

Publications Managers Mark Richardson, Ian Duncanson and Josie Hanneman welcome all of your comments, articles and suggestions!

markr@wccls.org

iduncanson@beavertonoregon.gov

josieh@deschuteslibrary.org



Winter Teen Extravaganza

by Aimee Meuchel, Tualatin Public Library

We kick off Teen Summer Reading each year with a joint Recreation and Library program held in our Community Park in Tualatin, featuring tons of games and food. This year, the TLC thought we should hold a Winter Extravaganza to give teens something to do over Winter Break and to promote our Winter Reading program.



They chose to have a mix of games, snacks, and also requested the Henna Lady! I contracted with Wendy Rover, the henna lady, for two hours of henna at a cost of \$150.00. We had three Minute-to-Win-It games: Cookie Face, M&Ms with a straw, and how many pencils a person could hold on the back of their hand at once. Prizes were candy bars and stickers. We provided popcorn, chips, cookies, and soda for snacks. All of the teens who came were also entered in a raffle for a five dollar Jamba Juice card. Twenty-five teens participated in this event.

The best part of this program for me the teens tak-

ing charge! I was unable to attend the program due to an illness. Because the TLC had planned it all and I had already purchased the supplies, the TLC took charge and put on the program with little staff assistance! We did have a staff member in the room at all times, but she took the

lead from the teens! I'm so impressed with them and their dedication.

It was a somewhat pricey program, but could be done more cheaply (no henna) and all of the teens who came had a great time! We even had teens come who hadn't been to a program before.

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Top 10 2011 Audiobooks for Teens by Lee Catalano, Multnomah County Library



listening. When the action picks up in the Canadian north woods, it's impossible to stop listening.

Death Cloud by Andrew Lane, narrated by

Dan Weyman.

In the quiet, yet intense, speech of young Sherlock Holmes, Weyman introduces the listener to a self-effacing action hero who also carries the cerebral seeds of the adult consulting detective.

Divergent by Veronica Roth, narrated by Emma Galvin.

As Dauntless recruit Tris Pryor survives one perilous initiation exercise after another, Galvin never lets us forget she's a teenage girl – missing her family, falling in love and discovering unanticipated gifts.

Goliath by Scott Westerfeld, narrated by Alan Cumming.

Cumming grabs and flings you aboard the "wee beastie" as Prince Alek and Midship(wo)man Deryn Sharp satisfactorily conclude the adventure that began high in the Swiss Alps on the verge of a Darwin-Clanker World War I.

Beauty Queens by Libba Bray, narrated by the author.

Bray takes full advantage of the opportunity to act out all of the crazy characters in her take on *Lord of the Flies*: hyper-achieving smart girls, type-A Texans, dim blondes, politicians in the Palin mode, tin-pot dictators, and some bodacious -er pirates.

Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver, narrated by Sarah Drew.

Drew creates four mean girls through authentic and interesting voices as one of them tries to make amends from beyond the grave.

Blink & Caution by Tim Wynne-Jones, narrated by MacLeod Andrews.

Andrews reads Blink's deadened second-person narrative with the anger and intensity of a boy who feels like no one is

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness, narrated by Jason Isaacs.

Connor faces Isaacs' vocally terrifying (yet humorous) monster in order to come to terms with his mother's illness.

The Patron Saint of Butterflies by Cecilia Galante, narrated by a Full Cast.

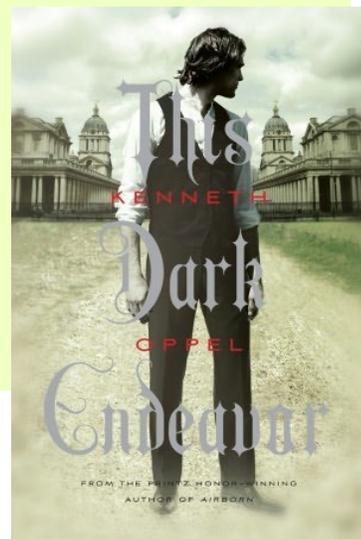
Two young narrators expertly read the roles of lonely, rebellious Honey and aspiring-to-sainthood (the mortification way) Agnes, both trying to come to terms with their lives inside and out of a strict religious community.

The Piper's Son by Melina Marchetta, narrated by Michael Finney.

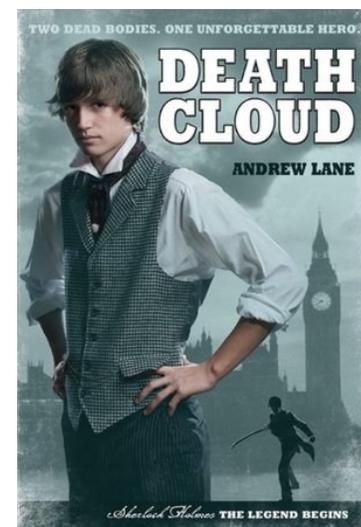
Finney immerses the listener in the loving, yet troubled Mackee family – reeling from the loss of a son, uncle and brother.

This Dark Endeavor: The Apprenticeship of Victor Frankenstein by Kenneth Oppel, narrated by Luke Daniels.

Daniels never lets up the reading pace exploring the spine-tingling adventures and tragic origins of the man who grew up hoping to cheat death.



Frankenstein was a teen, too!



Sherlock—the Bieber Years.

Favorite Teen Reads of 2011—Reviews by Julie Handyside, Crook County Library

Entwined by Heather Dixon

A retelling of the Twelve Dancing Princesses with a sinister twist. Azalea and her 11 younger sisters discover a hidden cavern beneath their home where they are free to dance as they did before their mother died. Soon their nightly dances turn into a nightmare and threaten their very lives. Readers who enjoyed

Shannon Hale's *Goose Girl* and Robin McKinley's retelling of *Beauty and the Beast* (either version) will enjoy this fairy tale.



Juliet Immortal by Stacy Jay

William Shakespeare is a liar and Romeo and Juliet live on in Stacy Jay's *Juliet Immortal*. Romeo, seeking immortality murders Juliet the day they are married. Juliet is given immortality as well and the two battle for the souls' of true loves for 700 years until the unexpected happens. Juliet falls in love with

another. Teens that are intrigued by Shakespeare's tragedy or enjoy an element of the supernatural will enjoy this read.



Mock Printz 2012 Report by Lisa Elliott, Tigard Public Library

The people have spoken once again! On Saturday, January 7 over 50 teens, library workers and library fans met at the Multnomah County Library's Central Branch to choose their favorite out of 10 marvelous YA books published in 2011. And the winner of our hypothetical Printz Award is...

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness! This deliciously haunting book about a boy who is trying to figure out how to face the fact of his mother's dire illness provokes a powerful emotional response in every reader. We love the artwork that accentuates the story with dark lines and spooky visuals. Though *A Monster Calls* is not an easy book to read emotionally, its archetypal themes and structure easily peel away defensive and experiential barriers and the story is laid bare so that any reader can relate to it, understanding the hugeness of Conor's pain and appreciating his courageousness.

Three other books were distin-



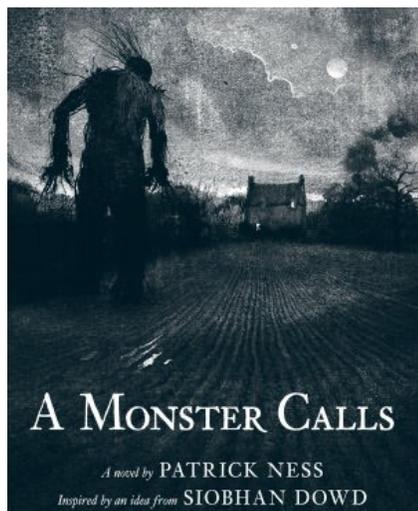
guished enough by our consensus to earn honors. *Berlin Boxing Club* by Robert Sharenow, *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys and *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* by Laini Taylor, though there was some debate about whether Taylor's book quali-

fies for a Printz Honor with its cliff-hanger ending. (I think mostly we wanted to know more about Karou and were sad we'd have to wait until the next book comes out. *sigh*)

It was a rousing discussion, replete with delicious snacks, lively debate and booklovers of every age. Thanks are due once again to Susan Smallsreed for planning the event, and to Multnomah County Library for hosting. As always, we put together a list of possible Printz-worthy titles that we missed while deciding what to read for the workshop, including *Out of Shadows* by Jason Wallace, *Life: An Exploded Diagram* by Mal Peet, *Blood Red Road* by Moira Young, *Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater, *Everybody Sees the Ants* by A.S. King, *The Piper's Son* by Melina Marchetta, *Divergent* by Veronica Roth and *Girl of Fire & Thorns* by Rae Carson. In other words, it's been another amazing year in YA lit. We are so lucky!

A Monster Calls—Book Review

by Mark Richardson, Cedar Mill Community Library



So much of the time with realistic YA books, the "problem" in the narrative feels so immense and epic that finding a satisfying conclusion to said problem poses extra challenges for the author. Some meet the challenge while many falter. Part of the problem is that when kids are saving the world, their feelings often seem irrelevant. *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness feels like epic story-

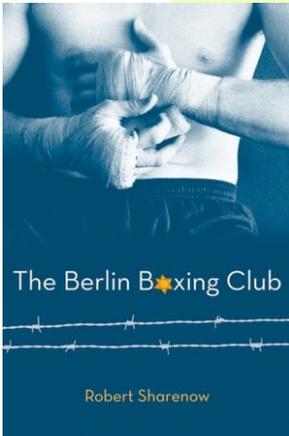
telling, but when you stand back and look at it, it's a story about a boy dealing with the impending death of his mother from a serious disease. There is really nothing unusual about that event, it happens frequently unfortunately. Yet, the gratifying thing about the book is that it is an emotional and epic event for the boy, Conor. Surprisingly, this smaller scale problem makes all the difference. As Conor's world changes, he calls on an ancient monster to save his mother. When the monster comes in the shape of walking, talking Yew tree – the tree proceeds to "help" Conor deal with his various problems, usually with extreme violence. The tree also relates stories to Conor in order to make points to the boy that everything is not always as it seems. Good things happen to bad people while the bad things can often happen to the good. As the story progressed, I had to question whether the fantastical elements of the story were really happening or if they were all part of Conor's coping with his immense sadness. By adding elements of magical realism to the plot, it's unlikely Ness could have found a more



Patrick Ness

effective way to relate the deep emotional turmoil Conor is going through. When it's time for Conor to deal with his mother's fate, the tears are earned. The

use of illustrations in the novel also add to the horror and fantasy of the tale. I can easily imagine a movie being made of this by Guillermo del Toro a la *Pan's Labyrinth*. Ness and del Toro are mining the same nightmarish vein in their tales. *A Monster Calls* is emotional storytelling on a level that I haven't experienced in the YA books I've been reading this year. It's a sad book, yes, but if you're looking for something more than an escape, a book that makes you identify with a character and feel true emotion, *A Monster Calls* might be what you need. Any middle or high schooler can read this, though the reader needs to be prepared for an intense reading experience.



NOT your typical World War II Book.

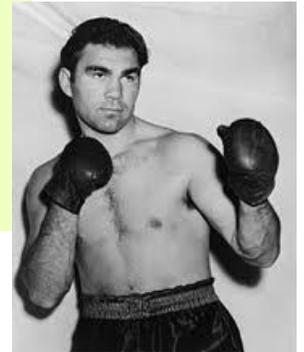
The Berlin Boxing Club by Robert Sharenow

Make a fist. Now where is your thumb? Did you stick it inside your fist, held down by your fingers, or did you slide it to the outside?

If you make a fist the wrong way, you could break your thumb instead of making a good connection. That's the way it is in the boxing ring. If you are Jewish, even if you are not religious, unspeakable things could happen to your whole family. That's the

way it is in Berlin under Hitler's watch. Karl Stern starts boxing to protect himself from a Hitler Youth wolfpack, and training to fight quickly becomes his main focus. Karl's got world famous champion Max Schmeling as his mentor, and the boxing club as a refuge from his deteriorating family and school life. Will Karl's survival skills in the ring be enough to protect him from the rising

threat of Nazi power? What is the right way to make a fist? Read *Berlin Boxing Club* and find out.

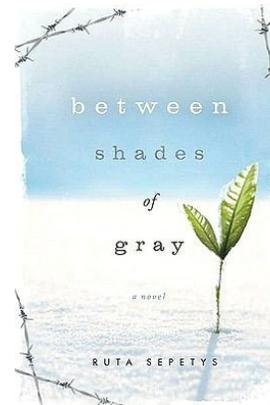


Between Shades of Grey by Ruta Sepetys

One night, while Stalin's guards are pounding on the door, Lina's mother smashes all the good china in the house. Then Lina, her mother, and her brother are herded off to an endless winter in Siberia. In Lina's harsh new reality, a starving infant's life means nothing, a small slice of ham means everything and a hole in the floor of a moving train car is a toilet. Nothing makes sense anymore, but if food can grow in the barren wasteland Lena is now forced to farm, then art can illumi-

nate a path to the end of this violence and ugliness. Though all her will and energy goes to forced labor, holding back her anger towards the cruel guards, and the nearly impossible task of keeping her family together, Lena finds time to use her artistic skills to attempt to make contact with her father, who is serving a sentence for some unknown crime. Her art is secreted away on handkerchiefs and passed hand to hand in the hope that it will find her father and lead him to his wife and

children. But will they ever be reunited? Will this war ever end?

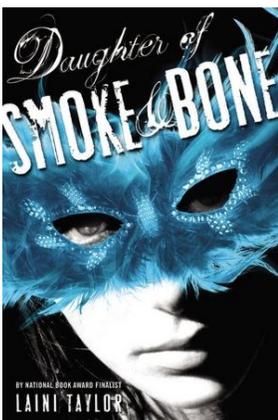


A different side of World War II.

**Booktalks by
Amber Bell and
Lisa Elliott,
Tigard Public
Library**

—
**Feel Free to
Modify and use
them!**

Daughter of Smoke and Bone by Laini Taylor

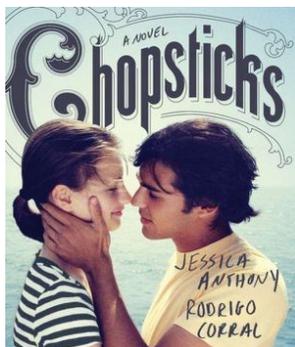


Good thing he's gorgeous!

Karou's guardian Brimstone won't tell her who she is or where she came from, but he will pay her in wishes if she runs creepy errands for him. In all the world, there is only one place humans can buy wishes: Brimstone's shop. And there is only one currency he accepts: Teeth. Animal teeth. Human teeth. The better shape they are the more valuable, especially if the jaw was living when they were removed. The most valuable teeth are your own when you remove them yourself. Brimstone will never, ever accept baby teeth.

A scuppy is the least powerful wish. Karou can have as many of those as she wants, but they're only good for little things. Like making her ex-boyfriend's butt itch while he's posing naked for a life drawing class. Every once in a while Brimstone pays her in Shings, the next wish up. Karou used a Shing to turn her hair blue, and she uses them occasionally to remove unwanted tattoos or to learn languages. But she'll never get her hands on the strongest currency of wishes, which are

exactly what she needs if she will achieve what she wants more than anything: to fly. She's not willing to do the kinds of things humans do to get the most valuable teeth, especially while she has no idea what the teeth are for. She is desperate to find out, and after Brimstone disappears she may just have a chance, especially with the help of what is apparently an actual angel who seems to know something of her past. And he's gorgeous.



IMs & Indie Mixes > Carnegie Hall

Chopsticks by Jessica Anthony—ARC Book Review by Anvita, Grade 12, Cedar Mill Community Library TLC

Just in case it wasn't obvious enough from the cover, *Chopsticks* is a love story between piano prodigy, Glory Flemming, and the boy next door, Frank. The book grabs the reader by starting in the present with Gloria's disappearance and then reverts back to the events leading up to her disappearance. Growing up, Gloria has more than a child could ever want, including loving parents and a musical talent that many would kill for. One tragic day, Glory's mother dies, and Glory retreats into her music. Depressed and lonely, Glory is immediately drawn to her new neighbor Frank. With every one of Frank's mix CDs and their late-night IM conversations, Glory becomes more invested in their relationship and less in the sold-out shows she plays in Carnegie

Hall and around the world. Eventually, the only song she is able to play is *Chopsticks*. Personally, I loved this book and would recommend it to anybody... or any girl that is (maybe a few boys). The use of pictures to tell the story is what sets this book apart and is probably the main reason why this book really stuck with me. The pictures are used effectively and do an excellent job of developing the plot and the characters. They also offer a unique perspective, a surprising dose of emotion and mystery, with lots of room for interpretation. A phrase from the trailer of the book that aptly summarizes it is: "Is *Chopsticks* a dream or a nightmare? I'd say a little of both, intriguingly so." So, do you agree? Read the book and decide for yourself. **Ages 13 and up.**

"Glory becomes more invested in their relationship and less in the sold-out shows she plays in Carnegie Hall..."

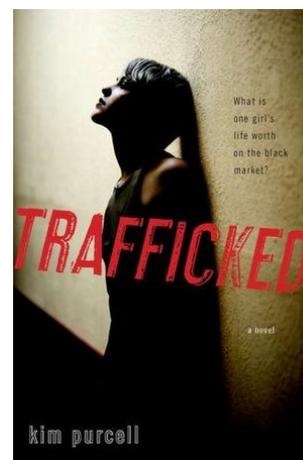
Trafficked by Kim Purcell—ARC Book Review by Anvita, Grade 12, Cedar Mill Community Library TLC

"Trapped inside her worst nightmare, Hannah will need to fight tooth and nail in order to get her life back."

Having left school to help her grandmother in the market after her parents died in a bombing, Moldovan teen Hannah, has lost all hope of pursuing ambitious dreams of becoming a doctor. So, when offered the opportunity to become a nanny for an American Russian family, the Platonovs, Hannah jumps at the chance and makes her way to America with huge hopes. Unfortunately, what seemed like the perfect way to finally fulfill her dreams turns into the biggest shame of her life. The Platonovs never let her outside the house, make her work 16-hour-days and never pay her. Trapped inside her worst nightmare, Hannah will need to fight tooth and

nail in order to get her life back.

Skeptical that the cover calling this book a "gripping thriller" was just another case of mis-marketing, I was pleasantly surprised when this book lived up to the that label. This book did an exquisite job of retaining a voice and staying true to its main character while fully developing all the other characters. However, the most refreshing part of this book was that, despite its mature subject matter, it didn't apologize for being realistic. It was a page-turner until the very last page. **I would recommend this book to anyone above the age of 16, particularly those who are fans of thrillers.**



A gripping thriller!

Stellar Web sites for sneak-previewing teen fiction:

<http://yalit.com/index.php>—This is a very comprehensive list that's great for getting a good overall picture of up-and-comers. I have noticed that they aren't always the fastest for updating dates when they are changed by publishers.

<http://www.teenreads.com/coming-soon>—Teenreads.com does a great job keeping up on books (both hardcover and paperback) coming out in the next month or two. It doesn't reach as far into the future as YALit's tables, but the synopses are very helpful!

Dystopias are the new Vampires...



OYAN: Finding great reads for Oregon teens!

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Secretary

Ruth Allen, Multnomah County Library
 Email: rutha@multcolib.org
 Phone: 503.988.5471

Publications Managers

Ian Duncanson, Beaverton City Library
 Email: iduncanson@beavertonoregon.gov
 Phone: 503.350.3610

Mark Richardson, Cedar Mill Community Library
 Email: markr@wcccls.org
 Phone: 503.644.0043, Extension 131

Josie Hanneman, Deschutes Public Library
 Email: josieh@deschuteslibrary.org
 Phone: 541.312.1088

Web Editor

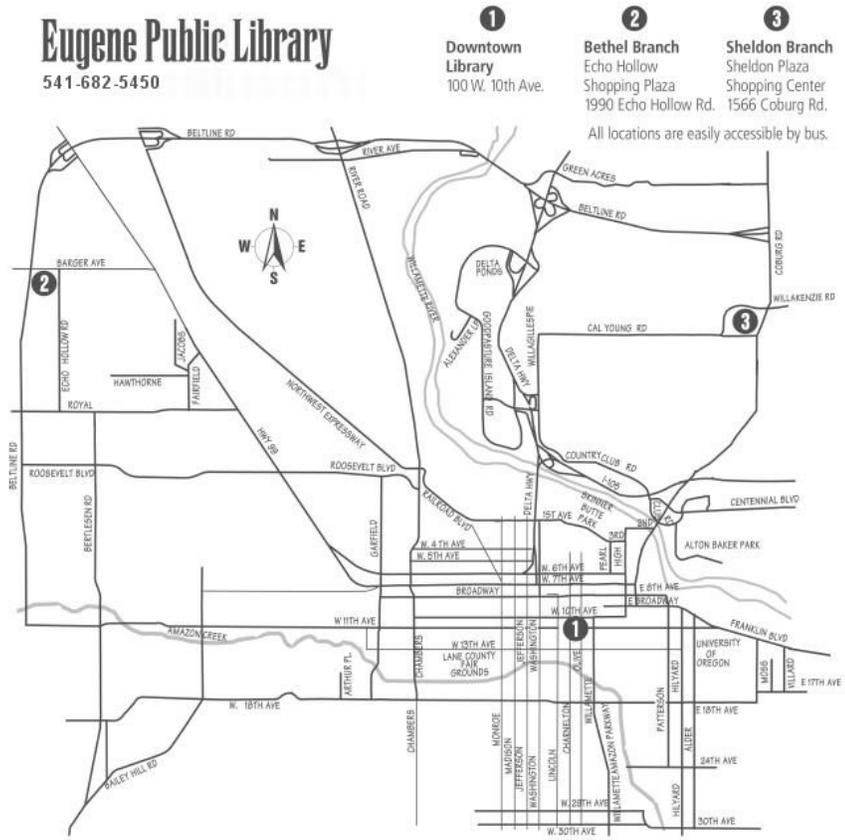
K'Lyn Hann, Newberg Public Library
 Email: klyn.hann@ci.newberg.or.us
 Phone: 503.538.8376

Collaborative Summer Reading Chair

Lisa Elliot, Tigard Public Library
 Email: lisae@tigard-or.gov

Eugene Public Library

541-682-5450



All locations are easily accessible by bus.

Call in to the January 27 meeting! - 888-284-4585. Participant Access Code is 95472

Upcoming Meetings

Winter 2012	January 27 11 AM – 3 PM	Eugene Public Library 100 West 10th Ave. Eugene, OR 97401 541-682-5450
Spring 2012	May 4 11 AM – 3PM	Lebanon Public Library 55 Academy St. Lebanon, OR 97355 541-258-4926
Summer 2012	July 20 11 AM – 3 PM	Driftwood Public Library 810 SW Hwy. 101 #201 Lincoln City, OR 97367 541-996-2277

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.

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