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**[Almost] everything I can tell you about a “secret” YALSA selection committee that you were afraid to ask** by Lee Catalano, Multnomah County Library

Thank you to all OYAN members for the generous assistance you provided to me to attend this year’s American Library Association Annual meeting in Chicago this past July. This was the fourth Annual meeting I have attended. For the past three years, I attended as a member of YALSA’s [Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults \(AAYA\)](#) committee, and this year I went as a member of the committee to select the 2010 [Odyssey Award](#). The Odyssey Award is three years old, and is a joint award with ALSC (Association of Library Services to Children); it is awarded to the producer of the best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the United States. Like those of better-known book awards (Printz, Newbery, Caldecott, Sibert), the Odyssey committee debates and decides the winner and honor books in secret.

[A committee like AAYA, in contrast, holds all of its deliberations in meetings open to the public. When I was a member of AAYA, we had a few visitors from time to time. Nothing like the numbers that sit in on the Best Books for Young Adults (BBYA) meetings, though.]

One of the reasons I was interested in being on the Odyssey

Committee – and why I needed the support to attend ALA Annual – was simple curiosity about what went on behind those closed doors. I’ll explain our process (and only the process for the Odyssey Committee – not other award committees). I can’t tell you about the audiobooks we’ll be talking about in Boston in a few weeks, because – as Ruth Allen told me the year she was on the Printz Committee – then I’d have to kill you. I am, of course, permitted to tell you about the audiobooks that I’ve listened to and enjoyed (or not): These are all posted on my blog, [Reading With My Ears](#).

**February 2009.** We started out in February meeting each other on an electronic discussion list hosted by ALA. The various audiobook publishers began sending us their productions and we started listening. Our chair assigned us to listen to particular titles, in order to evenly spread out the listening hours and to ensure that each submitted audiobook got some ears. Each of us listened to our assigned audiobooks with a partner. We would discuss its pros and cons (we called them positives and concerns) and decide together if we thought it was a good enough audiobook to “suggest” to the rest of the committee. Most of the time, these are easy

decisions – the cream rises pretty readily to the top, but occasionally we’d have to hash out some serious disagreements. Sometimes we’d request a third listener to help us come to a decision. To be fair, we listen all the way through each book ... even the obviously poor ones.

**July 2009.** At Annual, we had a group of “suggested” audiobooks that all nine of us had listened to. We had some friendly discussions (behind locked doors) about these audiobooks – what made them good in our eyes and what some of their faults were. As a result, a few of these suggested titles were unsuggested.

We also agreed at Annual that we would continue to listen in pairs, as we liked the idea that the books that we suggest and – eventually – nominate will not be ones that have appealed to just one person. On more than one occasion, I appreciated the alternate perspective – a different set of ears – that my listening partners provided.

**October 2009.** Since Annual, we’ve continued listening and suggesting titles to our colleagues. Once an audiobook is suggested, it goes straight on my to-be-listened-to pile.

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### Lee's Report Continued...

During the first week of October, we each nominated three audiobooks, accompanied by a pithy annotation. These nominations went straight to our chair, so I don't know what my fellow committee members nominated. Each may or may not choose to divulge their nominations when we meet at Midwinter. Then, in December, we again nominated three additional titles – three titles that I'd not nominated previously, but that could have already been nominated in October. Needless to say, I've added the nominations that I hadn't listened to the TBLT pile as well. It is from these nominated audiobooks that the Odyssey Award will come. Save some room in your collections budget: There are some good ones in there!

**December 2009.** Before we meet in January, each of the nominated titles will get a really close, critical listen by someone on the committee. Instead of walking, driving, cooking, cleaning, knitting, or anything else I do while I listen to audiobooks, I've got to sit down and do nothing but listen (on my finest stereo equipment) with a fine-toothed comb (sorry for the mixed metaphor) and a notebook and pen. Because it would be really, really embarrassing to our committee if – after the

awards are announced – a listener noticed a gulp, gasp, editing error, or the dreaded "juiciness" in our selection. Remember, the Odyssey Award is as much about production excellence as it is about literary merit.

**January 2010.** We'll begin meeting on Friday morning, January 15<sup>th</sup>, and don't get to leave (well, not really) until 10 p.m. on Saturday evening. At the end, we'll emerge – like Odysseus, feeling like we've been at it for 20 years – satisfied at the end of our journey. On Monday, at the crack of dawn Oregon time (5 a.m.), the Odyssey Awards will be announced.

#### An Odyssey Index:

- Audiobooks submitted: **418**
- Hours of listening: **2,248 [93 days 16 hours]**
- Committee members: **9**
- Minimum hours the committee will spend meeting in person (Annual and Midwinter): **25**
- Average assigned hours per committee member (not including suggested/nominated titles): **499**
- Books Lee listened to: **119**
- Hours Lee listened: **645 [almost 27 days]**

- Critical listening hours Lee listened: **13:45**
- The first book Lee plans to listen to when it's over: ***The Ghost Map* [8:30] (MCL's Everybody Reads 2010 selection)**

**OYAN awarded Lee a scholarship to help with the expenses related to her committee work. Any OYAN member is welcome to apply to help defray the expense of being a teen librarian. Don't forget that PLA is coming up right here in Oregon!**

**To find out more or apply for an OYAN scholarship, go to <http://www.olaweb.org/mc/page.do?sitePa geld=61034>**

**Instead of walking, driving, cooking, cleaning, knitting, or anything else I do while I listen to audiobooks, I've got to sit down and do nothing but listen.**

### An Unapologetic Hannah Montana Fan (sorta):

A teen program report from Mercedes Hubbard, Deschutes Public Library

Having just returned from Wal Mart in Redmond, OR, the life-size images of Miley Cyrus to promote her line with Max Azria were, not gonna lie, a little large for my taste. Maybe it's because something tells me they air-brushed her thighs or maybe I just didn't like her outfit, either way, I know she's not everybody's favorite. Everything on TMZ and teen gossip sites tell me that people love to hate Miley, but I'm here to say that

"Hannah Montana: The Movie" is really frickin good. The program I held at Sisters two days before Thanksgiving was also held in Redmond a day earlier for 7-12 year olds. In Sisters, it was grades 5 and up because it is a small community. We watched the "Hannah Montana Movie" (you don't have to have seen the show to watch it) and then with the help of YouTube, we attempted to learn the "Hoe-Down Throw-Down" Dance. One

video of two girls going through the dance step-by-step was very helpful. One girl knew of a video on YouTube of Miley teaching the dance herself with a dance instructor. It was the most fun I have had in a program here since I moved to Oregon from Illinois. Considering that a lot of Central Oregon activities involve the outdoors and horses, I think the movie was a really good fit for the community. Plus before Thanksgiving, the "save the

small town family values" aspect was especially poignant. As I catch up on my teen gossip feeds through google reader, I see that Miley has continued to make headlines with her "I'm 17, and I'm pretty much having the time of my life" behavior. I remember feeling that way. I would recommend this program if you want to try something different, and it is especially fun if someone knows the dance at least a little bit. I had so much fun. - Mercedes Hubbard  
Deschutes Public Library Teen Services Librarian: Sisters, OR



**Mock Printz Report** by Susan Smallsreed and Lisa Elliott

The [Printz award](#) has been announced, and I think most participants of the Oregon Mock Printz "committee" would approve of the unexpected selection of Libba Bray's *Going Bovine*. We also liked *Tales of the Madman Underground*, and were gratified that the real committee agreed and selected it as an honor book. Thirty-five teens and adults gathered at Central Library, Multnomah County Library to select a winner and two honor books from a short list of 10 books. As

usual, we all enjoyed a passionate discussion! And the winner is...

[Mock Printz Award - \*Marcelo in the Real World\*](#) by Francisco X Stork

[Honors - \*Wintergirls\*](#) by Laurie Halse Anderson and [Tales of the MADMAN Underground](#) by John Barnes.

The other books on the short list included:

[Crazy Beautiful](#) by Baratz-Logsted

[All the Broken Pieces](#) by Burg

[If I Stay](#) by Forman

[North of Beautiful](#) by Headley

[The Miles Between](#) by Pearson

[Heroes of the Valley](#) by Stroud

[The Eternal Smile: Three Stories](#) by Yang and Kim



**Our fave!**

**One teen's criticism of *The Miles Between*: "Her name was Destiny Fairaday. Need I say more?"**

**Other Books We Would Have Considered for the Mock Printz**

At the Mock Printz workshop, we took some time to discuss our favorite books of the year that were missing from the list. Many of these are nominated for the Book Rave list along with all of the Mock Printz titles. Come to the quarterly membership meeting on Friday, January 29 to help finalize the list of books we are raving about this year!

Books we missed at the Mock Printz:

[Going Bovine](#) by Libba Bray (Duh!)

[The Monstrumologist](#) by Richard Yancey (The WLA Mock Printz Winner!)

[Punkzilla](#) by Adam Rapp

[Liar](#) by Justine Larbalestier

[Ash](#) by Malinda Lo

[Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice](#) by Phillip M. Hoose

[Marching Toward Freedom](#) by Virginia Schomp

[Lips Touch Three Times](#) by Laini Taylor

[Hate List](#) by Jennifer Brown

[The Maze Runner](#) by James Dashner

[Love is the Higher Power](#) by David Levithan (Even though it sounds like a self-help book.)

[Charles & Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith](#) by Deborah Heiligman

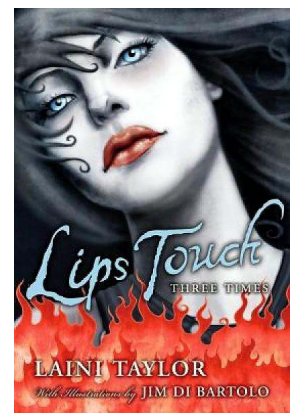
**Book Review by Anna Bruce, Tigard Public Library: *Lips Touch: Three Times* by Laini Taylor**

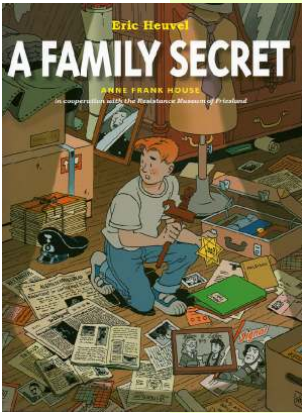
Three beautifully told, strange tales are gathered in Laini Taylor's *Lips Touch: Three Times*. Goblins, shapeshifters and demons darken these stories of young love. Each is introduced with a series of detailed drawings, illustrating key elements of the plot (I loved looking back at these after I

finished the story). Goblins feed on the longings of unnoticed girls. A demon bargains with an older woman for saving souls and giving curses. A girl awakens to find one of her eyes has changed colors and brings old secrets to the surface. Dark and daring, this is a spell-binding read from beginning to end. For

fans of Libba Bray's *Great and Terrible Beauty* and Cassandra Clare's *City of Glass*.

**Pilfered (with permission) from [tpltigardteen.blogspot.com](http://tpltigardteen.blogspot.com)**





### A Graphic Novel Review by Ian Duncanson, Beaverton City Library: *A Family Secret* by Eric Heuvel

While searching through his grandmother Helena's attic for items to sell at a rummage sale, Jeroen discovers a yellow cloth Star of David bearing the word "Jood." When he asks her about its origins, she opens up to him about World War II, the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands and its devastating effect on the country and her family. Following the Nazi takeover of Amsterdam in May 1940, it is revealed that Jeroen's great grandfather, a policeman, became a Nazi collaborator, while one of his sons joined the Dutch resistance movement and the other fought

for Germany. In the meantime, Helena's Jewish friend Esther and her parents were rounded up by Dutch Nazis.

A story of conflicting loyalties within a family and coming to grips with the past, Eric Heuvel's graphic novel, published by the Anne Frank House, makes a fantastic addition to Holocaust studies for younger teens who have read Anne's diary, but may not be ready to tackle the complexity of *Maus*. While the characters in the story aren't particularly well-developed, it does a commendable job at offering a fast, understandable overview of

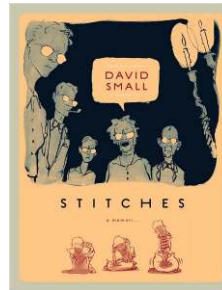
what life was like in an occupied European country during the war and could spur readers on to further studies. The large, colorful artwork, reminiscent of *Tintin*, is also highly appealing, and no disturbing violence takes place on the page. *The Search*, another graphic novel by Heuvel, tells the story from Esther's perspective.

### Another Graphic Novel Review by Ian: *Stitches* by David Small

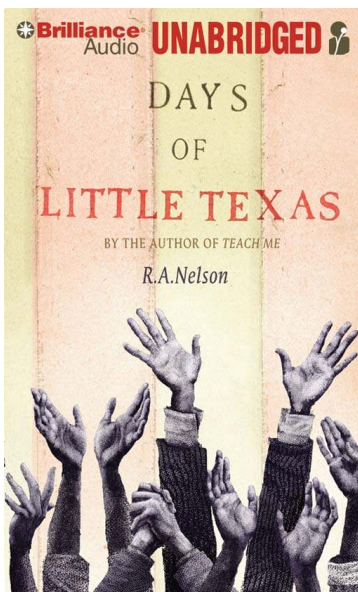
When he was fourteen, David Small was diagnosed with throat cancer and underwent an operation that caused him to lose his voice. It was the result of his physician father's attempts to use x-rays to treat the chronic sinus problems that plagued him. *Stitches* is a detached, surreal graphic odyssey through David's childhood, during which he experienced profound alienation from his cold mother, bullying brother and absent father and sought refuge in flights of

fantasy and cartooning, to his rebellious teenage years, when he finally ran away from his home life at the age of sixteen. Following classics like *Fun Home*, *Jimmy Corrigan*, *Blankets* and *Black Hole*, this is graphic storytelling at its most awkward and pitch-black. Small uses text-free illustrations in the story and allow them to heighten the work; some of the panels without words are the most affecting, and the unspoken points are the most profound. The washed-out,

simplicistic brushstrokes heighten the dreamlike unease and alienation that permeated his childhood. It is not an easy or enjoyable read, but *Stitches* is a perfect start for anyone discovering darker, more mature graphic novels.



"[*Stitches*] is graphic storytelling at its most awkward and pitch-black."



### An Audiobook Review by Janet Weber, Tigard Public Library: *Days of Little Texas*

*Days of Little Texas*, by R.A. Nelson, narrated by Luke Daniels, Brilliance Audio. 7 hours, 46 minutes.

16 year-old Ronald Earl is known to the faithful as the boy-wonder preacher. His southern way of preaching touches all of his adoring followers. Through the years, he gets filled with a jolt of the spirit as he places his hands on the hurting souls through his faith healing, until one day, a young girl in a blue dress is sent to one of his holy

revivals. She is barely hanging on to life and Ronald Earl doubts he has the power to heal this physically ill girl because she is so different from all the others he has healed in the past. After their meeting, she appears at one of his revival meetings in another town. Ronald Earl wonders why she is there. He thought she passed away, and perhaps is now a ghost. After a number of encounters, Ronald Earl starts to have sexual feelings for the girl

and the two of them share private romantic moments together. Narrator Luke Daniels gives Ronald Earl a flawless southern accent throughout, and a "Southern Black preacher" preaching style during his sermons. Ronald Earl's side kick, Certain Certain is given a really gravelly Louisiana Bayou-like accent that is top notch and all the women in the story are given gentle Southern lady voices.

## Winter Membership Meeting Agenda

Friday, January 29, 2010 10 AM -2:00 PM

**BREAK**

Hosted by Gregory Lum, Librarian, Jesuit High School, 9000 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy. Portland, OR 97225, 503.292.2663, ext. 7402  
Lunch provided by JHS.

### Resource Sharing

Books – Read any good books lately?

### Continuing Business

OLA Board Report – K'lyn  
OSL Report –Katie Anderson  
CLSP Report – Heidi  
ALA Mid-Winter Conference Reports  
Workshop Survey – Susan  
Book Rave Update – Kris  
Mock Printz Update - Susan

### Introductions

Attendees  
Additions to Agenda

### Old Business

Review/approve Oct 16, 2009 OYAN minutes  
Review OYAN/OLA financial report

### Resource Sharing: Programs

Let's here about any fabulous fall/winter programs you're planning!

### New Business

Discuss: L-Net Training formerly known as "k thx"  
Discuss: OYAN Happy Hour @ PLA  
Discuss: OASL Conference workshop ideas  
Discuss: Electronic Newsletter options



## Directions, Lunch and Parking

### Directions:

**From Portland**, drive west on Hwy 26, take Hwy 217 South, take the Beaverton Canyon Road Exit (Exit 2A). Drive through the first light. At the second light, turn left (toward Raleigh Hills) onto Beaverton-Hillsdale. Drive 1.2 miles east on Beaverton-Hillsdale. Just past the light on White Pine, turn right into the Jesuit east parking lot (football stadium). We will be meeting in the Bill Hunt Board Room off the Knight Center Lobby.

**From the coast**, drive east on Hwy 26, take Hwy 217 South, take the Beaverton Canyon Road Exit (Exit 2A). Drive through the first light. At the second light, turn left (toward Raleigh Hills) onto Beaverton-Hillsdale. Drive 1.2 miles east on Beaverton-Hillsdale. Just past the light on White Pine, turn right into the Jesuit east parking lot (football stadium). We will be meeting in the Bill Hunt Board Room off the Knight Center Lobby.

**From Eugene**, drive north on I-5, take Hwy 217 North, take the Beaverton Canyon Road Exit (Exit 2A). At the first light, turn right (toward Raleigh Hills) onto Beaverton-Hillsdale. Drive 1.2 miles

east on Beaverton-Hillsdale. Just past the light on White Pine, turn right into the Jesuit east parking lot (football stadium). We will be meeting in the Bill Hunt Board Room off the Knight Center Lobby.

**JHS is serving a lovely lunch of pasta, salad, bread and dessert!**

**Please do not park in any numbered spots. The OYAN meeting will be in the Bill Hunt Board Room off the Knight Center Lobby.**

The contact for this meeting is Gregory Lum,  
Jesuit High School Librarian  
503-292-2663 x7402  
[glum@jesuitportland.org](mailto:glum@jesuitportland.org)

**It's official: AASL  
decided at  
Midwinter that  
Teacher  
Librarians/Media  
Specialists shall  
now be dubbed  
School Librarians!**

We deal in more than just *Twilight*!



**Your OYAN Executive Board**

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OYAN [Oregon Young Adult Network] exists to provide a network for communication and growth among people who provide library services to teens, to increase awareness of teen library services in the state of Oregon, and to promote cooperation between school and public libraries.

Visit us online at <http://www.olaweb.org/oyan/>



**Upcoming Meetings**

Winter 2010	January 29 10 AM- 2 PM	Jesuit High School 9000 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy. Portland, OR 99225 503-292-2663
Spring 2010	April 23 11 Am-4 PM	Seaside Public Library 1131 Broadway Seaside, OR 97138 503-738-6742
Summer 2010	July 23 11 AM-4 PM	Deschutes Public Library 507 NW Wall St. Bend, OR 97701 541-312-1021