



Booktalks

2008-2009 Peach Award Nominees

Absolutely, Positively Not by David LaRoche

Steven is certain he's not gay. He absolutely can't be gay. Can he?

"Hi. My name is Steven. I'm a sophomore in high school and I'm not gay. I'm absolutely and positively not gay. So what if my best friend's a girl and I suck at sports, and can't stop thinking about how cute Mr. Bowan, one of my teachers, is. I'm still not gay."

But trying not to be gay is harder than it looks. I tore up the two magazines I'd hidden under the bed — Men's Underwear Catalog and International Male — and started putting pictures from the Victoria's Secret catalog on the walls of my bedroom. I was sure if I looked at them long enough, I'd eventually find them arousing. I even started dating girls. I had 23 dates with 21 girls. I guess the first one and the last one were the most memorable.

For my first date I asked Bree Caruthers, the most popular girl in school, to go to the movies. I picked the one with the most romantic title — You and Me and Love. How was I supposed to know it was boy-boy romance, not girl-boy romance? My last date was with Solveig, our school's Norwegian foreign exchange student. We were supposed to go to the movies, but she drove us out to this deserted clearing and said she wanted to make out. Man, she was all over me, and I did my best to respond — but nothing. Finally I just said stop and she took me home.

I gave up and took the sexy women in their underwear off my wall and threw them in the trash. Then I called my best friend Rachel and asked if I could come over and talk. But when I told her I thought I might be gay, she wasn't surprised at all. In fact, she said, "It's about time!" She — and her parents — had figured out a year ago that I was gay!

But how could they know when I didn't know? Does everybody know? Ohmygod — does Mr. Bowman know I'm gay and that sometimes he's the only thing I can think about? What am I going to do? I'm absolutely, positively sure I'm not gay — or am I?

This Booktalk was written by librarian and booktalking expert Joni R. Bodart
From http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collateral.jsp?id=1147_type=Book_typeId=4103

Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

Booktalk #1

Arnold Spirit, aka Junior, is a Spokane Indian from Wellpinit, WA living on the rez. He is a goofy looking kid and the target of bullies. He is dirt poor and has little hope of ever changing anything. That's the way it is on the rez. When Arnold's teacher suggests that he go to school in the nearby town instead of the rez school, everything changes. Arnold now travels 20 miles each way, sometimes on foot, to get to the school. At first, the kids just see the goofy looking Indian boy. His only friend is a geeky kid who is also an outcast. And back on the rez, Arnold is seen as a traitor to the rez. When Arnold makes the basketball team, things change -- but not necessarily for the better. But with Arnold's sense of humor and his comics, I just know he'll be OK.

Booktalk #2

It all started my freshman year in High School on the day I hit Mr. P in the head with my geometry book. Okay, maybe it all really started when I was born with water on the brain. Well actually with excess cerebral spinal fluid inside my skull which is sort of like brain grease that we all need, but I had too much and my brain was like drowning in grease.

I wasn't supposed to survive the surgery I had at 6 months old, and should have lived all my life as a vegetable, but apparently even then I was a fighter. Oh, I have all sorts of physical problems, like ten extra teeth that had to be removed and thick ugly black plastic framed eyeglasses and huge feet, and a huge skull, and brain seizures for years, but I got through it all and hadn't had a seizure in seven years.

And, of course, I belong to the Black-Eye-of-the-Month club because everyone on the rez (yep, you got it, I'm an Indian) calls me a retard about twice a day and retards on the rez get beat up at least once a month. I draw a lot because words are too limited and unpredictable and it's safer to stay at home and read and draw. It's my way of talking to the world. To have dreams of growing up to be somebody important. I'm smart too, and that had something to do with it. You see Mr. P, the geometry teacher, the one who sometimes forgets to come to school, had just handed out our new geometry books for the year. But inside the front cover it said;

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO AGNES ADAMS.

Agnes is my mother's first name, and Adams is her last name. I couldn't believe it. Our tribe is so poor that we had to use the same books our parents did. I was so upset I just threw the book as hard as I could. I wanted to hit something, and Mr. P happened to be in the way.

Of course I got suspended, but a week into my suspension, Mr. P walked up our driveway and had a talk with me. He had a bit bandage on his face and He apologized to ME!!! He felt he had left us all (us Indians) down and had taught us to give up, which most of us had. But that he felt I had a chance. That the reason I threw the book was because somewhere inside I refused to give up. Just like when I was a baby and should have died. I needed to get off the reservation and find hope. I could do it, he said.

And, that's how I decided to leave the reservation school and go to the all white rich school at Reardan. That's how I, in the eyes of all my friends at the rez, became a traitor. And how I . . . well, that's another story (Sam Marsh, [Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award Nominees](#) 2009)

Booktalk #3

Absolutely true? As readers share Junior's experiences on the reservation and at the all-white high school in the nearby town, they might wonder how much worse adolescence could possibly be. Is this really the true story of Sherman Alexie's high school life? Or does Alexie use fiction to depict the miseries of his own teen years and achieve control over the unexaggerated painful memories? Ironic humor and wit allow Junior to tell the tales of his struggle to rise above his life's circumstances and even to draw strength from his misfortune. The skillful writing allows readers to the hardships and empathize with Junior and his friend.

Although Alexie's previous books were directed to adult audiences, the short story collection *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist-fight in Heaven*, and *Smoke Signals*, the film derived from it, have had many teen fans. Alexie has given his readers a realistic view of some of the challenges he faced as a Native American teen, and a glimpse into the successful life he has achieved through his introspective and powerful storytelling. (Marge Erickson Freeburn , [Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award Nominees](#) 2009)

From: http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/alexie_absolutely.htm

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

American Born Chinese is a beautiful, full color graphic novel with three distinct story lines that come together in the end. First is the story of the Monkey King, a character from Chinese folklore. The Monkey King studies and disciplines himself but becomes too prideful and is punished and humbled by the gods. Jin arrives in the United States as a young boy only to face racism and discrimination from his fellow classmates. Daniel is a popular high school student humiliated by a visit from his cousin from China who is a caricature of every possible negative Chinese stereotype. If, like the characters in this book, you sometimes wonder if you fit in and would like to be someone different, you might learn something from the lesson that the Monkey King, Jin and Danny learn.

From: http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/yang_american.htm

Boot Camp by Todd Strasser

This is for your own good. How many times have you heard that but were not sure that it was true? Parents tend to say that when they know something unpleasant is about to happen. But what if your parents hire people to kidnap you and send you to boot camp? I've seen reports about these places on television. They are touted as being the answer to unruly teens. That's what happens to Garrett. Now, Garrett is not a bad kid. He's a rich kid who is a bit spoiled. And he is dating his teacher. But it's not like he's in a gang or failing school or anything. But his parents don't like his choice of girlfriend so they sign him up for Lake Harmony. They've done their research and are sure this is for Garrett's own good. What they don't know is what really goes on behind the walls of Lake Harmony.

From: http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/strasser_boot.htm

The Boyfriend List by E. Lockheart

1. Adam (but he doesn't count.)
2. Finn (but people just thought so.)
3. Hutch (but I'd rather not think about it.)
4. Gideon (but it was just from afar.)
5. Ben (but he doesn't know.)
6. Tommy (but it was impossible.)
7. Chase (but it was all in his mind.)
8. Sky (but he had someone else.)
9. Michael (but I so didn't want to.)
10. Angelo (but it was just one date.)
11. Shiv (but it was just one kiss.)
12. Billy (but he didn't call.)
13. Jackson (yes, okay, he was my boyfriend. Don't ask me any more about it.)
14. Noel (but it was all a mistake.)
15. Cabbie (but I'm undecided.)

As Ruby Oliver goes through her list with her shrink, can she really come to understand what has gone wrong with her life? And why she is having panic attacks?

From: http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/lockhart_boyfriend.htm

Copper Sun by Sharon Draper

Booktalk #1

Amari is a 15-year-old Ashanti girl who is happily anticipating her marriage to Besa. When slavers arrive in her village, her family is slaughtered and her world shattered. Shackled and frightened she is shipped to the Carolinas and forced into slavery. Amari develops friendships and struggles for freedom in this historical fiction novel.

Booktalk #2

Sharon Draper knows how to grab her reader's! Copper Sun begins in the idyllic African countryside where 15-year-old Amari lives in a thriving village. Her dad is a weaver. Her mom makes her do chores. She has an annoying little brother, and there's a very hot guy, Besa, around her age whom she hopes to marry. One day pale-faced men visit the village. The custom when any visitors arrive, even strange looking ones, is to welcome them with a feast. Amari is watching the dancing, and Besa playing his drum, when she hears a strange sound and sees a flash of light. The chief falls off his stool, dead, and the visitors begin to use knives and fire sticks on the rest of the villagers. Amari witnesses the murder and destruction and is taken captive. The world as she knew it is shattered forever. The oldest and the youngest members of the village have been killed. The strongest, those in their teens and twenties, are marched to a slave ship where Amari witnesses more atrocities. After the harrowing sea voyage Amari arrives in the Carolinas and is sold to a plantation owner who gives her to his 16-year-old son as a birthday gift. (Jean B. Bellavance for [Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards](#), 2007-2008)

From http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/draper_copper.htm

Epic by Conor Kostick

On New Earth, Epic is not just a computer game, it's a matter of life and death. If you lose, you lose everything; if you win, the world is yours for the taking.

Seeking revenge for the unjust treatment of his parents, Erik subverts the rules of the game, and he and his friends are drawn into a world of power-hungry, dangerous players. Now they must fight the ultimate masters of the game -- The Committee. But what Erik doesn't know is that The Committee has a sinister, deadly secret, and challenging it could destroy the whole world of Epic.

From: <http://www.obrien.ie/book540.cfm>

Gingerbread by Rachel Cohn

Booktalk #1

"My so-called parents hate my boyfriend, Shrimp. I'm not sure they even believe he is my boyfriend. They take one look at his five-foot-five, surfer-shirt-wearin', baggy-jeans-slouchin', Pop Tart-eatin', spiked-hair-head self and you can just see confusion firebombs exploding in their heads, like they are thinking, Oh no, Cyd Charisse, that young man is not your homes.

Dig this: He is."

When Cyd stays out late with Shrimp once too often, her mom and stepdad decide they've had enough - maybe her father can do something with her. So they send her from San Francisco to New York for the summer, to stay with a man she's only met once in her life.

By Susan Dunn ([Colorado Blue Spruce Children's Award](#))

Booktalk #2

Poor little rich punk girl. Can't stay out all night with her sexy surfer boyfriend at his brother's house, so she does her best to drive her parents crazy. So what do they do? Send her to live in New York City with the father she has never known. Is that really going to fix things, or just open her up to a whole new world of trouble?

By Dawn Rutherford of King County Library System for [Evergreen Young Adult Book Award](#)

Booktalk #3

Cyd Cherisse, expelled from boarding school, goes back home to San Francisco to live with Nancy and Sid, her mother and stepfather. Sid affectionately calls her his "hellion", but Nancy always seems to be on Cyd's case for one thing or another. Luckily, Cyd always has Gingerbread, the childhood rag doll her biological father gave her the one time they met, to confide in. After she stays out past curfew with her boyfriend, Shrimp, one too many times, she's grounded in Alcatraz/the puke princess room, as Cyd refers to her bedroom, decorated by her mother in a House Beautiful but no one lives here style. Finally, no one can stand her Helen Keller impression and moping about anymore, and they decide to send her to New York to live with her bio-dad for the summer. Cyd's always wanted to get to know him and her half-siblings. It may not be what she expected, but then, Cyd is seldom what anyone expected. Attitude, attitude, attitude. Spoiled she may be, but Cyd and Gingerbread are true originals.

By Cindy Claypool of King County Library System for [Evergreen Young Adult Book Award](#)

Impulse by Ellen Hopkins

Three teens with one thing in common. They have each entered Aspen Springs Center after an unsuccessful suicide attempt. Tony has taken an overdose. Vanessa has slit her wrist. And Conner shot himself in the chest. And now they are beginning their journey to understanding. Told in alternating chapters we learn about the events in their lives that led them to this place. Tony's mother who cares little for him and would rather see him locked up in juvie than lose a boyfriend. Vanessa who is a secret cutter. She believes that she has the same bipolar disorder as her mother. And Conner who has it all. Good looks, money, brains but also an emotionally distant mother. Will they all come to terms with what life offers?

From: http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/hopkins_impulse.htm

Keturah and Lord Death by Martine Leavitt

A book talk written by Mrs. C. MacLennan Teacher-Librarian Dr. L.M. Hanna School, Regina

In her sixteenth year Keturah became lost in the forest. She had been picking peas in the garden when she saw a beautiful deer, the one that had eluded the lord of the land and the finest hunters in the region. She only meant to follow him a little way into the forest, because she wanted to tell the people in her village of his great beauty. However, she soon became hopelessly lost.

After three days of wandering Keturah sat under a tree waiting for death. She thought of the dreams that she would never realize: her own little cottage to take care of, a husband to love, a wee baby to hold. She thought sorrowfully of her grandmother who would be weeping for her by the window.

At dusk Death came for Keturah in the form of a man dressed in a cape and mounted on a black horse. Lord Death tells Keturah that she is much too young and beautiful to die and she may choose someone to die in her place. Keturah will not condemn any of the villagers to death even though Lord Death gives her many examples of people who could die in her place. Keturah's reply is "Sir, each is loved by someone young, someone whose heart would break." Lord Death then tells her that she would be foolish not to choose because

many in her village will die anyway because the plague is coming! Keturah knows that she must live to warn the villagers of the plague.

Keturah who is a renowned storyteller, tells Lord Death a story. Just before the ending she stops. Of course Lord Death must hear the end of the story! He tells her that she has one full day to find her one true love, and if she fails she must tell the end of the story, and come with him as his bride. Keturah is then shown the way back to her village.

Will Keturah be able to find her true love? Will the village be saved from the plague? What story did Keturah tell Lord Death? This medieval love story has an ending that needs to be discussed!

From: <http://www.willowawards.ca/nomdescribe/booktalks/keturahbktk.pdf>

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

Miranda is excited, and not just her, but everyone on the whole planet is excited. An asteroid is headed right for the moon and will hit on May 18th. The whole town is out in front of their houses with telescopes and binoculars. When it hits, everyone cheers, and then it gets deathly quiet. A woman screams and people start yelling. The moon was no longer a half-moon anymore. It was tilted and wrong and it started getting larger and larger until it was smack in the middle of the sky, way too big, way too visible. It was pushed out of its orbit and it wasn't benign anymore but terrifying and panic filled the air. Everyone rushed home to their phones and TV's. The cell phones were out and the telephone lines were erratic. TV reception also was fuzzy but finally came through and the news was horrible. There were reports of widespread tsunamis because of the tides. There was massive flooding all over the eastern seaboard. Tidal waves twenty feet or higher in New York City. All power was lost, and the Statue of Liberty was washed out to sea. Cape Cod was completely submerged and the barrier islands off the Carolina coast ... just gone. Casualties on the eastern seaboard are in the hundreds of thousands. The Pacific Coast is also affected. But those folks who were inland were safe. But that was day one, and just the beginning. Disaster after disaster, chaos and fear gripped the world. Electricity gone - climate changed, food gone, and no one, no one was safe anymore.

From: http://www.yourlibrary.ws/ya_webpage/ritba/ritba08/lifeasweknewit.htm

Notes from the Midnight Driver by Jordan Sonnenblick

This is a story of Alex Gregory, his jazz guitar, his best friend Laurie, an angry judge, and a feisty old man dying of emphysema, and how the combination changes all of them.

It sounded like a good plan when I thought of it, even brilliant. I'd drink one more pint of Dad's vodka, swipe my mother's car keys and drive over to my dad's house and tell him what I thought of his getting it on with my third grade teacher and breaking up with my mom.

But I was more smashed than I thought I was, and I ended up in the middle of Mrs. Wilson's lawn, with the lawn gnome I'd just decapitated. Mom wasn't happy to have her first date since Dad moved out interrupted to bail me out, the cops who arrested me weren't happy about the fact that I threw up all over them, and my best friend Laurie wasn't happy with me because I hadn't called so she could talk me out of doing such a dumb thing. But what really reeked was the fact that the judge absolutely hated drunk drivers, especially when they weren't willing to admit they'd done something wrong-and I wasn't. I mean I hadn't hurt anyone-it was just a lawn gnome, for crying out loud! But she sentenced me to a hundred hours of community service, anyway, and told me I had to pay to have the lawn gnome replaced and the car fixed.

I was supposed to go to this old folks home and talk to one of the men who lived there, like make friends with him or something. But the guy my mom picked out for me to visit was the meanest guy I've ever met! His

name was Solomon Lewis, and he looked like an ancient, merciless old gargoyle, and was rude, angry, and verbally abusive. I tried every way I could to get out of the gig, but it was impossible. The judge was determined to make me serve each and every hour of my sentence with him. She wanted me to learn from him, and him to learn from me. Never mind that we didn't have anything in common, and he was bitter, old, and got his kicks from taunting the other residents. We still had to spend a hundred hours together. --*This booktalk was written by university professor, librarian, and booktalking expert Joni Richards Bodart.* (<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/collateral.jsp?id=1438>)

From: http://www.yourlibrary.ws/ya_webpage/ritba/ritba08/midnightdriver.htm

Plain Janes by Cecil Castellucci

Jane's parents make the decision to move from the city to suburbia and Jane is decidedly unhappy about it. Especially since everyone knows that suburbs are a gaping void of cultural activity. So she does what any girl would do in her situation, create her own guerilla art group to shake things up.

Right Behind You by Gail Giles

Booktalk 1

"On his seventh birthday, I set Bobby Clarke on fire.

"I was nine."

After the tragic incident, Kip is sent to a treatment center, which houses other juvenile offenders and troubled youth. When Kip is finally released at age 14, he must learn to cope with life on the outside. Unable to remain in their small Alaska town due to public outrage over his crime, Kip and his father move to the Midwest, having changed their names to conceal their identities and Kip's past deeds. Will Kip be able to adapt to normal high school life? And what will happen if someone finds out his deep, dark secret?

Booktalk 2

I've got to tell her. But how? This is not something that you can tell everyone and expect things not to change. I should know. I don't really understand it myself and I've been living with it for a very long time. You may not believe it to see me now, but I'm a murderer. Are you shocked? Well, it's true. When I was nine years old, I doused a kid with gasoline and set him on fire. Sort of takes your breath away doesn't it? I don't really remember much about what happened after. All I know is I meant to burn his baseball glove. I was locked up in a juvenile facility and I've gone through just about every therapy you can imagine. But it can't change the fact that I killed a kid. I deserve to be locked up. Away from society. Locked up so I can never hurt anyone else. But now my shrink tells me that he is ready to release me! To the outside. With a new name and a new chance. But am I ready? I don't think I am. Only time can tell. But just how does a person start a new life when he has done something so horrible?

From: http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/giles_right.htm

Rucker Park Setup by Paul Volponi

With the Rucker Park championship on the line, Mackey feels the guilt over a deal he made with the opposing team's coach to throw the game. This same deal brings about the murder of his best friend, J.R. Through the final basketball game, Mackey relives his friendship with J.R., feels the knowing eyes of J.R.'s father, and deals with pressure from both teams to live up to his potential. Will Mackey throw the game? Will the truth behind J.R.'s death come out?

From: <http://booktalk.tandemlibrarybooks.com/viewBook.aspx?bookId=370>

Side Effects by Amy Goldman Koss

Have you even been thrown a life changing event and never thought you would make it through? That is exactly what happens to Izzy when she awakes one morning to find out that she has lymphoma. Not only is eighth grade difficult enough, but Izzy has to deal with having cancer, too.

"Mom!" I yelled. "What's lymphoma?"

"He said they have much better luck with it now," she answered, if you can call that an answer. Then she auto-dialed my aunt Lucy, and I heard her say, "Lou? They think Isabelle has cancer. Meet us at Children's Hospital. We're going now," and she hung up.

They thought I had what? Then I was on floor too, as if all my bones had either melted or been suddenly removed. (pages 17, 18) ([Rhode Island Teen Book Award nominee 2007-2008](#))

From: http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/koss_side.htm

Sold by Patricia McCormick

Lakshmi's family is desperately poor, but village life in the mountains of Nepal has its share of pleasures. When the monsoons wreck their crops yet again, Lakshmi's stepfather says she must leave home and take a job to support her family. She arrives at 'Happiness House' full of hope, but soon learns the unthinkable truth - she has been sold into prostitution.

This new world becomes a nightmare from which there is no escape. But, very gradually, Lakshmi makes friends with others in the house, and gathers her courage, until the day she has to face the hardest decision of all: will she risk everything to reclaim her life? ([Rhode Island Teen Book Award nominee 2007-2008](#))

From: http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/mccormick_sold.htm

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hossieni

After her mother commits suicide, the fifteen-year-old, illegitimate daughter of an Afghan merchant is married off to a man in his forties and moved hundreds of miles from home to live in Kabul, Afghanistan. After several miscarriages and eighteen years of marriage, Mariam's husband marries a fourteen-year-old orphan named Laila for his second wife not knowing that she is pregnant and believes her lover is dead. At first enemies, the women unite against their abusive husband to become closer than sisters in this war-torn story set in the Taliban-run Afghanistan.

From: <http://booktalk.tandemlibrarybooks.com/viewBook.aspx?bookId=385>

Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson

Tyler has always been a geek- until a graffiti prank makes him a legend and the physical labor required during his mandatory community service gives him muscles. His new muscles attract the attention of popular Bethany Milbury, the "goddess" who just happens to be the daughter of Tyler's father's boss and the sister of Tyler's biggest tormentor, Chip. While things are looking up at school for the start of Tyler's senior year, things at home continue to be volatile as Tyler's father's angry and explosive behavior keeps the family on edge. Tyler's positive start to the school year quickly ends following a wild party in which pictures of a drunken, passed out Bethany appear on the internet and Tyler finds himself potentially facing felony charges of lewd behavior, forcible touching, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, voyeurism, and kidnapping. As Tyler struggles to prove his innocence in an environment that has already deemed him guilty, he contemplates increasingly darker means of escaping his situation.

From: http://hiplibrariansbookblog.blog-city.com/twisted_by_laurie_halse_anderson_1.htm

Uglies by Scott Westerfield

Booktalk #1

What if you were given the opportunity to change your looks. Would you do it? What if you had no choice? For Tally, it is just a few short months until her 16th birthday. Only a few short months of being an Ugly. She knows that on her birthday, she will become a Pretty and move from Uglyville to the nice apartments for the New Pretties. Where there is never ending fun. Where the parties never stop. She has never really imagined that she had a choice. Until she meets Shay. Shay tells her about a place where you don't have to become a Pretty. Where you can remain your own unique self. But it is forbidden to go there. Tally doesn't really believe Shay and refuses to leave with her. But when Tally arrives for her operation, she is told that she will not be operated on until after she betrays her friend and leads the Specials to the Smoke. What choice does she have? She certainly doesn't want to remain an Ugly forever. Would you?

Booktalk #2

In this futuristic society, young people believe they are ugly until, at age 16, they undergo an operation that changes them into "pretties." Tally Youngblood looks forward to turning 16 until she meets another female named Shay who questions this way of life and urges Tally to defect to a distant settlement of simple living. When Shay disappears, Tally is coerced by cruel Dr. Cable to find Shay and her patriots or stay "ugly" forever. ([Florida Teen Reads nominee, 2007-2008](#))

Booktalk #3

Tally Youngblood is a few weeks away from her 16th birthday, and she can't wait to become a "Pretty." In Tally's world, at age sixteen she can leave Uglyville and join her best friend Peris, a "Pretty," in New Pretty Town, city of non-stop partying. But first, she has to undergo the surgery that all sixteen-year-olds undergo. The problem is her new best friend, Shay, is not sure she really wants to conform to the norm and become a "Pretty." Shay is quite happy with the way she looks and tries to convince Tally to sneak away to a forbidden area where it is rumored people who have refused surgery have formed a new community, remaining as "uglies." When Tally's long-anticipated operation day arrives, she is confronted with the frightening Special Circumstances team who want her to find Shay. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she is told she must find Shay or she will not be allowed to undergo her own surgery. Tally goes after Shay, and in the process, finds out there is more to being a "pretty" than just having surgery. (Prepared By: Mary M. Silgals, Trident Academy for [SCASL Young Adult Awards, 2008](#))

From: http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/westerfield_uglies.htm