



## **TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT**

### **Winter, 2005**

*This is the newsletter for <http://www.TeachingBooks.net> — Generating enthusiasm for books and reading by providing easy access to authors, illustrators and exceptional book resources — all in one place!*

*From one easy-to-use website, TeachingBooks makes instantly available original, in-studio movies of authors and illustrators, audio excerpts of professional book readings, guides to thousands of titles and a wealth of multimedia resources on children's and young adult literature.*

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**TeachingBooks.net** continually identifies, catalogs and maintains reliable links to curricular resources that help you share books in the classroom, library and home. **TeachingBooks Spirit** highlights specific links to give you a flavor of what the site has to offer.

#### **Learn More About TeachingBooks**

Download our latest brochure at: <http://teachingbooks.net/WhatIsTeachingBooks>

See Recent Awards and Reviews: <http://www.teachingbooks.net/content/mediahighlights.pdf>

#### **TeachingBooks' New Toll-Free Phone Number:**

Have a question for us? Now you can call us toll-free on (800) 596-0710.

#### **TeachingBooks' Exclusive Author Up-close Program: Rosemary Wells**

[http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec\\_athr.cgi?name=Wells%2C%20Rosemary](http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Wells%2C%20Rosemary)

In TeachingBooks' series of original, interactive slideshows, see and hear Rosemary Wells discuss the origin of and the humor in her Max and Ruby Books, share insights into the Yoko Reader Books and *My Kindergarten* and show images and drawings from her books and childhood.

See many other award-winning authors and illustrators in our exclusive TeachingBooks Authors Up-close programs at [http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr\\_upcls.cgi](http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi), including Chris Raschka and Marc Aronson.

#### **Additional Author Program: Laurence Yep**

<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/authorbio.php?ID=368>

This comprehensive author program by Reading Rockets includes video clips of Laurence Yep talking about his life and work, a written transcript of the video clips and a complete interview transcript. Also included are a brief biography and an annotated bibliography of a selection of Laurence's books.

Laurence Yep won the 2005 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award this week. You will need high-speed Internet access and RealOne Player on your computer in order to view the video clips.

TeachingBooks continually identifies, catalogs and maintains reliable links to multimedia interviews with children's book creators. While TeachingBooks does not create these programs, we believe that you'll really enjoy them.

#### **TeachingBooks Author in the News: Toni Morrison**

[http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec\\_athr.cgi?name=Morrison%2C%20Toni](http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Morrison%2C%20Toni)

This week, Toni Morrison was awarded the 2005 Coretta Scott King Author Award for her book, *Remember: The Journey to School Integration*. The book includes photographs and narrative of and about the events and emotions felt by both sides of the school desegregation issue. Our TeachingBooks.net Authors Up-close Program features a journey with Toni Morrison through the tumultuous time that was

sparked by the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

See many other favorite and award-winning authors and illustrators in TeachingBooks' exclusive programs at [http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr\\_upcls.cgi](http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi)

**Author's Personal Website: J. K. Rowling**

<http://www.jkrowling.com/en>

While you've certainly heard of J. K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series, have you seen her official website yet? Sections include: News, Rumors (You can find out what's true and what's just a rumor!), Biography, Wizard of the Month, Scrapbook and Extra Stuff. The Scrapbook collects "rewards" that are given as site visitors find "Potterania" hidden around the site. Extra Stuff features answers to frequently asked questions about J. K., about the books and about "other stuff." Site visitors can even vote for the next FAQ they want her to answer. Students will love exploring the site, which creates a feeling of personal connection with J. K. Rowling. You need high-speed Internet access and the Flash plug-in installed on your computer.

**Book Award: Schneider Family Book Award**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/awardsbucket/schneideraward/schneiderfamily.htm>

TeachingBooks featured author Pam Muñoz Ryan won the 2005 Schneider Family Book Award this week for *Becoming Naomi León*. The Schneider Family Book Award honors an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences. In *Naomi León*, Naomi's brother, Owen, has a disability. See our TeachingBooks Authors Up-close Program with Pam Muñoz Ryan at

[http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec\\_athr.cgi?name=Ryan%2C%20Pam%20Munoz](http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Ryan%2C%20Pam%20Munoz).

**Book Guide: All-of-a-Kind Family series by Sydney Taylor**

<http://www.jewishlibraries.org/ajlweb/awards/companion.pdf>

This 14-page book guide accompanies the *All-of-a-Kind Family* series of books about five sisters growing up on the Lower East Side of New York City during the early-1900s. Developed by the Association of Jewish Libraries to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sydney Taylor's birth, the guide includes notes on the books' setting, author, read-alikes, activities and discussion questions.

**Book Reading: Hana's Suitcase by Karen Levine**

[http://www.soundprint.org/radio/display\\_show/ID/71/name/Hana's+Suitcase](http://www.soundprint.org/radio/display_show/ID/71/name/Hana's+Suitcase)

From a Soundprint radio show in cooperation with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, you can listen to nearly a half an hour of this non-fiction book about a contemporary Japanese museum curator uncovering the story of a Jewish girl who was a victim of the Holocaust — all from the discovery of the young girl's suitcase.

**Thematic Booklist: Edgy Young Adult Fiction by the Cooperative Children's Book Center**

<http://www.soemadison.wisc.edu/ccbc/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=127>

From *The Outsiders* in 1967 to current works pushing the ever-changing "boundaries" in the literary world, there are many young adult novels that are edgy — and that speak to students because of that edge. Here, the librarians of the Cooperative Children's Book Center categorize examples used during one of their presentations.

**Take Note: Censorship: An Educator's Guide by Pat Scales through Random House**

<http://www.randomhouse.com/highschool/guides/censorship.html>

This link, categorized as an Intellectual Freedom Resource, can be found in the Valuable Links section of the TeachingBooks.net website. With discussions of the First Amendment in the news these days, what better way to explore the issue than with this guide about censorship? Pat Scales gives us all food for thought when she writes, "There is no place for fear of ideas in schools and libraries."

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These featured links from our database connect you to material that highlights the personality and spirit within the best of children's and young adult literature — enjoy!

### **TeachingBooks Is For Your Entire Community!**

Did you know that TeachingBooks is designed to be used by everyone in your school community? To make it easy for you to tell everyone about TeachingBooks, we offer a customized flyer and email for you to distribute. We also have an easy way for you to train your colleagues on accessing and using TeachingBooks. Our distribution and training tools can be found on the “TeachingBooks for Your Entire Community” page at: <http://www.teachingbooks.net/show.cgi?f=community>.

### **TeachingBooks News**

To learn more about what's happening at TeachingBooks, go to our News page at <http://www.teachingbooks.net/news.cgi>.

Thanks again for your interest in TeachingBooks.net, and have a wonderful winter!

Nick Glass, [Nick@TeachingBooks.net](mailto:Nick@TeachingBooks.net)

John H. Moore, Carin Bringelson & Virginia Harrison

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