

# THE Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature

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The University of Tennessee ■ Knoxville, Tennessee

## Author Sharon Draper Speaking on October 17

On Monday, October 17, the Center will host author and educator Sharon Draper. A recipient of the prestigious National Teacher of the Year Award in 1997, Draper is the author of several popular young adult novels, including *Tears of a Tiger*, *Forged by Fire*, *Darkness Before Dawn*, and *The Battle of Jericho*. Her books have been cited for excellence by many professional organizations, including the American Library Association, Children's Book Council, and International Reading Association.

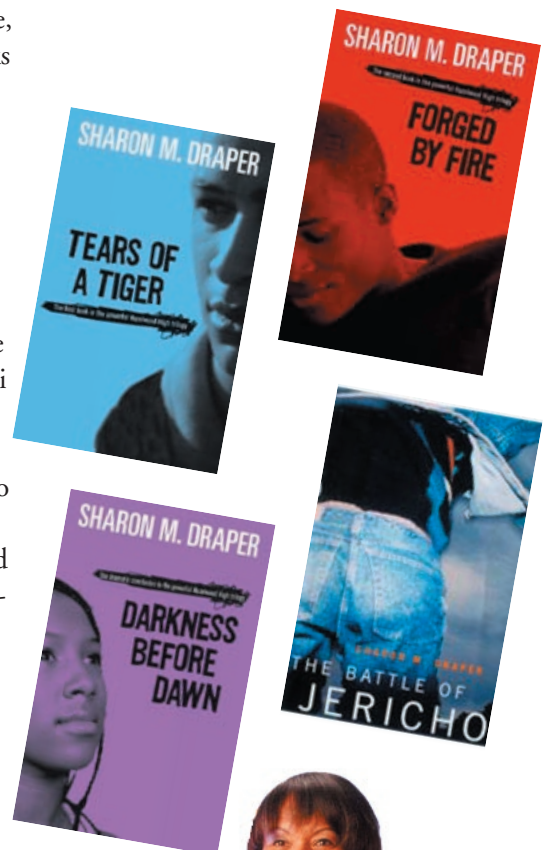
Before becoming a full-time author and speaker, Draper spent more than thirty years teaching junior high and high school students how to appreciate the beauty of literature and how to communicate their ideas effectively. Each year her students received their own rewards in donning the class-designed "I Survived the Draper Paper" tee shirt commemorating the legendary research project that all her seniors had to complete to graduate. After becoming one of the first teachers in the nation to achieve National Board Certification in English/Language Arts, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She has served on the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and is

currently on the Board of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. Her award-winning essay on education, "The Touch of a Teacher," was published by the National Governor's Association in *What Governors Need to know about Education*. In addition to her books for young people, Draper is also the author of three books for educators, including *Teaching from the Heart: Reflections, Encouragement, and Inspiration* and *Not Quite Burned Out but Crispy Around the Edges: Inspiration, Laughter, and Encouragement for Teachers*. She holds the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the College of Mount Saint Joseph and the Doctor of Arts Degree from Cincinnati State University.

Draper now travels extensively and has been a guest on television and radio programs throughout the country, discussing issues of literature, reading, and education. Actively involved in encouraging and motivating all teachers and their students as well, she has worked with teachers, students, schools and educational organizations all over the United States, as well as in Russia, Ghana, Togo, Kenya, and Ethiopia, spreading the word about the power of accomplished teaching and excellence in education.

While visiting Knoxville, the Center has helped arrange for Draper to spend a day at Fulton High School where she will speak to student assemblies and conduct writing workshops.

Draper will speak at UT on Monday, October 17, at 7 pm in the Shiloh Room in the University Center. The program is free and open to the public. Draper's books will be sold following the program and she will be available to sign them.



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## *Kudos to Our Board Members*

**T**ena Litherland was recently appointed to serve on the Young Adult Library Services Association President's Program Planning Committee and the Tennessee Advisory Council on Libraries.

Ed Sullivan published in the March 2005 issue of *Book Links* an article about books that introduce young people to Henry David Thoreau, as well as an interview he conducted with author/illustrator D.B. Johnson. In May, Ed was elected Vice-President/President Elect of the East Tennessee Library Association. Ed is also a regional representative on the Tennessee Association of School Librarians board.

Jinx Watson has been appointed to serve on the selection committee for the 2006 Outstanding International Books for Young People bibliography, a joint project of the Children's Book Council and the United States Board on Books for Young People. The list will honor outstanding books originally published outside the United States.

## *Board Member to Chair Printz Award Committee*

**B**oard member Ed Sullivan has been appointed to chair the 2007 Michael L. Printz Award committee. Administered by the Young Adult Library Services Association, the Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature is an annual award given to the best book published for young adults in a calendar year. Ed served on the task force that created the award in 2000 and is thrilled to now have the opportunity to participate in the selection process. Although he is now an elementary school librarian in Knox County, Ed worked for The New York Public Library for several years as a young adult specialist. He is looking forward to once again immersing himself in young adult literature.

## *Board Member Edits Encyclopedia of Young Adult Literature*

**D**r. Deborah A. Wooten, assistant professor of reading education, is co-editor of the forthcoming *Continuum Encyclopedia of Young Adult Literature*, the only comprehensive reference guide to young adult literature. Comprising 1,000 articles by 180 contributors, the encyclopedia offers profiles of educators, graphic artists, and publishing professionals, including Douglas Adams, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Chris Crutcher, Will Eisner, James Cross Giblin, Virginia Hamilton, Karen Hesse, S.E. Hinton, Diana Wynne Jones, Bel Kaufman, Robert Lipsyte, Linda Sue Park, Philip Pullman, J. K. Rowling, Peter Sis, Art Spiegelman, Dorothy S. Strickland, J. R. R. Tolkien, Chris Van Allsburg, Rita Williams-Garcia, Jane Yolen, and Paul Zindel.

A special feature of the encyclopedia are over 90 topical articles about such subjects as Adult Books for Young Adults; African American Literature; Asian American Literature; Australian Literature; Beyond Harry Potter; Bibliotherapy; Bleak YA Books; Canadian Books for YA; "The Canon"—Secondary High School Reading; Crossover Reads—Tween to Teen; Ethical Decisions in YA Literature; Fantasy; Genreblending; the Graphic Novel; Harry Potter: Not Just for Kids Anymore; Movie Tie-Ins; Poetry for YA; Romance for Teens; Sports; Superheroes and Comic Books of the 1960s; War; YA Books in New Zealand; YA Books in the UK; YALSA; and Youth Theater. Other special features include dozens of portraits, and guide to book awards that recognize young adult books.

The encyclopedia is intended for a broad audience, including writers, scholars, artists, publishers, parents, and teens. It is a cutting-edge work intended to serve as a reference guide toward a greater appreciation and celebration of the imagination. The book will be published in fall 2005. Dr. Wooten's co-editors are Bonnie L. Kunzel, State Librarian of New Jersey, and long-time literacy educator and advocate Bernice Cullinan.

## *Meet Our Board Members*

**T**ena Litherland is the Director of the Upper and Middle School Library at the Webb School of Knoxville. A past president of the Tennessee Library Association, she continues to serve on several boards including the Tennessee Advisory Council on Libraries, TENN-SHARE and the Library Advisory Panel of the H. W. Wilson Company. For the past twelve years she has been a regular reviewer for the *Library Media Connection*. Recently she has been appointed to the Young Adult Library Services Association, President's Program Planning Committee of. She is also an adjunct lecturer for the School of Information Science.

## CCYAL Celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Lecture by Jack Gantos

by Joel Southern

The Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> year by welcoming one of America's most entertaining and successful speakers of children's literature. On September 23, 2004, Jack Gantos spoke to some 300 people at UT's University Center Auditorium, winning over the hearts and imaginations of many.

To say that Gantos is energetic is an understatement. Enchanting, driven, and standing in front of a backdrop of storybook characters, Gantos wowed the group by telling candid antics about his own childhood and drawing those connections to the characters in his books.

"What is so magical about Jack Gantos," says Dr. Jinx Watson who invited Gantos to speak "is the way that he writes about the inner and outer life of the child in such authentic ways. He captures the hearts and minds of both kids and the adults who keep themselves surrounded by kids!" Watson is an associate professor at the School of Information Sciences and heads up its school media program.

Gantos' stories are "real" in that they speak of mischief-making, boundary-breaking, and about the thrills and heartbreaks of being a young person. His stories, he said, "grow out of careful attention to the weird and overlooked aspects of my life." He encouraged everyone to keep a journal and to note down the wonderful and bizarre events in their lives. Keeping track of these oddities is an essential tool for self-discovery, he insisted.

Jack Gantos is the author of the *Jack Henry Books*, the *Joey Pigza Books*, the *Rotten Ralph Rotten Readers*, *Heads or Tails: Stories from the Sixth Grade* (1994), *Jack's New Power: Stories from a Caribbean Year* (1995), *Desire Lines* (1997), *Jack's Black Book* (1997), and his award winning memoir, *A Hole in My Life* (2002).

Before the Gantos public lecture, UT Libraries and SIS sponsored a dinner honoring the Center's board of directors and authors who have given their time and devotion to the Center during its inception and first five years. Jack Gantos thanked these early supporters and spoke about the significance of the Center for both bringing attention to children's and young adult literature and also in its role as a place of inspiration for teachers and budding students.

Vice Chancellor Anne Mayhew sat at the table of honor with Gantos and seemed to delight in his mastery and storytelling. After dinner, Jinx Watson gave away hand-bound booklets that "tell the story" of how the Center came into being.

## Remembering Ted Hipple

The world of young adult literature lost a good friend and important advocate on November 25, 2004, when Theodore "Ted" Hipple passed away. Ted, a founding board member of the Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature, was also a founding member of the Adolescent Literature Assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English (ALAN) and served as executive secretary of ALAN for nearly 20 years. When he retired from that post in 2000, ALAN created the Ted Hipple award in his honor and he was its first recipient.

Ted taught high school English and reading in Home wood IL before receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1968. He then taught at the University of Florida from 1968 until 1984 when he came to the University of Tennessee as Head of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Ted continued teaching after stepping down as department head in 1990, and devoted his relentless energy to advocating for young adult literature, to supporting National Board certification for teachers in Tennessee, and to working for social justice in every aspect of life. He was a prolific writer himself and still found time to support and encourage students and junior faculty members who were getting their own scholarly careers started.

Ted's was a vibrant presence, and his colorful, match ing ties and suspenders meant he was always visible as well! Those of us fortunate enough to know him well still expect him to walk into a room, or a meeting, and liven it up. It is fitting to include in this tribute to him words from an author of young adult literature, the world he so passionately supported. Virginia Euwer Wolff, author of *Make Lemonade* and *The Mozart Season*, had this to say about Ted in the winter 2005 issue of *ALAN Review* online:

As we mourn the loss of Ted Hipple, I think of him as a temple pillar that's not there anymore. Leaving others to hold up the temple, of course. Tinny and tacky as that metaphor is, it's what has come to me. I felt safe with Ted looking into and after kids' reading: He cared so deeply about kids' needs, their tastes, their quirks, the way they roll their eyes about adults and cause adults to do the same about them. Ted set us such a sturdy example, showing over and over again that we can't afford in any way to ignore kids' real book needs. His teaching, his intelligent caring, his marvelous friendliness and his smile. And, of course, his neckties. As the kids' lit community celebrates these, I join in sending my sympathy to his family. We all acknowledge that his like is not likely to pass our way again.



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*The Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature is a collaborative effort of the University of Tennessee Libraries, the School of Information Sciences, the College of Education, Health & Human Sciences, and local schools and libraries.*

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