differ from the norm or majority. This theme is meant to be open to interpretation and support a broad range of subtopics, but some possibilities include examination and discussion of innovative authors and their work, pioneers or turning points in the history of the genre and new literary forms. We welcome and encourage other creative interpretations of this theme.

### 2005 Fall theme: Finding My Way (Deadline May 15)

This theme is intended to solicit articles about young adult literature and its use dealing with the search for self. This theme is meant to be open to interpretation and support a broad range of subtopics, but some possibilities include examination and discussion of the approach an author or group of authors take to leading protagonists down the path to self discovery, comparisons of how this is accomplished across subgenres of young adult literature, or how young adult literature compares to developmental or adolescent psychology. We welcome and encourage other creative interpretations of this theme.