

CCYAL's Best of the Best 2012 Workshop
Friday July 20, 2012
Afternoon Session: Books for 6th through 12th Grades

Books for Grades 6-8
Dr. Cindy Welch, UT School of Information Sciences

Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: the story behind an American friendship -- Freedman, Russell [BKL* BUL+ HRN+ KIR* PWK* SLJ* VOY+] {IL 5-8, 973.7} -- Clarion Books, 2012., RL 8.7, 119p
Looks at the lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, including their friendship and their affect on Emancipation and the Civil War.

Addie on the inside -- Howe, James, 1946- [BKL+ HRN+ KIR+ PWK* SLJ*] {IL 5-8, Fic} -- Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c2011., RL 5, 206p
Outspoken thirteen-year-old Addie Carle learns about love, loss, and staying true to herself as she navigates seventh grade, enjoys a visit from her grandmother, fights with her boyfriend, and endures gossip and meanness from her former best friend.

Black gold: the story of oil in our lives -- Marrin, Albert [BUL+ HRN+ KIR+ SLJ+] {IL YA, 553.2} -- Knopf, c2012., 181p
Explores the important role oil plays in United States and the world, explains what oil is, and describes how oil has affected history, politics, society, and the economy.

Blizzard of glass: the Halifax explosion of 1917 -- Walker, Sally M [BKL+ BUL+ HRN+ KIR* LMC+ NBKL NYT+ SLJ+] {IL 5-8, 971.6} -- Henry Holt, 2011., RL 6.8, 145p
Provides an account of the disaster that occurred on December 6, 1917, when two ships carrying munitions and relief supplies to Europe collided, causing an explosion that leveled the towns of Halifax and Dartmouth and resulted in the deaths of nearly two thousand people.

Bluefish -- Schmatz, Pat [BUL* CRL+ HRN* HRN+ KIR+ LMC+ NBKL SLJ*] {IL YA, Fic} -- Candlewick Press, 2011., 226p
Thirteen-year-old Travis, living in cramped quarters with his alcoholic grandfather, longs for his old life in the country, and struggles in school to hide the fact that he cannot read, but a persistent teacher and a special girl open his eyes to a new world. A "60second Recap": www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4NDFtUBUUM.

The boy on Cinnamon Street -- Stone, Phoebe, 1947- [BKL* BUL* HRN+ KIR* LMC+ PWK* SLJ+] {IL 3-6, Fic} -- Arthur A. Levine Books, 2012., RL 4.5, 234p
Since a tragedy she cannot remember, thirteen-year-old Louise has changed her name, given up gymnastics, moved in with her grandparents, and locked her feelings inside but through her friends Reni and Hen and notes from a secret admirer she begins to find herself again.

Chomp -- Hiaasen, Carl [BKL+ BUL+ HRN+ KIR* PWK+ SLJ*] {IL 5-8, Fic} -- Knopf, c2012., RL 7, 290p
The difficult star of the reality television show, "Expedition Survival," disappears on location in the Florida Everglades, where they were filming animals from the wildlife refuge run by

Wahoo Crane's family, and Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him, but they must avoid Tuna's gun-happy father. Book trailer:
www.randomhouse.com/kids/hiaasen/video.php.

Crow -- Wright, Barbara, 1951- [BKL+ HRN* KIR* LMC+ PWK* SLJ* VOY+] {IL 3-6, Fic} -- Random House, c2012., RL 4.6, 297p

Moses Thomas's summer vacation in 1898 does not go as planned, and while he deals with family problems and fickle friends, Moses comes to be more aware of the escalating tension between the African American and white communities of Wilmington, North Carolina. A "60second Recap": www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xv3wmEu7Rmo.

Dead end in Norvelt -- Gantos, Jack [HRN* HRN+ KIR* LMC+ NBKL NEWW PWK* SLJ+] {IL 5-8, Fic} -- Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011., RL 6, 341p

In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses. Johnson County Library book trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OefX-U-VqiM&feature=related. 2012 Newbery Medal!

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony: a friendship that changed the world --

Colman, Penny [BKL+ HRN+ KIR+ LMC* SLJ+ VOY+] {IL YA, 324.6} -- Henry Holt, 2011., 256p
Details the friendship between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony and examines how they fought against beliefs, customs, and laws that oppressed women.

Enchanted -- Kontis, Alethea [KIR* SLJ* VOY+] {IL YA, Fic} -- Harcourt, 2012., 308p

When Sunday Woodcutter, the youngest sibling to sisters named for the other six days of the week, kisses an enchanted frog, he transforms back into Rumbold, the crown prince of Arilland--a man Sunday's family despises. Author and friend read a scene from the book:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXZ7vYwhvNA.

The fairy ring, or, Elsie and Frances fool the world -- Losure, Mary [BKL* BUL+ HRN* KIR+ PWK+ SLJ* VOY+] {IL 5-8, 398} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., RL 5.3, 184p

Relates the story of Francis and Elsie, cousins who concocted a story and photographs about fairies because nobody believed Francis could see the tiny men and were surprised when their photographs were found by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who truly believed in fairies.

Father Abraham: Lincoln and his sons -- Holzer, Harold [BKL+ HRN+ KIR+ LMC+ SLJ* VOY+ WMJ+] {IL 5-8, 973.7} -- Calkins Creek, c2011., RL 6.8, 231p

Photographs and text explore the relationship between Abraham Lincoln and his sons, Eddy, Willis, Tad, and Robert, the only son to live past the age of eighteen.

The Final Four -- Volponi, Paul [BKL* BUL* KIR+ NYT+ SLJ*] {IL YA, Fic} -- Viking, 2012., 244p

Four players at the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament struggle with the pressures of tournament play and the expectations of society at large.

Flyaway -- Christopher, Lucy [BKL* BUL+ HRN+ KIR+ NBKL PCSH PWK+ SLJ* VOY+] {IL 5-8, Fic} -- Chicken House, 2011., RL 5, 328p

While her father is in the hospital, thirteen-year-old Isla befriends Harry, the first boy to understand her love of the outdoors, and as Harry's health fails, Isla tries to help both him and the lone swan they see, struggling to fly, on the lake outside Harry's window. Book trailer featuring the author: www.youtube.com/watch?v=p84vzm6f0IY.

Kepler's dream -- Bell, Juliet [BKL* KIR* NYT+ PWX+ SLJ+] {IL 5-8, Fic} -- G.P. Putnam's Sons, c2012., RL 6.1, 247p

While her mother undergoes radical cancer treatment, eleven-year-old Ella stays with her father's mother in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she learns about grammar and family history, and helps investigate the theft of an extremely rare book from her grandmother's library. Book trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfD6CLGmwfM.

Laugh with the moon -- Burg, Shana [KIR+ PWK+ SLJ*] {IL 5-8, Fic} -- Delacorte Press, c2012., RL 5, 245p

Massachusetts thirteen-year-old Clare, grieving after her mother's recent death, reluctantly travels with her father to spend nine weeks in a remote village in Malawi, where new friends and experiences help open her mind and heart. Here's a blog post with a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the trailer for this book, and a contest to win a copy:

<http://mrschureads.blogspot.com/2012/07/guest-post-by-author-shana-burg.html>.

Little Rock girl 1957: how a photograph changed the fight for integration -- Tougas, Shelley [BKL* BUL+ SLJ*] {IL 5-8, 379.2} -- Compass Point Books, c2012., RL 5.2, 64p
Recounts the events surrounding the 1957 photograph taken by Will Counts that captured one of nine African-American students trying to enter an Arkansas high school while being taunted by an angry white mob and discusses how the photo brought the civil rights movement to the forefront of the nation's attention.

Lost and found: 3 -- Tan, Shaun [BKL* BUL+ HRN+ NBKL PCGW PWK+ SLJ* WMJ+] {IL 5-8, Fic} -- Arthur A. Levine Books, 2011., RL 5.4

Collects three stories by Shaun Tan that explore how people lose and find what matters most to them, as a girl finds a bright spot in a dark world, a boy leads a strange, lost being home, and a group of peaceful creatures loses its home to cruel invaders. Trailer for a short film about one of the stories in this book: www.thelostthing.com/.

Marching to the mountaintop : how poverty, labor fights, and civil rights set the stage for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s final hours -- Bausum, Ann [BKL+ BUL* KIR+ SLJ*] {IL 5-8, 323} -- National Geographic, c2012., RL 7.7, 104p

Examines the link between the 1968 Memphis sanitation strike and the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., discussing how the strike, the media, politics, the civil rights movement, and the labor protests all laid the foundations for what many consider to be King's greatest speech, given just days before he was killed, and how that speech and King's death influenced the end of the strike.

May B. : a novel -- Rose, Caroline Starr [BKL+ BUL+ HRN+ KIR* LMC+ PWK* SLJ+] {IL 3-6, Fic} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012., RL 3.7, 231p

When a failed wheat crop nearly bankrupts the Betterly family, twelve-year-old May's father pulls her from school and hires her out to a couple new to the Kansas frontier. Book trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FopNI_Y8iQM.

Miles to go for freedom: segregation & civil rights in the Jim Crow years -- Osborne, Linda Barrett, 1949- [BKL* BUL+ KIR* PWK* SLJ*] {IL 5-8, 305.896} -- Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2012., RL 5.7, 118p

Describes the lives of African Americans during the Jim Crow years, a period of legal segregation and discrimination from the 1890s through the 1950s, including photographs and interviews with African Americans who were young during this time and other primary resources.

The obsidian blade -- Hautman, Pete, 1952- [BKL* BUL+ HRN+ KIR* PWK*] {IL YA, Fic} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., 308p

After thirteen-year-old Tucker Feye's parents disappear, he suspects that the strange disks of shimmering air that he keeps seeing are somehow involved, and, when he steps inside one, he is whisked away on a time-twisting journey trailed by a shadowy sect of priests and haunted by ghostlike figures. Book trailer: www.petehautman.com/videos.html.

Olympians. 4: Hades, lord of the dead -- O'Connor, George [BKL+ KIR* PWK+ SLJ* VOY+] {IL 5-8, 741.5} -- First Second, 2012., RL 4, 76p

A fictionalized account in graphic novel format of the Greek myth of Hades, God of the Underworld, and his abduction of the goddess Demeter's daughter, Persephone, to make her his wife; and the chaos that ensued.

On the day I died: stories from the grave -- Fleming, Candace [BKL+ KIR* PWK*] {IL 5-8, Fic} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012., RL 4.5, 199p

In a lonely Illinois cemetery one cold October night, teen ghosts recount the stories of their deaths in different time periods, from 1870 to the present, to sixteen-year-old Mike, who unknowingly picked up a phantom hitchhiker.

A passion for victory: the story of the Olympics in ancient and early modern times -- Bobrick, Benson, 1947- [BKL* BUL+ KIR+] {IL 5-8, 796.4} -- Alfred A. Knopf, c2012., RL 8.7, 143p

Describes the story of the Olympic Games, the courage, prowess, and strength of the athletes, the obstacles to be overcome including religious conflict, prejudice, war, and economic strife, and the occasional hilarity.

Queen of hearts -- Brooks, Martha, 1944- [BKL+ BUL+ HRN* HRN+ KIR* LMC+ NBKL PWK+ RSL+ SLJ* TEL+ VOY+] {IL YA, Fic} -- Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011, c2010., 214p

Shortly after her first kiss but before her sixteenth birthday in December 1941, Marie Claire and her younger brother and sister are sent to a tuberculosis sanatorium near their Manitoba farm. A "60second Recap": www.youtube.com/watch?v=4T-Q86UmH9I.

Saga of the Sioux: an adaptation of Dee Brown's Bury my heart at Wounded Knee -- Zimmerman, Dwight Jon [BKL+ BUL+ LMC+ SLJ+ VOY+] {IL 5-8, 978} -- Henry Holt, 2011., RL 6.7, 208p

An adaptation of Dee Brown's documented account of the systematic plunder of Native Americans during the second half of the nineteenth century, featuring photographs and maps.

Ship of souls -- Elliott, Zetta [BKL* HRN+ SLJ+] {IL YA, Fic} -- AmazonEncore, c2011., 129p
D, a math whiz, is looking to fit in after his mother dies, his foster mother and new friends at school seem to fit, but an unexpected discovery in the park changes everything for him.

Sparrow Road -- O'Connor, Sheila [BKL* BUL+ CLW+ HRN+ KIR* LMC+ SLJ+] {IL 5-8, Fic} -- Putnam's, 2011., RL 3.6, 247p

Twelve-year-old Raine spends the summer at a mysterious artists colony and discovers a secret about her past.

Then -- Gleitzman, Morris [BKL+ HRN+ KIR* PWK* SLJ*] {IL YA, Fic} -- Henry Holt, 2010, c2008., 198p

After Nazi soldiers commandeer their orphanage in Poland, young Felix escapes with his friend Zelda, but the safe places the pair finds to hide quickly turn dangerous, and the orphans must remain on the run to avoid capture and death in a concentration camp. Book trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6AsQNWbOX8.

Titanic: voices from the disaster -- Hopkinson, Deborah [BKL+ BUL+ HRN* KIR* LMC+ PWK* SLJ* VOY+] {IL 3-6, 910.9163} -- Scholastic Press, 2012., RL 7.6, 289p

Draws on stories from survivors and archival photographs to describe the history of the "Titanic" from its launch to its sinking. Book trailer:

www.scholastic.com/teachers/asset/titanic-voices-disaster-book-trailer.

Trapped: how the world rescued 33 miners from 2,000 feet below the Chilean desert -- Aronson, Marc [BKL* HRN* HRN+ KIR+ LMC* PWK* SLJ*] {IL 5-8, 363.11} -- Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c2011., RL 7.2, 134p

Provides a detailed account of rescue efforts to save thirty-three miners, who got trapped in a copper-gold mine in San Jose, Chile, examining the psychological, physical, and environmental factors influencing the course of the rescue, and describing the efforts of experts from around the world--drillers, astronauts, submarine specialists, and others--came together in response to the crisis. Book trailer: <http://vimeo.com/30054025>.

Under the mesquite -- McCall, Guadalupe Garcia [BKL+ BUL+ HRN+ KIR* LMC+ NBKL PBAW SLJ+ VOY+] {IL YA, Fic} -- Lee & Low Books, c2011., 224p

Throughout her high school years, as her mother battles cancer, Lupita takes on more responsibility for her house and seven younger siblings, while finding refuge in acting and writing poetry. Includes glossary of Spanish terms. 2012 Pura Belpre Award (ALSC) and shortlisted for the 2012 Morris Award (YALSA)! Book trailer:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYXBm9r_DHQ.

We've got a job: the 1963 Birmingham Children's March -- Levinson, Cynthia [BKL* HRN+ KIR* NYT+ PCGW PWK* SLJ*] {IL 5-8, 323.1196} -- Peachtree, c2012., RL 7.1, 176p
Discusses the 1963 Birmingham Children's March in Birmingham, Alabama. Mrs. Armantrout's 4th graders made a book trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XN3jga7eMo.

What you wish for: stories and poems for Darfur -- [BKL* BUL+ HRN+ KIR+ LMC+ PWK+ SLJ+ VOY+] {IL YA, 808.8} -- G.P. Putnam's Sons, c2011., 252p
A collection of short stories and poems for children, written by award-winning authors, and focusing on the universal power of a wish.

The wicked and the just -- Coats, Jillian Anderson [BKL+ HRN* KIR* PWK+ SLJ* VOY+] {IL YA, Fic} -- Harcourt, 2012., 344p
In medieval Wales, follows Cecily whose family is lured by cheap land and the duty of all Englishman to help keep down the "vicious" Welshmen, and Gwenhwyfar, a Welsh girl who must wait hand and foot on her new English mistress.

Witches! the absolutely true tale of disaster in Salem -- Schanzer, Rosalyn [BKL+ BUL+ HRN+ NBKL RFSH SLJ* VOY+] {IL 5-8, 133.4} -- National Geographic, c2011., RL 7.8, 144p
An illustrated history of the witch hunts that took place in colonial-era Salem, Massachusetts, featuring primary source accounts, and describing the victims, accused witches, corrupt officials, and impact of the events on society. 2012 Sibert Honor Book! Book trailer featuring the author: <http://mcslsrc.weebly.com/4/post/2011/09/witches-by-rosalyn-schanzer.html>.