

An Overview from *The ALAN Review*

In the spring of 2001, Ted Hipple, one of the boldest advocates who has ever spoken or written about young adult literature, began to collect articles about young adult literature (YAL). His goal: list and annotate the best of those articles. Hipple certainly had the expertise to compile such a list.

During his 18 years as Executive Secretary of the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE (ALAN), Hipple had followed trends in the publication, popularity, and possibilities of YAL. Nevertheless, he soon realized that the task of selecting a representative sample of articles about young adult literature was not an easy one. He uncovered fine articles reaching as far back as Lou LaBrant's "The Content of a Free Reading Program," published in the May, 1937, issue of *Educational Research Bulletin*, and Isabelle M. Hall's "Contemporary Literature for the Pupil's Point of View," published in *English Journal* 30, May, 1941. He found, too, a wealth of new articles that address YAL from many different angles, ranging from Margie Brown's "Silverstein and Seuss to Shakespeare: What Is In Between?" and Marshall George's "What's the Big Idea? Integrating YAL in the Middle School" (both in *English Journal* 90, May, 2001), to Patrick Jones's "The Perfect Tens: The Top Forty Books Reviewed in VOYA, 1996–2000," (*Voice of Youth Advocates* 24, June, 2001) and Laura R. Lipsett's "No Need to 'Duck, Run, and Hide': Young Adult Poetry that Taps into You" (*The ALAN Review*, Spring/Summer, 2001).

Finally, he decided that a limit had to be set; his list would stop with 99 articles that reflect many different questions about the genre, those who write it, the ways we teach it, and those who read it. A handful of articles from Hipple's list appears below. The articles cited were written across several decades and published in a variety of journals. The common feature this representative sample shares is that each addresses the question, "What is the place of young adult literature in the classroom?"

My goal? I hope to whet your appetite so that you will want to read Hipple's complete list, and will move from the list to the original articles, published in a broad range of journals, from ones like *English Journal*, *Elementary English* (now *Language Arts*), and *The ALAN Review* to *Journal of Educational Research* and *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*. The entire list will be published in the forthcoming winter issue of *The ALAN Review*, available in early March, 2002. If you like what you see, please consider joining ALAN; you will be in the good company of teachers, media specialists, and teacher educators who are proponents of YAL—the kind of literature that draws our students to books and reading. Feel free to e-mail me, editor of *The ALAN Review*, at pcarroll@garnet.fsu.edu for more information or to discuss your ideas for an article on some aspect of young adult literature. Also, learn more about ALAN and receiving *The ALAN Review* at www.alan-ya.org. I look forward to browsing the young adult shelves with you.

Following are excerpts from Ted Hipple's compilation, "Articles about Young Adult Literature: A List," which will appear in full in *The ALAN Review*, Winter, 2002.

Aaronson, Marc. "Teenagers and Reading: A Generational Neurosis." *Journal of Youth Services in Libraries* 12 (Winter, 1999). Aaronson questions why bookstores stock so few YA books, why English class reading lists omit such books, and why newspaper book reviews seldom review YA literature. He suggests answers and remedies.

Abrahamson, Richard. "Collected Wisdom: The Best Articles Ever Written on Adolescent Literature and Teen Reading." *English Journal* 86 (March, 1997). Abrahamson and his students in two graduate seminars rated and annotated what they call the best of the writing about YA literature. Their list includes 29 articles, one published in 1912, another in 1932.

Burton, Dwight and Bryant Fillion. "A Literature Program for the Middle School." *Clearing House* 54 (May, 1971). In the early days of the middle school movement, Burton, one of the pioneers in schoolhouse literature instruction using books for adolescents, and Fillion discuss guided independent reading programs for students in grades 5–8.

Carlsen, G. Robert. "What Beginning English Teachers Need to Know about Adolescent Literature." *English Education* 10 (May, 1979). One of the major early scholars in YA literature, Carlsen here offers advice to new teachers, including a wish that they use YA literature.

Cormier, Robert. "The Pleasure and Pains of Writing a Sequel." *The ALAN Review* 12 (Winter, 1985). Though he resisted for years the many requests that he write a sequel to *The Chocolate War*, Cormier finally decided to; this is the story of that decision.

Donelson, Kenneth. "What to Do When the Censor Comes." *Elementary English* 51 (March, 1974).

For decades one of academe's leading writers about schoolhouse censorship, Donelson here comments on seven arguments censors make and how teachers can counter them.

Hauck, P. "Literature for Adolescents: Gold or Dross?" *Journal of Educational Research* 18 (February, 1984). Since the days of Alcott and Alger, students of YA literature have been queried about its quality. Hauck offers some insights into the discussion.

Hynds, Susan. "Bringing Life to Literature and Literature to Life: Social Constructs and Contexts of Four Adolescent Readers." *Research in the Teaching of English* 23 (January, 1995). In this research piece, Hynds looks at students as they look at literature and explores the interactions.

Kahn, Norma. "A Proposal for Motivating More Students to Lifetime Reading of Literature." *English Journal* 63 (February, 1974). Kahn's advice today remains relevant for those who, like her, want students to read all their lives.

Kelly, Pat. "Before 'Teaching' a Novel: Some Considerations." *The ALAN Review* 11 (Winter, 1984). Kelly examines a number of pedagogical issues surrounding the teaching of novels, including whole class study, boys' and girls' different reading preferences, and the objectives of both teachers and students.

Poe, Elizabeth, Barbara Samuels, and Betty Carter. "Twenty-five Years of Research in Young Adult Literature: Past Perspectives and Future Directives." *Journal of Youth Services in Libraries* 7 (Fall, 1993). Their title explains the authors' report, an analysis of what has been studied in YA literature scholarship and of what still needs to be studied.

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