



From the Editors

Just as seasons shift across the nation—sunny, bursts of colorful flowers change to gold-tinged leaves falling from trees, adolescents face nearly continual shifts throughout their teenage years. With this issue of *The ALAN Review*, we focus on the adolescents' journey to define themselves—and young adult literature's assistance along the way—with the theme "Finding My Way."

First, we begin with a tribute to James Cook, someone who helped more than his share of adolescents find their way. Diane Tuccillo, ALAN president-elect, provides a glance at the life of a true leader in the field of young adult literature.

Toby Emert then lets us eavesdrop on a conversation with author Ellen Wittlinger, who has written works such as *Razzle*, *Hard Love*, and *ZigZag* that feature protagonists who find their own ways of making connections in today's world. Wittlinger shares her thoughts about writing, getting young people to read, and her upcoming book, *Sandpiper*. Mary Arnold continues the journey theme with a snapshot of young adult novels designed to encourage teens along their own path, in recognition of Teen Read Week 2005.

Elizabeth Marshall and Theresa Rogers look back at women's memoirs as a way to help teens look forward. In their article, Marshall and Rogers examine some memoirs written by women reflecting on their own coming-of-age experience. Such reflection can give adolescents—and educators, as well—a different perspective regarding growing up. In an attempt to understand those teens dealing with depression along their journey, Nathan Phillips examines A.M. Jenkins's *Damage* and Chris Lynch's *Freewill*. Phillips

explores the use of second-person narratives in these two novels' looks at depression in adolescence.

Gerrit W. Bleeker and Barbara Bleeker provide another route for the journey—this one via multicultural poetry inspired by art. The Bleekers describe a workshop approach that allows such poetry to not only engage adolescents but also provide a model for their own writing and artwork. Jaime Hylton contributes to our myriad of paths by providing a serious look at the elements of the novels of Cynthia Voigt. Known for her ever-popular works of mystery, fantasy, and other genres—and tackling issues such as racial and ethnic stereotypes, divorce, sexual abuse, and physical disabilities, Voigt, Hylton claims, continues to thrive because her stories are weaved with elements of allegory, literary allusion, classical mythology, and traditional folk and fairy tales.

Mary Ann Tighe, in "Reviving Ophelia with Young Adult Literature," focuses on the need for female adolescents to read books by women and about women. Not only do they provide an opportunity for different perspectives, but such works also give teenage girls other possibilities for role models. Sheryl O'Sullivan, in her discussion of evil in Lois Lowry's *Messenger*, emphasizes that the novel not only helps provide a broader definition of evil, but also shows what secrecy and intolerance can develop into within a society.

Ruth Caillouet takes adolescence to the battlefield, with her article on using anti-war literature to help adolescents find a path to a more peaceful world. The power of young adult literature may just be the literary weapon we need.

And, as you continue your journey through this

issue of *The ALAN Review*, don't forget to visit our regular columns, such as The Library Connection by Diane Tuccillo with guest columnist Linda Williams, the Clip and File section featuring reviews of 31 of the latest in young adult literature, and The Publishers' Connection by M. Jerry Weiss.

Young adults—and their journeys to adulthood—vary tremendously. Through this issue, we hope that we provide various routes for adolescents to find their own way—the avenue that is right for them.

Call for Manuscripts

2006 Winter theme: BEARERS OF LIGHT: The Caring Community of Young Adult Literature

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 2005 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

2006 Spring/ Summer theme: In the Midst of Conflict

This theme is intended to solicit articles dealing with young adult literature with conflict of any nature at its center, the use of young adult literature as a means for helping young people deal with conflict or any related topic. The theme is meant to be open to interpretation, but might, for example, deal with young adult literature depicting war, family conflict, or the resolution of neighborhood violence. General submissions are also welcome. February 15 submission deadline

2006 Fall theme: The Many Ways to be Human

This theme is intended to solicit articles about young adult literature and its use in dealing with the great diversity of human beings across the face of our planet. This theme is meant to be open to interpretation and support a broad range of subtopics, but some possibilities include examination and discussion of issues of cultural heritage, gender identity, race, class and sexual orientation as they play out in young adult literature. We welcome and encourage other creative interpretations of this theme. May 15 submission deadline.

2007 Winter theme:

This theme will reflect the theme of the 2006 ALAN Workshop