

Schall, Lucy. *Booktalks and Beyond: Promoting Great Genre Reads to Teens*. Westport, Connecticut: Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 276 p. \$40.00. (ISBN: 1-59158-466-3)

Written by a former middle-school and high-school English teacher and current book reviewer for *VOYA*, Lucy Schall provides youth librarians with a practical guide to booktalking in *Booktalks and Beyond*. This book includes ready-to-use booktalks, read-aloud selections, learning activities, and related reads for approximately 100 fiction and nonfiction books published since 2000 and geared for teens.

The booktalks are organized by genre and theme – Issues (Confronting the Bully, Defining Love, Living on the Edge, Finding Inner Peace or Spiritual Clarification), Contemporary (Finding Our Talents and Friends; Laughing; Competing), Adventure/Survival (Land; Sea; Air), Mystery/Suspense (Contemporary; Historical; Paranormal), Fantasy/Science Fiction/Paranormal (Discovering Our Roots; Discovering Different Worlds; Revisiting the World of Fairy Tale, Myth, and Legend; Meeting the Challenges of the Future), History (Choosing in Peace; Choosing in War; Defining Leaders and Events), and Multiple Cultures (Learning from Other Countries; Learning from the Cultures within Our Country).

For each particular book, Schall provides the book citation, the themes/topics found in the story, the summary, specific page numbers of passages worth reading aloud, possibilities for discussion based on passages read aloud, a booktalk, learning opportunities (better for school librarians), and related works. The learning opportunities include further discussion, group projects, library research, character analysis, and personal reflection.

More than a repository of booktalks, *Booktalks and Beyond* is also a useful readers' advisory tool, serving as a quick-and-dirty resource to brush up on young adult materials. Librarians new to the field, new to the literature, as well as those doing outreach, will all find something of value in Lucy Schall's *Booktalks and Beyond*.

Kate Prestwood
Collection Specialist
Douglas County Libraries