



Children's Literature Association NEWSLETTER

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Anne Devereaux Jordan Award Call for Nominations

The Anne Devereaux Jordan Award is intended to honor the lifetime achievement of an individual whose scholarship and service have had a significant impact on the field of children's literature scholarship. The award is not restricted to ChLA members or to those whose work has benefited the Association specifically. The award may be given posthumously. To nominate someone for the Anne Devereaux Jordan Award, send a letter that explains the person's accomplishments and contributions to children's literature scholarship to committee chair Martha Hixon (martha.hixon@mtsu.edu). If possible, include the nominee's current vita with the nomination letter. Nominations must be received no later than October 1, 2014. Although nominees are considered annually, there may be years in which no award is given.

President's Message

by Claudia Mills

Snow is melting off the leafing trees outside my Boulder, Colorado, window as I write this. This means that spring (which was supposed to have already been here by now) is on its way. And this means that before too long, many of us (I hope most of us) will be gathering in Columbia, South Carolina, for our 41st annual conference.

The first ChLA conference I ever attended was the San Diego conference. The theme was "Work and Play in Children's Literature." My own paper was on recent middle-grade novels that featured child entrepreneurs; it became one of my first published articles, appearing in *Children's Literature in Education* in 1990, immeasurably strengthened by the insightful comments of the audience there. Walking into a ChLA conference for the first time, encountering not dozens but hundreds of people who love what I love and who are thinking, speaking, writing, and publishing about these shared objects of love, put me in mind of the wonderful line from C. S. Lewis: "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: What! You too? I thought I was the only one."

If I ever have trouble falling asleep, I lie cozy beneath my covers trying to remember every ChLA conference I've ever attended: its location, its theme, and the paper I presented there. The two that I still sometimes trip over are the Buffalo conference and the first Roanoke conference: one had the theme "bridges" and one had the theme "boundaries" – which was which? I also try to remember any special outings: the fudge I bought at Niagara Falls for the Buffalo conference; the coal mine excursion (and midnight prom) at Lisa Fraustino's fabulous "school" themed conference in Scranton; the outing to the Thomas Bailey Aldrich House at the Durham conference; the barbecue and hoe-down at Calgary; dinner in the "secret garden" at the Fresno conference – and so many, many more. My dear conference buddy Leona Fisher goes me one better: when she reviews her parade of cherished ChLA conference memories, she includes the Phoenix winner for that year and highlights of the acceptance speech. My biggest life regret: why, oh why, did I not attend the Paris conference? Why?!

This year we'll be gathering in South Carolina, where Michelle H. Martin and Sara Schwebel have in store for us a fabulous collection of papers on the theme of "Diverging Diversities," as well as treats such as Kate Capshaw's Francelia Butler Lecture, Anita Lobel's talk and art exhibition, film night at South Carolina's Non-Profit Cinema, and more. I know that the hotel staff will be puzzled (as they are each year) at seeing so many people squealing with joy as they hug one another at the registration desk and pore over their programs fainting with happiness at the wealth of offerings (with occasional moans of pain at the inevitable conflicts that arise from our not being able to attend every single session). I can't wait to see you in Columbia!



2014 ChLA Conference

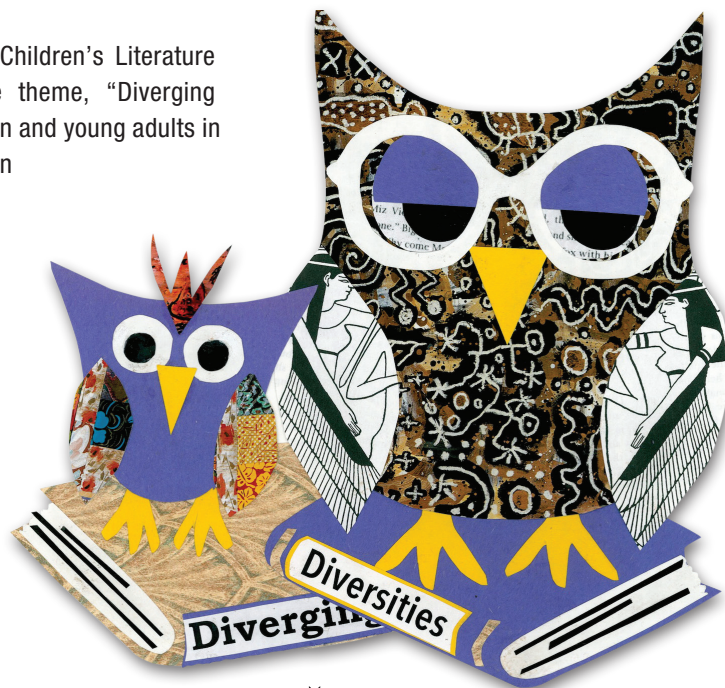
“Diverging Diversities: Plurality in Children’s and Young Adult Literature Then and Now”

June 18-21, 2014, University of South Carolina

The University of South Carolina is honored to host the 41st annual Children’s Literature Association Conference, June 18-21, 2014. This year’s conference theme, “Diverging Diversities,” encourages participants to examine texts created for children and young adults in light of questions of diversity, both within the genre itself, and also within the scholarly community.

This year’s Francelia Butler Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Katharine Capshaw, author of *Children’s Literature of the Harlem Renaissance* (winner of the 2006 ChLA book prize) and Associate Professor of English at the University of Connecticut. Her book, *Civil Rights Childhood: Photo-books and Liberation* is forthcoming from the University of Minnesota Press.

Anita Lobel, winner of the Caldecott Honor Medal and a finalist for the National Book Award (Young People’s Division), will present a lecture on her life and work on Friday, June 20. Lobel has published more than 50 picture books, and conference attendees will have the opportunity to view more than 70 of Lobel’s original canvases, on loan to the Richland Library and Columbia Museum of Art from the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature in Abilene, Texas.



A plenary Publisher’s Panel will be held on Thursday, June 19. Editors working in children’s and YA literature will offer their insights into the current climate for authors working with issues of diversity in the publishing world.

This year’s conference will offer a film showing (Wednesday) of rare footage curated from the University of South Carolina’s Moving Image Research Collections at a local, nonprofit art house theatre; tours of the Irving Rare Books Collection, including an exhibit mounted specifically for the conference (Thursday); and a Dinner Cruise (Sunday) jointly held with the US-China Children’s Literature Symposium. The Awards Banquet (Saturday) will highlight Gary Soto, this year’s Phoenix winner for his first YA novel, *Jesse*.

Results of the 2014 ChLA Election of Officers, Board and Committee Members

President: Kara Keeling	Anne Devereaux Jordan	Diversity Committee:	International Committee:
Vice President/ President-Elect: Annette Wannamaker	Award Committee: Suzanne Rahn	Ann Gonzalez Lara Saguissag	Daniel D. Hade Barbara Lehman Xu Xu
Secretary: Jennifer Miskec	Article Award Committee: Suzan Alteri Victoria Ford Smith Gwen Tarbox	Edited Book Award Committee: Mike Cadden Jan Susina	Phoenix Award Committee: Jean Stevenson
Board of Directors: Kenneth Kidd Philip Nel Sara Schwebel	Book Award Committee: Michelle Abate Holly Blackford	Grants Committee: Sarah Minslow Emily Woster	Phoenix Picture Book Award Committee: Michelle H. Martin

The 2nd US-China Children's Literature Symposium: "The Global Child"

June 22-24, 2014
University of South Carolina

The University of South Carolina invites ChLA members to the 2nd US-China Children's Literature Symposium, June 22-24, 2014, which will immediately follow the 41st Annual ChLA Conference. Both will take place at the Columbia Marriott in the center of downtown Columbia, South Carolina.



Ocean University in Qingdao, China, hosted the first symposium in May 2012, co-sponsored by Ocean University and Texas A&M University. Ten American and ten Chinese scholars presented on "The Image of the Child." This year, eighteen Chinese and North American scholars

will focus on "The Global Child," exploring the impact of the ease of communication between cultures and countries on children's literature globally. We hope the synergy between the ChLA Conference theme, "Diverging Diversities: Plurality in Children's and Young Adult Literature Then and Now," and the US-China Children's Literature Symposium theme will open up new conversations about diversity in children's literature globally.

The symposium will feature a dinner cruise on the Spirit of Lake Murray, with Chinese and North American children's authors reading excerpts of their works in their native languages; a lunch at the South Carolina Center for Children's Books and Literacy (SCCBL), South Carolina's only examination collection for children's literature; and an evening of Chinese films at Richland Library, including *Monkeys Grasp for the Moon: Teaching Tales and Proverbs in Chinese Film*. Symposium participants will enjoy performances by young musicians from the Suzuki Strings Program at USC and from East Point Academy, the Chinese Immersion elementary school in West Columbia, SC. Participants will also visit Camp Read-a-Rama on Tuesday, June 23, to read with the campers during DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time. Camp Read-a-Rama, a day camp for 4 to 11 year olds that uses children's books as the springboard for all other camp activities, was founded by Dr. Michelle H. Martin, Augusta Baker Chair in Childhood Literacy and faculty in the USC School of Library and Information Science. Childcare will be available to symposium participants both during and after sessions. For more information on the US-China Symposium and to register for the conference, please visit http://libsci.sc.edu/us_china_symposium. We welcome ChLA members to this symposium and look forward to your support in making it a success.

2015 ChLA Conference

"Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death!":
The High Stakes and Dark Sides
of Children's Literature"

June 18-20, 2015
Longwood University

Longwood University will host the 42nd annual Children's Literature Association Conference in Richmond, Virginia, June 18-20, 2015. Housed in the downtown Omni Richmond hotel, conference attendees are within walking distance of dozens of restaurants, an active nightlife, and the lovely Canal Walk on the James River, "America's Founding River." Also close: Museum of Edgar Allan Poe (less than a mile), Black History Museum and Cultural Center (1 mile), Children's Museum of Richmond (2 miles), Maymont Park (3.5 miles), Hollywood Cemetery (resting place of presidents and other historic figures, 1.5 miles), Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (3 miles), Science Museum of Richmond (2 miles), University of Richmond (7 miles). And if you're craving adventure: King's Dominion Amusement Park is a short drive away (23.5 miles), and whitewater rafting trips—the only Class III and Class IV rapids in an urban setting—can be accessed just down the road (3 miles). A little over a mile from the hotel is St. John's Church, the site of Patrick Henry's famous "Give me liberty, or give me death" speech that, in 1775, worked to unite the colonies. His call to arms against British oppression was about dignity and how living without it was as bad as dying.



Struggles against repression and gaining access to power and independence are familiar aspects of children's literature too, though death is rarely the true wager. Still, death is quite present in children's and young adult literature, with the loss of a pet, in an orphan's memory of her parents, as a result of war; in the awareness of one's own mortality, in ghost form. At ChLA 2015, we invite the exploration of both sides of Patrick Henry's famous ultimatum, liberty and death, in a city of extremes. Contemporary, urban, stylish Richmond rebuilt amid the ghosts of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars is the perfect location to explore the high stakes and dark sides of children's literature.

Adrienne Kertzer will deliver the 2015 Francelia Butler Lecture. The awards banquet will feature presentations by winners of the Phoenix Awards.

2014 ChLA Award Recipients



Anne Devereaux Jordan Award

Winner: **John Stephens**, Emeritus Professor in English, Macquarie University

Article Award (for an article published in 2012)

Winner: **Eric Tribunella** for "Between Boys: Edward Stevenson's *Left to Themselves* (1891) and the Birth of Gay Children's Literature," published in *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*

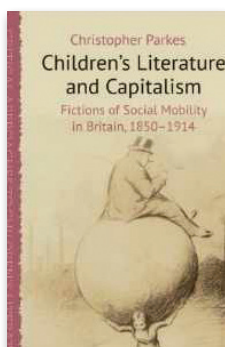
Honor winner: **Mike Cadden** for "All is Well: the Epilogue in Children's Fantasy Fiction," published in *Narrative*

Book Award

(for a book published in 2012)

Winner: **Christopher Parkes** for *Children's Literature and Capitalism: Fictions of Social Mobility in Britain, 1850-1914*, Palgrave

Honor book: **Phillip Nel** for *Crockett Johnson and Ruth Krauss: How an Unlikely Couple Found Love, Dodged the FBI, and Transformed Children's Literature*, University Press of Mississippi



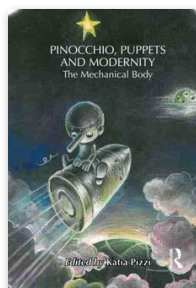
Carol Gay Award

Winner: **Samuel Kim** for "Spaces for Sendak," sponsored by Elizabeth Hoiem (East Carolina University)

Honor essay: **Alice Sudlow** for "Spoken Like a True Adult: Non-Adolescent Narration in *The Book Thief* and *Postcards from No-Man's Land*," sponsored by Megan Isaac (Elon University)

Mentoring Award

Marilynn Olson, Texas State University



Edited Book Award

(for an edited book published in 2012)

Winner: **Katia Pizzi** for *Pinocchio, Puppets, and Modernity: The Mechanical Body*, Routledge

Honor book: **Sophie Raynard** for *The Teller's Tale: Lives of the Classic Fairy Tale Writers*, SUNY Press



Phoenix Award

(for books published in 1994)

Winner: **Gary Soto** for *Jesse*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Honor book: **Graham Salisbury** for *Under the Blood-Red Sun*, Delacorte

Graduate Student Essay Awards

Ph.D. level award: **Tyler Sasser** for "The Snowy Day in the Civil Rights Era: Peter's Political Innocence and Unpublished Letters from Langston Hughes, Ellen Tarry, Grace Nail Johnson, and Charlemae Hill Rollins," sponsored by Jameela Lares (University of Southern Mississippi)

Master's level award: **Rachel Rickard** for "Are You An Artist Like Me?: Critical Reading and Reader Interaction within the Worlds of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Dork Diaries*," sponsored by Ramona Caponegro (Eastern Michigan University)

Master's level Honor award: **Chelsea Bromley** for "New Picture Book, Old Cinema: *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*," sponsored by Annette Wannamaker (Eastern Michigan University)

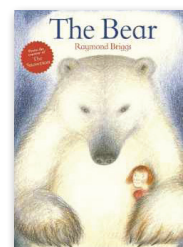
Phoenix Picture Book Award

(for books published in 1994)

Winner: **Raymond Briggs** for *The Bear*, Julia Macrae Books

Honor book: **Peggy Rathman** for *Good Night, Gorilla*, Putnam Juvenile

Honor book: **Anne Isaacs** and **Paul O. Zelinsky** for *Swamp Angel*, Putnam and Dutton



2014 Anne Devereaux Jordan Award Recipient: John Stephens



The Children's Literature Association is pleased to announce that John Stephens, Professor Emeritus of Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, is the 2014 recipient of the Anne Devereaux Jordan Award, given in recognition of "significant contributions in scholarship and/or service to the field of children's literature."

Professor Stephens is most deserving of the award on both fronts. His scholarship is diverse and international in scope, revolving around his interests in the ideology of texts, narratology, and discourse analysis. Stephens has produced and/or edited a number of books and several dozen book chapters and journal articles, including the highly influential *Language and Ideology in Children's Fiction* (1992), *From Picture Book to Literary Theory* (1994), *Retelling Stories, Framing Culture* (with Robyn McCallum, 1998), *Ways of Being Male* (2002), *New World Orders in Contemporary Children's Literature* (2008), and *Subjectivity in Asian Children's Literature* (2013). He is currently serving as Senior Editor of the journal *International Research in Children's Literature* and served as President of IRSL from 1997 to 1999. In 2007, Stephens was awarded the 11th

International Grimm Award for Research into Children's Literature, a biennial award given by the International Institute for Children's Literature in Osaka, Japan.

During his tenure as a university professor, John mentored many a student, graduate and undergraduate, in children's literature, some of whom have gone on to make a name for themselves in their own right, and these efforts have not stopped with his retirement from Macquarie. His unflagging and enthusiastic service, as well as his research, has extended to the international community, encouraging and working with students and collaborating with academic colleagues from a number of global regions and countries, including Japan, Norway, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Pacific Rim. Though his research has been significant and influential in the field for a number of years, those who have worked with him personally would attest that his academic collaborations and support, especially for junior colleagues, have been just as influential in their own ways.

John Stephens has had a long and distinguished career in the field. We congratulate him on this much-deserved recognition, and we look forward to celebrating his accomplishments at the 2014 Children's Literature Association conference in South Carolina.

2014 ChLA Grant Recipients

Faculty Research Grants

Michelle Abate, The Ohio State University

Project: The Big Smallness: Niche Market Picture Books and the New Children's Literature

Balaka Basu, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Project: Playing the Game: Reading Digitally with Children's Literature

Gail Edwards, Douglas College

Project: Telling Stories: Storytelling, National Narratives, and the Construction of Canadian Childhood

Megan L. Musgrave, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis

Project: Imaginary Activism: Raising Child-Citizens in 21st-Century Juvenile Fiction

Derek Pacheco, Purdue University

Project: Transcendentalism and Children's Literature

Kristen Proehl, SUNY-Brockport

Project: Battling Girlhood: Sympathy, Social Justice, and the Tomboy Figure in American Literature

Lara Saguisag, College of Staten Island-City University of New York

Project: Young Americans: Lessons in Citizenship in Progressive Era Newspaper Supplements for Children

Diversity Research Grant

Ramona Caponegro, Eastern Michigan University

Project: Peter's Legacy: The Role of the Ezra Jack Keats Book Award and "Melting Pot" Books in Multicultural Children's Literature

International Sponsorship Grant

Distinguished scholars for a special focus panel on Polish children's literature:

Dorota Michulka, Associate Professor, University of Wrocław, Poland

Ada Bieber, Assistant Professor, Humboldt-University of Berlin

Justyna Deszcz-Tryhubczak, Assistant Professor, University of Wrocław, Poland

Hannah Beiter Graduate Student Research Grants

Cecily Hill, Ph.D. Candidate, The Ohio State University

Project: Forming Women: Early Children's Genres and the Nineteenth-Century Realist Novel

Emily Murphy, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Florida

Project: Growing up with America: Myth, Childhood, and National Identity in Cold War Literature

Guaranteed ChLA- Sponsored Session at the 2015 MLA Conference “Why Dystopian YA Literature? Why now?”

Session Chair: June Cummins,
San Diego State University

Panelists:

Jessica Seymour,
Southern Cross University
“Re-claiming Adolescent Power in YA Dystopia”

John D. Schwetman,
University of Minnesota, Duluth
“The Dystopian Present: Recolonizing America in Paolo Bacigalupi’s
Shipbreaker and *The Drowned Cities*”

Jonathan M. Hollister and Don Latham, Florida State University
“Power Play: The Seduction of Games in Young Adult Dystopian Fiction”

Oona Eisenstadt, Pomona College
“The Emancipatory Power of Hopelessness: Discourses of Political Failure
in Recent YA Literature”



ChLA Publications Advisory Board Announcements

In conjunction with the University Press of Mississippi (<http://www.upress.state.ms.us/search/series/47>), the Children’s Literature Association is proud to publish innovative, insightful literary criticism of books and media for children and young adults.

Interested in publishing with ChLA? We welcome proposals for original critical studies in the field of children’s literature and media, including single-author monographs, edited essay collections, and critical editions of classic children’s book texts. ChLA does not publish fiction for children, curriculum development materials, or instructional manuals.

For more information, please see the “Submit a Book Proposal” page on the ChLA web site:

<http://www.childlitassn.org/index.php?page=about&family=publications&category=02--Books&display=244>.

New books available from ChLA/University Press of Mississippi:

- *Crockett Johnson and Ruth Krauss: How an Unlikely Couple Found Love, Dodged the FBI, and Transformed Children’s Literature* by Philip Nel.
- *Reading Like a Girl: Narrative Intimacy in Contemporary American Young Adult Literature* by Sara K. Day.

MLA Session Call—January 7-10, 2016, Austin, Texas

Each year, the Children’s Literature Association is guaranteed one session at the MLA and can submit proposals for up to two more.* If you would like to propose a session topic, then by 9 pm on Sunday, June 15th, 2014, please send to Jennifer Miskec, ChLA/MLA Liaison (miskecjm@longwood.edu): (1) a short description of your proposal idea, and, if relevant, (2) the name of another MLA-affiliated entity (allied organization, division, or discussion group) you plan to seek as a co-sponsor. The ChLA Board will examine the proposals and select the top three (one guaranteed, plus two additional**) for submission to the 2016 MLA Convention.

*If ChLA chooses to submit two additional sessions, one of those sessions must be a collaborative session with another entity (division, discussion group, allied organization, etc.).

- MLA divisions: <http://www.mla.org/danddg>
- MLA allied and affiliate divisions: http://www.mla.org/orginfo_directory
- MLA discussion groups: http://www.mla.org/discussion_groups

**The proposals for the two additional sessions are not guaranteed and will be reviewed by the MLA Program Committee. Please see the Procedures for Organizing Meetings on the MLA Web site (http://mla.org/conv_procedures) for further details.



ChLAQ Special Issue CFP

“Orphanhood, Foster Care, and Adoption in Youth Media”: A Special Issue of Children’s Literature Association Quarterly

*Edited by Sarah Park Dahlen
and Lies Wesseling*

Deadline: November 1, 2014

This special issue of *ChLAQ* will focus on the different ways in which orphanhood, foster care, and adoption have been depicted in media for youth, past and present. We also aim to take perspectives from birth countries and birth parents into account. We invite papers that both extend and disrupt existing adoption discourses, including but not limited to:

- the cultural construction of “adoptability”: constructions of children in need (deserving/undeserving children); of birth parents, foster parents, and adoptive parents (deserving/undeserving parents)
- presence/absence of birth parents and birth countries in Western stories of adoption and fostering
- the genres of orphan narratives: the sentimental novel and beyond
- adultism and the hidden adult in orphan narratives
- the (ab)uses of children’s literature as a socialization tool in raising and educating adoptees
- representations of intercountry adoption in birth countries
- the politics of belonging; intersectional perspectives on race, class, nation, gender, and sexuality in orphanhood, foster care, and adoption
- the adoptees write back: adoptees’ perspectives on the cultural construction of orphanhood and adoptability
- the impact of narratives and visual art (action art, intervention art, etc.) on adoption laws, policies, and practices

Papers should conform to the usual style of ChLAQ and be between 5,000 and 7,000 words in length. Queries and completed essays should be sent to Sarah Park Dahlen and Lies Wesseling (chlaq.adopt@gmail.com) by November 1, 2014. The selected articles will appear in ChLAQ in 2015.

New ChLA Mentoring Award



During 2013, the ChLA Board approved the new ChLA Mentoring Award, which will celebrate its debut presentation (to Marilyn Olson of Texas State University) at our 2014 meeting. The award recognizes excellence in mentoring taking place within the field of children’s literature and extending beyond the boundaries of the mentor’s institution; in other

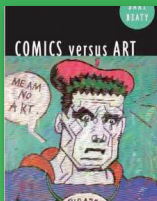
words, it seeks to recognize not outstanding mentoring of one’s departmental colleagues or one’s own undergraduate or graduate students, which many colleges and universities already have mechanisms to reward, but rather the kind of mentoring upon which our organization has long prided itself: the generous outreach designed to help scholars within our children’s literature community who are not bound to all the nominators by institutional kinship ties. In establishing the award, the officers and board hoped to create a way to honor awardees who have contributed in significant ways to enhancing others’ scholarship and/or professional careers in children’s literature over a substantial period of time. Such mentorship may take place in a variety of contexts, including but not limited to organizational committee work, journal or other professional editing work, ChLA discussions of teaching and/or career-building, and informal contacts.

The nomination packet is both the selection tool and part of the award. It consists of three to five letters from current ChLA members, at least two of them people who have never been students or departmental colleagues of the nominee, for a packet of no more than ten pages in length excluding the cover sheet. The awardee receives not only a framed certificate suitable for public display, but also, for more private contemplation, the letters written on his or her behalf. Thus the award is a way to express thanks, both by the Association for sterling work done to improve research, teaching, and/or access to professional opportunities for younger scholars in the field, and by individuals who may have been among those benefiting from the wise counsel of the mentor.

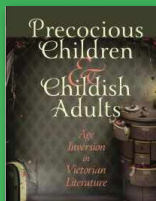
During the Mentoring Award’s infancy, the body adjudicating the competition will be the ChLA Board; however, it is anticipated that in a few years this pleasant task may move to a committee composed at least in part of former award winners.

Recommended Titles from the Book Award Committee

(for academic books published in 2012)



Comics versus Art
by Bart Beaty
University of Toronto Press



Precocious Children and Childish Adults: Age Inversion in Victorian Literature
by Claudia Nelson
Johns Hopkins University Press



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New ChLA Website

The Children's Literature Association is excited to announce the upcoming release of our new website. We've listened to your feedback and are working with a company to incorporate the needs of ChLA's members. More than just a pretty face, the new site will have increased functionality. Members will be able to develop detailed profiles and be part of a searchable membership directory. Forgotten if you've renewed your membership? Login and look up your payment history. With streamlined and immediate processing, you'll get instant confirmation, and all charges—conference or membership—will remain connected to your member ID. Find conference information, professional resources, and award details quickly and easily with convenient navigation. Whether you're a ChLA "lifer" or a new member, working on a committee or looking for children's literature news, childlitassn.org will provide enhanced features and keep our members better connected. We're looking forward to sharing the new site with you at the 2014 ChLA Conference in Columbia, South Carolina. Come to the Membership Meeting on Saturday, June 21, for the big reveal!

Communicating with ChLA!

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