



The Sampler

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COUNCIL

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Old Passions – New Technologies:

Children's and Young Adult Literature in a Web 2.0 World

Spring Workshop: May 1, 2010

BY BETSY KAHN

“The book is dead. You can find everything on the Internet anyway.” How many of us have heard this inane declaration from some poor, uninformed person who is completely unplugged from the vibrant, lively world of literature we all love, and around which so many of us have built our lives and careers? We know, however, that technology is not the “bad guy” – it is one of the most powerful tools we possess as champions of books and reading

for children and young adults. To kick off our workshop, CLCSC Board President, Laurie Reese, traced our history of employing the latest technologies to help us in our mission. In the 1960's, we used film. In the 80's, we partnered with cable television, and in the 90's, we embraced the first generation of digital technology with CD-ROMs. On this beautiful spring morning in 2010, we gathered in a classroom at the UCLA Lab School in the presence

of luminaries who are on the technological cutting edge of our field, using the Internet to guide kids into the age-old world of literature.

SAVE THE DATE!

2010 FALL GALA

Saturday, November 6, 2010

Featuring

Keynote Speaker

Jacqueline Woodson

**Check Website
for more information**

Tracy Grand, CEO of [Jacketflap](#), calls her site “The Google of Children’s Literature.” Established in 2006, Jacketflap has become a “one-stop shopping” site that aggregates data on over one million books, 200,000 authors, illustrators, and creators, and 20,000 book publishers. This searchable and sortable online database also features over 700,000 professional book reviews and 200 children’s literature blogs, as well as book trailers and book videos. The author pages are brimming with fan-friendly information such as author biography, links to Facebook and MySpace pages, blogs, an illustration gallery, an author’s own bookshelf, “friends,” and any upcoming book tours or signings. The “community” section offers social networking opportunities

where members can find each other online, read profiles, share their bookshelves, and communicate with one another. Jacketflap is a tool for adults trying to keep up with the explosion of activity in the world of children’s literature, and for librarians trying to guide kids into this world we love.

If Jacketflap is the “Google of children’s literature,” then [Goodreads](#) is the Facebook of literature for all ages. Elizabeth Khuri Chandler, Goodreads co-founder, reported that Goodreads currently has over 3 million members, making it the largest social network for readers in the world. Simply put, its mission is to get people excited about reading by recommending, comparing, and tracking the books they read, and coming together in online book

clubs of every conceivable description. By serving as a personal database, Goodreads can help us record what we read and assist us in planning book talks and other promotional reading activities. These functions include options to add tags to titles, and to record titles for later reading. Elizabeth reported that about 25% of Goodreads members are under the age of 20, and offered ideas about how to use Goodreads in our work with children: creating student book groups, connecting with some of the 11,000 official Goodreads authors, taking on a “book challenge,” and connecting with other genre enthusiasts. Kids might also enjoy the [Never-ending Trivia Challenge](#), [quotes](#), [role-play groups](#), and browsing Goodreads’ many [lists](#). Other great Goodreads benefits are

frequent book giveaways, book swaps, and a monthly online newsletter. We were happy to hear Elizabeth pronounce that “The book is NOT dead!” but she noted that e-readers will most definitely be a part of our future.

Eva Mitnick, Acting Manager of Youth Services for Los Angeles Public Library, and a self-described shy person, started her talk by reminding us that “face time works best!” However, she has jumped feet-first into the Web 2.0 world with her blog, [Eva’s Book Addiction](#), where she makes friends without small talk, taps into a worldwide community of children’s book fanatics, scores Advance Reading Copies from her publisher contacts, and finds that, although reading may be solitary, it doesn’t have to be lonely. Eva’s tips for starting your own

children’s literature blog include: decide on a platform (e.g. [Blogger](#) or [Wordpress](#)), choose a unique name, decide on your niche or slant, identify your purpose, be discrete and professional if you are blogging in the context of your job, have good follow-through, and have fun! Eva showed some great Web 2.0 toys to use with kids, such as [Storytubes](#) (kid-created book-based videos), [Bitstrips](#) (social comic strip creation); [Glogster](#) (electronic posters); and [Bookr](#) (book creation with Creative Commons images). The link to Eva’s handout can be found on the Spring Workshop [wiki page](#).

Our final panelist was Gregory Pincus, an author/blogger/poet/screenwriter who blogs about children’s literature and poetry at [GottaBook](#), and

about social networking at [The Happy Accident](#). His philosophy is that online children’s literature enthusiasts are looking for connection, information, and context. He advised that we adults not expect to actually connect with kids online, because kids really only look to connect with each other. There are plenty of online sites to which we can direct kids, such as [Poetry4Kids](#) and [Readergirlz](#), and cool web 2.0 events like [Skype](#) author visits we can create for kids as well. Greg shared an incredible [story](#) about how a “viral” Gottabook blog invitation to create “Fibonacci” poems during National Poetry Month resulted in over 1000 poems being posted in one month. He directed new and experienced bloggers to

[KidLitosphere](#), the “Society of Bloggers in Children’s and Young Adult Literature,” where people meet online to create space for interaction and share expertise, whose charge, says Greg, is to tie story and technology together.

In a world that often faces off into “either/or” camps, we are in a unique position to declare, “Both!” We can continue to champion the joy of books and reading through use of the new tools of technology, and we can continue to usher the next generation of reading fanatics into their fantastic brave new world.

BULLETIN BOARD

**Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators
Annual Summer Conference
August 30- September 2
Hyatt Regency Century Plaza
Los Angeles**

Smart Chicks Kick It Tour

**September 20th 6 PM VROMAN'S, Pasadena, CA
Melissa Marr, Alyson Noel, Kelley Armstrong, Rachel Caine, Melissa de la Cruz, Rachel Vincent & Mary Pearson
A tour designed for female Paranormal YA authors to meet their readers**

**West Hollywood
Book Fair
Sunday, September 26
West Hollywood Park**

**Orange County
Children's Book Festival
Sunday, October 3
9:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Costa Mesa**

**California Reading Association’s
Professional Development Institute
Riverside Convention Center, Riverside, CA
October 15 – 16, 2010**

Featuring Regie Routman

**SoCal Independent Book Sellers Author's Feast & Trade Show
Saturday, October 23
Renaissance Hollywood Hotel & Spa**

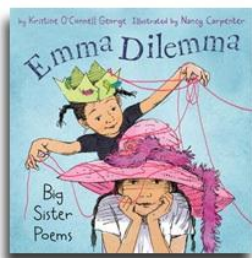
Welcome New Members

Annette V. Goldsmith, Los Angeles, Academic

First Online *Sampler*

In an effort to conserve resources, the Council Board has decided to publish *The Sampler* online. We welcome your comments and ideas for future issues.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS



Emma Dilemma: Big Sister Poems by Kristine O'Connell George was selected for the Junior Library Guild

The Southern California Independent Booksellers Association has named Eve Bunting for *Finn McCool and the Great Fish*, and Marla Frazee for *All the World* as finalists for its 2010 book awards. The winners will be announced on October 23.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership is based on the calendar year. All dues are tax-deductible. Current members may use the renewal form sent to them in the fall of each year. New memberships or questions about existing membership status should be directed to:

The Children's Literature Council of Southern California c/o Jody Stefansson at jstefansson@polytechnic.org

Click [here](#) to become a member or renew your current membership. Print the page, complete, and with your check made payable to CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COUNCIL mail to: P. O. Box 573462 Tarzana, CA 91357.