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What's Hot in Teen Literature

Jefferson County Public Library's Teen Advisory Board Booktalks
Colorado Teen Literature Conference, April 10, 2010

A selection of the books you'll be hearing about today...

***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain**

Recounts the adventures of a young boy and an escaped slave as they travel down the Mississippi River on a raft.

***Alphabet of Thorn* by Patricia A. McKillip**

Fairytale of wonder and magic where an orphan girl is haunted by thorns, a reluctant queen rules between sea and sky, and epics never end.

***Ash* by Malinda Lo**

In this variation on the Cinderella story, Ash is forced into becoming an indentured servant in the home of an unkind stepmother when her family dies. Ash lives a lonely and desperate life with no hopes for the future until she meets Kaisa, the King's royal Huntress, who teaches her to love, live, and dream once again.

***Assassin's Apprentice* by S.R. Vaught and J.B. Redmond**

Follows the intertwining adventures of Leyr Mab, high prince and heir to the throne, Aron Brailing, a farm boy with a destiny greater than he can imagine, and Dari Ross, a mysterious halfling with ties to a powerful race of shapeshifters long believed to be extinct.

***Bearing an hourglass* by Piers Anthony**

Norton, grief-stricken over the death of his child and the suicide of his beloved, volunteers to become the Incarnation of Time, which means he will begin living backwards from the present to the past, and he soon finds himself enmeshed in Satan's foul plot to destroy all that is good.

***Beautiful Creatures* by Kami Garcia & Margaret Stohl**

In a small South Carolina town, where it seems little has changed since the Civil War, sixteen-year-old Ethan is powerfully drawn to Lena, a new classmate with whom he shares a psychic connection and whose family hides a dark secret that may be revealed on her sixteenth birthday.

***Because I am furniture* by Thalia Chaltas**

The youngest of three siblings, fourteen-year-old Anke feels both relieved and neglected that her father abuses her brother and sister but ignores her, but when she catches him with one of her friends, she finally becomes angry enough to take action.

***Bloodhound* by Tamora Pierce**

Beka has been promoted from "Puppy" to "Dog" and is now a full-fledged member of the Provost's Guard. With danger brewing in Tortall's capital, she knows it will be difficult to keep the peace as she and Goodwin, her former partner, head to a neighboring port city to investigate the source of the counterfeit coins flooding the market.

***Cast in Secret* by Michelle Sagara**

Still avoiding her magic lessons, a woman is delighted to be investigating a normal theft, until she discovers that the mysterious ancient box may have ties to the world of magic and to a lost young girl whose image she sees in a reflective pool.

***City of Glass* by Cassandra Clare**

Still pursuing a cure for her mother's enchantment and hoping to prevent the takeover of her father, Valentine, Clary uses all her powers and ingenuity to get into Idris, the forbidden country of the Shadowhunters, and to its capital, the City of Glass. With the help of Jace and a newfound friend, Sebastian, she uncovers important truths about her family's past that will not only help save her mother but all those that she holds most dear.

***Dear John* by Nicholas Sparks**

John, a high school dropout, enlists in the Army not knowing what else to do with his life. While in the Army he meets Savannah, they fall in love and she awaits his return from the Army. After 9/11 John feels it's his duty to re-enlist. During their long separation Savannah falls in love and marries someone else.

***Dune* by Frank Herbert**

In the far future, Paul Atreides, the son of a betrayed duke, is given up for dead on a treacherous desert planet, Arrakis. Adopted by its fierce, nomadic people, the Fremen, he is determined to avenge the traitorous plot against his noble family. With the help of the Fremen, Paul begins to unravel his most unexpected destiny.

***Fallen* by Lauren Kate**

Suspected in the death of her boyfriend, seventeen-year-old Luce is sent to a Savannah, Georgia, reform school where she meets two intriguing boys and learns the truth about the strange shadows that have always haunted her.

***Finnikin of the Rock* by Melina Marcheta**

Now on the cusp of manhood, Finnikin, who was a child when the royal family of Lumatere was brutally murdered and replaced by an imposter, reluctantly joins forces with an enigmatic young novice and fellow-exile, who claims that her dark dreams will lead them to a surviving royal child and a way to regain the throne of Lumatere.

***Fire* by Kristin Cashore**

In a kingdom called the Dells, Fire is the last human-shaped monster, with unimaginable beauty and the ability to control the minds of those around her, but even with these gifts she cannot escape the strife that overcomes her world. Sequel to *Graceling*.

***Graceling* by Kristin Cashore**

In the Seven Kingdoms of Nander, people are sometimes born graced with a superhuman gift. Katsa was graced with the ability to fight and she has been forced to do the king's dirty work for years in order to live in his kingdom. Things begin to change when she meets Po, another Graceling and a prince from a neighboring kingdom. As Katsa finds the strength to defy her king, she embarks on a journey across the beautifully drawn landscape of a far-off world.

***Grl2grl* by Julie Ann Peters**

Teenage girls navigate the complexities of love, romance, dating, and sexual identity in this collection of captivating short stories. From the publisher: From the young lesbian taking her first steps toward coming out to the two strangers who lock eyes across a crowded train, from the transgender teen longing for a sense of self to the girl whose abusive father has turned her to stone, Peters is the master of creating characters whose own vulnerability resonates with readers and stays with them long after the last page is turned.

***Have Spacesuit - Will Travel* by Robert Heinlein**

Kip Russell, a high school senior, wins a space suit in a soap jingle contest and he is determined to wear it on a trip to outer space someday. However, he gets more than he bargained for when he tries on the suit and suddenly finds himself the captive of a space pirate, embarking on an odyssey to the moon.

***Hourglass Door* by Lisa Mangum**

Dante, a prisoner sent from fifteenth-century Italy into the present time as punishment, meets and falls in love with Abby, a high school senior who may be the only one who can save him.

***Hush, hush* by Becca Fitzpatrick**

High school sophomore Nora has always been very cautious in her relationships, but when Patch, who has a dark side she can sense, enrolls at her school, she is mysteriously and strongly drawn to him, despite warnings from her best friend, the school counselor, and her own instincts.

***Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer**

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

***Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan**

After his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him, Percy Jackson's mom has decided to send him to Camp Half-Blood, a summer camp for demigods (on Long Island), where he learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea. Soon, Percy and his friends -- one a satyr and the other the demigod daughter of Athena -- become involved in a quest to prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.

***Lockdown* by Alexander Gordon Smith**

When fourteen-year-old Alex is framed for murder, he becomes an inmate in the Furnace Penitentiary, where brutal inmates and sadistic guards reign, boys who disappear in the middle of the night sometimes return weirdly altered, and escape might just be possible.

***Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart**

As the only four children to pass a series of mind-bending tests, Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance are asked to go on a secret mission. They become undercover agents and soon learn they will have to use their collective wit and talents to infiltrate a menacing and secretive school with the ultimate goal of thwarting an evil mastermind determined to take over the world.

***The Reckoning* by Kelley Armstrong**

Fifteen-year-old Chloe, a necromancer, struggles to understand her feelings for Derek, a werewolf, and his sorcerer brother, Simon, while seeking a way to rescue her aunt Lauren and friend Rachelle by enter the headquarters of the sinister Edison Group, the corporation that used her and her friends as a part of a genetic experiment.

***Storm Glass* by Maria V. Snyder**

As a glassmaker and a magician-in-training, Opal Cowan understands trial by fire. Now it's time to test her mettle. Someone has sabotaged the Stormdancer clan's glass orbs, killing their most powerful magicians.

***Ten stupid things men do to mess up their lives* by Laura Schlessinger**

Schlessinger uses her experience with callers on her radio show to reiterate her theme that in relationships both men and women are often their own worst enemies.

***Vampire Academy* by Richelle Mead**

Two years after a horrible incident made them run away, vampire princess Lissa and her guardian-in-training Rose are found and returned to St. Vladimir's Academy. One focuses on mastering magic, the other on physical training, while both try to avoid the perils of gossip, cliques, gruesome pranks, and sinister plots.

***Warbreaker* by Brandon Sanderson**

Story of two sisters, who happen to be princesses, the God King one of them has to marry, the lesser god who doesn't like his job, and the immortal who's still trying to undo the mistakes he made hundreds of years ago.

***The Way of Shadows* by Brent Weeks**

Determined to escape the Warrens, Azoth seeks out Durzo Blint, the city's most ruthless assassin, to persuade him to take him on as an apprentice and to teach him the deadly Way of Shadows.

***Wizard's First Rule* by Terry Goodkind**

The protective barrier that separates Westland from its neighbors to the east is about to fall, letting loose a monstrous evil upon the world. Only the combined efforts of a young man dedicated to finding the truth, an enigmatic woman intent on concealing her past, and a crusty old hermit resigned to his inevitable destiny can prevent the opening of the three boxes of Orden-an event with the potential to destroy existence itself.