

# The Center for Children's Books

## October 2010 Newsletter



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### What's New on the CCB Website

Every month, the CCB creates an annotated bibliography of good books on a specific subject. In order to be eligible for the list, the books must be recent (within the last five years) and Recommended (R or R\*) by the Bulletin. To suggest a subject for a future bibliography, email [ccb@uiuc.edu](mailto:ccb@uiuc.edu). All requests will be considered.

#### **Bibliography: Youth Literature Festival!**

**Created by Ayanna Coleman**

[http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/bibliographies/YouthLitFest\\_Oct2010.html](http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/bibliographies/YouthLitFest_Oct2010.html)

#### **Bibliography: Black Girlhood**

**Created by CCB Volunteers**

[http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/bibliographies/blackgirlhood\\_oct2010.html](http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/bibliographies/blackgirlhood_oct2010.html)

## News

### **Youth Literature Festival at Krannert Center**

Come visit the CCB's activity table and see the colorful giant boxes we decorated! In addition to helping decorate the inside of the CCB's boxes, there will be lots of other things to do at the Youth Literature Festival. You can print your own bookmark at the Soybean Press activity table, make puppets with the Central Illinois Puppetry guild or meet an author and get them to sign a book! For a complete schedule of festival events visit <http://youthlitfest.education.illinois.edu>.

You can also find out more about the authors by checking out our Youth Literature Festival display or reading our bibliography.

### **CHECK IN! Portraits and Performances of Black Girlhood in Everyday Life**

This talk by Dr. Ruth Nicole Brown is an event we are co-sponsoring with the Community Informatics Initiative. Dr. Brown is founder and convener of SOLHOT (Saving Our Lives, Hear Our Truths), a space to celebrate black girlhood in all of its complexity. She will be sharing her experience with a project that engaged SOLHOT participants in photography and set the agenda for discussions and multimedia theatrical productions.

We put together some extra materials so you can find out how black girlhood is represented in youth literature. Stop by to see our display or check out our bibliography of books about black girlhood.

This event is free and open to the public.

## October Calendar

**Saturday, October 9, 10am-4pm**

**Youth Literature Festival at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts**

**Thursday, October 14, 5-6pm**

**Youth Lit Book Club**

Join other YA enthusiasts to discuss Will Grayson, *Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan*.

**Friday, October 15, 4-5pm**

**CHECK IN! Portraits and Performances of Black Girlhood in Everyday Life with Dr. Ruth Nicole Brown**

Co-sponsored by the CCB and the Community Informatics Initiative

**LEEP Weekend Reduced Hours**

Thu, 10/14: 12pm-7pm

Fri, 10/15: 10am-5pm

Mon, 10/18: Closed

**Thursday, September 28, 5-7pm**

**Story Coach**

Share a story or just come listen!

*Free parking is available after 5:00 PM and on weekends in the parking garage across the street from the GSLIS building.*

*To see a complete calendar of events, visit our website (<http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu>).*

# Highlights from an Interview with Prof. Carol Tilley

Interview by Miriam Larson, CCB Outreach GA  
**Full interview at [ccb.lis.illinois.edu](http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu)**

## Tell me about your research.

My research is about the intersection of kids, comics, and libraries during the twentieth century and the '40s and '50s in particular. A lot of kids back then didn't have access to public libraries and bookstores were less ubiquitous. Comic books were the books that kids had most access to. The common belief is that librarians all hated comics and tried to keep them away from kids. Many librarians did feel threatened by comics, but there were some librarians who thought comics were legitimate reading materials for young people.

## What kinds of accusations were made against comic books?

Sterling North wrote one of the earliest critiques, which was published in the Chicago Daily News in 1940. He called comics "a poisonous mushroom of growth" and essentially argued that kids who read comics would be incapable of being adults who could manage their own lives. His article was handed out in some libraries and set the tone for many future critiques of comics.

In 1955, comics came under government scrutiny. A series of senate hearings eventually forced the comics industry to establish a self-regulatory committee—the Comics Magazine Association of America (CMAA)—to censor what was published. The CSAA created publishing rules like no slang, no undead characters no kids who were disrespectful to their parents, no divorces.

(interview cont'd on pg. 3)



## Our Affiliates Out and About:

### The Illinois School Library Media Association Fall Conference

Oct. 28-30, 2010 at  
the Pheasant Run  
Resort and Conven-  
tion Center in St.  
Charles, IL

Georgeanne Burch  
will be present-  
ing a session titled  
"There's No Such  
Thing as 'Just' a  
Read-Aloud" on Fri-  
day, Oct. 29th from  
2:30-3:30pm. From  
4:45-6:00pm on the  
same day, Diana  
Stroud, Georgeann  
Burch & Christine  
Jenkins will be  
hosting the GSLIS  
Reception.

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## New Books We Just Had to Read

Every month, the CCB Graduate Assistants highlight books reviewed in the most recent issue of the Bulletin that we were very excited to read. These decisions are based on personal preference, but all books listed are Recommended by the Bulletin. The goal is to introduce you to brand-new books. For complete reviews, visit the Bulletin website (<http://bccb.lis.illinois.edu/>) to learn how to subscribe.

### Laurel's Choice:

**Lore, Pittacus. I Am Number Four.**  
Harper/HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 978-  
0061969553. \$17.99. Gr. 6-9.

The tagline on the cover, "Three are dead. I am number four." refers to John Smith one of the nine Loric children who escape to Earth with their guardians after the Mogadarians, a race of aliens, attack their planet. The children are protected by a charm that prevents the Mogadarians from killing them out of numeric order. John struggles to remain undetected and alive, fit in as a normal teenager, and hone his legacies, or special powers that appear during adolescence so that he and the other remaining children can fight the Mogadarians in a war that is fast approaching.

### Ayanna's Choice:

**Pien, Lark. Mr. Elephanter. Candlewick  
Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0763644093. \$14.99.  
4-7 yrs.**

In a world where humans and animals live and play amongst one another Mr. Elephanter takes us through a typical day with his charges, the elephanties. The elephanties are three baby elephants who live in the elephantery and love to be looked after by their humorous looking human, Mr. Elephanter. First he makes them banana pancakes, then he proceeds to take them to the pool, into the city, and last to the park. After a full day the little elephanties take a nap and then Mr. Elephanter gets to take care of some housekeeping before a rousing playtime and a heartfelt round of goodbyes for the night. Illustrated in gentle watercolor and pencil drawings Mr. Elephanter is a pleasure to read and may easily become one of your child's new favorites.

### Miriam's Choice:

**Rhodes, Jewell Parker. Ninth Ward. Little,  
Brown and Co, 2010. ISBN 9780316043076.  
\$18.00. Gr. 5-8.**

Lanesha's story about surviving Hurricane Katrina in the Ninth Ward is a vivid illustration of strength passed from generation to generation. Lanesha lives with Mama Ya-Ya who has been there loving her since Lanesha's mother died giving birth. Mama Ya-Ya and Lanesha have a special affinity because they have a different way of seeing the world: Mama Ya-Ya is a healer and seer the future and Lanesha likes books and often sees ghosts, but Mama Ya-Ya says, "don't pay them no mind." Mama Ya-Ya is 82 the year Hurricane Katrina comes to the gulf coast and she starts having dreams that she can't understand. As Mama Ya-Ya sinks into worried disarray, Lanesha has to prepare for the storm and learn to rely on the strength Mama Ya-Ya has instilled in her.

## What got you interested in studying comics?

I grew up reading comics. My house was on the same block as the public library and I went there pretty much every day from the time I could walk. I didn't go on Saturdays because I walked downtown to a little drugstore where I sat on the floor and read the new comics that came in.

When I was a high school librarian and thinking about ordering books, I had a big insight. I thought, "Why aren't there comics here." Looking back, I keep coming back to the fact that 95% of kids were reading comics and yet 99.9% of librarians wouldn't have anything to do with comics. Today, we would be excited if 95% of kids were reading anything. I have similar feelings about video games and social networking. The question is, how can we respect kids choices and help them find these things that they like?

**Also check out Carol Tilley's other research through IDEALS:**  
[www.ideals.illinois.edu](http://www.ideals.illinois.edu)

The Center for Children's Books (CCB) houses a non-circulating research collection of over 16,000 trade books for youth, birth through high school, and over 1,000 professional and reference books on the history and criticism of literature for youth, literature-based library and classroom programming, and storytelling. The collection includes prominent displays of Blue Ribbon Books (titles chosen by Bulletin reviewers as the best of the previous year's children's books), current award winners, books reviewed in the current issue of the Bulletin, and monthly thematic displays. The CCB also houses a growing collection of storytelling audio and video recordings.

We ensure all materials are available to patrons whenever the CCB is open - this means no materials leave the collection. Although the collection is non-circulating, it is available for examination by students, scholars, teachers, librarians, and other educators.

Our research collection emphasizes contemporary works, especially books from the last five to seven years, as well as titles of historical and critical significance.

The Center for Children's Books is located in Room 24 on the ground floor of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. GSLIS is located at 501 E. Daniel Street in Champaign.

Enter GSLIS through the building's main north entrance. Go up the stairs to your left (through an arched wooden doorway) and turn left. You will see another set of stairs. Go down to the lower level. Turn right to enter the Center.

## How can the CCB assist you?

### Meeting Location

Looking for a place for your group to meet? If your purpose is related to children's literature or libraries, contact us to reserve space.

### Research Collection

Do you want to see a book before you purchase it? The CCB has a copy of every book reviewed by the Bulletin in the past 5-7 years!

### Reference Services

Are you really stumped? The CCB will guide you to reference solutions. Call (217) 244-9331 or email [ccb@illinois.edu](mailto:ccb@illinois.edu).

Center for Children's Books  
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Hours  
 Monday: 10 am - 5 pm  
 Tuesday: 10 am - 7 pm  
 Wednesday: 3 - 7 pm  
 Thursday: 10 am - 7pm  
 Friday: 10 am - 5 pm

## Highlighted Book from Our Wish List

Lesesne, Teri S and Rosemary Chance. *Hit List for Young Adults 2: Frequently Challenged Books*. American Library Association, 2002. ISBN: 0838908357.

Between 1990 and 2000 more than 6,000 challenges were reported to the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom. This book is a resource to help librarians and others who are preparing to face challenges. It provides comprehensive information about recently challenged books.

For more information about the CCB Wish List or how to donate books to the CCB, please visit <http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/wishlist.html>.

