

# ASL Literature ... A Form of Social Protest

Dr. Alysse Suzanne Rasmussen  
President, Florida ASLTA

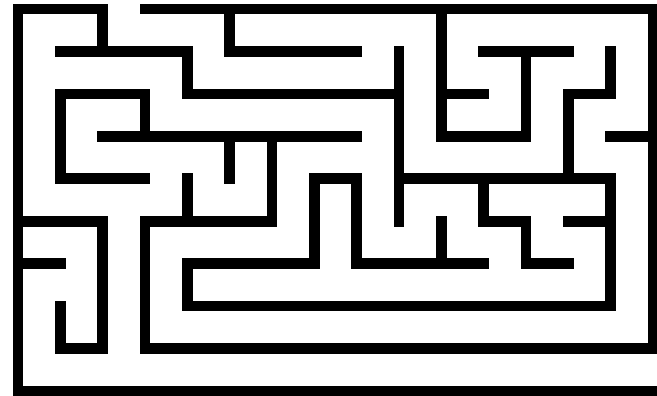
# Experience / Exposure

## Deaf Culture



## Educator

- As teacher ... I don't see
  - Explicit instruction for
    - Deaf
    - Hearing



# Literature's Common Purpose ...

- Entertainment designed to
  - Pass on
    - Information
    - Cultural knowledge
    - \_\_\_\_\_?



# Literature's Forms

## Oracy

- Recorded info to pass on
- Oldest form



## Literacy

- Records info to pass on
- “recent” edition
- Orthography based on
  - Logographic (morphology)
    - Chinese (mao1) 猫
  - Syllabic
    - Cherokee (wesa) Ꭰ Ꭱ
  - Alphabetic (phonology)
    - Arabic (qitta) قطة
    - Korean (goyang-i) 고양이
    - Roman: cat

# Signacy

- Watching (Listening)
- Signing (Speaking)
- Viewing (Reading)
- Composing (Writing)





# Acts of Resistance: Literature of the Oppressed

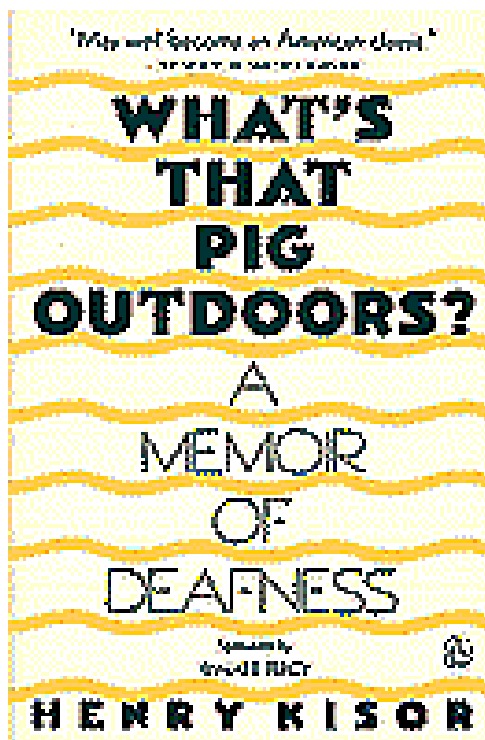
- Hyphenated-Americans
  - African-Americans
  - Asian-Americans
  - Native Americans (First People)
- Gender-Based
  - GLTB
  - Women
- Deaf (ASL) Literature
  - [www.planeteyeth.com](http://www.planeteyeth.com)



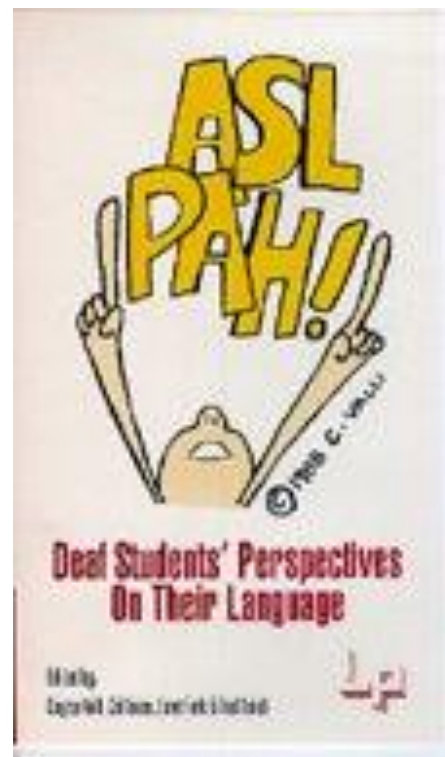
Carrie Buck (played  
by Marlee Matlin)

# deaf vs. Deaf

.deaf lit



Deaf lit





# You Decide ...

- Willard Madsen
  - Written in English
  - [http://library.thinkquest.org/15390/the\\_poem.htm](http://library.thinkquest.org/15390/the_poem.htm)
- iPod Shuffle
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTy2PxfpDvQ>
- Pepsico
  - Performed by Enable
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffrq6cUoE5A>

# Oppressor vs. Native Language Use

- Different
  - Audience (outsiders / insiders)
  - Purpose (Education / Deafhood)

# Response to Oppression

## Looking at Art with a Critical Eye

- Betty G's (Miller) art
  - Ameslan Prohibited
- Chuck Baird's art
  - America (Deaf Way II)



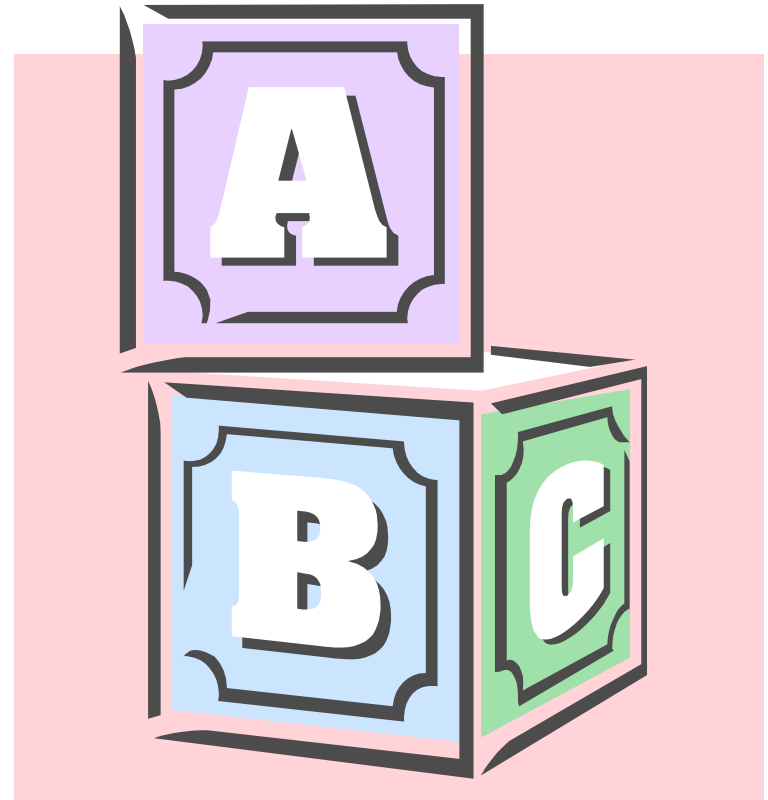
# Looking in All the Wrong (Right) Places



# Rutherford: The Early Days

## CAN'T++ vs. CAN'T++

- Deaf can't master English
  - Other things ASL can do ...
    - Handshape stories, Acrostics, etc
    - Telling 2 stories at same time (more than symbolism)
- Rutherford, Susan. 1993. *A Study of American Deaf Folklore*. Burtonsville, MD: Linstock Press ABC stories



# ABC-stories

- ABC Story:
  - Harry Potter & Quidditch
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKNqg0g4zaA>
- Handshape Stories
  - Rennie's "Veal Boycott" ... C-A-L-F
- Number Stories
  - "Water"
- Audience Example

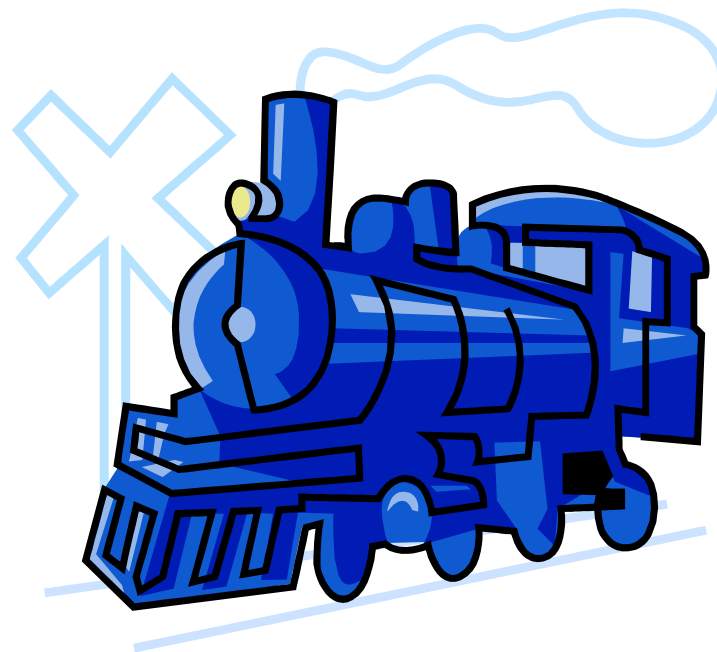
# National Annals of the Deaf

## Deaf Jokes

### Magic Swimming Pool



### 3 Men on a Train



# You Decide ...

**Please B-U-T**



**Audience Example**





# Poetry ...

## ASL / Deaf Style



- Dorothy Miles
  - Bison Song
    - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rTxoDCoRZE>
- Ella Mae Lenz
  - To a Hearing Mother
    - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzpbYDCpyWg>

# The Best Poetry You'll Never Read

- The Best Poetry You'll Never Read
  - [http://eamusic.dartmouth.edu/~larry/asl\\_material/writings\\_2013/The%20Best%20American%20Poetry%20You'll%20Never%20Read.pdf](http://eamusic.dartmouth.edu/~larry/asl_material/writings_2013/The%20Best%20American%20Poetry%20You'll%20Never%20Read.pdf)
  - Pat Graybill
    - Graybill, Patrick. 1990. *Poetry in Motion*. 1990/2007. DVD. Burtonsville, MD: Sign Media, Inc.
  - Debbie Rennie ... The Swan
    - Rennie, Debbie. 1990. *Poetry in Motion*. Burtonsville, MD: Sign Media, Inc.
  - Clayton Valli ...

# Valli's Hands



# Valli's Something Not Right

- 2 Messages at Once
  - Surface Message
    - ?
  - Subsurface Message
    - ?



# Valli's Dandelions & Symbolism



# Sharing:

## Break into groups

- Types / Style
  - Stories
  - Jokes
  - Poems
  - Other literature?
- Identify Audience
  - Deaf vs. deaf vs. hearing
  - Mixed group
- Theme
  - In group (Deaf)
  - Out group (deaf / hearing)
- Be prepared to share choices with audience
  - Which Group
  - Your Name
  - Title of the Literature
    - Type
    - Audience
    - Message

# Contact Information

- [AlysseR@aol.com](mailto:AlysseR@aol.com)
- Skype: Alysse.Rasmussen
- Valencia College
  - [www.valenciacollege.edu](http://www.valenciacollege.edu)