

**SJRLC A+ Partnership: Booktalking the Reading Rants  
Way  
August 19, 2009**

Titles Discussed in Today's Workshop...

***Flashbacks***

*Nothing to Lose* by Alex Flinn. HarperCollins, 2004. 288p.

A year after running away with a traveling carnival to escape his unbearable home life, sixteen-year-old Michael returns to Miami, Florida, to find that his mother is going on trial for the murder of his abusive stepfather. (CIP)

*The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson. Simon & Schuster, 2003. 144 p.

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter. (CIP)

***From the Headlines***

*Acceleration* by Graham McNamee. Wendy Lamb Books, 2003. 224 p.

Stuck working in the lost and found department of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him. (CIP)

*Tenderness* by Robert Cormier. Delacorte, 1997. 240 p.

A psychological thriller told from the points of view of a teenage serial killer and the runaway girl who falls in love with him. (CIP)

*Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083* by Andrea White. EOS, 2005. 336 p.

In the year 2083, five fourteen-year-olds who were deprived by chance of the opportunity to continue their educations reenact Scott's 1910-1913 expedition to the South Pole as contestants on a reality television show, secretly aided by a Department of Entertainment employee. (CIP)

*Stone Cold* by Pete Hautman. Simon & Schuster, 1998. 176 p.

Sixteen-year-old Denn finds himself alienating both friends and family when he becomes obsessed with playing high-stakes poker with adult gamblers. (CIP)

***Thought Provoking Questions***

*Growing Wings* by Laurel Winter. Houghton Mifflin, 2000. 224p.

When wings start to appear on her back, eleven-year-old Linnet begins to understand some of her mother's strange behavior, but it isn't until she finds herself at a remote house in Montana with others who also have--or had--wings that she can really come to terms

with her situation. (CIP)

*Dr. Franklin's Island* by Ann Halam. Wendy Lamb Books, 2002. 256p.

When their plane crashes over the Pacific Ocean, three science students are left stranded on a tropical island and then imprisoned by a doctor who is performing horrifying experiments on humans involving the transfer of animal genes. (CIP)

*Left for Dead* by Pete Nelson. Delacorte, 2003. 224p.

Recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the Navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later. (CIP)

### ***Classic Cliffhangers***

*Last Dance on Holladay Street* by Elisa Carbone. Knopf, 2005. 208p.

In 1878, thirteen-year-old Eva seeks her birth mother in Colorado, only to find the city and her mother are not what she imagined. (CIP)

*Jade Green* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Atheneum, 2000. 176p.

While living with her uncle in a house haunted by the ghost of a young woman, recently orphaned Judith Sparrow wonders if her one small transgression causes mysterious happenings. (CIP)

*Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix. Simon & Schuster, 1998. 160p.

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong. (CIP)

### ***Best When Read Aloud***

*Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis. Scholastic, 2007. 341p.

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom. (CIP)

*Twelve* by Lauren Myracle. Dutton, 2007. 202p.

Winnie relates the events of her twelfth year and the many changes in her relationships and in her attitude toward growing up. (CIP)

*Shattering Glass* by Gail Giles. Roaring Brook, 2002. 224p.

Rob, the charismatic leader of the senior class, provokes unexpected violence when he

turns the school nerd into Prince Charming. (CIP)

*The Schwa Was Here* by Neal Shusterman. Dutton, 2004. 228 p.

A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone. (CIP)

*Jennifer Hubert Swan, Reading Rants! Out of the Ordinary Booklists for Teens: [www.readingrants.org](http://www.readingrants.org)*