



From the Editors

Summer has rolled around again, and we have an issue filled with articles, research, and reviews to make the most of any free reading time through the warm summer months.

Jennifer M. Miskec explores the appeal of young adult novels written by young people in “YA by Generation Y: New Writers for New Readers.” The technology-savvy Generation Y provides a unique perspective of young adults’ roles in the world. Allison L. Baer shares the results of her ALAN Grant research project in “Constructing Meaning through Visual Spatial Activities.” In her study, Baer examines how 10 sixth-graders, through various projects, constructed meaning from stories they read.

This issue also features research by Russell Greinke examining a literature program designed to help juvenile offenders use young adult novels to create a better understanding of issues in their own lives.

Meanwhile, Kristen Nichols provides a look at how teen pregnancy is portrayed in young adult literature. She concludes that real-life situations and fictional accounts don’t mesh—especially regarding decisions on abortion and family support. In a similar approach, Sharon Pajka-West explores how deaf characters are perceived in YA lit. Pajka-West’s article looks at six contemporary YA books featuring deaf characters through reader response surveys of adult readers.

Eva Gold, Ruth Caillouet, and Tom Fick tackle the “wholeness” and other word play possibilities and concepts waiting to be discovered in Louis Sachar’s *Holes*. In another article providing connections between readers and the opportunities provided by

young adult literature, Kenan Metzger and Jill Adams offer “Opening Dialogue Amidst Conflict: Utilizing Young Adult Literature in the Classroom to Combat Bullying.” As schools introduce anti-bullying programs, Metzger and Adams suggest a list of books to help students understand various aspects of bullying. Mildred D. Taylor’s *The Gold Cadillac* takes center stage in an article by Cicely Denean Cobb, who explores Taylor’s narrative style and her characters’ dialogue and storytelling.

In our regular features, Jeffrey S. Kaplan discusses “Recent Research in Young Adult Literature: Three Predominant Strands of Study” in *The Research Connection*. He discusses three major strands in YA lit—using the literature to help change young people’s lives; the genre’s ability to reveal young adults’ often confusing lives, thus creating opportunities for better understanding of themselves; and how YA lit changes to reflect society, especially regarding sexual orientation.

M. Jerry Weiss, in *The Publishers’ Connection*, provides several valuable sources for educators promoting young adult literature in the classroom. And, don’t forget to read through *Clip and File* for a review of 31 of the latest in young adult literature—more reading opportunities to explore this summer.

And, finally, everyone who attended the ALAN Workshop in Nashville received a complimentary copy of Joan Kaywell’s *Dear Author: Letters of Hope—Top Young Adult Authors Respond to Kids’ Toughest Issues* (Philomel, 2007). We were so impressed by this book, we asked YAL guru Teri Lesesne to write a quick piece about it. Dr. Lesesne chose the form of a letter, which fits the book perfectly. The letter follows. Thanks, Teri, and thanks, Joan.

So, as summer rolls around again, we also say thanks to our *ALAN Review* readers for continuing to join us in our journey to discover the latest in research

and book releases in the world of young adult literature. Enjoy your summer!

Call for Manuscripts

2008 Winter theme: Helping Teens Develop a Sense of “Place” and “Self” through Young Adult Literature

This theme is intended to solicit articles about young adult literature, authors and instructional approaches that facilitate young readers in exploring place and self. Some possibilities include choosing and using the best works that revolve around life in a specific region of the world, or help young adults to define who they are (and place can have a lot to do with that). This theme is meant to be open to interpretation and support a broad range of subtopics, however, and we welcome and encourage other creative interpretations of this theme. General submissions are also welcome. **October 15 submission deadline.**

2008 Summer theme: Life at My House: Depictions of Family in Young Adult Literature

This theme is intended to solicit articles about young adult literature, authors, and instructional approaches that deal with family relationships. One possibility is a discussion of how the concept of family in young adult literature has evolved to reflect a different reality from what might have been considered a traditional family at one time. Other possibilities might include discussion of books that celebrate family relationships, illuminate the problems inherent in a dysfunctional family, or address any aspect of groups that function as a family. This theme is meant to be open to interpretation and support a broad range of subtopics. General submissions are welcome, as well. **February 15 submission deadline.**

2008 Fall theme: How Will Life Be in 2053? Visions of the Future in Young Adult Literature

This theme is intended to solicit articles about young adult literature, authors, and instructional approaches that speculate on the nature of life in the future. This need not be limited to science fiction or fantasy by any means, but could center on any books that deal with trends that may impact life in the future. This theme is meant to be open to interpretation and support a broad range of subtopics. General submissions are welcome, as well. **May 15 submission deadline.**

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**.

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.

Applicants 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.

NEW P.O. BOX FOR ALAN

We now have a new ALAN Treasurer in Marge Ford. As a result, we have a new P.O. Box for ALAN memberships. Effective immediately, please discard any old forms you might have and use this new address:

ALAN
PO Box 234
Campbell, OH 44405-0234

Please spread the word and make note of the change of address. If you are unsure of your membership status, please email Joan Kaywell at kaywell@tempest.coedu.usf.edu, and she will check the database for you. If you've recently renewed, we have a forwarding order in place for the next few months so you'll be all right. It is important, however, that you send Dr. Kaywell any changes in your mailing or email address so you will receive your journal and other ALAN information.