

HAIGHTS CROSS COMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BookJam Bash Features 16-year-old Youth Poet Laureate and Award-Winning Authors

Prince Frederick, MD—February 8, 2010—The first BookJam Bash, sponsored by Recorded Books, featured renowned author and teacher, Alan Sitomer; Coretta Scott King Award-winner, Sharon Flake; and New York City’s first Youth Poet, Laureate Zora Howard. This special event, held in Philadelphia, PA, included poetry performances and discussion highlighting proven techniques for using engaging novels to elevate literacy levels and boost student achievement. Sitomer is the author of the English Language Arts curriculum product, The Alan Sitomer BookJam, and several acclaimed young adult novels. Recorded Books publishes and distributes The Alan Sitomer BookJam as well as other innovative curriculum products.

The evening began with 16-year-old Howard reading “Stage,” the poem that helped her win the Youth Poet Laureate appointment. Performances by other student poets, all members of New York’s Urban Word NYC, followed. A panel discussion featured Pennsylvania’s 2009 Teacher of the Year, Rebecca Snyder; award-winning author, Sharon Flake; and high school English teacher and edtech blogger, Paul Hankins. A presentation by Alan Sitomer closed out the event.

“It was an invaluable experience to sit and talk with published authors, successful and celebrated teachers, professionals from other states, and the young people brought down from New York to present,” said Dana Gubitosa, English Teacher at Fairhill Community High School in Philadelphia. “In a profession where you exist 98% of the time within the four walls of your own classroom, it was refreshing and invigorating to be a part of something bigger than myself.”

For more information on The Alan Sitomer BookJam, visit

<http://www.thebookjam.com>. To see photos and videos from the BookJam Bash, visit

<http://thebookjam.ning.com>.

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