

The Bendele Bulletin

November 2006

Bendele Books 547 W. Betteravia Rd., Suite "I" Santa Maria, CA 93454

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Dear Friends,

Happy Fall! This is always a busy and exciting time of year; a time marked with new beginnings, approaching holidays; a time to reflect on the passing year, and to give thanks for the good things in life.

Joe and I find ourselves especially thankful to the friends who have supported us from the beginning, and the news ones who have discovered our services this year. With your help, our company continues to grow, and our dream continues to blossom. We are grateful to you and will continue to find new ways to earn your faith in us as your "Curriculum Connection."

To that end, we are always looking forward to implementing new ideas, and sharing with you educational trends of merit. In this issue we'll introduce to you SPAT, a valuable cutting edge tool your students can use to make informed judgments about the content validity of a Web page.

We'll also share creative ways some schools are bringing kids together to enjoy books, and of course we'll give you our take on some of the new titles out this fall.

You'll also find information about our Holiday Open House (you won't want to miss is!), and, back by raucous demand, our annual Win an Author Visit event.

So enjoy the issue, enjoy the holidays, and if time allows, stop in for some refreshments and good browsing—our doors are almost always open!

Wishing you Happy Tales and Good Reading,

Calendar of Events / Newsletter Content

Nov. 16-18: Bendele Books will be at the CSLA conference in booth #524. If you are at the event, please drop by and see us and register to win one of our door prizes!

December 12: Bendele Books Holiday Open House. Refreshment, raffles, fun and friends! See page 3 for your invitation.

March 2, 2007: Win an Author Visit drawing! See page 6 for details

Pages 2-3: Reviews of new titles from toddler to young adult.

Pages 3: Ideas for Getting Kids Reading!

Page 4: Your Holiday Open House invitation!

Page 5: An overview of SPAT and an interview with information analysis specialist Dr. Elizabeth LaRue



"A book is...the chariot that bears the human soul." Emily Dickinson

"Some books leave us free and some books make us free." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"A room without books is like a body without a soul." Cicero

New Books Reviewed

With testing and standardized curriculum demands it is often difficult for teachers to find the time to research new titles. Here are some titles we've found that make good choices academically, and also as a treat for students.

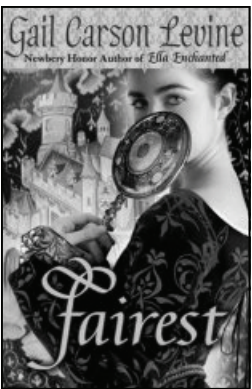
Runaway by Wendelin Van Draanen, Retail \$15.95.

In the book *Sammy Keyes and The Sisters Of Mercy*, Sammy gives aid to a homeless girl named Holly Janquell. In *Runaway*, Holly is back to tell her side of the story. Although Holly has lived a hard life, she has not become irreversibly

hardened by her circumstances. Leaving an abusive foster home Holly heads to California to become a "sea gypsy" and create a better life. The reality of life in LA and her trials on the road are chronicled through a journal given to Holly by a caring teacher. Van Draanen's ability to weave a powerful story, and tell it so eloquently through prose and poetry, makes this book award worthy and one students will want to read again and again. Ages 10 and up. (although the dedication and author note in the back of this book makes it a great gift for any teacher.)



Fairest by Gail Carson Levine, Retail \$16.99.

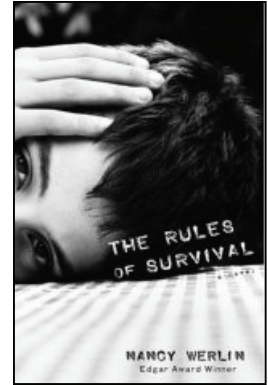


Aza's large size and less than comely appearance, makes for a painful and shy life. Her one saving grace is having a beautiful voice and the ability to mimic and throw the sound "illuse". In a kingdom that reveres song Aza's attendance at a royal wedding creates opportunity and disaster for the heroine. The newly married and self centered Queen, who has a poor singing voice, discovers Aza's talent and from that point on when the Queen must sing Aza is the voice of the

Queen. The story develops when the self-centeredness of the Queen and a magical mirror conspire to harm the kingdom's people. Combining elements of Sleeping Beauty, Levine creates a rich and powerful story comparable in quality to her Newberry Honor book *Ella Enchanted*. Ages 10 up.

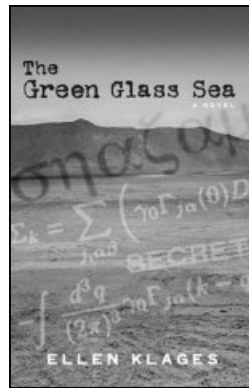
The Rules Of Survival by Nancy Werlin Retail \$16.99.

This book is a thought provoking, well developed story dealing with a dysfunctional family. The book is narrated by Matthew, who as an adult is writing a letter to his younger sister about a difficult time in their early lives. They are the children of an emotionally and physically abusive, drug addicted mother. Matthew's emotions and reactions to his situation are realistic and his resiliency and ability to survive are apparent and inspiring. Ages 14 and up.



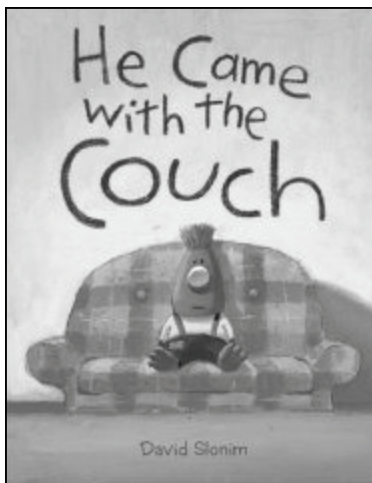
The Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages, Retail \$16.99.

This is a first novel for this author who has previously been published in anthologies. The year is 1943 and 11 year old Dewey is traveling to meet her scientist father. What Dewey doesn't realize is that the location is Los Alamos, New Mexico and the place she will be living does not exist on any map. Dewey meets and lives along side famous scientist and mathematicians. Amongst the children in the area she is a misfit due to her interest in mechanical and electrical devices. A female scientist mentors Dewey and allows her to become more comfortable with who she is, and what the future holds. The book is an excellent read, a historical fiction that maintains interesting characters and the mores and values of a challenging time in U.S History. Ages 10 and up.



And Some Reviews of Books for Younger Readers

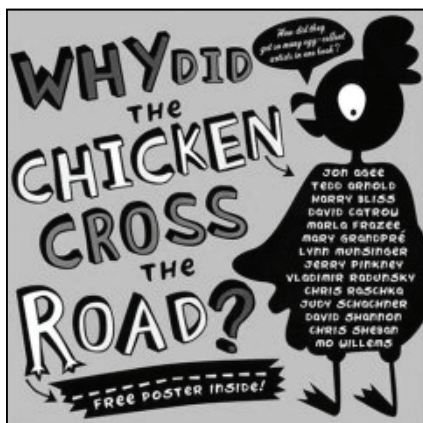
He Came With The Couch by David Slonim, Retail \$15.95. Published in July of 2005. A book that is a great read aloud, yet with a reading level of 1.5, it is one kids will love to read to themselves. Sophie's family needs a new couch. They find the perfect couch at a garage sale and buy it. As Sophie and her Dad head home in with the couch in their truck she asks her Dad, "Who is that back there?" His response, "I don't know, he came with the couch." The illustrations perfectly fit the humorous text, and will have teachers and students begging to read it again. Ages 4 and up.



Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons by Amy Krouse Rosenthal. Retail \$16.99. This book takes important concepts for children such as: patience, trust, cooperation and loyalty, and by incorporating them into the premise of making and eating cookies, teaches children valuable lessons. The illustrations are by Jane Dyer, *I Love You Like Crazy Cakes*, and match the text with beautifully. This book is one of the best picture books I have seen this year.



Why Did The Chicken Cross The Road? by Agee and the rest of the coop. Retail \$16.99. Take 14 of today's best loved children book artists and ask them the question Why did the chicken cross the road?, the answers are funny and the illustrations are true art. This is a book to please adults and children alike.



An Island Grows by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrations by Cathie Felstead. Retail \$16.99. This book is similar in format to *This Is The Sunflower*, and the simplicity of the text is where the genius lies in this story. The bold colorful collage illustrations enhance the text to bring forth a book that is sure to become a classic.

Ideas for Getting Kids Reading!

Reading has always been important to me, it has helped to make me who and what I am, it is the reason I sell books. Some children need more coaxing than others to realize the joys of reading and books. Here are some suggestions from teachers around the country—maybe some will seem like worthy activities for you to do with your own students.

Enjoy, and share the joy! Becky

Maureen Staunton, an intervention teacher at Adam School in Santa Maria believes that book groups are a great way to get kids involved. Recently, Maureen read *Runaway* by Wendelin Van Draanen (see review on page 2) and thinks it would be a great book to initiate a reading club. Bendele Books would host the club if there are enough interested participants. Call the store and let us know if you'd like to be involved!

Kate Schoedinger, a reading specialist in New Hampshire, gets kids pumped about books by opening her "Books for Breakfast Café" every Friday morning (her classroom!). She serves breakfast treats and then "dishes about books".

Sixth grade boys at her school initiated their own Tag Team reading challenge. Each boy in a group reads a short book each night, then passes it to the next kid. They get each other reading with "Betch can't's" and "What page are you on?"

Some schools also conduct a "Whole School Read" where everyone on campus from the principal to the custodian reads the same title during SSR—this promotes school unity and fosters lively book discussions!



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR
**HOLIDAY
 OPEN HOUSE**

Come to visit or for last-minute holiday shopping!
 (We'll have autographed books on hand!)

Come along or with the family!

Check out the shop, check out the books!

Mingle with friends old and new!

Win door prizes!

Enjoy warm cider and holiday treats!



WHERE: Bendele Books, located in the Santa Maria Business Park
 547 West Betteravia Road, Suite "I"
 Santa Maria, CA 93455

WHEN: Tuesday, December 12th from 5:30 A.M. to 8:30 P.M.

HOW TO GET THERE:

- From Hwy 101 North or South, take the Betteravia Rd. exit
- Proceed West (the Home Depot should be on your left).
- Cross over College St., Miller St., and Broadway.
- Proceed past Broadway about half a mile, watching for the Santa Maria Business Park sign and balloons on the right
- Turn R into the driveway, find Suite "I"
 (Lose your way? Call us! 805-928-3573)



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 for a Chance to Win
 a free book!

Name: _____

e-mail: _____

Interview with Dr. Elizabeth LaRue, Information Usage Specialist

With the usage of information from the Web as a necessity in education, educators need a tool for their students to utilize for guidance in making informed judgments as to the validity and motives of the content in a web page. Dr. Elizabeth LaRue, Academic Coordinator of Nursing Informatics in the School of Nursing at the University of Pittsburgh has come up with such a tool: SPAT.

SPAT stands for (S)ite, (P)ublisher, (A)udience, (T)imeliness, and the fast application and ease of manipulation of this tool enables students (and any user of the Web), to become better equipped for selecting and using information from the Internet. Dr. LaRue was kind enough to give us some details about the genesis of this new and useful concept.

BB: How did you initially conceive of your research idea?

Dr. LaRue: I was teaching nurses concepts in the discipline Evidence Based Practice and noticed that there was no easy to use tool for validating the accuracy of the health information they were finding. There were and are methods for validating websites but all of them are too laborious. Knowing this, I began looking at the key elements of the existing methods for determining validity of web pages, and derived from them SPAT, an easy to remember acronym to evaluate content.

BB: I heard that you are going to Dublin, Ireland to present your findings at a conference. Tell us a little about this.

Dr. LaRue: I will be speaking at Trinity College at the 7th Annual Interdisciplinary Research Conference "Transforming Healthcare through Research, Education and Technology." I will be presenting an active

learning educational tool that I created along with a couple colleagues. The tool is called, 'Assessing and Assessing the Evidence.' Its primary purpose is to give the user opportunities in structuring a question correctly so it can be answered. A component of the tool provides a librarian's search strategies explaining the methodology used to find relevant literature to answer an 'experts' question. I expect the audience to be researchers, educators, and probably practicing nurses. The delegates selected for presenting papers and posters come from the US, UK, IR, and other EU countries.

BB: Who was your favorite author and what was your favorite book as a child?

Dr. LaRue: I wasn't a very good reader when I was young so this is a difficult question. I loved the 'Amelia Bedelia' series while in elementary school. As an adult I can say my favorite children's book is currently Dog Breath by Dav Pilkey.

BB: How many librarians are there in your immediate family and do you think your family (from a medical librarian's perspective) is genetically predisposed?

Dr. LaRue: Ah, funny. You must have some inside information. My Mother is a librarian, but hasn't practiced in quite a while. She was a kindergarten teacher and told me the other day that she ran the column on 'children's lit.' on Jeopardy. I can't remember book titles or authors so working as a public librarian or school librarian wasn't going to be my forte.

My sister Catherine Black, is a library media specialist for the Lamont School District in California. When I ask her what she is reading for fun

her response is usually a Newbery Award winner book.

I'm a medical librarian transforming into an Informatician. Genetically, yes, I think there is a trait. The trait may not be specifically for 'librarianship' but I think it is present for 'educator.' While the LaRue girls have held various forms of librarian positions, in the end we are all teachers – as are all librarians.

BB: What are future plans for development and utilization of your SPAT tool?

Dr. LaRue: Future plans include obtaining a grant to introduce the tool to the general population for consumer health information. I also intend to collaborate on a book about SPAT with my sister Catherine.

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The Bendele Bulletin

Look inside and find...

An Holiday
Invitation!!!

Book Reviews

Trends in Education

Book News

Interviews

Win a Bendele Books-sponsored Author Visit !

Bendele Books is thrilled to announce that we will once again be raffling off an author school visit, this time from _____. A published author of nearly _____ books, _____ is a popular choice for author day school visits.

How it Works: For every \$1,000 your school spends at Bendele Books between November 1, 2006 and March 1, 2006, one ticket with your school's name will be placed in our raffle bin. Drawing will be held on March 2, 2007 (Read Across America Day), with the author event to be scheduled on a mutually agreeable date before June 15, 2007