

The **American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE)**, a national organization committed to improving higher education and to recognize the achievements and accomplishments of Hispanics throughout the nation, selected Connecticut residents, Dr. José B. González, writer Bessy Reyna, and Dr. Peter Rosa to receive three of the Outstanding Latino awards presented during the annual awards luncheon at the AAHHE national conference in San Antonio, Texas, in March 2009.

González is Chief of English and Foreign Languages at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London. He received the award for Outstanding Latino Faculty in Higher Education in recognition of his work as a professor there. González is an award-winning educator and author with expertise in Latino literature and culture. He is the editor of [www.LatinoStories.com](http://www.LatinoStories.com), a popular resource for the study of Latino literature.

Rosa received the Outstanding Support of Hispanic Issues in Higher Education Award for his commitment to provide access to higher education for all students. He is currently the only Latino trustee of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system. He works as a program officer for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Reyna, an opinion columnist with the *Hartford Courant*, was given the Outstanding Latina Cultural Arts, Literary Arts and Publications Award. Reyna was recognized for her poetry, editorial opinion pieces, essays, and short stories, and for her commitment to bringing the arts to the Latino community. One of the few women opinion columnists in the country, Reyna has published her work in numerous literary magazines and anthologies. Her book, *Battlefield of Your Body*, was published by Hill-Stead Museum Publications in 2005. She also reviews regularly for *MultiCultural Review*.

The other award recipients were Dolores Fernández, president of the Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College in New York City; Denis Segura of the University of California, Santa Barbara; and Zarco Guerrero from Arizona State University. For more information about this organization and the awards, please visit [www.aahhee.org](http://www.aahhee.org).

The 2009 **Andrew Carnegie Medal** for excellence in children's video, awarded by the American Library Association, was given to Paul R. Gagne and Melissa Reilly of Weston Woods Studios, producers of *March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World*. The DVD is based on the picture book by Christine King Farris, illustrated by London Ladd, and published in 2008 by Scholastic.

In January 2009, the **Association of Jewish Libraries** announced the winners of the 2008 Sydney Taylor Awards, given

each year to outstanding books for beginning, intermediate, and teen readers depicting the Jewish experience. Both award winners and Honor Books were announced, as well as a list of Notable Books in each age category.

The winner in the Younger Readers category was *As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom*, written by Richard Michelson, illustrated by Raúl Colón, and published by Knopf. Four honor awards were announced—*Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Ride*, written by Deborah Bodin Cohen, illustrated by Sharon Kober, and published by Kar-Ben; *Sarah Laughs*, written by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Natascia Ugliano, and published by Kar-Ben; *A Is for Abraham*, by Richard Michelson, illustrated by Ron Mazellan, and published by Sleeping Bear Press; and *Naming Liberty*, written by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Jim Burke, and published by Philomel.

*Brooklyn Bridge*, by Karen Hesse (Feiwel & Friends), received the award in the Older Readers category. An honor award was given to *Memories of Babi*, by Aranka Siegal (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

In the Teen Readers category, the award recipient was *A Bottle in the Gaza Sea*, by Valérie Zenatti (Bloomsbury). One honor award was given, to *Freefall*, by Anna Levine (Greenwillow).

The committee also designated 22 titles as Notable Books. For a list of these books and to learn more about the award winners, visit [www.SydneyTaylorBookAward.org](http://www.SydneyTaylorBookAward.org).

The **Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA)** announced the winners of the 2009 BCALA Literary Awards during the Midwinter Conference of the American Library Association in Denver in January 2009. The awards, which will be presented at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in July, recognize excellence in adult fiction and nonfiction by African-American authors published in the previous year, a first novel by an African-American writer, and an Outstanding Contribution to Publishing for a scholarly work.

The fiction winner was *Trading Dreams at Midnight* by Diane McKinney-Whetstone (HarperCollins/Amistad), with an honor book citation going to *Seen It All and Done the Rest* by Pearl Cleage (Ballantine/One World) and *Where the Line Bleeds* by Jesmyn Ward (Agate). *Trading Dreams at Midnight* portrays two sisters who are raised by their grandmother after their mother mysteriously disappears; 20 years later, the older sister, herself a con artist, returns to her childhood home to make amends after things go terribly wrong.

The winner in the nonfiction category was *Ida: A Sword Among Lions* by Paula J. Giddings (HarperCollins/Amistad), a biography of journalist and anti-lynching crusader Ida B. Wells. An honor citation went to *Letter to My Daughter* by Maya Angelou (Random House).

Carleen Brice won the First Novelist Award for *Orange Mint and Honey* (Ballantine/One World), a portrait of a graduate student visited by the ghost of Nina Simone, who urges her to go home and reconcile with her mother, a recovering alcoholic. For excellence in scholarship, the BCALA Literary Awards Committee presented the Outstanding Contribution to Publishing citation to *Obama: The Historic Campaign in Photographs* by Deborah Willis and Kevin Merida (HarperCollins/Amistad).

The **Cherokee Nation's** cultural tourism department is reaching out to young people by providing free educational tours to cultural and historical sites that are significant to Cherokee culture. The tours, available to third through fifth graders, are designed to promote priority academic student skills (P.A.S.S.) in various general subjects while also providing an authentic look into Cherokee history and stories.

While experiencing Cherokee culture through an interactive lens, students will be able to visit various historical sites in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and surrounding areas. Site visits include storytelling at the Murrell Home, a scavenger hunt held on the historic Capitol Square of the Cherokee Nation, and blowgun shooting at the Cherokee Heritage Center. Students will have the opportunity to participate in an authentic Cherokee art project where they can craft their own take-home surprise.

Participants will also receive a tour activity workbook, which encourages children to ask questions about important things they hear or see during the tour. The tour and accompanying materials come at no cost to participating schools.

For more information or to book a school tour group, contact Heather Williams at (918) 384-7887 or e-mail [heather.williams@cnet.com](mailto:heather.williams@cnet.com).

**Cinco Puntos Press** is pleased to announce that *Pitch Black: Don't Be Skerd* by Youme Landowne and Anthony Horton was selected as one of the Top Ten Great Graphic Novels for Teens in 2008 by the YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) of the American Library Association at their annual Midwinter conference in Denver. *Pitch Black* is a collaboration between artist Landowne and Horton and is Landowne's second book. The book portrays a homeless New Yorker leading a young artist through the tunnels of the city's subway system.

To watch a video of Landowne talking about *Pitch Black*, visit the Cinco Puntos Press web site and blog, [www.cincopuntos.com](http://www.cincopuntos.com).

The **Coretta Scott King Task Force of the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT)** announced the winners of the 2009 Coretta Scott King Awards at the American Library Association's Midwinter meeting in Denver in January 2009. These awards are given annually to outstanding children's and young adult books written or illustrated by African Americans. The awards will be presented at the annual conference in Chicago in July.

The winner of the Coretta Scott King Award for illustration

was Floyd Cooper, illustrator of *The Blacker the Berry*. This collection of poems celebrating African-American identity was written by Joyce Carol Thomas and published by the HarperCollins imprint Amistad. Three Coretta Scott King Honor Books for Illustration were selected. Author/illustrator Kadir Nelson was honored for *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* (Hyperion/Jump at the Sun); Sean Qualls received a citation for *Before John Was a Jazz Giant*, written by Carol Boston Weatherford (Henry Holt); and Jerry Pinkney was honored for *The Moon Over Star*, written by Dianna Hutts Aston (Dial).

In addition to winning an Honor Book for Illustration, Nelson received the Coretta Scott King Author Award for his middle grade history of the Negro Leagues, *We Are the Ship*. Three Honor Books for writing were chosen. Thomas won an Honor Award for *The Blacker the Berry*. Hope Anita Smith received an Honor Award for *Keeping the Night Watch*, illustrated by E.B. Lewis and published by Henry Holt, and Carole Boston Weatherford received honors for *Becoming Billie Holiday*, illustrated by Floyd Cooper and published by Boyds Mills/Wordsong.

Shadra Strickland, illustrator of *Bird*, a picture book for middle grade readers written by Zetta Elliott and published by Lee & Low, won the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award for writing.

The Coretta Scott King Task Force has launched a new web site for the award, including information on past awardees, at [www.ala.org/csk](http://www.ala.org/csk). Visitors to the site can register for the Awards Breakfast at the ALA conference on Tuesday, July 14, 2009.

The **Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Round Table (GLBTRT)** of the American Library Association has selected the winners of the 2009 Stonewall Book Awards. These awards honor outstanding fiction and nonfiction on the GLBT experience. The winners were announced at the ALA Midwinter meeting in Denver in January 2009, and the awards will be presented at the annual meeting in Chicago in July.

The fiction award, officially titled the Barbara Gittings Book Award in Literature, was given to Evan Fallenberg's *Light Fell*. Published by Soho Press, *Light Fell* is the story of a gay university professor in Israel whose fiftieth birthday prompts him to reconcile with the family he left 20 years earlier and with his Jewish faith. Honor awards for fiction went to Joseph Olshan for *The Conversion* (St. Martin's Press), Alain Claude Sulzer for *A Perfect Waiter* (Bloomsbury), and Emma Donoghue for *The Sealed Letter* (Harcourt).

The winner of the nonfiction award, known as the Israel Fishman Book Award for Nonfiction, went to William N. Eskridge, Jr., for *Dishonorable Passions: Sodomy Laws in America, 1861–2003*, published by Viking. Recipients of honor awards for nonfiction were Bob Morris for *Assisted Loving: True Tales of Double Dating with My Dad* (HarperCollins); Joanne Ellen Passet for *Sex Variant Woman: The Life of Jeannette Howard Foster* (Da Capo Press); E. Patrick Johnson for *Sweet Tea: Gay Black Men in the South* (Univ. of North Carolina Press); and Joel Derfner for *Swish: My Quest to Become the Gayest Person Ever* (Broadway Books).

The **Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights** has named ten books to its 2008 outstanding books list. Another dozen received honorable mentions. These works of fiction, nonfiction, reference, poetry, and literature for young people were published in 2008 or the last half of 2007. They address racism, sexism, homophobia, the immigration experience, and human rights. The winning authors and titles are Douglas A. Blackmon, *Slavery By Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* (Doubleday, 2008); Paula J. Giddings, *Ida: A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching* (HarperCollins/Amistad, 2008); Lawrence Hill, *Someone Knows My Name: A Novel* (W.W. Norton, 2007); David Ngaruri Kenney and Philip G. Schrag, *Asylum Denied: A Refugee's Struggle for Safety in America* (University of California Press, 2008); Mahvish Rukhsana Khan, *My Guantánamo Diary: The Detainees and the Stories They Told Me* (PublicAffairs, 2008); Suzanne Braun Levine and Mary Thon, *Bella Abzug: How One Tough Broad from the Bronx Fought Jim Crow and Joe McCarthy, Pissed Off Jimmy Carter, and Battled for the Rights of Women and Workers* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007); Mica Pollock, ed., *Everyday Antiracism: Getting Real About Race in School* (The New Press, 2008); Cynthia Soohoo, Catherine Albisa, and Martha Davis, eds., *Bringing Human Rights Home, Vols. 1–3* (Greenwood/Praeger, 2008); Kai Wright, *Drifting Toward Love: Black, Brown, Gay, and Coming of Age on the Streets of New York* (Beacon Press, 2008); and Kao Kalia Yang, *The Latecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* (Coffee House Press, 2008).

Winners of honorable mentions were Lois Beardslee's poetry collection, *The Women's Warrior Society* (Univ. of Arizona Press, 2008); Noel Cazenave, *Impossible Democracy: The Unlikely Success of the War on Poverty Community Action Programs* (SUNY Press, 2007); China Galland, *Love Cemetery: Unburying the Secret History of Slaves* (Harper One Press, 2007); Glenda Elizabeth Gilmore, *Defying Dixie: The Radical Roots of Civil Rights, 1919–1950* (W.W. Norton, 2008); Nancy Goldstein, *Jackie Ormes: The First African American Woman Cartoonist* (Univ. of Michigan Press, 2008); Hattie Gossett's poetry collection, *The Immigrant Suite: Hey Xenophobe! Who You Calling a Foreigner?* (Seven Stories, 2007); Joseph Nevins, with photos by Mizue Aizeki, *Dying to Live: A Story of U.S. Immigration in an Age of Global Apartheid* (City Lights, 2008); Diana Selig, *Americans All: The Cultural Gifts Movement* (Harvard Univ. Press, 2008); A.B. Spellman's poetry collection, *Things I Must Have Known* (Coffee House Press, 2008); the picture book *Becoming Billie Holiday* (Boyd's Mills/Wordsong, 2008) by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Floyd Cooper; Robert Whitaker, *On the Laps of Gods: The Red Summer of 1919 and the Struggle for Justice That Remade a Nation* (Crown, 2008); and George Yancy, *Black Bodies, White Gazes: The Continuing Significance of Race* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008).

For more information about the Gustavus Myers Center, located at Simmons College, and the winning books, please visit the Center's web site, [www.myerscenter.org](http://www.myerscenter.org).

*International Journal of Multicultural Education*, a peer-reviewed open-access online journal for scholars, practitioners, and students of multicultural education, has published its new issue at [www.ijme-journal.org/index.php/ijme/issue/current](http://www.ijme-journal.org/index.php/ijme/issue/current).

The new issue (Vol. 10, No.2) contains theme articles focusing

on indigenous education. Those interested may visit the web site to review articles and items of interest as well as spread the news to others who may be interested in this free online publication. The editors invite submissions of research reports (qualitative research), literature-based articles, practitioner articles, and reviews of professional and children's books. Please visit the web site ([www.ijme-journal.org](http://www.ijme-journal.org)) for more information.

The entire proceedings of the first conference of the **Joint Conference of Librarians of Color**, held in Dallas, Texas, October 11–15, 2006, are now available online, thanks to the efforts of conference organizer and editor Gladys Smiley Bell. The papers may be accessed at [http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/hall-erickson/jclc\\_2006conf/](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/hall-erickson/jclc_2006conf/).

The **Mildred Batchelder Award** for the outstanding children's book first published outside the United States in a language other than English and translated into English for U.S. publication was given to the graphic novel from Japan, *Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit*. Written and illustrated by Nahoko Uehashi, *Moribito* was translated by Cathy Hirano and published in the United States by Scholastic. Two honor books were also named at the American Library Association's Midwinter conference in Denver in January 2009.

The **Pura Belpré Award Committee**, a joint venture of the Association of Library Services to Children (ALSC) and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish Speaking, announced the winners of the Pura Belpré Awards for children's book writing and illustration at the ALA Midwinter meeting held in Denver in January 2009. The awards honor Latino writers and illustrators whose work, published in the past year, best portrays the Latino cultural experience. The awards will be presented at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in July.

Receiving the 2008 award for illustration was Yuyi Morales, author/illustrator of *Just in Case*, published by Roaring Brook Press. Morales, who also won the 2008 illustrator award, received an honor award for the writing of *Just in Case*. Three honor books for illustration were selected: *Papá and Me* (HarperCollins/Rayo), illustrated by Rudy Gutiérrez and written by Arthur Dorros; *The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos* (Children's Book Press), illustrated by Lulu Delacre and written by Lucía González; and *What Can You Do with a Rebozo?* (Tricycle Press), illustrated by Amy Córdova and written by Carmen Tafolla.

As in 2008 for *The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano*, Margarita Engle took the writing award, this time for *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*, published by Henry Holt. *The Surrender Tree* was also named as a Newbery Honor Book for 2009. In addition to *Just in Case*, Pura Belpré honor awards for writing went to Francisco Jiménez for *Reaching Out*, published by Houghton Mifflin, and to Lucía González for *The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos*.

**Raven Tree Press**, a division of Delta Systems, is pleased to announce that *El mejor mariachi del mundo*, the Spanish-language version of *The Best Mariachi in the World*, written by J.D. Smith and illustrated by Dani Jones, was chosen as one of the *Críticas* Children's Best Books of 2008. Since 2001, *Críticas*, which stopped publishing on January 30, 2009, served as the authoritative one-stop source for English-language reviews of new adult and children's titles from the national and international Spanish-language publishing world.

*El mejor mariachi del mundo*, *The Best Mariachi in the World*, and a bilingual version of this story about a Mexican-American boy who wants to play in his family's mariachi band are all currently available through independent and chain bookstores as well as online booksellers nationwide. For more information, visit the Raven Tree Press web site, [www.raventreepress.com](http://www.raventreepress.com).

The **Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)** of the American Library Association has awarded the 2009 Sophie Brody Medal to Peter Manseau for his novel *Songs for the Butcher's Daughter* (Free Press). The medal, sponsored by the Brodart Foundation, recognizes outstanding contributions to Jewish literature. Both fiction and nonfiction published in the previous year are eligible for the award and for honor citations.

*Songs for the Butcher's Daughter* is the saga of a fictional Yiddish poet who immigrates from his native Moldova to the United States in the early 1920s and his interaction with the Catholic scholar who helps to translate his memoirs decades later.

The awards committee cited three honorable mentions—*Beaufort*, by Ron Leshem (Delacorte); *Friendly Fire*, by A.B. Yehoshua (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt); and *From Krakow to Krypton: Jews and Comic Books*, by Arie Kaplan (Jewish Publication Society).

The 2009 **Robert F. Sibert Medal**, given to the most distinguished informational book for children, was awarded to Kadir Nelson, the author and illustrator of *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*. Published by Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, *We Are the Ship* also received the Coretta Scott King Author Award and an honor book citation for illustration.

The **Schneider Family Book Award**, administered by the American Library Association, honors the author or illustrator of an outstanding book that expresses the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences. The award is given in three age categories: birth through elementary school, middle school, and high school.

*Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum*, written and illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker and published by Random House/Schwartz & Wade, was chosen in the youngest age category. The picture book biography portrays the famed jazz piano player who was born severely visually impaired. Leslie Connor won the middle school award for *Waiting for Normal*, a novel about a resilient 12-year-old girl growing up in Schenectady, New York, with a manic-depressive single mother. The high school award went to Jonathan Friesen for *Jerk, California* (Penguin), about an 18-year-old boy with Tourette's Syndrome seeking freedom from the torments of his peers and stepfather as well as the truth about his deceased father.

The **University of Missouri (MU)** announces the publication of a study by College of Education associate professor Lisa Flores that examines barriers to educational attainment among Mexican-American students. Only 57 percent of Mexican-American students graduate from high school, and 11 percent receive college degrees, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Flores found that perceived educational barriers significantly predicted Mexican-American students' educational aspirations more than the influences of gender, generation level, and parents' education level. Identifying what students perceive they need may assist school professionals and counselors in helping students develop the skills and confidence needed to achieve their goals.

Flores and co-author Lizette Ojeda, doctoral candidate in counseling psychology at MU, analyzed factors related to educational aspirations of 186 Mexican-American high school students, including gender, generation level, parents' education, and perceived barriers. She found that perceived barriers were the most influential factor in the students' ability to reach their educational goals. Flores also found that Hispanic students with a longer family history in the United States have greater educational aspirations than students with a more recent immigration history. Neither parents' educational level nor gender influenced students' educational desires. "School counselors should help students identify strengths to increase self-confidence and match students with a mentor for academic support," Flores said.

Flores was recently awarded the Distinguished Professional Early Career Award from the National Latina/o Psychology Association. Her study, "The Influence of Gender, Generation Level, Parents' Education Level, and Perceived Barriers on the Educational Aspirations of Mexican-American High School Students," appeared in *The Career Development Quarterly*.

**Washington Learning Systems** announces the availability of free and reproducible infant-toddler language and early literacy activities. These activities, developed by Angela Notari Syverson and Judy Challoner, with illustrations by Don Syverson, were funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

These materials include 20 home and community activities for adults and children birth to three that encourage early language and literacy development. They are appropriate for children with disabilities as well as children who are developing typically. Each of the 20 activities includes an activity description and hints for making the activity fun and developmentally appropriate. In addition to the activities, visitors to the site can download an activity checklist that helps parents and caregivers notice their children's skills, as well as examining and improving their own interactions with children. The materials are specifically designed to address the three key skills of 1) language development, 2) sounds and rhythms, and 3) general book and print awareness.

The files are in PDF format. To download them, go to [www.wlearning.com](http://www.wlearning.com) and click on the purple button that says "Free Parent Education Handouts" on the home page.

**Women Make Movies (WMM)** is proud to announce that *The Betrayal (Nerakhoon)* by Ellen Kuras and co-directer Thavisouk Phrasavath, produced with assistance from the Women Make

Movies Production Assistance (PA) Program, was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. *The Betrayal's* Oscar nod follows on the heels of two recent Cinema Eye nominations and an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Documentary.

A celebrated cinematographer, Kuras makes her directorial debut in this dramatic chronicle of one family's epic journey from war-torn Laos to the streets of New York City, as recounted by Thavissouk over the film's extraordinary 23 years of filming.

Kuras is just one of many women filmmakers who have received support from the Women Make Movies Production Assistance Program. Given the obstacles faced by women in the motion picture industry, WMM is committed to providing critical assistance to the makers of independent media throughout their careers. *The Betrayal's* success marks the fourth out of the past five years that a WMM film has been awarded or nominated for an Oscar, continuing a long line of films from the PA Program that have gone on to achieve recognition from the Academy. Last year, *Freeheld* won an Oscar for Best Documentary Short, and *My Country, My Country* by Laura Poitras was nominated for Best Documentary. Other recent Oscar nominees from WMM's award-winning collection include *God Sleeps in Rwanda* by Kimberlee Acquaro and Stacy Sherman, and *Ferry Tales* by Katja Esson, both nominated for

the Best Documentary Short Academy Award.

In addition, *Rough Aunties*, the latest WMM acquisition from internationally acclaimed director Kim Longinotto, was awarded the World Cinema Documentary Jury Prize at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. This is the third year in a row that a WMM acquisition has won top honors at Sundance. Last year, *The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo*, produced through the PA Program, won the Special Jury Prize in documentary, and in 2007, WMM release *Enemies of Happiness* won the World Cinema Documentary Jury Prize.

*Rough Aunties* is an intimate portrait of change from post-apartheid South Africa, a nation being transformed with hope and energy into a new democracy. Fearless, feisty and resolute, the "Rough Aunties" are a group of women unwavering in their stand to protect and care for the abused, neglected, and forgotten children of Durban. The film was acquired by HBO after its world premiere in Amsterdam.

Finally, WMM filmmaker Natalia Almada was awarded the U.S. Documentary Directing Award at Sundance for *El General*. Produced through the PA Program, this look at Mexico's history paints a portrait of Almada's great-grandfather, Plutarco Elias Calles, known alternately as "The Father of Modern Mexico" and as a brutal dictator. ☺

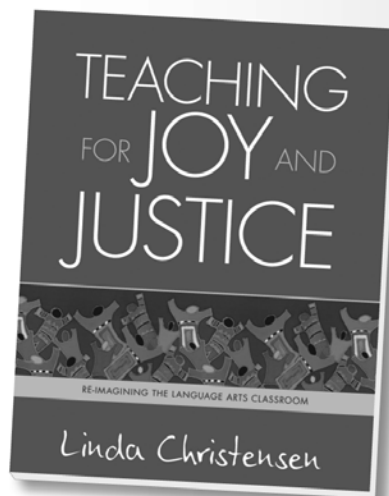
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