CYRM RESOURCE GUIDE YOUNG ADULT NOMINEES (GRADES 9-12) 2012-2013

Matched

by Ally Condie Speak, 2011

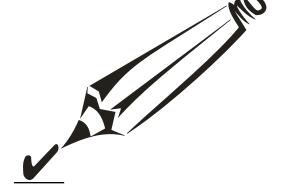
Beautiful Creatures

by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl Little, Brown, 2009

The Things a Brother Knows

by Dana Reingardt Wendy Lamb Books, 2010

California Young Reader Medal	California Young Reader Medal		
YOUNG ADULT	YOUNG ADULT		
BALLOT	BALLOT		
2012-2013	2012-2013		
Matched	Matched		
Beautiful Creatures	Beautiful Creatures		
The Things a Brother	The Things a Brother		
Knows	Knows		
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MATCHED by Ally Condie





Allyson "Ally" Braithwaite Condie started writing stories when she was very, very small. As a teenager, she read Saint Maybe by Anne Tyler and Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner; they were her first real exposure to the world of grown-up literature (that wasn't things like Shakespeare or Hemingway, etc.) and both books changed her life. She started writing a lot of short stories and beginnings of novels that she never finished; she also, by her own criteria, wrote incredibly, incredibly bad poetry. She went to Brigham Young University, got a degree in English Teaching and taught high school English, first in upstate New York and then in Utah.

Condie always wanted to be a writer, but as she grew older, it took a back seat to teaching. It wasn't until she quit teaching to raise her family that she felt like something was missing. She started writing YA fiction in the evenings, not sure if it would ever see the light of day. When Condie sent queries to national book agents, her first book was rejected across the board. Rather than give up, Condie realized that the book might be something that would appeal to a more specialized audience. It had a theme that lent itself very easily to a Latter Day Saints market, and after revising and resubmitting her manuscript twice, Deseret Book accepted it, publishing it in September 2006. She went on to publish a full trilogy of YA titles for Deseret Book including Yearbook, First Day and Reunion.

The inspiration for *Matched* came from a lot of places. The real catalyst was a conversation Condie had with her husband about marriage in the fall of 2008. He posited the question: What if someone wrote the perfect algorithm for lining people up, and the government used it to decide who you married, when you married, etc.? Inspiration also came from an experience chaperoning a junior prom when teaching high school and from some more general experiences, like falling in love and becoming a parent. She started working on *Matched* in Fall 2008, sold it to Dutton Books in November 2009 and it was published in November 2010. *Crossed*, the second novel of the trilogy, was published in November 2011; the third book in the trilogy, *Reached*, is due to be released in November 2012.

Condie lives with her husband, an economics professor, three sons and a baby daughter in Cedar City, Utah. She spends her days playing trucks and engaging in marathon games of Go Fish with her children; during their naptime, she writes young adult fiction. Her primary goal is to keep all her children alive, fed, and help them locate all their lost Star Wars Legos.



The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, Scholastic 2008.

Delirium by Lauren Oliver, Harper Collins 2011

The Forest of Hands and Teeth by Carrie Ryan, Delacorte Press 2010

Unwind by Neal Shusterman Simon & Schuster 2009

Divergent by Veronica Roth, Katherine Tegen Books, 2011

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Cassia is just turning seventeen. In the Society, seventeen is an important time because it is the matching age. The Society matches people best suited to them in order to optimize society's potential. On the night of Cassia's seventeenth birthday, she is matched with Xander Carrow, her best friend whom she's known all her life. Girls rarely know their matches previously, and so Cassia is considered very lucky. She feels as if everything is perfect. But, is it?

The next day, at home, when she attempts to review the microchip with all of Xander's pertinent information, another boy's face flashes across the screen. Now, in a Society where there are no decisions, Cassia must choose- between Xander and what she's always known, and Ky, who is mysterious and new. Each new day brings experiences that reinforce the certainty of a perfect life with Xander while at the same time breaking through to the unknown potential with Ky.

The three experience a multitude of emotions as they attempt to live within the norms of their "perfect" society and face the fact that there may be something else. Can they really choose their own destiny or will that freedom continue to be usurped? What if one of them wants what is required by the Society? Was all of this simply a horrible mistake and Cassia, Xander, and Ky the unwitting victims?



Hooks

- What would you do if all your decisions were made for you? What you eat, what
 music you listen to, what clothes you wear, what friends you have, and even
 who you should love?
- In the past, parents arranged many marriages; in various cultures some still do today. How would you feel about being told whom you should marry? What if a computer using an algorithm made your match?
- Can a person be in love with two different people at the same time? How would you choose which person is your perfect match?

WRITING PROMPTS FOR MATCHED



- In the Society, all decisions are made for you. Everything from what color clothes you can wear and what foods you can eat to where you work and whom you marry is decided for you. Have decisions ever been made for you that you didn't agree with? What decisions would you never allow to be made for you?
- In Cassia's world, everyone is expected to accept the decisions made for him or her because the decisions are for one's own good. Is this true today? Have decisions been made for you that were "for your own good"? How about wearing a seat belt or a helmet? How about what foods should be in school vending machines? When do these types of decisions go too far?
- Being an Aberration means you are ineligible to fully participate in the Society; you are unable to marry, unable to get a good job, and probably will experience an early death. Is it fair that Ky is considered an Aberration? Could Cassia and Xander also be considered Aberrations? Why or why not?
- Citizens of the Society are allowed to keep one artifact, one treasure from the
 past. Cassia has a compact that belonged to her great-grandmother. What
 family "artifact" would you keep if you only could keep one? Why?
- The Society only allows what is considered "the best" of books, music, poems, and other forms of cultural expression to exist. What do you think the criteria for choosing the best should be? What if your criteria are different from someone else's? Who should be allowed to choose? Why do you think the Society finds some forms of art and literature dangerous?
- Why do you think Cassia' grandfather saved the Dylan Thomas poem that starts, "Do not go gentle into that good night, Old age should burn and rave at close of day; Rage, rage, rage, against the dying of the light..."? How does the poem's tone differ from his appointed death? Keeping the poem was dangerous so why did he give it to Cassia? How does her understanding of the poem change by the end of the book?
- In Cassia's society you are only allowed the basic technology you need ports, readers, and scribes – and information intake is specific. How does this compare with society today? Do we have too much technology?
- Would you have taken the red tablet? Under what circumstances would you consider taking a tablet that erases your memory? Are some memories important even though they might be painful?
- Ky teaches Cassia how to write in "an old-fashioned curved kind of writing"
 which you might know as cursive writing. Cursive is no longer being taught in
 some schools today, why do you think this is? Do you think being able to write
 cursive is important?

BEAUTIFUL CREATURESby Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl

MEET THE AUTHORS

Kami Garcia grew up outside of Washington, D.C., has a Master's degree in Education, and taught in the Washington, D.C., area until she moved to Los Angeles, CA, where she also became a reading specialist. Garcia is also a professional artist and leads fantasy book groups for children and teens.

Margaret "Margie" Stohl graduated from Amherst College, earned a master's degree from Stanford University, and completed coursework for a doctorate in American Studies at Yale. Stohl is a veteran of the video game industry, and co-founded 7 Studios with her husband, Lewis Peterson.

Garcia and Stohl started out as friends who always swapped books because they both read mostly Young Adult Fantasy. They eventually became critique partners and finally writing partners. Stohl and Garcia's method of writing novels together is by working on their own chapters, handing it over to the other to be re-written/edited, then handing it back again for more re-writing, continuing until they are happy.

Says Stohl about their common ground: "Kami grew up with three generations of women from the same small town in the South, and I grew up with three generations from the same small town in the West. We had the casserole belt in common – and the feeling of growing up in a fishbowl town, where everyone knows everything that has or will ever happen to everyone."

Garcia lives in Los Angeles, CA with her husband, son, daughter, and their dogs Spike and Oz (named after characters from Buffy the Vampire Slayer). Stohl loves to travel the world with her daughters, who are learning to fence, and lives in Santa Monica, CA, with her husband, daughters, and two bad beagles.

Beautiful Creatures (2009) was their debut novel, followed by Beautiful Darkness (2010) and Beautiful Chaos (2011). Stohl is currently writing her first solo project, to be called *Icons*, due out in the Spring of 2013.



Graceling by Kristin Cashore, Harcourt, 2008.

Beastly by Alex Flinn, Harper Teen, 2007.

Wicked Lovely by Melissa Marr, Harper Teen, 2007.

Twilight by Stephenie Meyer, Little Brown & Co., 2008.

Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater, Scholastic, 2009.

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Start with Ethan Wate, a perfectly normal boy living in a small town that he can't wait to leave. Add in the haunting and confusing dreams of a girl he's never met that he cannot escape. Introduce Lena Duchannes, who moves into his small southern town of Gatlin; she is strangely and uniquely unlike anyone the small Southern town of Gatlin has ever seen, and she's struggling to conceal a power and a curse that has haunted her family for generations.

Have circumstance throw them together and witness a strong, inexplicable connection between the two develop. Lena's knowledge and understanding of who, and what she is, grows with each experience and feeling. She faces challenges and choices that will test every fiber of her being and of each person who loves her. Their bond becomes a driving force for Ethan as he becomes determined to uncover the reason for the strange connection between them, even if it means uncovering the one secret that could change everything.

Can she love him or does he really love her? Supernatural powers and the fight between good and evil is ongoing with no clear boundaries or expected outcomes. But even within the overgrown gardens, murky swamps and crumbling graveyards of the forgotten South, a secret cannot stay hidden forever and a decision must be made in Lena's battle between dark and light.



Hooks

- Have you ever had a recurring dream? How about a dream about someone you
 had never met? What if you kept having a recurring dream about someone you
 had never met, but someone you think you might be in love with? Kind of like love
 before first sight.
- What would you do if the person you fell in love with told you that they were cursed? And not only were they cursed but that in five months they were going to find out if they were destined to be good or evil?
- Do you think it would be cool to have magical powers? What if you could only use them for evil, and never good?
- Have you ever wanted to get away from the circumstances of your life? From your whole family? Even if you move from where you live, can you escape who you are?

WRITING PROMPTS FOR BEAUTIFUL CREATURES



- In Lena's family, on your 16th birthday you are Claimed and your fate is chosen for you. You either become Light or Dark essentially good or evil—with no free will of your own. Do you think that Lena doesn't have the free will to choose or does she simply believe she doesn't because of what she has been told? Why is her family the only Casters that can't choose?
- Ethan's mom once told him: "The right and the easy thing are never the same."
 Do you agree? Have you ever had to make the choice between doing the easy thing or doing the right thing? Have you ever regretted taking the easy way out?
- The Book of Moons says: "Without darkness there can be no light." What do you think this means? Do you think goodness can exist without evil? Or evil without good? What makes someone evil? What makes someone good? Is it possible for evil people to do good things? Is it possible for good people to do evil things?
- Did Macon Ravenwood make the right decision to keep the truth from Lena?
 Would you have made the same decision? Why or why not?
- Lena and Ethan communicate telepathically, perhaps this is why everyone
 assumes they are girlfriend and boyfriend before they admit it to themselves.
 Have you ever felt this kind of connection with anyone? Do you know couples
 or friends that are like Lena and Ethan in this way? Would you like to be able to
 know someone's every thought? What might be the drawbacks to this?
- Beautiful Creatures is written by two authors. Kami Garcia likes stories set in the South and wanted to write a book that drew on her deep Southern roots.
 Maggie Stohl had always been captivated by fantasies and wanted to write a supernatural novel. Is the combination of the two completely successful?
 Are there any clues in the novel that reveal two different voices at work?

THE THINGS A BROTHER KNOWS by Dana Reingardt

MEET THE AUTHOR



Dana Reinhardt grew up in Los Angeles in a family of storytellers. She spent summers with her grandparents, and at night her grandmother would tell her bedtime stories featuring the boyfriends of grandmother's youth. As Reinhardt tells it, her mother "shoved" books into her hands that she often didn't want to read precisely because her mother had recommended them, only to read and love them as much as her mother insisted she would.

As a young adult, Reinhardt fell in love with reading and how books provided both comfort and escape. Her first big cry over a book was *Bridge to Terabithia*; it made her want to be a writer. Reinhardt wrote her senior thesis in college on the young adult novel. Yet after college, she held a variety of different jobs including working with adolescents in the foster care system, a counselor on a crisis telephone hotline, and as a fact checker for a movie magazine before becoming a reader for a young adult line of books at a now-defunct mass-market paperback house in New York. Still not a writer, Reinhardt went to law school for the next three years.

After that, Reinhardt got a job working on documentaries for Frontline on PBS where she worked for nearly six years. Finally, she wrote her first book, A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life, at the suggestion of one of her best friends with whom she had taken a writing class in college. It was published in 2006 by Wendy Lamb Books, a division of Random House. Her sophomore novel was Harmless, published in 2007, followed by How to Build a House published in 2008. Things a Brother Knows published in 2010 and her most recent novel, The Summer I Learned to Fly, was published in 2011.

Reinhardt lives with her husband, Daniel Sokatch and two daughters, Noa and Zoe, in San Francisco, California.



CONNECTIONS

Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two by Joseph Bruchac, Penguin Group, 2006

Heroes: A Novel by Robert Cormier, Thorndike Press, 2000.

Sunrise over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers, Scholastic Press, 2008.

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers, Scholastic Press, 2008.

My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln Collier, 1974.

The Mailbox by Audrey Shafer, Delacorte Press, 2006.

Shooting the Moon by Francis O'Roark Dowell, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008.

Purple Heart by Patricia McCormick, Balzer & Bray, 2009.

THE THINGS A BROTHER KNOWS

PLOT SYNOPSIS

When Levi Katznelson's older brother, Boaz, returns from Iraq, he's different. Much different than the carefree Boaz that Levi remembers: he is no longer the extremely popular and very talented athlete he had been in high school. Everything has shifted and Levi is the only one that can admit, to himself at least, that Boaz is not the same boy that left. It's as if the whole family has been holding their collective breath- everything in their lives has been on hold while he's been gone and even more since his return. Levi has struggled to keep his head above water through high school, and has trouble understanding his brother's pain.

When Boaz suddenly announces he's going to leave again to hike the Appalachian Trail (which isn't his likely destination), Levi decides that the only way to understand is to participate, and so he follows him on a journey of love, forgiveness, and repentance, as Boaz desperately tries to put together the pieces of all he's lost.

Both Boaz and Levi undertake a quest that leads through experiences that reveal and bare the wounds and horrors of war, relationships and more while also bringing out the healing balm of true brotherhood. The tenacity of Levi takes him to a pinnacle of growth and understanding that affects who he is and redefines his relationship with his brother and his own life.



Hooks

- As you grow older you will make decisions about where your life is headed. These decisions can change you and can even change the people around you. Have you ever made an important decision that your parents or your friends didn't approve of or agree with?
- Serving in the military changes people; sometimes the change is for the better and sometimes not. Do you know anyone who has come home from serving in the military? How have they changed? How has your relationship with them changed?
- Have you ever had someone tell you "just leave me alone!"? Sometimes when somebody tells you they want to be left alone, it's hard to tell if you really should leave them alone or not. Have you ever not left someone alone? Was it a good decision or a bad one?

WRITING PROMPTS FOR THE THINGS A BROTHER KNOWS



- Boaz's decision to join the Marines seems completely unexpected, or is it? Are
 there experiences in his past that might have led him to his decision? Given his
 father and grandfather's upbringings, should his family have been so surprised
 by his decision?
- Boaz's personal choice affects his entire family. What if he had chosen to go to college, would that have had as big an impact? In what ways does his return home bring the pain of Boaz's choice out in the open?
- Zim and Pearl are so completely different, yet Levi considers them his best friends. How can they both be Levi's best friends? What does Levi gain from each of their relationships? How do the three of them form such a cohesive team?
- Levi is keenly aware from growing up around Abba and Dov that self-indulgence isn't something to be tolerated. Is Boaz being self-indulgent by shutting himself away in his room? How do Boaz's parents react to his isolation? What attempts do they make to reach out to their son? In what ways is Levi self-indulgent?
- Both Jack and Boaz come back from war wounded. Who has the more serious wounds? Why does Jack seem to be recovering from his war experiences faster than Boaz?
- Levi finally makes the connection that Boaz, Jack, Loren and Mitch are "brothers". In what way is their relationship as "brothers" different from Boaz and Levi's? How does Celine's brother – sister relationship with Mitch differ from Boaz and Levi's? Zim also has a brotherly relation with Boaz. How is Zim's relationship with Boaz different than Levi's relationship with his brother?
- How is Celine's approach to her brother's visits home different from that of Levi's? Do you think Mitch will have an easier time adjusting when he comes home?
- Boaz experiences two different homecomings, one from his parents and one from Mitch's family. Is one better than the other? What does he get, if anything from each? How is the embrace Boaz shares with his family at his homecoming different from the embrace they share at The Vietnam War Memorial?

The following activities may be used with each of the nominees to add interest. You can make a book trailer to build interest or use the activity to allow students to share their experiences with each title.



Book Trailers

Catch your readers by tapping into their creativity and critical thinking skills by having them create a book trailer to share their reading experiences with each other. A book trailer is similar to a movie trailer and is pretty simple to create. The only limitation is the imagination of the creator. These can be made by using PowerPoint, or PowerPoint and Windows Moviemaker. You can also adapt this to other programs such as KeyNote and Imovie. A book trailer is simply a beefed up book talk or hook for a book. This is a great way to have the kids complete a reading experience.

In a nutshell, the students need to plan out what they would like to share about the story without giving away the story. This may include thought-provoking questions, bits and pieces about the characters, connections to the potential readers and tasty morsels of the story. Then, you tie in great images and pictures that bring out the story or text for the trailer. Next comes possible narration, videos, sound effects or music that will enhance the presentation. Some students love to film their storyboard ideas or use pictures of their friends.

Go here to see some samples made by students:

http://booktrailersrestingplace.pbworks.com/w/page/51478241/FrontPage

Here is how to do this:

You will find all the information needed at:

http://booktalksandmore.pbworks.com/w/page/14908619/FrontPage

There are more great examples and more resources for free images, sounds, music, and more. There are also some great samples available for viewing. Use the story template that follows to plan and organize.



Saving hints for Windows MovieMaker:

If you are using Windows 7 you may have to download the new MovieMaker file from Microsoft. When saving, use the option for an email because that makes a more generic WMA (Windows Media Player) file that seems compatible with older computers and versions of Windows Media Player. You really won't finalize the email, but simply save this file when asked if you would like to save a copy to your computer.

If you want to add another twist and/or adapt the concept to other production choices, go to sites such as:

Animoto

http://animoto.com/intro/animoto/22?gclid=CKXlscWuqK4CFQZchwod3RPxDQ

Prezi

http://prezi.com

Xtranormal

http://www.xtranormal.com

Voice Thread

(the first link will take you to information about a limited, free account) http://voicethread.com/support/howto/Account_Types/Free

http://voicethread.com. This is the main link.

Story Plan Template

Use these frames to plan your storyline and slide sequence. A title frame and credit frame plus 8-10 additional frames will make a great presentation. Use each frame to build interest or ask questions. You may insert your original videos or pictures instead of PowerPoint slides if you would like to personalize it or take it another direction.

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Story Plan Template—continued



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Fakebook Pages

Facebook has taken the nation by storm; and in that storm many students have been swept up and carried away. Fakebook can add the excitement and learning in many scenarios. Here is where you can create pages as the characters in *Matched, Beautiful Creatures* or *The Things a Brother Knows*. By creating a page as one of the characters the kids can explore feelings, motivations, relationships, and situations. Have the characters interact both in terms of the novels or as springboards into deeper discussions of issues that may connect with students' own realities and experiences. Perhaps create a page that charts a course through plot, theme, setting or ???

This free activity can be found online at: http://classtools.net/fb/home/page

The site has a great help sheet that can be used to walk the kids through the process:

http://www.classtools.net/main_area/fakebook/helpsheet.pdf

Many districts block or restrict various sites. If you encounter this problem, visit the site and adapt it to your activities by taking advantage of materials found online that can be created for your students in hardcopy formats. Attached below are a few templates you can adapt or use as they are. You may have a talented student that can turn these into dynamic editable products beyond what they are. If you are able to access and use wikis, they may become truly interactive like the original site.



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	Religious Views:						
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Relationship Status:	Personal information						
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	Description.						
	Groups	Groups					



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