

# The Center for Children's Books

## November 2009 Newsletter

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### What's New on the CCB Website

We have a brand new section on our webpage! Instead of just one spotlight on our homepage we now have two, a spotlight on events and a spotlight on research. Now you can get up to date information about both the goings-on at the CCB and the scholarly research being done by our faculty affiliates. Take a look at <http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu>.

### News

#### Youth, Literature, and Culture Reading Group

The Youth, Literature, and Culture Reading Group held its first meeting for the 2009-2010 academic year on Thursday, October 22. The meeting featured a presentation and discussion by scholars involved in the forthcoming *Handbook of Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature* (Routledge 2010). Presenters included Handbook editors Karen Coats (ISU) and Christine Jenkins (UIUC) and chapter author Betsy Hearne (UIUC emerita).

This reading group, which began meeting in 2004 as the Youth Literature Interest Group, gathers at the Center for Children's books on a monthly basis to discuss research on young people, texts, and cultural contexts.

This interdisciplinary group brings together faculty and doctoral students who share a scholarly interest in children's and young adult literature and media. Its members represent various disciplines (including Education, English, History, Library & Information Science) and institutions (U of I, ISU, EIU, and others). In addition to meetings, group members participate in the annual GSLIS Research Showcase, and host the Gryphon Lecture, an annual lecture featuring a leading scholar of youth, literature, and culture.

The next meeting of the YLCRG will be held on Friday, December 11, 9:30-11:00, in the CCB. For further information, contact CCB RA Yang Luo ([yangluo1@illinois.edu](mailto:yangluo1@illinois.edu)).

### November Calendar

#### Thursday, Nov 5, 5pm Story Coach

GSLIS students, staff, faculty, and alumni meet to share stories. Bring a story to share, or come to listen.

#### Thursday, Nov 12, 5pm Youth Lit Book Club

This student-led discussion group will be talking about *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. The book is available to read at the CCB.

#### Monday-Friday, Nov 23-27

CCB Closed for Fall Break

Free parking is available after 5:00 PM and on weekends in the parking garage across the street from the GSLIS building.

To see a complete calendar of events, visit our website (<http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu>).



## Message from the Director, Dr. Christine Jenkins

The 2009 Guide Book to Gift Books is now available! And it's FREE! Books make great presents, but picking the perfect titles for your favorite young people can be daunting. The 2009 Guide Book to Gift Books includes brief annotations for over 300 of the best books for giving (and receiving) for this holiday season--and beyond!



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The expert staff of the Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books has created an up-to-date, easy-to-use guide to help you navigate the bookstore wilderness of appetizing new children's and young adult books. The entries (divided by age group) include author, title, publisher, and the current list price. Listed books have all been recommended by the Bulletin and are verified as currently in print. The link to the 2009 Guide Book to Gift Books is available on the homepage of the Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (<http://bccb.lis.uiuc.edu>)!

### New Books We Just Had to Read

Every month, the CCB Graduate Assistants highlight books reviewed in the most recent issue of the Bulletin that we were very excited to read. These decisions are based on personal preference, but all books listed are Recommended by the Bulletin. The goal is to introduce you to brand-new books. For complete reviews, visit the Bulletin website (<http://bccb.lis.illinois.edu/>) to learn how to subscribe.

#### Kelley Anne's Choice:

Zulkey, Claire. *An Off Year*. Dutton, 2009  
213p R Gr. 10-12  
ISBN 978-0-525-42159-7 \$17.99

Cecily is moving in for her first day of college. That is, she was moving in. Now she's turned around and headed back home with her dad unsure of exactly why she's doing so. The months that should have comprised her first year of college now serve as guideposts for the emotions and strained relationships that characterize her "year off". Cecily does nothing amazing with her year, instead she takes the time to come to terms with her rash decision and slowly build the confidence to try again.

#### Ayanna's Choice:

North, Pearl. *Libyrinth*. Tor, 2009 336p  
R Gr. 7-12  
ISBN 978-0765320964 \$17.99

Talking books? That's the everyday life of librarian clerk Halcyon. While everyone who resides in the Libyrinth can read and write, Haly's extra skill, one that she hides for fear of being different, is that the books tell her what is inside them. To the Singers, this makes her their Redeemer, the one who will "redeem the words that have been written". You see, the Singers cannot read, and therefore they burn books. Haly thinks she can spin their mistaken thought of her being their messiah into something great, something that will bring the Libyrarians and the Singers together, but others have another plan in mind. Prejudice, persecution, and misunderstandings are strongly examined in this work along with the power and responsibility of literacy.

#### Corrie's Choice:

Parenteau, Shirley. *Bears on Chairs*; illus. by David Walker. Candlewick, 2009 32p R  
2-4 yrs ISBN 978-0-7636-3588-6 \$15.99

When there aren't enough chairs for newcomer Big Brown Bear, Calico Bear, Fuzzy Bear and the others push their chairs together until they are all able to sit down. Parenteau and Walker have created an endearing tale about sharing, with expressive illustrations and simple rhymes that make for an ideal read aloud. Children will be "reading" it back to you in no time! Readers of all ages will be unable to resist these 100% adorable bears.

## General CCB Information

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The Center for Children's Books (CCB) houses a non-circulating research collection of over 16,000 trade books for youth, birth through high school, and over 1,000 professional and reference books on the history and criticism of literature for youth, literature-based library and classroom programming, and storytelling. The collection includes prominent displays of Blue Ribbon Books (titles chosen by Bulletin reviewers as the best of the previous year's children's books), current award winners, books reviewed in the current issue of the Bulletin, and monthly thematic displays. The CCB also houses a growing collection of storytelling audio and video recordings.

We ensure all materials are available to patrons whenever the CCB is open - this means no materials leave the collection. Although the collection is non-circulating, it is available for examination by students, scholars, teachers, librarians, and other educators.

Our research collection emphasizes contemporary works, especially books from the last five to seven years, as well as titles of historical and critical significance.

The Center for Children's Books is located in Room 24 on the ground floor of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. GSLIS is located at 501 E. Daniel Street in Champaign.

Enter GSLIS through the building's main north entrance. Go up the stairs to your left (through an arched wooden doorway) and turn left. You will see another set of stairs. Go down to the lower level. Turn right to enter the Center.

### How can the CCB assist you?

#### Meeting Location

Looking for a place for your group to meet? If your purpose is related to children's literature or libraries, contact us to reserve space.

#### Research Collection

Do you want to see a book before you purchase it? The CCB has a copy of every book reviewed by the Bulletin in the past 5-7 years!

#### Reference Services

Are you really stumped? The CCB will guide you to reference solutions. Call (217) 244-9331 or email [ccb@illinois.edu](mailto:ccb@illinois.edu).

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Books  
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Hours  
Monday: 10 am - 5 pm  
Tuesday: 10 am - 7 pm  
Wednesday: 3 - 7 pm  
Thursday: 10 am - 7pm  
Friday: 10 am - 5 pm

### Highlighted Book from Our Wish List

**Barron, Neil. *Anatomy of Wonder*. Libraries Unlimited, 2004. ISBN 978-1591581710**

**Offering an overview of the English-language science-fiction field for a wide audience, including casual readers; devoted fans; librarians; teachers; and scholars, this volume is divided into three parts including a history of science fiction, a critical examination of 1400 novels, and a survey of the secondary literature such as film and illustration.**

For more information about the CCB Wish List or how to donate books to the CCB, please visit <http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/wishlist.html>.



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