



American Association of School Librarians
12th National Conference and Exhibition
October 6-9, 2005
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

AASL PRECONFERENCE:

Reaching Reluctant Readers: Tips, Tools, and Techniques

Patrick Jones

Wednesday, October 5, 2005
9:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
David L. Lawrence Convention Center
Room 306/307

Reaching Reluctant Readers: Tips, Tools, and Techniques

AASL Pre-conference 5 October 2005

We have libraries filled with books, yet many students who enter our media centers are alliterate; they have the ability to read but choose not to. Learn best practices for reaching these students.

OBJECTIVES

1. Learn why some readers are reluctant readers
2. Learn the best materials to reach reluctant readers
3. Share practices for reaching reluctant readers
4. Learn why teen readers read

METHODS

1. Lecture / Panel discussions
2. Small group work
3. Questions and Answers
4. Handouts

PRESENTERS

Sharon Flake, YA author	Patrick Jones, Consultant	Don Gallo, YA Editor
Erin Pierce, Teen Librarian	Amber & friends, teen readers	Special guests

AGENDA

9:30- 10:15	Who are reluctant readers and why are they reluctant	Patrick
10:15 - 10:30	Group exercise	
10:30 - 10:45	Break	
10:45 - 11:15	A Core Collection for Reluctant Readers	Patrick, Don and Erin
11:15 - noon	Writing for Readers for don't like to read	Sharon
noon - 1:15	Lunch	
1:15 - 2:00	Reaching reluctant readers through short fiction	Don
2:00 - 2:45	Reaching readers through partnership:	
2:45 - 3:00	Break	
3:00 - 3:45	26 things to do to reach reluctant readers tomorrow	Patrick
3:45 - 4:15	We're not reluctant readers, so what you gonna do	Teen Panel
4:15 - 4:30	Closing exercise / remarks	Patrick

Who Are Reluctant Readers?

- Reluctant readers
- Literate non-readers
- Illiterate literates
- Nonreaders
- Alliterates

Avid: "I like reading and I always will." Enjoy reading and like being identified as readers. Plan to read in the future.

Dormant: "I'm too busy right now." Like to read but don't make time for it. Have positive attitudes toward reading. Will read for pleasure when they have the opportunity.

Uncommitted: "I might be a reader, someday." Believe reading is boring because they only see it as a skill. Don't care for it much but could grow to like it.

Unmotivated: "I'm never going to like reading." Actively dislike reading and express negative attitudes about people who read.

Unskilled: "I can't read." Does not identify as a reader and defines reading as "figuring out words."

From Beers, Kylene. "Choosing Not to Read: Understanding Why Some Middle Schoolers Just Say No." Into Focus: Understanding and Creating Middle School Readers ed. Kylene Beers and Barbara G. Samuels. Christopher-Gordon, 1998.

Reluctant Readers vs. Avid Readers

Avid and Dormant Readers	Uncommitted and Unmotivated Readers
<p><i>They do want to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose their own books 2. Have teacher read aloud a few pages 3. Meet the author 4. Buy books at a book fair 5. Keep a reading journal 6. Go to the library 7. Participate in panel debates, small group discussions or share books with friends 	<p><i>They do want to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose their own books from a narrowed choice 2. Have teacher read aloud an entire book 3. Compare movie to book 4. Read illustrated books 5. Do art activities based on books 6. Read nonfiction material (comics, handbooks on sports, drawing, cars, fashion, makeup, magazines)
<p><i>They do NOT want to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write book reports 2. Do many art activities 3. Hear the teacher read aloud an entire book 	<p><i>They do NOT want to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet the author 2. Buy books at a book fair 3. Go to the library 4. Read for a charity 5. Keep a reading journal 6. Participate in panel debates, small group discussions or share books with friends

From Beers, Kylene. "Choosing Not to Read: Understanding Why Some Middle Schoolers Just Say No." Into Focus: Understanding and Creating Middle School Readers ed. Kylene Beers and Barbara G. Samuels. Christopher-Gordon, 1998. p.55.

Why They Aren't Reading

Common factors observed among reluctant readers:

- By the time many students reach high school, they equate reading with ridicule, failure or exclusively school-related tasks.
- Students are not excited by ideas. They prefer to experience life directly rather than through reading.
- Many active adolescents are unable to sit still long enough to read for any prolonged period of time.
- Teenagers are too self-absorbed and preoccupied with themselves, their problems, families, sexual roles, etc., to make connections between their world and books.
- Books are inadequate entertainment compared to other competing media such as television, video games and the Internet.
- Persistent stress from home and school to read constantly is counterproductive for some adolescents.
- Adolescents may grow up in non-reading homes void of reading material with no reading role models. There is no one to pass down the value of reading.
- Some adolescents may consider reading solitary and anti-social.
- Reading is considered "uncool" and something adults do.
- Some adolescents view reading as part of the adult world and reject it outright which is cool.

Qualities of Books for Reluctant Readers

Selection criteria in part from YALSA's Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers Committee. Available at www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/quickpicks

Physical Appearance

- Cover - catchy, action-oriented, attractive, appealing, good "blurb"
- Print style - sufficiently large for enjoyable reading
- Format - appropriate and appealing balance of text and white space
- Artwork/illustrations - enticing, realistic, demonstrated diversity

Style

- Clear writing without long convoluted sentences of sophisticated vocabulary
- Acceptable literary quality and effectiveness of presentation
- Simple vocabulary but not noticeably controlled

Fiction

- High interest "hook" in first 10 pages
- Well-defined characters and not too many of them
- Sufficient plot to sustain interest
- Plot lines developed through dialog and action rather than descriptive text
- Familiar themes with emotional appeal for teenagers
- Believable treatment
- Single point of view / not too many characters
- Touches of humor when appropriate
- Told in chronological order - not too many flashbacks

A core collection for reluctant readers: a tool box

Beers, Kylene. **When Kids Can't Read; What Teachers Can Do: A Guide for Teachers 6-12.** Heinemann, 2003.

A great resource on methods of teaching reading to middle and high school students who lack the ability to read successfully.

Bodart, Joni Richards. **The World's Best Thin Books: What to Read When your Book Report is Due Tomorrow.** Scarecrow Press, 2000

A great guide to the best books for young adults – all are under 200 pages.

Gorman, Michele. **Getting Graphic: Using Graphic Novels to Promote Literacy with Preteens and Teens.** Linworth, 2004. (1-58683-089-9)

Jumpstart reading enthusiasm for teens using the format of graphic novels.

Jones, Patrick. **A Core Collection for Young Adults.** Neal-Schuman, 2003.

The best resource for building up your library or classroom's collection for teens. Includes resources for reluctant readers as well as avid readers.

No Flying No Tights: The Graphic Novel Review Site for Teens.

www.noflyingnotights.com

Also includes Sidekicks, a site devoted to kids graphic novels and The Lair, which features graphic novels for older teens and adults.

Reynolds, Marilyn. **I Won't Read and You Can't Make Me: Reaching Reluctant Teen Readers.** Heinemann, 2004.

A current author for teens and a former teacher shares her motivation and strategies for reaching reluctant teen readers, including success stories from her past students and questions from readers

Sullivan, Michael. **Connecting Boys With Books: What Libraries Can Do.** American Library Association, 2003.

Strategies and materials for connecting boys with reading and libraries.

Sullivan, Edward T. **Reaching Reluctant Young Adult Readers: A Handbook for Librarians and Teachers.** Scarecrow Press, 2002.

The best resource for identifying additional titles and finding new strategies to reach reluctant teen readers.

Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) website.

www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists

Includes a variety of booklists, including Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, Best Books for Young Adults and others.

Books for Reluctant Teen Readers Recommended in Latest Survey

Acceleration by Graham McNamee (Wendy Lamb Books, 2003). In this fast-paced thriller with humor, Vinnie and his foolish friends track a potential serial killer whose diary has been found in the Lost and Found of the Toronto subway system. (M/H)

Alex Rider Series, starting with **Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz (Philomel, 2000). Fourteen-year-old Alex, recruited by British Intelligence to become a secret agent, experiences danger, adventure, and technical gadgets in thrilling plots perfect for middle school males. (M)

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Scholastic, 2000). Young Esperanza's struggle to survive when she must flee her rich Mexican home with her mother and work as a field laborer in California during the Depression will fascinate teens, with lyrical language to savor. (M)

The First Part Last by Angela Johnson (Simon & Schuster, 2003). One of the few books about teenage parenthood told from the male point of view, this short novel brings home the problems and difficulties of a sixteen-year-old raising an infant. (H)

Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003). The author's real adventures as a drug runner and then a prison inmate will engage readers from the outset with its honesty, humor, and grim details. (H)

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science by John Fleischman (Houghton Mifflin, 2002). Lots of gory detail plus great information about the brain makes this an engaging nonfiction book to satisfy any middle school boy's penchant for gross and gory (and girls like it, too). (M)

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants and its sequels by Ann Brashares (Delacorte, 2001). **Four friends separated for their first summer alone are supported by a pair of traveling jeans and their notes to each other as they experience first love, tragedy, and self-insight.** (H)

2005 Titles Recommended by Don Gallo

Dark Angel by David Klass. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005. After Jeff's older brother, a convicted murderer, is released from prison on a technicality and Jeff's rival on the soccer team goes missing, Jeff sets out to discover if his brother is involved, with shocking results. (H)

Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue by Julius Lester. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 2005. Through a variety of first-person points of view, Lester recreates a horrendous event in history: the largest slave auction (over 400 individuals) in America, held in Savannah, Georgia, in 1859. (M/H)

Dead-End Job by Vicki Grant. Orca Soundings, 2005. Ignore the misleading title; this is a fast-moving story about a high school girl who is being stalked by a strange boy but is slow to realize how involved she is until he has her trapped in a room with a knife at her throat. (Hi/Lo)

Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick. Scholastic, 2005. Thirteen-year-old Steven seeks solace in practicing his drums for the school jazz band after he learns that his five-year-old brother has leukemia. (M)

Flush by Carl Hiaasen. Knopf, 2005. After their father is jailed for sinking a casino boat that has been flushing its sewage tanks into the water in a Florida harbor, Noah and his younger sister cook up a plan to expose the pollution and put the boat's owner out of business. (M)

Guys Write for Guys Read edited by Jon Scieszka. Viking, 2005. Memoirs, stories, drawings, comics, and poems about being a guy, from dozens of authors—chosen by readers on the Guys Read website. (M)

Helicopter Man by Elizabethg Fensham. Bloomsbury, 2005. After his mother's death, young Peter and his dad go into hiding because his dad thinks they are being pursued by a secret organization, but eventually Peter learns his dad is schizophrenic. (M)

Heroes Don't Run: A Novel of the Pacific War by Harry Mazer. Simon & Schuster, 2005. Adam Pelko continues his adventures begun in *A Boy at War* by joining the Marines, surviving boot camp, and fighting on Okinawa, where he is wounded before returning home. (M)

Inexcusable by Chris Lynch. Atheneum, 2005. Lynch provides a gritty look at the life of a high school senior boy who seems to really want to be seen as a good kid but who continually does irresponsible things until one last inexcusable act forces him to take responsibility for his behaviors. (H)

Invisible by Pete Hautman. Simon & Schuster, 2005. Narrator Doug Hanson tells us about his troubled life, about how he is building a massive match-stick bridge for his train set, and about his relationship with his best friend Andy, except Andy's been dead for years and Doug's hold on reality is getting weaker by the day. (M/H)

A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms by Paul B. Janeczko, illus. by Chris Raschka. Candlewick, 2005. An anthology of poems that illustrate 29 poetic forms, from acrostic to elegy and tanka to triolet, with brightly colored illustrations and clear rules for writing each type. (M/H)

Red Sea by Diane Tullson. Orca, (September) 2005. Reluctantly sailing the Red Sea with her mother and stepfather, 14-year-old Libby suddenly faces a life-and-death struggle after their sailboat is raided by pirates, her stepfather is killed, and her mother is severely wounded. (M/H)

Runner by Carl Deuker. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Chance and his alcoholic father live on a run-down sailboat in Puget Sound, barely making ends meet, until his love for running provides an opportunity for Chance to make a large amount of money delivering packages for smugglers—and not just drugs. (M/H)

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie by David Lubar. Dutton, 2005. Freshman Scott Hudson describes his daily struggles with bullies, teachers, girls, and geeky kids while writing a journal to his as yet unborn baby brother in a delightful and entertaining manner. (M)

Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083 by Andrea White. EOS, 2005. Five 14-year-olds reenact Robert Scott's 1911-1912 trek to the South Pole as contestants in a reality TV episode in an age when television dominates everyone's life, but for the teens, facing their own deaths is as real as it gets. (M/H)

A Few Older Books, Now in Paperback

The Afterlife by Gary Soto. Harcourt, 2003. After Chuy, a high school senior in Fresno, California, is stabbed to death in the restroom of a nightclub, he lives on as a ghost for several days, visiting people and places he has loved and meeting the ghost of a girl who has just killed herself. (M/H)

Can't Get There from Here by Todd Strasser. Simon & Schuster, 2004. The painful stories of several homeless teenagers living (and dying) on the streets of New York City, looking for a place to belong. (M/H)

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau. Random House, 2003. As the lights of the city of Ember are beginning to fade in the year 241, threatening everyone with the endless darkness that surrounds them, 12-year-olds Lina and Doon discover an ancient parchment that seem to provide directions to the Unknown Regions. (M)

Claws by Will Weaver. HarperCollins, 2003. Jed's perfect life is shattered when Laura tells him that her mother and his father are having an affair; then everything gets worse from there. (H)

Fat Kid Rules the World by K.L. Going. Putnam, 2003. Contemplating suicide, a 296 pound 17-year-old guy meets a homeless teenage musician who needs a drummer for his band; their relationship helps Troy deal with his self-image and as he comes to see the world from a totally different perspective. (H)

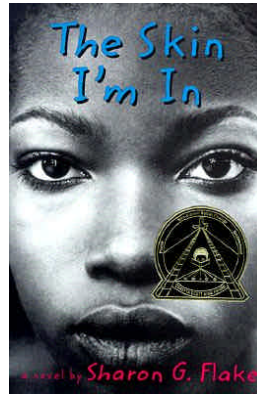
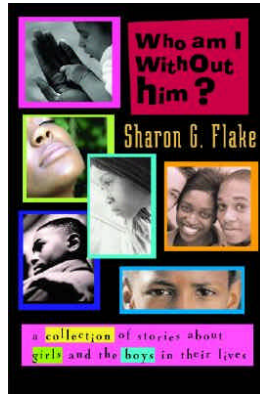
Finding Our Way by René Saldaña, Jr. Wendy Lamb Books, 2003. These eleven easy-to-read stories bring readers into the drama, pain, and joys of several Mexican American teens. (M)

Kissing the Rain by Kevin Brooks. The Chicken House, 2004. The bullying that Moo experiences in school everyday suddenly stops after he is the only witnesses to a road rage incident where a man is killed, but then adults for both sides begin to put undue pressure on him to support their side in court, and Moo is in a losing position no matter what he does. (M/H)

One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies by Sonya Sones. Simon & Schuster, 2004. After her mother's death, 15-year-old Ruby leaves her boyfriend as well as her best friend and goes to Los Angeles to live with her movie star father who divorced her mother before Ruby was born. (M/H)

Wizards of the Game by David Lubar. Philomel, 2003. Mercer's love of a fantasy role-playing game in eighth grade lead him into a world of real wizards as well as Christian Fundamentalists who object to the use of dice and magic. (M)

Sharon Flake



Sharon Flake says her objective as an artist is to write books to encourage young people to read, and to use her talents to open up new avenues for young people to express their creative talent.

Her passion for young people is evident in her books, *The Skin I'm In*, *Money Hungry*, and *Begging for Change*. In *The Skin I'm In*, the main character is tormented because of her dark skin and suffers from low self-esteem. In *Money Hungry* and *Begging for Change*, impoverished thirteen-year-old Raspberry is confident, focused, and determined to build a nest egg for herself and her mother.

What has surprised Ms. Flake is that her readership includes men and boys, even though her books are mainly about young girls who live with their mothers.

She began her writing career in college as an English major, which parlayed into writing positions at the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business. Ms. Flake admits that her employment at the University has helped her to rely on herself because "you have to stand behind your work." As a published author, she also has to stand behind her work because there is no one to hide behind.

Ms. Flake's honors include a Bulletin Blue Ribbon Book for *Begging for Change* in 2003 and mention in *The New York Times Book Review* in July 2003. In 2002, *Money Hungry* was on the *Los Angeles Times* Recommended Summer Reading List for Teens; Ms. Flake was named the ALA Coretta Scott King Honor Award winner for the same book. *The Skin I'm In* has been named Best Book for Young Readers by the ALA and chosen as a "Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers."

Ms. Flake received the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts Fellowship in 2001.

(from <http://www.nationalbook.org/sflakebio.html> Used with permission)

Short Story Anthologies Edited by Donald R. Gallo

- SIXTEEN -- The first ever anthology of original short stories for teenagers written by a variety of authors who write for young adults. One of YALSA's 100 Best of the Best Books published between 1966 and 1999.
- VISIONS -- The second ever collection of new short stories for teens.
- CONNECTIONS --The third collection, which includes Chris Crutcher's first short story " A Brief Moment in the Life of Angus Bethune" – now out of print.
- SHORT CIRCUITS -- Thirteen scary stories for teen readers--now out of print.
- JOIN IN -- Seventeen multi-ethnic short stories about the lives of contemporary American teenagers whose ethnic backgrounds are Vietnamese, Chinese, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Mexican, Pueblo Indian, Japanese, Lebanese, Laotian, and African American.
- ULTIMATE SPORTS -- In this knockout collection of sixteen stories, both male and female teens engage in a variety of sports, including basketball, football, track, cross-country, sailing, scuba diving, boxing, wrestling, racquet ball, triathlon, and the ultimate sport of the future.
- NO EASY ANSWERS -- These sixteen short stories about character development show teenagers facing situations that test their moral strength as they deal with such issues as computer blackmail, drug use, pregnancy, gang violence, and peer pressure.
- TIME CAPSULE -- Ten different authors each explore a major aspect of each decade of the twentieth century through the points of view of teenage characters whose feelings and concerns are similar to those of contemporary teens.
- ON THE FRINGE --Eleven stories focus on the experiences of teenage outsiders struggling with peer pressure, conformity, personal identity, popularity, and harassment.
- DESTINATION UNEXPECTED -- Ten stories about teenagers who go on some kind of journey where they learn something about themselves as well as about a part of the wider world.
- FIRST CROSSING --Stories about teen immigrants from Mexico, China, Romania, Haiti, Korea, Kazakhstan, Sweden, Venezuela, Cambodia, and Palestine, and their experiences adjusting to American life.
- WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF? Stories about Phobias -- Coming in spring 2006.

Short Story Collections (non-Gallo)

- *Am I Blue? Coming Out of the Silence* edited by Marion Dane Bauer. HarperCollins, 1994. Sixteen stories about being Gay- very funny and others deadly serious, by such authors as Bruce Coville, Nancy Garden, M.E. Kerr, Lois Lowry, William Sleator, Jacqueline Woodson, and Jane Yolen. (H)
- *Athletic Shorts: 6 Stories* by Chris Crutcher. Greenwillow, 1991. Probably the best set of short stories about teenagers ever written, most of them based on characters from Crutcher's novels.
- *The Color of Absence: 12 Stories about Loss and Hope* edited by James Howe. Atheneum, 2001. Annette Curtis Klause, Norma Fox Mazer, Naomi Shihab Nye, Walter Dean Myers, and others portray various kinds of losses in the lives of an interesting array of fictional teenagers. (M/H)
- *Dirty Laundry: Stories about Family Secrets* edited by Lisa Rowe Fraustino. Viking, 1998. Excellent variety of stories about plagiarism, abortion, child abuse, mental illness, trans-gender acceptance by authors such as Richard Peck, Bruce Coville, Chris Crutcher, Rita Williams-Garcia, and M.E. Kerr. (M/H)
- *Don't Cramp My Style: Stories About That Time of the Month* edited by Lisa Rowe Fraustino. Simon & Schuster, 2004. A variety of writers take different slants on menstruation, some contemporary and others historical, but most are for more mature readers. (H)
- *Every Man for Himself: Ten Stories About Being a Guy* edited by Nancy Mercado. Dial, 2005. A variety of life-lessons from the pens of Ron Koertge, David Levithan, David Lubar, Walter Dean Myers, Rene Salda Jr., Terry Trueman, and other less well-known writers. (M/H)
- *Face Relations: Eleven Stories About Seeing Beyond Color* edited by Marilyn Singer. Simon & Schuster, 2004. With stories by Rita Williams-Garcia, Ron Koertge, Ellen Wittlinger, and other.
- *Figs and Fate: Stories About Growing Up in the Arab World Today* by Elsa Marston. George Braziller, 2005. In these five gently told stories, young people deal with various problems of growing up in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. (M)
- *Finding Our Way* by Ren Salda Jr. Wendy Lamb Books, 2003. These eleven easy-to-read stories bring readers into the drama, pain, and joys of several Mexican American teens. (M)
- *Firebirds: An Anthology of Original Fantasy and Science Fiction* edited by Sharyn November. Firebird/Penguin Putnam, 2003. A hefty collection of 16 stories by Nancy Springer, Lloyd Alexander, Michael Cadnum, Meredith Ann Pierce, Garth Nix, Diana Wynn Jones, Nancy Farmer, and other stellar writers of fantasy and science fiction. (M/H)
- *First French Kiss and Other Traumas* by Adam Bagdasarian. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2002. Touching and humorous, these chronological stories provide snapshots of the pain and pleasures of a childhood and adolescence in southern California. (M)

- *Girls Got Game: Sports Stories and Poems* edited by Sue Macy. Henry Holt, 2001. Finally, a collection of original stories just about female athletes playing baseball, softball, basketball, soccer, stickball, football, tetherball, etc. (M/H)
- *Seven Ghostly Stories* by Joan Lowery Nixon. Delacorte, 2000. Eerie stories set in real ghost towns of the American West. (M)
- *Half-Human* edited by Bruce Coville. Scholastic, 2001. Ten engaging stories about creatures that are half human, half animal of some kind, by Nancy Springer, Tamora Pierce, Gregory Maguire, Jane Yolan, and others. (M)
- *Island Boyz* by Graham Salisbury. Random House, 2002. Eleven stories, five previously published, all set in Hawaii, about a variety of topics, including fishing, bullying, and romance. (M/H)
- *Losing Is Not an Option* by Rich Wallace. Knopf, 2003. Nine short stories take readers through the highlights of Ron's teenage years, from sneaking into a football game in sixth grade and playing basketball in a fierce summer league to making the wrong moves on a girl he's attracted to, all the while developing his ability as a long-distance runner with his eye on the state championship. (M/H)
- *Lost & Found: Award-Winning Authors Sharing Real-Life Experiences Through Fiction* edited by M. Jerry Weiss and Helen S. Weiss. Forge, 2000. Thirteen stories based on real experiences by David Lubar, Shelley Stoehr, Adele Griffin, Mel Glenn, Tamora Pierce, Rich Wallace, Paul Zindel, and others. (M/H)
- *Love & Sex: Ten Stories of Truth* edited by Michael Cart. Simon & Schuster, 2001. These stories about teen sexuality range from the hilarious "Extra Virgin" by Joan Bauer to the thought-provoking "The Cure for Curtis" by Chris Lynch, with several that include explicit descriptions of hetero- and homo-sexual activities. (H)
- *Odder Than Ever* by Bruce Coville. Harcourt Brace, 1999. A ghost who bakes biscuits, a Japanese mirror that urges a teenage viewer to change places with his image, and a princess who smells bad are just three of the bizarre situations that greet readers in these engrossing (sometimes just gross) and entertaining stories. (M)
- *145th Street* by Walter Dean Myers. Delacorte, 2000. Touching stories about the intersecting lives of a variety of people in a New York City neighborhood. (M/H)
- *One Hot Second: Stories about Desire* edited by Cathy Young. Knopf, June 2002. Stories about first love, first times . . . by Sarah Dessen, Nancy Garden,
- *On the Edge: Stories at the Brink* edited by Lois Duncan. Simon & Schuster, 2000. A dozen new stories from writers such as Alden R. Carter, Terry Davis, Margaret Paterson Haddix, and Ellen Wittlinger about teenagers on various edges: the edge of sanity, the edge of a family, the edge of a ravine, the edge of annihilation. (M/H)
- *Out of Bounds: Seven Stories of Conflict and Hope* by Beverley Naidoo. HarperCollins, 2003. These previously published stories illustrate the effects of apartheid on various South African children, from 1948 through 2000. (M)
- *Past Perfect, Present Tense: New and Collected Stories* by Richard Peck. Dial, 2004. A compilation of thirteen previously published stories and two new ones from this contemporary master of the short story, with insightful introductions along with advice on How to Write a Short Story. (M/H)

- *Rush Hour: Sin* edited by Michael Cart. Random House, 2004. With stories and poems by Joan Bauer, Nikki Grimes, Chris Lynch, Alex Flinn, Sonya Sones, Ron Koertge, and many others. <See also *Bad Boys* (vol. 2) 2004 and *Face* (vol. 3) 2005.
- *Shattered: Stories of Children and War* edited by Jennifer Armstrong. Knopf, 2002. Joseph Bruchac, David Lubar, Marilyn Singer, Suzanne Fisher Staples, and eight other authors describe how different young people are affected by and deal with war in various forms and times, including the American Civil War, WWII, the Six-Day War in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and on the home front. (M/H)
- *Soul Searching: Thirteen Stories About Faith and Belief*, edited by Lisa Rowe Fraustino. Simon & Schuster, 2002. William Sleator, Minfong Ho, Shonto Begay, David Lubar, and others write about a variety of teen religious belief experiences, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Navajo. (H)
- *13: Thirteen Stories that Capture the Agony and Ecstasy of Being Thirteen . . .* edited by James Howe. Atheneum, 2003. The title says it all -- by writers such as Bruce Coville, Alex Sanchez, Lori Aurelia Williams, Ron Koertge, Meg Cabot, and Rachel Vail. (M)
- *Tomorrowland: 10 Stories about the Future* edited by Michael Cart. Scholastic, 1999. Two of these imaginative stories are set in the past, a few in the present, and the rest in the future--all looking at future problems and possibilities concerning the environment, alienation, responsibility, and family relationships. (M/H)
- *Trapped:* edited by Lois Duncan. Simon & Schuster, 1998. Eleven stories by people such as Rob Thomas, Gary Crew, and Francesca Lia Block, along with a play by Rita Williams-Garcia, and a poems by Lois Lowry, reveal teenagers trapped in a variety of situations – some physical, others emotional – from which only some escape. (M/H)
- *Tripping Over the Lunch Lady and Other School Stories* edited by Nancy E. Mercado. Dial, 2004. Ten cute stories about various school experiences from authors such as Avi, Terry Trueman, David Lubar, and Rachel Vail. (M)
- *Twelve Impossible Things Before Breakfast* by Jane Yolen. Harcourt, 1997. Jane Yolen assembles nine previously published stories and three new ones into an appealing collection of fantasy stories that are fanciful and chilling, delightful and gross. (M/H)
- *Twelve Shots: Outstanding Short Stories About Guns* edited by Harry Mazer. Delacorte, 1997. In addition to stories about violence and the threat of violence, there are also stories of personal discovery, friendship, and even humor in this powerful collection, written by Chris Lynch, Richard Peck, Walter Dean Myers, and others. (H)
- *What a Song Can Do: 12 Riffs On the Power of Music* edited by Jennifer Armstrong. Knopf, 2004. An engaging assemblage of short stories by Ron Koertge, Joseph Brushac, Gail Giles, Dian Curtis Regan, and eight others in which music plays a key role. (M/H)

25 things to do to reach reluctant readers tomorrow

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READING SURVEY for AASL

1. How you would describe your view of reading? Would you say that you are currently an avid reader? A reluctant reader? Or are you a non-reader?
2. Outside of school, how many books do you normally read a month? What's the last best thing you read and why?
3. What type of books do you like to read? Fiction? Non-fiction? Graphic novels? And why?
4. Have your reading tastes changed over the year? Do you read mainly books written for teens or more adult books? What is your reading autobiography?
5. If you don't read books, what do you read? Magazines? Comics? Web sites?
6. If you don't read books, why? Do you find books just don't interest you?
7. What makes you pick up a certain book? Is it the cover? A recommendation? How do you find out what to read?
8. What do you do after you've read a good book? Do you tell people about the book? Review it online? How do you share information about what you've read?
9. We've been talking all day about reaching reluctant readers in school libraries: what are you thoughts? What should - or maybe just an important - shouldn't school libraries be doing to promote reading?
10. What's else? You've got the floor. Anything else you want to tell us about your view of the reading experience?

READING SURVEY 2005

1. How you would describe your view of reading?

- Love reading - I enjoy reading for pleasure and for school
 Really enjoy reading - I enjoy reading for pleasure when I have the time
 Tolerate reading - I will read for school, but not for pleasure
 Hate reading - I will read only if had to

2. How would you rate your own reading skills?

- Advanced - I like to read books meant for people in higher grade levels
 Above Average - I read some at my grade level and some above it
 Average - I am comfortable reading books for people at my grade level
 Below Average - I can read books at my grade level, but sometimes have trouble
 Poor - I have trouble reading most books at my grade level

3. Outside of school, how many books did you read a month?

[] zero [] 1-2 [] 3-5 [] 6-10 [] 11-15 [] 16-20 [] More than 20

4. When do you read, what do you read most? PLEASE CHECK ONE

[] books [] magazines [] comic books [] newspapers [] web sites

5. If you read books, what type of books? PLEASE CHECK ONE

[] fiction / stories [] nonfiction / true stories [] graphic novels

6. In fiction, what THREE types of books do you like best?

[] Adventure [] Historical [] Fantasy [] Science Fiction [] Romance
[] Urban [] Humor [] Mystery/Suspense [] Realistic [] Horror
[] Other:

7. In non-fiction, what THREE types of books do you like best?

[] Biography [] History [] Health [] True crime [] Science
[] Sports [] Humor [] Music/TV/movies [] Self-help [] Poetry
[] Other:

8. In magazines, what types of magazine do you like best? Choose only ONE

[] Music [] Sports [] Fashion [] Video game [] TV/ Movies
[] Other:

9. If you said you tolerated or hated reading, why? Check all that apply

- I like reading, just not reading books
 In books, I just can't get into the stories or relate to the characters
 Reading is boring compared to other things I could be doing with my time
 Reading makes me tired/causes headaches
 I'm not good at it
 Books take too much time
 Friends make fun of me
 Other

10. If you said you tolerated or hated reading now, when you were younger did you:

[] love to read [] enjoy reading [] tolerated reading [] hate reading

11. What grade are you in? [] [] **12. Are you?** [] Male or [] Female

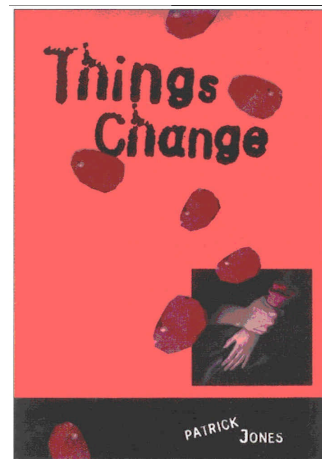
Patrick Jones
Author Visit FAQ

thingschangenovel@yahoo.com

Contact for books:

Jeffrey Price

Jeffrey.price@hbpub.com



WHO: *Things Change* is intended for students in grades 9 – 12, although the core audience seems to be 9th and 10th graders. The key to any good author visit is having student familiar with the book, thus I'd like to present to small groups (no large presentations) with an interest in teen fiction and/or creative writing.

WHAT: Presentation teaches about writing fiction, involves students in creating a story, and provides opportunity for students to ask questions about *Things Change* and/or publishing. Teachers might also want to prepare the class using book discussion questions. Presentation and discussion questions are both attached.

WHEN: I'm available anytime during the school year, but prefer presentations on Mondays or Fridays. I'd prefer to do no more than four presentations in one day.

HOW: Contact me (thingschangenovel@yahoo.com) to arrange details. Fee is negotiable. The most important thing is getting books for students to read in advance. Books are available at 40% discount (about \$10 a book) by contacting:

Jeffrey Price

Assistant, Von Holtzbrinck Publishing Services Special Sales

Tel: 646-307-5445

e-mail: Jeffrey.price@hbpub.com

Please provide, on school or library letterhead, complete information about the date of visit, number of books needed, etc. Jeffrey will work with you on all the details, including working with a local book store.

WHAT NEXT?

The number of books and how they are distributed is your call. Some options are:

1. Purchase enough copies for students attending presentation to read, then keep at the school.
2. Purchase enough copies for students attending presentation to read, then allow students to have books autographed and keep these copies for themselves.
3. Obtain enough copies for students attending presentation to read, but then allow them to buy copies if they wish to have book autographed then keep
4. Purchase copies for the library or the classroom to circulate among students, then sell or "raffle" off copies for students to keep
5. Purchase copies for the library or the classroom to circulate among students, then sell or "raffle" off copies for students to keep, but then have for additional books for sale for students to keep on day of presentation.

PREPARING STUDENTS

To prepare for the author visits in addition to reading the book, consider:

1. Having students read online interview with author (www.teenlibrarian.com)
2. Having students locate and read an article about dating violence
3. Having students write questions regarding writing and publishing

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Patrick Jones grew up in Flint, Michigan and now resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His most recent professional publication is *Connecting Young Adults and Libraries: new and revised 3rd edition* (Neal-Schuman, 2004) written with Michele Gorman and Tricia Suellentrop. He is a frequent speaker at library conferences, having visited all fifty states, as well as in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. His first young adult novel *Things Change* (Walker & Company, 2004) was named by the Young Adult Library Services Association as a best book for reluctant readers. He has recently completed his second novel *Nail*, due to be published in spring 2006. He can be found on the web at <http://www.connectingya.com>.