

**RECORDED BOOKS**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RECORDED BOOKS INTRODUCES *DR. JANET ALLEN'S*  
*PLUGGED-IN TO READING™***

***Dr. Janet Allen's Plugged-in to Reading™* Offers Help to Struggling Middle-School Readers Through a Comprehensive, Literature-Based Program Created by Adolescent Literacy Authority Dr. Janet Allen. New Program Will Be Featured at the International Reading Association Conference in Chicago, May 1-4, 2006.**

Prince Frederick, MD, April 13, 2006—Recorded Books, the world's premiere publisher of unabridged audiobooks since 1979 and a Hights Cross Communications company, will introduce its new middle-school, literature-based reading program for struggling readers, *Dr. Janet Allen's Plugged-in to Reading™*, at the International Reading Association Conference in Chicago on May 1-4, 2006.

The program is the culmination of Dr. Allen's 20-year classroom teaching career and her extensive experience as a researcher in adolescent literacy. The new program features a three-step instructional model designed to guide the struggling reader from teacher-directed instruction, through peer-supported learning, to self-directed learning.

*Dr. Janet Allen's Plugged-in to Reading™* is structured around a classroom library of 48 literary works, each supported by a detailed lesson plan that ties a novel to nonfiction readings; each novel is accompanied by an unabridged audio version of the novel to promote reading fluency and comprehension. The research-based program incorporates key elements for improving adolescent literacy identified in *Reading Next—A Vision for Action and Research in Middle and High School Literacy 2004*, a highly regarded report produced for the Carnegie Corporation of New York by the Alliance for Excellent Education.

“No one is close to Dr. Allen when it comes to strategies to motivate kids to read and become lifelong readers,” said Gordon Korman, bestselling children’s author of *No More Dead Dogs* and *The Chicken Doesn’t Skate*.

“For nearly a decade, our Recorded Books School Division has been providing educators the largest selection of unabridged K-12 literature available anywhere,” says Recorded Books President David Berset. “Growing numbers of classrooms across the country rely on Recorded Books to re-engage struggling and reluctant readers with the instructional process. Now with the publication of *Dr. Janet Allen’s Plugged-in to Reading™*, we are taking the next step by giving teachers a comprehensive reading program that addresses the needs of struggling middle school readers.”

Dr. Allen is the author of many professional books, including *Words, Words, Words: Teaching Vocabulary in Grades 4-12*; *On the Same Page: Shared Reading Beyond the Primary Grades*, and *It’s Never Too Late: Leading Adolescents to Lifelong Literacy*. She directed the Central Florida Writing Project, assisted in the creation of the Orange County Literacy Project, and is the originator of The Literacy Leadership Collaborative and It’s Never Too Late Literacy Workshops.

Complete program information and photos of the program materials and Dr. Allen are available at [www.pluggedintoreading.com](http://www.pluggedintoreading.com).

#### **About Recorded Books:**

Recorded Books was founded in 1979 and is the world’s largest independent publisher of unabridged audiobooks. Recorded Books provides unabridged books on cassette and CD for consumer markets, libraries, and schools. For more information, visit [www.recordedbooks.com](http://www.recordedbooks.com).

#### **About Hights Cross Communications:**

Founded in 1997 and based in White Plains, NY, Hights Cross is a leading developer and publisher of products for the kindergarten through twelfth grade, or K-12, supplemental education, library, and medical education markets. Hights Cross imprints include: Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing (Northborough, MA), Triumph Learning (New York, NY), Buckle Down Publishing (Iowa City, IA), Options Publishing (Merrimack, NH), Recorded Books (Prince Frederick, MD), and Oakstone Publishing (Birmingham, AL). For more information, visit [www.hightscross.com](http://www.hightscross.com).

Safe Harbor Statement: This press release contains forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “would,” “expect,” “plan,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “potential,” and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties. These risks, uncertainties, and other factors may cause our actual results, performances, or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from our forward-looking statements include, among others, changes in external market factors, changes in our business or growth strategy, or an inability to execute our strategy due to changes in our industry or the economy generally, the emergence of new or growing competitors and various other competitive factors. In

light of these risks and uncertainties, there can be no assurance that the events and circumstances described in forward-looking statements contained in this press release will in fact occur. You should read this press release completely and with the understanding that our actual results may be materially different from what we expect. We will not update these forward-looking statements, even though our situation may change in the future. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.