

# HAIGHTS CROSS COMMUNICATIONS PRESS RELEASE

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## **Award-Winning Alan Sitomer BookJam Series from Recorded Books Introduces Two New Installments**

Prince Frederick, MD – October 27, 2010 – **Recorded Books**, the world’s largest independent producer of audiobooks and a leading publisher of K-12 education curriculum, and a Hights Cross Communications company, today announces the release of two new installments in **The Alan Sitomer BookJam** series. The Tyranny and Honor BookJams join the award-winning series of reading curriculum products developed for teachers, by teachers, to increase literacy in middle and high school students.

Written by high school English teacher, author of acclaimed young adult novels, and former California Teacher of the Year winner (2007) Alan Sitomer, The Alan Sitomer BookJam is designed to introduce students to engaging literature and core standards.

The Tyranny BookJam includes titles that have stood the test of time, such as Animal Farm by George Orwell, Lord of the Flies by William Golding and Night by Elie Wiesel. The titles in the Honor BookJam, Hatchet by Gary Paulsen, Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli and The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis, represent some of the most popular Newberry Honor books.

“Book selection is critical. Engaging, relevant and accessible literature isn't mutually exclusive to rigor or high-level academic work in the classroom. As a matter of fact, I believe these elements are inextricably intertwined,” said Sitomer. “For a book to be considered as a BookJam selection, it must have strong engagement, fascinating characters, and be one teachers love to teach and students love to read. Whether the titles are time-honored treasures or contemporary

classics, the selections command students' attention, capture their imaginations and help them nail core language arts standards.”

With the included standards-based teaching materials, The Alan Sitomer BookJam provides teachers with a blueprint for success in teaching core standards. These resources are designed to help teachers achieve core curriculum objectives while maintaining a student-centric approach that's proven to increase engagement and test scores.

Each Tyranny and Honor BookJam includes an implementation guide and standards-based study guide for each novel as well as a CD-ROM containing accompanying teaching resources. Also included with each BookJam are 30 copies of each title and one Composition JamBox, which is a collection of standards-based multimedia projects for the classroom offering guidance and grading rubrics for student projects such as podcasts and online video book reports.

To find out more about the Tyranny and Honor BookJams and for pricing and ordering information, please visit [www.thebookjam.com](http://www.thebookjam.com). For more information about Alan Sitomer, please visit [www.alanlawrencemitomer.com](http://www.alanlawrencemitomer.com).

**About Recorded Books:** Recorded Books, LLC, a Hights Cross Communications company, produces and distributes unabridged audiobooks and other audio products to public and university libraries and schools on CD, cassette and Playaway digital player. Over 9,000 titles are available for adults, children, and young adults in English and Spanish languages narrated by professional, award-winning actors. Recorded Books also distributes music, educational lectures, independent films, and nonfiction films on DVD. Packaging is designed for high circulation. One-year warranty, cataloging, processing, and free MARC records are available. For more information, visit [www.recordedbooks.com](http://www.recordedbooks.com). <http://www.recordedbooks.com/>

**About Hights Cross Communications:** Founded in 1997 and based in New York, NY, Hights Cross Communications is a premier educational and library publisher dedicated to creating the finest books, audio products, periodicals, software and online services, serving the following markets: K-12 supplemental education, public and school libraries, and consumers. Hights Cross companies include: Triumph Learning, Buckle Down Publishing and Options Publishing, and Recorded Books. For more information, visit [www.hightscross.com](http://www.hightscross.com). Triumph Learning is HCC's test-preparation and intervention business and is comprised of its *Coach*, *Buckle Down*, and *Options* brands. Recorded Books is a leading publisher of unabridged audiobooks and other audio media for libraries, schools, and consumers, with operations in the U.S., U.K. and Australia.