

# THE Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature

News ■ Vol. 5, No. 1 ■ September 2003



The University of Tennessee ■ Knoxville, Tennessee

## Coming Events

"Reading Aloud" Advocate

**Jim Trelease**

7 PM, Tuesday, September 23

University Center Auditorium  
University of Tennessee Campus



Author and Storyteller  
**Diane Wolkstein**

7 PM, Wednesday, October 8

Hodges Library Auditorium  
University of Tennessee Campus



Illustrator

**E. B. Lewis**

Coming to the University of Tennessee  
on March 16, 2004



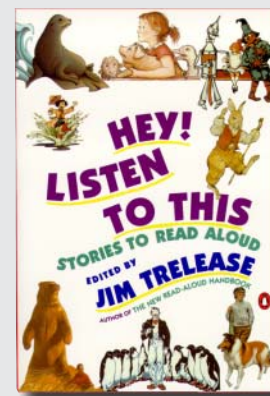
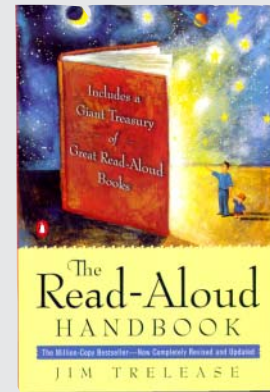
## Jim Trelease to Discuss the Benefits of Reading Aloud

Do you know how reading aloud to a child aids in the development of better vocabulary and better reading skills? Is there an ideal age at which a parent or teacher should begin to read aloud to children? What should parents and educators do about "the TV problem"? What role do fathers play in the development of reading skills? On Tuesday, September 23, the University of Tennessee will host best-selling author Jim Trelease, who will discuss the answers to these and other questions.

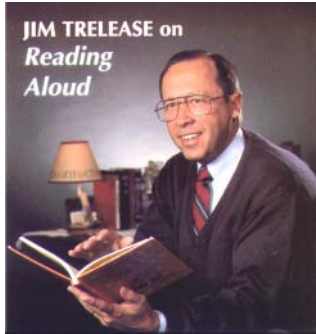
Jim Trelease spent 20 years as an artist and writer for a daily newspaper in Massachusetts. As a parent and school volunteer, he noticed that students whose teachers read to them daily earned better grades, not just in reading, but in other subject areas as well. After reading to his own children and to students in the schools he visited, Trelease wrote *The Read-Aloud Handbook* to show others how to achieve the benefits of reading aloud.

Originally self-published, the *Handbook* was picked up for publication by Penguin in 1982. In 1983, a letter to the nationally syndicated newspaper column "Dear Abby" led to a phenomenal growth in sales of the *Handbook*. Since that time, Trelease

(continued, page 2)



Titles above  
published by the Penguin Group,  
©Jim Trelease



(Jim Trelease, continued)

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has devoted his full time to conducting lectures and seminars about the benefits of reading aloud.

Featured in such publications as *Smithsonian* and *Reader's Digest*, the *Handbook* has been published in five American editions as well as British, Australian, and Japanese editions. In addition to his best-selling *Handbook*, Trelease has compiled two anthologies of stories designed to read aloud: *Hey! Listen to This*, for kindergarten through fourth grade, and *Read All About It!* for preteens and teens.

“The most important subject in school is Reading—because all the other subjects rest upon it,” says Trelease. “Reading aloud to a child serves as a spark for reading interest, just the way a TV commercial whets children’s appetites for products. By reading aloud, you advertise the **pleasures** of reading instead of the **work** that children too often associate with reading.”

Using humor and enthusiasm for his subject, Trelease will demonstrate some simple techniques for making stories come alive during read-aloud sessions. He will examine “the TV problem,” and he will deliver a special message to sports-minded fathers about how to become intellectually involved with their children.

Trelease will speak in the University Center Auditorium on Tuesday, September 23, at 7 p.m. This lecture, while focusing on children’s literature, is intended for an audience of parents, teachers, and other interested adults. After the lecture, Trelease’s books will be offered for sale at a book signing session. Trelease’s lectures are humorous, entertaining, and thought provoking. Prepare to be motivated.

## Wolkstein to Visit Knoxville in October

Diane Wolkstein will lecture and tell stories to students, teachers, parents and the community on Wednesday, October 8, at 7 p.m. in the Hodges Library Auditorium. The lecture is sponsored by the Center for Children’s and Young Adult Literature and is offered free of charge to all participants.

Diane Wolkstein travels throughout the world performing myths and folktales and giving workshops on storytelling. She is the author of twenty-one award-winning books of folklore, including the Sumerian epic *Inanna, Queen of Heaven and Earth* (with S. N. Kramer) and *The Magic Orange Tree and Other Haitian Folktales*. Her stories have been illustrated by James Marshall, Ed Young, Paul Galdone, Juan Wyngaard, and Lillian Hoban among others. Her latest book, published in September 2003, is entitled, *Treasures of the Heart: Holiday Stories That Reveal the Soul of Judaism*. Wolkstein is the co-founder of the New York City Storytelling Center and the winner of the National Storytelling Award for Excellence.



## Mary Azarian Demonstrates Woodcut Techniques

For ten weeks during the Spring semester, visitors to the University Center Concourse were treated to “The Woodcut Art of Mary Azarian,” an exhibition of the work of children’s book illustrator, Mary Azarian. The exhibit, sponsored in part by the UT Visual Arts Committee, is a major attraction in a series of national tours organized by the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature in Abilene, Texas. The Azarian exhibit afforded a rare opportunity for UT students of children’s literature to study examples of original artwork that illustrate children’s picture books.

On the evening of February 17<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Azarian conducted a gallery tour of the exhibit followed by a lecture sponsored by the Center for Children’s and Young Adult Literature. Azarian’s lecture focused on the development of woodcut techniques as a medium for illustrating children’s books and her own experimentation in adding color to what had largely been a black-and-white medium. Relying on her training as a painter as well as a printmaker, Azarian developed non-traditional techniques for adding color with water-based paint blocks rather than individual color blocks. After perfecting her technique she began tinting the woodblocks in pastel, colors particularly suitable to the rustic lifestyle themes of her books.

Mary Azarian began her professional career as a printmaker, creating and selling correspondence cards. In the early 1970s she was awarded a grant to create a set of alphabet calendars for every primary classroom in her native state of Vermont. The prints became the basis for her first book, *A Farmer’s Alphabet*. She followed this with *A Gardner’s Alphabet* and then illustrated *Snowflake Bentley*, which won for her the prestigious Caldecott Medal.



Photo by Kim Losee

Mary Azarian was guest of the Center for Children’s and Young Adult Literature during the week of February 16<sup>th</sup>, conducting hands-on demonstrations of her woodblock techniques in classrooms at Central High School, The Episcopal School of Knoxville, Sacred Heart School, West Hills Elementary School, and White Pine School in Jefferson County. Ms. Azarian not only demonstrated to the students her skill as an artist, but took care to point out the various dimensions in the relation of artwork to text in illustrated children’s books.

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## New Website!

The Center for Children’s & Young Adult Literature has a beautifully redesigned website. Much thanks to UT librarian Margaret Casado for her excellent work. Visit us at:

[www.lib.utk.edu/refs/ccyal/](http://www.lib.utk.edu/refs/ccyal/)

## Board Member Leads Children’s Choices

Deborah A. Wooten, board member for the Center for Children’s and Young Adult Literature and UT Assistant Professor in Theory and Practice in Teacher Education, is currently serving as national co-chair and regional team leader of Children’s Choices, representing The International Reading Association. She is pleased to announce that 2,000 area students in grades K-6 are going to review and vote for their favorite recently published books. These votes, along with those from 8,000 other Children’s Choices participants from across America, will be tabulated and used to generate a complete list of children’s favorite books for 2003-2004. Participating schools in our region are from Blount, Knox, and Roane Counties. Students will review and vote for approximately \$100,000 worth of recently published books. At the conclusion of this project, books will be donated to participating classroom teachers.

THE *Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature*  
652 John C. Hodges Library  
The University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996-1000

*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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*The community  
is invited!*

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The Center for  
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The Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature celebrates and promotes literature in the lives of children and young adults through outreach to their current and future teachers, librarians, parents, and other caregivers. Please consider making a gift to help support the Center's programming and projects. To make a gift, send your check payable to The University of Tennessee Library, designated for the Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature to:

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**Get on our mailing list!** To receive announcements of future events, send your name and address to:

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