



For immediate release.

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## **Teamwork Pays Off for the Class of 2k8**

Year 2k8 is five months old, and the Class of 2k8—a collaborative of 27 young adult and middle-grade authors with novels debuting this year from major publishers—has celebrated the launch of eleven of its 27 debut novels. Sixteen to go!

There's increasing evidence that banding together is a great idea, as the class and class members' books attract the attention of readers and reviewers. Some of the year's early releases are in second or even third printings already, and several class members already have landed contracts for second books.

Class of 2k8 winter and early spring releases have been reviewed favorably (including many starred reviews) in *Publisher's Weekly*, *Kirkus*, *Hornbook*, *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, and *the Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*. Member books made the "pick" lists of *Booksense*, the Association of Booksellers for Children, and the Historical Novel Society, and have been nominated for the American Library Association's Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Readers and Best Books for Young Adults.

The online community has responded with stars and kudos from reviewers including Little Willow, Teens Read Too, ProfessorNana, Ticket to Anywhere, Gela, and One Page is Not Enough. The class itself has been a topic at *Publisher's Weekly*, Fuse #8, Mother Reader, SmartWriters.com, Readergirlz, Miss Erin, Abby the Librarian, YA Central, and Alice Pope's CWIM blog.

Part of 2k8's focus is reaching the growing online community of booklovers through their popular blog ([classof2k8.blogspot.com](http://classof2k8.blogspot.com)) and web site ([www.classof2k8.com](http://www.classof2k8.com)).

The Classof2k8.com web site is dedicated to helping booksellers, librarians, teachers, and readers find exciting new books from among the more than 6,000 new children's and young adult books released each year. The interactive site includes information about the books, the 2k8 blog, book videos, links to author websites, teaching material, and reading group guides, with more content being added as the books are released.

Class of 2k8 novels, published by such houses Harcourt, HarperCollins, Random House, Simon & Schuster, and more, are aimed at children and teen readers and reflect many genres, including mystery, teen romance, historical, fantasy, adventure, and mainstream literary fiction.

"We're honored to be part of the warm yet invigorating community of bookpeople," said Jody Feldman, who shares the class presidency with Marissa Doyle. "We're also gratified by the attention we've received, and we understand there's more to come. Stay tuned."

Class of 2k8 authors are from every part of the U.S. and are available for school and library visits, signings, readings, conferences, panel discussions, and book festivals. The marketing and promotional collaborative was inspired by last year's Class of 2k7.