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ALA Highlights

We had a stellar time at ALA in steamy Washington DC!

Marla Frazee joined us for a signing of her picture book *[A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever](#)*; we solicited ideas for **30 Reasons Why Readalongs are Really Great!** in honor of our 30th Anniversary; and celebrated with friends and colleagues at the **Odyssey Award Presentation and Program**.

We saw many of you at the exhibits and thank you for stopping by. We enjoyed meeting and talking with you.

Marla Frazee Signing

She may have been exhausted from the previous night's celebrations at the Newbery Caldecott Banquet but Marla Frazee showed up bright and smiling at our booth Monday morning, pen in hand and ready for signing copies of the new readalong release of *[A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever](#)*. She entertained us with stories about the **real** boys that the book's characters were modeled after - her son, James, and his best friend, Eamon - who happens to be the son of Allyn Johnston, editor in chief of Harcourt Children's Books, and Marla's long-time editor. We asked her to let us know what James and Eamon think about the boys who performed the audio. Wouldn't it be fun if they all met?



30 Reasons Why Readalongs are Really Great!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth at ALA and offered a reason Why Readalongs are Really Great. We gathered many thoughtful reasons and it was difficult to whittle the list down to only 30 (in celebration of the 30 year anniversary of Live Oak Media!) Here are our favorites:



- 1) "I learned to read with recorded books - 45 rpm with Roy Rogers narrating and Trigger's whinny telling me to turn the page."
-**Grace Slaughter; Alabama**
- 2) "Children can increase vocabulary and fluency listening to audio...I love them too!" -**Catherine Beyers; Southern Bluffs Elementary School, La Crosse, WI**
- 3) "Readalongs help the child and adult to: bond; learn; spend time together." -**Carolyn Morehead**
- 4) "Readalongs pull my students into the story-they 'own' the reading then." -**Ruth Shasteen**
- 5) "Readalongs help fight the battle of literacy for non-readers and

give families time together." -**Deborah Burns; Chicago Public Library**

6) "A book that holds your attention when read aloud is the one that sticks in your mind." -**Janis Tyhurst**

7) "Because reading with your ears rocks!" -**Elisabeth Simmons**

8) "Readalongs are great for children with reading issues because they help the child develop self-confidence." -**Robby Chabalko; the Pilot School, Washington, DE**

9) "Readalongs are awesome in the car, much better than TV!" -**Jan Hamilton**

10) "Readalongs are terrific for reluctant readers, new readers, special needs kids - and just for enjoying books independently for the young book readers." -**Rebecca Golden; Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, VT**

[Read the remaining reasons on our website.](#) You won't want to miss any of the 30 Reasons Why Readalongs Are Really Great!

We have **3 winners** for our 30 Reasons Raffle held during ALA. We're in the process of notifying them now and will post the names on our website soon. Thanks to all the participants.

Louise! Louise! Louise!

Monday afternoon, following the close of exhibits, we made our way to the **Odyssey Award Presentation and Program**. The joy of celebrating our second **Odyssey Award** with friends, industry colleagues and the librarian community cannot be overstated.

Arnie Cardillo, producer, and Barbara Rosenblat, narrator, accepted the Odyssey Award for **Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken**. Barbara's speech was a hoot and she, like the other winning narrators, did a reading following her remarks. Her hilarious fractured versions of the fairy tales *Three Little Pigs* and *Red Riding Hood* were stupendous. Barbara's the queen of voices!



New for Fall 2010

Many of you have requested more poetry and we're pleased to comply. Not only are we offering poetry but it's by Walter Dean Myers!

[Here in Harlem: Poems in Many Voices](#)

Read by a group of talented performers with the introduction read by Walter Dean Myers
* Includes original musical performances from the Harlem Renaissance period by Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Fats Waller & Thelonious Monk



Another forthcoming title offers a slice of Americana and a tribute to the trains and railway stations of long ago. Gordon Titcomb's hauntingly beautiful song is a picture book with paintings by Wendell Minor.

[The Last Train](#)

Read and performed by Gordon Titcomb
* Includes instrumental accompaniment by Arlo Guthrie

Check our website and future e-newsletters for updates on the release of these new titles.

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Debra and Arnie Cardillo
Live Oak Media



LIVE OAK MEDIA

Live Oak Media has a 30-year tradition of producing distinctive readalong recordings of classic and award-winning children's literature for ages 3-12. As a small, family-owned company, we are dedicated to providing our young listeners with meaningful reading and listening experiences.

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