

The Real Deal: New Nonfiction for Teens
presented by Jerene Battisti and Angelina Benedetti

2008 WLMA / OASL Conference – Portland, OR

Real Teens

Bowman, Robin. ***It's Complicated: the American Teenager***. Umbrage Editions, 2007: 9781884167690. \$40. Gr. 9 and up. *A stunning collection of black and white photographs of teens from across the United States, accompanied by short narrations about their lives.*

Redd, Nancy Amanda. ***Body Drama: real girls, real bodies, real issues, real answers***. Gotham Books, 2008: 9781592403264. \$20 (pbk). Gr. 9 and up. *Informative, accurate information about the body's dramas for teen girls.*

Kuklin, Susan. ***No Choirboy: murder, violence, and teenagers on Death Row***. Henry Holt & Company, 2008: 9780805079500. \$17.95. Gr. 9 and up. *Four personal accounts of teens who committed murders before the age of eighteen and now sit on death row. Searing and provocative, this will engage teen readers in dialogue about the death penalty.*

Cooper, Elisha. ***Ridiculous/Hilarious/Terrible/Cool: a year in an American high school***. Dial Books, 2008: 9780803731691. \$17.99. Gr. 9 and up. PW *. *Cooper follows eight Chicago students through their senior years.*

Stern, Sam. ***Real Food, Real Fast***. Candlewick, 2008: 9780763635336. \$16.99. Gr. 6 and up. *This engaging teen from York, England provides teen cooks with dozens of recipes, using simple techniques. The pages are organized by the amount of time needed to prepare each dish.*

Art and Artists / Writers and Their Work

Fleischman, Sid. ***Trouble Begins at 8: a life of Mark Twain the Wild, Wild West***. Collins, 2008: 9780061344312. \$18.99. Gr. 7-10. BL, Kir, PW, SLJ *. *Mark Twain's early years are chronicled here with equal humor and heart. Almost as entertaining and Twain himself.*

Shields, Charles J.. ***I Am Scout: a biography of Harper Lee***. Henry Holt and Company, 2008: 9780805083347. \$18.95. Gr. 6 and up. *Shields gives the young reader a feeling for the author of To Kill a Mockingbird by describing her early childhood and her generosity in her home town of Monroeville, AL.*

Jan Greenberg, editor. ***Side by Side: new poems inspired by art from around the world***. HNA Books, 2008: 9780810994713. \$19.95. Gr. 6 and up. BL *. *With a similar format to her Heart to Heart, Greenberg connects poetry and art from around the world.*

Reich, Susanna. ***Painting the Wild Frontier: the art and adventures of George Catlin***. Clarion, 2008: 9780618714704. \$21. Gr. 6 and up. BL, Kir, SLJ*. *Catlin dedicated his life to writing about and painting the native peoples of the western hemisphere. His travel adventures are chronicled enhanced by his letters and notes with archival photographs.*

Hinds, Gareth. ***The Merchant of Venice***. Candlewick, 2008: 9780763630256. \$11.99. Gr. 9 and up. *A modern graphic adaptation of the Shakespeare play.*

Boos, Ben. ***Swords: an artist's devotion***. Candlewick, 2008: 9780763631482. \$24.99. Gr. 5 and up. *Depicting swords and swordsmanship throughout the ages, including legendary maidens of war, with richly intricate illustrations and detailed background information by an author who is a true devotee.*

People and Places

Alsenas, Linas. ***Gay America: struggle for equality***. Amulet Books, 10/2008: 9780810994874. \$24.95. Gr. 7-10. *Milestones of gay and lesbian life in America for a teen audience.*

Murphy, Jim. ***The Real Benedict Arnold***. Clarion Books, 2007: 9780395776094. \$20. Gr. 8 and up. SLJ*. *A fair and balanced account of what caused Benedict Arnold to be a name forever associated with the word treason. Includes reproductions of paintings, engravings and drawings from the Revolutionary War period.*

McClafferty, Carla Killough. ***In Defiance of Hitler: the secret mission of Varian Fry***. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2008: 9780374382049. \$19.95. Gr. 6 and up. BL*. *An American journalist helps save over 2000 Jewish refugees.*

Nelson, Scott Reynolds with Marc Aronson. ***Ain't Nothing But a Man: my quest to find the real John Henry***. National Geographic Society, 2007: 9781426300004. \$18.95. Gr. 7-10. BL*. *Using song lyrics, old photographs, and newspaper accounts, Nelson follows clues that lead to the identity of the real John Henry.*

Various authors. ***Up Close (series): Thurgood Marshall*** (9780670062287), ***Jane Goodall*** (9780670062638), ***John Steinbeck*** (9780670061396), ***Ella Fitzgerald*** (9780670061495). Viking Books, 2008. \$16.99 each. Gr. 7 and up. *This series continues with four more readable entries by strong authors for teens.*

Delano, Marfie Ferguson. ***Helen's Eyes: a photobiography of Annie Sullivan***. National Geographic, 2008: 9781426302091. \$17.95. Gr. 4-8. SLJ*. *Annie Sullivan grew up in the poor house and was nearly blind herself, from an untreated trachoma. She was educated at the Perkins School for the Blind and met Helen Keller at age fourteen. This is her remarkable story.*

Hobart, Sally and Robert Alexander. ***She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman, deaf-blind pioneer***. Clarion Books, 2008: 9780618852994. \$18. Gr. 4-8. Kir, SLJ*. *Fifty years before Helen Keller, Laura Bridgman was world famous for her accomplishments despite being deaf and blind.*

Abadzis, Nick. ***Laika***. First Second, 9/2007: 9781596431010. \$17.95. Gr. 5-10. Kir, PW, SLJ*. *This is the story of the puppy who became the first Soviet space traveler. A 2008 YALSA Top 10 Great Graphic Novel.*

Polly, Matthew. ***American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch: an Odyssey in the New China***. Gotham Books, 2007: 9781592402625, \$26; 9781592403370, \$15 (pbk). Gr. 9 and up. *College dropout Matthew Polly travels to China with one goal: to join the Shaolin Temple and become a kung fu star.*

Li, Moying. ***Snow Falling in Spring: coming of age in China during the cultural revolution.*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008: 9780374399221. \$16. Gr. 6-1. BL, PW *. *The Chinese cultural revolution told through the eyes of a young person.*

Rhodes-Courter, Ashley. ***Three Little Words: a memoir.*** Atheneum Books, 2008: 9781416948063. \$17.99. Gr. 9 and up. PW * *The author indicts the foster care system in which she lived from the age of three until she was adopted at age sixteen.*

Greene, Meg. ***Rest in Peace: a history of American cemeteries.*** 21st Century Books, 2008: 9780822534143. \$30.60 Gr. 9 and up. *American cultural history presented through the lens of our burial and funeral traditions.*

Science

Cherry, Lynne. ***How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate.*** Dawn Publications, 2008: 9781584691037. \$17.95. Gr. 4-8. Kir, PW, SLJ*. *Data about rapid climate change presented in an appealing format.*

Calabres, Linda. ***Human Body.*** Simon and Schuster, 2008: 9781416938613. \$16.99. Gr. 4-8. *Part of the Insiders series, this book gives a stunning picture of the systems, organs and even cells within the human body. The drawing depicting a corneal transplant is literally eye-popping.*

Seidensticker, John. ***Predators.*** Simon and Schuster, 2008: 9781416938637. \$16.99. Gr. 4-8. *Filled with digitally rendered illustrations which show predators about to catch their prey, this book deals with food chains and the techniques of animal and plant predators.*

Christy, Bryan. ***The Lizard King: the True Crimes and Passions of the World's Greatest Reptile Smugglers.*** Twelve, 2008: 9780446580953. \$24.99. Gr. 9 and up. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agent Chip Bepler worked tirelessly to bring down a father/son reptile smuggling empire. This is his story and the story of the multi-million dollar smuggling cartel that flaunted international endangered species laws.*

DK. ***Animal Life: secrets of the animal world revealed.*** DK, 2008: 9780756639860. \$50. Gr. 6 and up. *In this lavish and beautifully produced book, every aspect of animal life is explored. Thematically arranged by behavior traits it includes taxonomy, evolution and current research. Produced by the American Museum of Natural History.*

Presidents, First Ladies, and the White House

Freedman, Russell. ***Washington at Valley Forge.*** Holiday House, 12/2008: 9780823420698. \$24.95. Gr. 5 and up. KL*. *Describes life at Valley Forge and Washington's role as general in the American Revolution.*

Denenberg, Barry. ***Lincoln Shot: a President's Life Remembered.*** Feiwel and Friends, 2008: 9780312370138. \$24.95. Gr. 5 and up. BL, Kir, SLJ *. *Conceived as a commemorative issue of a newspaper published on April 14, 1866, one year after the assassination, the pages are made to appear yellowed by time and include accounts of Lincoln's life.*

Fleming, Candace. ***The Lincolns: a scrapbook look at Abraham and Mary.*** Schwartz and Wade Books, 10/2008: 9780375836183. \$24.99. Gr. 6 and up. BL, Kir, SLJ*. Fleming gives the reader a compelling and balanced view of Abraham and Mary Lincoln. Includes hand written notes, church documents, paintings and political cartoons.

Marrin, Albert. ***Great Adventure: Theodore Roosevelt and the Rose of Modern America.*** Dutton, 12/2007: 9780525476597. \$30. Gr. 6-9. SLJ*. *Marrin surveys the career of the first Roosevelt President and draws parallels to the events and issues of today.*

Dwight Young and Margaret Johnson. ***Dear First Lady: Letters to the White House from the Collections of the Library of Congress & National Archives.*** National Geographic, 2008: 9781426200878. \$25. Gr. 6 and up. *From Martha Washington to Laura Bush this is a heartwarming look at the First Ladies of this nation. Reproductions of each letter are shown with a full transcript in the back matter.*

Our White House: looking in, looking out. Candlewick Press, 2008: 9780763620677. \$29.99. Gr. 4-10. PW, SLJ*. *More than one hundred children's authors and illustrators join forces to offer a multifaceted view of the White House.*