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### **Children's, Juvenile and Young Adult Literature Finalist Reading June 20**

The 2009 Colorado Book Awards Children's, Juvenile, and Young Adult Literature finalist reading will be held at the Highlands Ranch Tattered Cover on June 20 at 3:00 p.m. The finalists will read and sign their work. The Tattered Cover is located at 9315 Dorchester Street in Highlands Ranch. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Kris Rabida at 303-894-7951 x 20 or [rabida@coloradohumanities.org](mailto:rabida@coloradohumanities.org).

The 2009 Children's, Juvenile, and Young Adult Literature finalists are:

***M Is for Mischief: An A to Z of Naughty Children* by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter**

This is no ordinary alphabet book. Inside these pages you'll find twenty-six delightfully naughty children eager to make mischief. From Angry Abby to Zany Zelda, these "alphabrats" interrupt and irritate, quarrel and quibble, tease and terrorize. Linda Ashman's wordplay is paired with Nancy Carpenter's fresh artwork, making *M Is for Mischief* a rollicking read.

***Max Goes to Jupiter: A Science Adventure with Max the Dog* by Jeffrey Bennett, Nick Schneider, Erica Ellingson, illustrated by Michael Carroll**

Kids and educators alike have been inspired to read, write, and learn with the two prior entries in the Max Science Adventure series: *Max Goes to the Moon* and *Max Goes to Mars*. These adventures that teach real science continue as Max and his human friends take off for Jupiter. In *Max Goes to Jupiter*, Tori, the child hero of the first two books has grown up and become the chief scientist for the Jupiter Mission. The adventure begins with a ride 60,000 miles straight up to space on the amazing Space Elevator. Max and the crew drop a probe into Jupiter's atmosphere, then visit Jupiter's volcanically active moon Io and the ice-encrusted moon Europa.

***There Was a Man Who Loved a Rat And Other Vile Little Poems* by Gerda Rovetch, illustrated by Lissa Rovetch**

*There Was a Man Who Loved a Rat And Other Vile Little Poems* are absurdly funny rhymes by 84 year-old Gerda Rovetch paired with quirky and comical illustrations originally drawn on paper plates by her daughter Lissa. If Shel Silverstein had



collaborated with Edward Gorey, the fruits of their effort may well have resembled this book. Each drawing extends the nonsense and adds to the hilarity of the facing rhyme with figures that scowl or look dismayed at the surreal situations in which they find themselves.

***The No-No Boys: Home-Front Heroes* by Teresa Funke**

In the winter of 1943, fourteen-year-old Tai Shimoda’s family had lost everything. Like many other Japanese-Americans at the start of World War II, Tai’s family has been forced to leave their home and move to Tule Lake Relocation Center—a desolate camp surrounded by barbed wire in northern California. Tai keeps busy at Tule Lake, hanging out with friends and training for the judo tournament. But as tensions in camp rise, Tai’s brother Ben joins the No-Nos, a group that has refused to swear allegiance to the United States. Based on a true story, *The No-No Boys* tells how Tai decides what he believes.

***Herby's Secret Formula* by Sue C. Hughey**

Concerned about world overpopulation, Herby Strange hopes to make more room for all the people and animals by developing a formula to shrink living things. In doing so, he accidentally shrinks himself and winds up six inches tall. Through a series of harrowing experiences, Herby finds himself miles from home, alone in a mountain wilderness teeming with wild animals and other dangers. His only chance for survival lies in his own ingenuity and the skills he learned in Boy Scouts.

***The Totally Made-up Civil War Diary of Amanda MacLeish* by Claudia Mills**

Amanda works out some of her anxiety about her parents' separation and her best friend's distance through her fifth-grade project: writing a diary from the point of view of a ten-year-old girl whose brothers fight on opposite sides in the Civil War.

***The Trials of Kate Hope* by Wick Downing**

In Denver, 1973, teenaged Kate Hope “reads law” for her grandfather, a crusty old half-blind lawyer who needs her help to look up cases and write legal briefs. Once a prosperous lawyer, he no longer cares about appearances. His doors are open only to those who need justice, but can’t afford respectability. He tells Kate that in the old days, reading law was how one became a lawyer. “You could be my partner, Kate! Look it up and see if I’m not right!” She does. He is. Kate sues the State Bar and becomes a lawyer. One of their clients is a fragile old woman whose only family is her dog—and the city has an order for the dog’s destruction. When the old woman’s case is set for trial, the feisty old lawyer collapses and suddenly Kate must try the real case.



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***Seize the Story: A Handbook for Teens Who Like to Write* by Victoria Hanley**

This guide for teens interested in writing fiction includes tips and exercises for freeing the imagination, creating characters and plots, understanding point of view, writing beginnings and endings, dealing with dialogue, revising, and more. Fifteen successful teen literature authors give advice and encouragement to young writers through a series of interviews.

***Fact of Life #31* by Denise Vega**

16-year-old Kat Flynn believes in going with the flow. She practices yoga, works with her mom at Abra's Midwifery, and watches the perfect couple in the hall at school. But when she finds herself in the middle of the perfect couple's drama and some drama of her own (including an unexpected romance), Kat has to decide whether going with the flow is really the best way to come back to herself.

**2009 Colorado Book Awards to be held in Aspen June 22**

The 18th annual Colorado Book Award winners in these and nine other categories will be presented on Monday, June 22 at 3:30 pm at the 33rd Annual Aspen Summer Words Literary Festival (June 21-26, 2009). Aspen Summer Words has been the place to be for anyone with a passion for the written word. One of the nation's "Top Ten Literary Gatherings" (*USA Today*), this 6-day celebration of words, stories and ideas consists of a morning writing retreat, an afternoon literary festival, and professional consultations with agents and editors, bringing some of the world's most interesting and engaging literary talent to Aspen. "I am excited about helping Colorado writers find a place on the world literary map at this year's Aspen Summer Words Festival," says Josephine Jones, Director of Programs and Center for the Book. A book signing and reception for Colorado Book Award finalists and winners will follow the awards event.

