Booktalks that Blend the Common Core with Creativity
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Helpful links to Common Core information
http://www.corestandards.org
http://www.achievethecore.org

Booktalking How To and Sample Links
Nancy Keane http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/faq.htm
Be a Better Booktalker: Andrea Lipinski Public Librarian Shares Tips http://www.beabetterbooktalker.com
Scholastic http://www.scholastic.com/librarians/ab/booktalks.htm

Common Core Crosswalks
Treasure from ISLMA—shows Common Core/Library/ISTE crosswalk!!!!!! http://www.islma.org/ISAIL.htm
Library of Congress now has Common Core Links http://www.loc.gov/teachers
AASL http://www.al.org/aasl/guidelinesandstandards/commoncorecrosswalk
FAQ from NY http://www.nassauboces.org/page/261

Booktalks and Trailers
Booklist Bookends from Cindy and Lynn http://bookends.booklistonline.com/
Unshelved Book Club http://www.unshelved.com/bookclub/2012-10-26
Book Trailers for Readers (includes how-to) http://www.booktrailersforreaders.com/

Articles Referenced

Booktalk Titles
Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different by Karen Blumenthal
7-10 Biography
Adopted, raised by a perfectionist father, Steve Jobs built an incredibly successful company from virtually nothing with his good friend. He was fired by the very company he created and then fought back to reinvent what has become one of the most valuable companies in the world.

Charles Dickens and the Street Children of London by Andrea Warren
5-8 Biography
Charles Dickens grew up in a middle class home and was horrified when his father’s debts resulted in his working side by side with poor working class boys. Since his family moved to London in his tenth year he had seen homeless children on the streets, but had considered them beneath him. In a society where class was everything it was the norm. As an adult, Dickens brought the grim conditions into upper class drawing rooms through his novels, kicking off a change.

Drawing From Memory by Allen Say
4 up Autobiography
Allen Say both draws and writes the story of his life and love of art. The photographs, drawings and paintings blend with the words to show his surprising independence as a middle schooler in a rented apartment, his beloved art teacher and the cold father who brought him to the US and then sent him off on his own.

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming
4-7 Biography
The mystery lingers! The author gives the facts, the clues and keeps us guessing.
Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto by Bill Farnsworth
4-7 Biography, Holocaust
Beautiful oil paintings show the Polish social worker’s life as she works all the angles to rescue as many Jewish children as possible and get them out of Warsaw as the war grows more intense.

Temple Grandin: How the girl who loved cows embraced autism and changed the world by Sy Montgomery Grades 4 up, Biography, Overcoming odds, Autism, Animal Rights
An appealing, readable biography with numerous appealing illustrations describing the life of brilliant, autistic scientist and university professor of animal science vividly describes her challenges and triumphs. Temple’s father wanted her institutionalized as a small child while her mother continued to fight for her. Her style of thinking and learning are described as well as her amazement as she discovers how differently most people see the world. Temple’s attempts to deal with the side effects of autism even as she uses the insights which are intrinsic are both inspiring and enlightening.

Terezin: Voices From the Holocaust by Ruth Thomson
5-8 Holocaust
From SLJ “A large number of Jewish artists, writers, and performers were imprisoned at Terezin, many forced to use their talents for Nazi propaganda or official Nazi documents. Secretly, these artists also created images of what they observed, from the overcrowding to the deplorable, unsanitary living conditions to the plight of the elderly and infirm. In this book, excerpts from hidden diaries and letters, as well as drawings and paintings, make for a poignant overview of life inside the ghetto. The voices of adults and children are a moving reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust and a powerful way to make history real to students.”

The Anne Frank Case: Simon Wiesenthal’s Search for the Truth by Susan Rubin
6-8 Biography, Holocaust
Vivid oil paintings add to the story of Simon Wiesenthal’s survival of the Holocaust and his search for the truth of who arrested Anne and her family in an attempt to prove those denying the existence of the Holocaust wrong.

The Plant Hunters: True Stories of their Daring Adventures to the Far Corners of the Earth by Anita Silvey 5-8, Adventure, Science, Biographies
Would you face alligators, piranhas, avalanches, hostile revolutionaries and a hefty slew of diseases and dangers to discover a new plant species? These explorers did—find the details inside!

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind With the Great Survivor B95 by Phillip Hoose
5 up Birds, Science, Migration
B95 is 20 years old, weighs four ounces and has traveled 325,000 miles. These endangered birds travel from Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic each year. This book describes intriguing details of their lives, struggles and journeys.

Meltdown!: the Nuclear Disaster in Japan and Our Energy Future by Fred Bortz
6 up Disasters, Nuclear Energy, Earthquakes
The effects of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami on the nuclear reactors is clearly described and detailed, as other nuclear plant disasters or near disasters such as Chernobyl and 3 Mile Island are referenced.

The watch that ends the night: voices from the Titanic, by Allan Wolf
7 up Shipwrecks, Point of view, Novels in verse
Beginning from the point of view of the undertaker steaming out to begin collecting the bodies of the Titanic victims, the point of view shifts to passengers, workers, rats, the iceberg and leads to the final conclusion. The author researched documents from passengers and employees giving a realistic and chilling feel to the tale.

Iceberg right ahead! the tragedy of the Titanic by Stephanie Sammartino McPherson
4-8 Titanic, Shipwreck, Primary sources
SLJ “Weaving together quotes from interviews, newspaper accounts, and other primary-source material, the author lays out what happened on April 14, 1912, taking readers all over the ship, from first class to steerage, from the depths of the boiler rooms to the heights of the crow’s nest lookout.”

Titanic: voices from the disaster by Deborah Hopkinson
6 up Titanic, Shipwreck, Primary sources
Using an appealing format with photographs, quotations, newspapers and boxed snippets of information, this draws the reader into the lives of some of the survivors and their accounts of the tragedy.

Three Rivers Rising by Jamie Richards
Grade 6-10 Survival, Historical Fiction, Novels in verse
Told from the points of view of characters caught up in the events leading to and through the flood, the events unfold as the wealthy members of the mountain camp ignore the dam which leads to the disaster, young lovers defy parents and and society and everyday workers carry on unknowing until events sweep them into disasters which force them to decide in moments what they value most.

Requiem: poems of the Terezín ghetto by Paul B. Janeczko
8 up Holocaust, Poetry
SLJ “The vivid poems, all but one written by fictional inmates, their Nazi oppressors, and local residents, reverberate with suffering, fear, resignation, despair, courage, and unspeakable brutality. Children’s fears of separation and the indignities of daily life spent in filthy and
unhealthy conditions cry out from these sensitively written poems, which are given depth and veracity by Janezcko's research. There are even glimpses of suppressed compassion toward the inmates felt by the Nazis. Illustrations discovered after the war and done by actual inmates are interspersed with the poetry.”

**Cosmic** by Frank Cottrell Boyce

5-8 Humor, Science Fiction, Adolescent angst

Twelve year old Liam is average kid except for his height (7 feet and growing) and the fact that he look closer to 30 than 12. Test driving a car and impersonating a teacher pale to the opportunity that comes his way when he is mistaken for a chaperone on a space flight taking the first kids into space. It is great until the orbiting vehicle begins to malfunction.

**Deadly Pink** by Vivian Vande Velde

Grades 6-10 Virtual reality games, Fantasy, Adventure

Grace's brilliant, beautiful older Emily sister lands a job working on virtual reality games for one of the world's most prominent gaming companies. When she appears to be trapped in the game, Grace goes in after her and discovers she must not just outwit the dragons, pink sparkly pixies, but the programming itself when Emily refuses to leave the game despite knowing she will die if she stays.

**The Vindico** by Wesley King

Comic fans, grades 6-10

Contrived and formulaic adventure wherein five teens are kidnapped, trained in the use of superpowers and indoctrinated to fight the superheroes who control society.

**A Web of Air** by Philip Reeve

6 up Steampunk, Adventure

Prequel to *Mortal Engines* and sequel to *Fever Crumb*. Fever is hiding with a group of traveling actors, but her technical expertise with the sets and special effects attracts attention from dangerous people even as she pursues what may be the lost secret of a machine which will fly.

**Legend** by Marie Lu

8 up Dystopia, Adventure

A boy who has become the symbol of revolution in a post apocalyptic America crosses a girl who is part of the military hierarchy and establishment which keeps order in a disease and poverty ridden city. While each poses as something they are not, they also begin to see some truths each would rather not face.

**Enclave** by Ann Aguirre

Grade 7 up Dystopia, Adventure, Survival

Born during the second holocaust and raised in the tunnels under what was once New York City, Deuce has fought her entire life to be a hunter and protector of her people. The rules are rigid and survival beyond age twenty unusual. While hunting for food such as rats, the hazards include getting lost in the maze of tunnels and attacks by zombie like humans called Freaks, who will eat anything including each other. When paired with outsider Fade, she begins to ask dangerous questions. Forced above ground Fade and Deuce must face deadly gangs and the remnants of a crumbled world as the Freaks seem to gain intelligence and track them.

**Article 5** by Kristne Simmons

Grade 8 up Dystopia, Romance, Survival

When Ember's free-spirited mother is targeted for arrest by the so-called Moral Militia in a frighteningly conservative future, Ember’s true love, Chase, is on the arresting team. In a world where the Bill of Rights has been rescinded and daily decrees lead to arrests, Ember’s mother is in violation of Article 5 which decrees and punishes giving birth to children out of wedlock. When Ember fights back she is dragged off to a nightmarish reform school where infractions are dealt with through torture. Desperate to find her mother, Ember risks death and attempts an escape when Chase suddenly appears. Is he there to rescue or condemn?

**Matched and Crossed** by Ally Condie

6 up Dystopia, Adventure, Romance

Marriages are arranged by the government, which also controls career options, schools and all food, communication and housing. Breaking a rule may lead to ruin and exile for the entire family. When her official match seems to reflect an error Cassia begins to ask questions about Society and the rules. Book two finds her attempting to survive in a wilderness where she has become a target as she searches for her true love.

**6th Grade Book Club Suggestions**

*Birdwing* by Rafe Martin--the novel begins where the fairy tales ends

*Dragon Castle* by Joseph Bruchac--the perfect kingdom is built on a dragon sized lie

*The Grimm Legacy* by Polly Shulman--magical artifacts from the fairy tales go missing

*A Kiss in Time* by Alex Flinn--a teen awakens Sleeping Beauty and must explain 21st century

*The Magical Adventures of Prunella Bogthistle* by Deva Fagan--a witch trying to be bad and thief trying to be a hero cross paths with adventurous results

*The Princess Curse* by Merrie Haskell--following the 12 Dancing Princesses turns dangerous

*Toads and Diamonds* by Heather Tomlinson--India gives a new setting and twist to the tale

**Lost in the river of grass** by Ginny Rorby

5-8 Adventure
When two Florida teenagers become stranded on a tiny island in the Everglades, they attempt to walk ten miles through swampland to reach civilization.

**Chomp** by Carl Hiaasen

5-8 Humor, Adventure

When the difficult star of the reality television show "Expedition Survival" disappears while filming an episode in the Florida Everglades using animals from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him while avoiding Tuna's gun-happy father.

**Secrets at Sea** by Richard Peck

5-8 Adventure, Fantasy

Plain spoken American mice stowing away on a ship to England discover a world of snobbery, adventure and love as they voyage across the Atlantic.

**Adventure of Simba Hill** by Susan Runholt

5-10 Mystery, Archaeology, Adventure with strong female characters

Book three in the Kari and Lucas Mystery Series. Archaeology, African animals, adventure and mystery blend as Kari and her best friend (girl) Lucas visit an archaeology dig near a Maasai village and safari lodge in Kenya. Valuable artifacts are being smuggled out of Kenya and as the girls tour the region they seek out clues and attempt to discover who the thieves truly are, putting their lives at risk in a beautiful and fascinating land with deadly dangers to be faced when they least expect it.

**Escaping Into the Night** by D. Dina Friedman

6-10 Holocaust, Historical Fiction, Adventure with strong female characters

Halina's life with her glamorous single mother has become more and more restricted as limits on Jews forced them from Berlin and her beloved singing lessons to a ghetto in Poland where she works cleaning house for the commandant's wife while her mother labors in the munitions factory. One night Halina's mother does not come home and she hears that the women who worked in the factory have been murdered. Her mother's boyfriend smuggles her out through the sewers and Halina and other refugee children must try to find refuge in the forests.

**Close to Famous** by Joan Bauer

5-8 Humor, Strong female character

On the run from an abusive Elvis imitator, Foster and her mother land in tiny Culpepper, a West Virginia mountain town peopled by intriguing and eccentric individuals. From the washed up movie star, feisty preacher's daughter, and kind hearted wrecker driving family the town offers more than is apparent at first glance. Foster's talent for baking muffins and cupcakes is step one in following her dream of a cooking show of her own and proves the way to a town's heart is through tasty muffins. Read from Page 9—start at I wish my Daddy was here.

**Bluefish** by Pat Schmatz

7-9 Romance, Friendship, Literacy

Handsome Travis successfully hides the fact that he can’t read as he and his alcoholic grandfather move from place to place. Velveeta's neglectful mother and the death of the supportive adult does not stop her from finding her own eccentric path and pulling Travis reluctantly along.

**Graphic Non Fiction**

**Annie Sullivan Trials of Helen Keller** by Joseph Lambert

**The Terrible Axe-Man of New Orleans** by Rick Geary

**Feynman** by Jim Ottaviani

**One Dead Spy** by Nathan Hale

**Neil Flambé and the Marco Polo murders** by Kevin Sylvester

5-8 Mystery, Humor

Celebrity chef Neil is gifted, obnoxious and famous. His incredible sense of smell makes him a master chef, but also makes him invaluable to the police since he literally sniff out clues. When chefs around the city are showing up dead with big smiles on their faces, Neil may be the only with the right skills for the job.

**The Dark Unwinding** by Sharon Cameron

6-10 Steampunk, Mystery

When Katherine is sent to spy on her elderly, rich, and possibly insane uncle by a greedy relative, she discovers he is also incredibly gifted mechanically. The people on his estate will do anything to stop her, but will not tell her what the true secrets might be.

**The Girl is Murder** by Kathryn Miller Haines

7 up Mystery, Historical fiction

Since her mother’s suicide and her father’s return from the attack on Pearl Harbor minus a leg, Iris must leave her fancy school and face new, rough classmates as her father tries to set up his detective business in the New York of 1942.

**The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** by Alan Bradley

8 up Mystery

While the main character is eleven the book is best appreciated by a much older audience. Precocious Flavia and her sisters Portia and Daphne live in an English country mansion with their distant, philately obsessed father who has never stopped mourning his dead wife, killed 10 years earlier in a Tibet mountain climbing accident. Their chauffeur/gardener is kind, but subject to PTSD and the specter of WW II hangs over
the house. Flavia is enraptured by chemistry and spends much of her time in the lab wing of the mansion set up by an ancestor who hobnobbed with Isaac Newton. Her special interest is poison. When she finds a dead man in the garden, her emotion is not shock, but delight at the chance to solve the mystery. She bullies, pries and deduces herself into dire danger.

Death Cloud: Sherlock Holmes, the Legend Begins by Andrew Lane
6 up Mystery, Adventure
With his father posted overseas and his brother otherwise occupied, Sherlock is most unhappy to find himself sent into the country to stay with distant relatives. His curiosity is piqued by unexplained local events and the game is afoot.

Heist Society by Ally Carter
7 up Mystery, Adventure
Kat’s family are high class thieves. When she attempts to leave the family business, her father comes up missing and she is pulled back into a deadly and intricate plot to rescue him.

The Fool's Girl by Celia Rees
6-10 Fantasy, Romance, Adventure
Violetta and her companion Feste are street performers after being refugees and exiles from her father’s kingdom stolen by her wicked uncle. When they encounter a playwright, William Shakespeare in need of Feste’s services as a clown for his new play he draws out their story even as the evil Malvolio is sent by Violetta’s uncle to do away with her. A magical object carried by Violetta comes to the attention of Queen Elizabeth’s chief advisor putting her at risk as she pursues her long lost love and a relic precious to her kingdom. Great tie-ins to Twelfth Night for Shakespeare enthusiasts.

Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor
Grade 6 Up Fantasy, Magic, Adventure, Survival
An albino girl raised in the US finds herself a total outsider in the small African village her parents choose as their new home. When she discovers she had hidden magical abilities including a vision of the end of the world she must find help from the seemingly hostile students around her.

The Ghost of Graylock by Dan Poblocki
Grades 6 up, Horror, Mystery, Ghosts
A crumbling abandoned psychiatric hospital deep in the woods is rumored to be haunted by ghosts of teens mysteriously drowned in the nearby lake. New kid Neil is intrigued by the rumors and ventures into the old Graylock Hall building, where he and his sister awaken someone or something, which hunts and haunts them. Neil and his new friends begin to wonder if they are losing their minds.

The Name of the Star by Maureen Johnson
6 up Horror, Mystery, Boarding School
An American teen attending a boarding school in London sees a mysterious stranger near the site a murder by Jack the Ripper. When a body is found, it looks as the Ripper or a copycat is coming closer to the school and to the one person who may be able to identify him.

Ruby Red by Kirstin Gier
6-10 Adventure, Fantasy, Romance
In a family of time travelers, Gwynneth and the family are shocked to discover that she has the gift. Totally unprepared she finds herself pulled through time and involved in plots which move back and forth through the centuries and she and her handsome companion squabble through time.

Beswitched by Kate Saunders
5-8 Boarding school, Fantasy, Adventure
Flora is on her way to a boarding school, iPod in hand, when she finds herself pulled into 1935 by dorm mates who were playing with a magic spell.

Liar’s Moon by Elizabeth Bunce
7 up Adventure, Romance, Fantasy
Sequel to Star Crossed. Adventure, romance, intrigue, battles and a convoluted but exciting adventure.

Ripple by Amanda Hubbard
8 up Fantasy, Romance
Lexi is siren, who has managed to keep herself from killing anyone since the accidental death of her boyfriend two years ago. Now her heart has been touched again and her ancient instincts are stirring.

Sweet Venom by Tera Lynn Childs
7 up Fantasy, Mythology
Grace suddenly begins seeing monsters on the streets of San Francisco. To her shock, she discovers Medusa was an ancestor and her powers make her both strong and vulnerable.

Revolution is not a dinner party by Ying Chang Compestine
4-8 Cultural Revolution in China, Survival
Ling’s parents are both respected physicians, but the Cultural Revolution is targeting those who are educated and well off in China. Students
are encouraged to turn on their parents and public beatings and humiliation come closer to her family.

Blood Red Horse by K. M. Grant
6 up Crusades, Historical Fiction, Horses, Romance, Adventure
Leaving their castle, noted for the horses bred, a father and his sons leave on King Richard’s crusade where the blood red horse may be the key to their survival against an unexpected enemy.

Man Overboard! by Curtis Parkinson
6 up Hi/Lo
Sixteen year old Scott and his best friend Adam land jobs on the riverboat Rapids Prince since most of the usual crew are fighting in World War II. Rumors of a German spy landing off a submarine coincide with some unusual passengers and a mysterious drowning. When Adam is kidnapped two attractive girls may be the key to his rescue.

Crush by Gary Paulsen
5-8 Humor, romance
A companion novel to Liar, Liar and Flat Broke this short, humorous romp through the angst of asking a girl out by studying family, friends, neighbors and research is a light entertaining look at Kevin’s abject failures as he tries to figure out how to ask Tina to go out with him. Read aloud the first two paragraphs of chapter one.

The Queen’s Daughter by Susan Coventry
8 up Historical fiction, Strong female character
Princess Joan, sister to Richard the Lionheart and daughter of Eleanor of Aquitaine has been raised knowing her future marriage will be a matter of politics. As the battles between her strong willed father Henry II of England and his wife and sons heats up Joan is caught in the middle. Following her marriage to the King of Sicily Joan is pulled into the conflict of the Crusades. Vivid descriptions of the lives and politics of a tempestuous time are wrapped into this fictional biography. Most apt to appeal to history buffs.

The Apothecary by Maile Meloy
7-10 Fantasy, Adventure
While British born Benjamin’s father grooms him to follow the family apothecary trade, his new friend from America Janie just wants to go home to California. Caught in the Red Scare of the 1950’s Janie’s scriptwriting parents move to London to avoid being forced to testify against friends. When Benjamin and Janie notice suspicious behavior each has their own reason for investigating and must join forces when Benjamin’s father disappears and they are the new targets. Unsure of whom is trustworthy they must risk their lives to try and stop a nuclear disaster.

Clockwork Angel by Cassandra Clare
Tessa Gray, sixteen and alone in the world except for her brother, travels by steamship to London planning to join him. Instead she finds herself kidnapped by two evil sisters who torment her in an effort to develop a talent so hidden, Tessa herself does not realize it exists. Just as she begins to master her ability to change forms, Tessa is rescued by a handsome young Shadowhunter with secrets of his own. As the forces of evil attack, Tessa has the power to save or destroy, if she can just figure out which is which.

What World is Left by Monique Polak
Grade 6 up, Holocaust, Survival
Fictional work based loosely on the author’s mother who survived the Theresianstadt concentration camp during World War II. The characters and events pull from both history and the author’s imagination. The question of the lengths to which one should go and the price to be paid in protecting family and friends in a seemingly impossible situation is explored.

Blizzard of Glass by Sally M. Walker
Grades 5 up, World War I, Disasters
The series of events leading to the relatively unknown tragic and deadly explosion at 9:05 AM on December 6, 1917 are taken from first hand accounts, letters, interviews of families and descendants, newspapers and artifacts collected from the bodies of those roughly 2,000 people killed. The tragedy is given both urgency and a sense of the personal as the residents of Halifax and the ships in the harbor begin to move through what at first seems a normal day. The scope of the events, heroism of those who try to help and detective work involved in tracking down their stories is gripping.