

THE Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature

News ■ Vol. 6, No. 1 ■ September 2004



The University of Tennessee ■ Knoxville, Tennessee

Upcoming Events

5th Anniversary Celebration

Jack Gantos

Thursday, September 23

7:30 PM

University Center auditorium
1502 West Cumberland Avenue
University of Tennessee Campus



Jack Gantos by Jack Gantos

Author & illustrator

Diane Stanley

Tuesday, September 28

7 PM

Hodges Library auditorium
1015 Volunteer Boulevard
University of Tennessee Campus

Writer for young adults

Marc Aronson

(November)

Author/illustrator
of young adult literature

Michael Cart

(February)

5th Anniversary Celebration Lecture features Jack Gantos



Children's author Jack Gantos will offer a special lecture celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature on Thursday, September 23, at 7:30 pm, at the University Center auditorium, UT campus.

Jack Gantos is the author of *Heads or Tails: Stories from the Sixth Grade* (1994), *Jacks New Power: Stories from a Caribbean Year* (1995), *Desire Lines* (1997), and *Jacks Black Book* (1997), all published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

While in college, Gantos began working on picture books with an illustrator friend. In 1976, they published their first book, *Rotten Ralph*. Gantos continued writing children's books and began to teach courses in children's book writing.

Gantos developed the masters degree program in children's book writing at Emerson College in Boston, and now teaches in the Vermont College M.F.A. program for children's book writers.



Scenes from earlier
Knoxville visits by
Jack Gantos



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Diane Stanley here September 28

Famous for her picture book biographies



Diane Stanley, the distinguished author and illustrator of middle grade novels, picture book biographies, and picture book stories will

speak on Tuesday, September 28 at 7 p.m. in the Hodges Library auditorium. Illustrating and writing since the early 1980s, sometimes in collaboration with her husband Peter Vennema, Stanley has amassed a large, impressive body of work. Her books have been cited for excellence by the American Library Association, Children's Book Council, International Reading Association, National Council of Social Studies Teachers, National Council of Teachers of English, and *Parenting Magazine*.

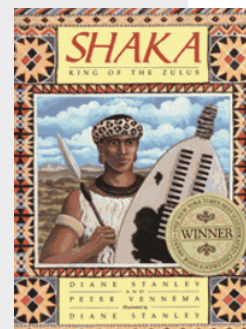
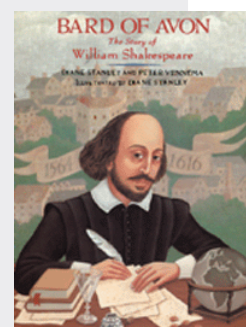
A native of New Mexico, Stanley was born in Abilene, Texas. Her father, a navy pilot, was a World War II flying ace. Her mother, Fay, was an author of mystery novels. Stanley decided to pursue art as a career in her senior year at Trinity University in San Antonio when she took a figure drawing class and realized she had talent. She went on to study

at the Edinburgh College of Art in Scotland.

Stanley is perhaps best known for her outstanding picture book biographies which she both writes and illustrates. Her books profile such important historical figures as Joan of Arc, Leonardo da Vinci, Charles Dickens, Cleopatra, Michelangelo, Peter the Great, Queen Elizabeth I, Prince Saladin, Shaka Zulu, and William Shakespeare. To illustrate these books, Stanley paints in the period and style of her subject. Stanley's picture books for young readers include *The Giant and the Beanstalk*, *Goldie and the Three Bears*, *Saving Sweetness*, and *Woe is Moe*. She has also written novels for middle grade readers, including the thriller *The Mysterious Matter of I.M. Fine and A Time Apart*.

While in Knoxville, Stanley will be visiting with students at several area elementary and middle schools. Stanley's presentation on September 28 will include a slide show of her art. She will discuss her artistic technique, research methods, and views on writing for young people. A book signing will follow her presentation. The program is free and open to the public.

For more information about this author, visit www.dianestanley.com.



Jacket illustrations copyright
Diane Stanley

By Our Board Members

Ed Sullivan. "Going All the Way: First-Time Sexual Experiences of Teens in Young Adult Fiction." *VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates* 26.6 (February 2004): 461-463.

Ed Sullivan. *The Novels of Janet Tashjian: A Reading Group Guide*. Henry Holt, 2004.

Marc Aronson will speak in November

“Required reading for anyone who cares about young adults and their literature”



The Center is bringing distinguished author and scholar Marc Aronson to Knoxville the week of November 1.

Internationally recognized as an expert on young adult literature, Aronson has had a remarkable career as an author, editor, historian publisher, and scholar. He passionately believes that young people, especially pre-teens and teenagers, are smart, passionate, and capable of engaging with interesting ideas in interesting ways. His books inspire young people to ask questions and see the connections between history and contemporary world.

Aronson's books for young readers include *Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for El Dorado* (Clarion, 2000), the first book to win the Robert F. Sibert Award for best informational book; *Witch-Hunt: Mysteries of the Salem Witch Trials* (Atheneum, 2003), a *School Library Journal* best book; and *Art Attack: A Short Cultural History of the Avant-Garde* (Clarion, 1998), a *New York Times* Notable Book. His two books of essays for adults about teenage readers: *Exploding the Myths: The Truth about Teenagers and Reading* (Scarecrow, 2001), and *Beyond the Pale: New Essays for a New Era* (Scarecrow, 2003) were praised by *School Library Journal* as “required reading for anyone who cares about young adults and their literature.”

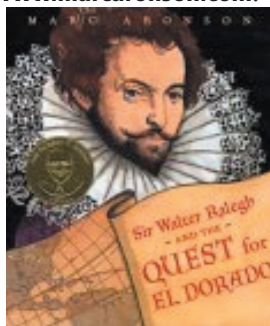
Aronson's latest book, *John Winthrop, Oliver Cromwell and the Land of Promise* (Clarion, 2004) continues the story of colonial America he began with *Raleigh*, and is the first book for young readers to show how the religious passions of the early Puritans can help us to under-

stand the viewpoint of modern Islamic fundamentalists. His trilogy will conclude with another first, an account of the run-up to the American Revolution viewed in a global perspective in which Robert Clive plays as large a role as George Washington, and events in London and India are as important as those in Boston and Virginia. He is currently working on the first global history of prejudice(s) written for younger readers.

As an editor, Aronson published two books that were selected as the best books in translation, and created Edge, an imprint designed to bring the voices of coming of age from around the world to American readers. It is his conviction that the mixing of genes, of ideas, of cultures, of networks of trade is the given of the world young people are entering. He is also a supporter of the Guys Read project who feels young males are often neglected by a reading world oriented towards females. A native of New York City, Aronson now lives in New Jersey with his wife and son.

While in Knoxville, Aronson will conduct in-service workshops for Knox County middle and high school librarians. He will also be visiting with students at Maryville High School, Webb, and other area schools. After his Knoxville visits, Aronson will present workshops on November 5 and 6 at the Tennessee Association of School Librarians annual conference in Chattanooga.

For more information about this author, visit www.marcaronson.com.



Course on International Children's and Young Adult Literature

The School of Information Science's course in International Children's and Young Adult Literature met throughout the month of June at the Chancellor's Classroom. Students read memoir and modern realism titles from all over the world in order to appreciate the daily life of young people in situations so different from ours. Readers learned that teens share universal values of love and respect for parents as well as sense of growing independence from parents. Nevertheless, the specific history and culture of regions influence whether or not young people's themes include one of survival or surplus, of tradition or creating new mores, among others.

Students became familiar with Batchelder Award books (best translated) as well as articles from "Bookbird", the journal of the International Board for Books for Young People (IBBY). They book-talked and maintained a personal portfolio of titles and ideas.

The class watched films, including "The Lost Boys of Sudan," in order to appreciate current crises. Students read foreign newspapers and tracked issues about young people in the world. From AIDS in Africa to kidnapped children in Latin America to child labor in Asia, students' Blackboard discussion threads kept most of them up until midnight throughout the month to digest, debate and discuss critical issues surrounding world youth. Check these titles out:

Born Confused
Postcards from No Man's Land
A Handful of Stars
Chain of Fire
Miriam's Song
Asphalt Angel
Red Scarf Girl
Shabanu

and send us some noteworthy ones.

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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