Praise for *Samurai Shortstop*

*ALA 2007 Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults*

*2006 Washington Post Top Ten Books for Children*

*Booklist’s 2006 Top Ten Sports Books for Youth*

*Booklist’s 2006 Top Ten First Books for Youth*

*Booklist, Starred Review*

*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*

*Starred Review*

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Sixteen-year-old Toyo Shimada must blend baseball with *bushido*—the way of the warrior—to prove to his father there is still room for their family’s samurai traditions in turn of the century Japan.

*Suggested audience: Grades 7-12*

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**Something Rotten**

A stinking-rich family. A reeking paper plant. A murder most foul. Something is definitely rotten in Denmark, Tennessee, and only 17-year-old detective Horatio Wilkes can sniff out the killer.

*Suggested audience: Grades 9-12*

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**Something Wicked**

A Scottish Highland Fair turns foul when its beloved founder is found dead in his tent. Horatio’s on the case, but he’ll need all his snark and all his smarts—and a little “Amazing Grace”—to bring the killer to justice.

*Suggested audience: Grades 9-12*

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**The Brooklyn Nine**

The story of nine “innings,” or nine generations, of Schneider children from 1845 to the present, and their enduring connections to Brooklyn, baseball, and American history.

*Suggested audience: Grades 4-8*

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Invite author

Alan Gratz

to your school!

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www.alangratz.com
Dynamic, engaging, interactive
Alan is a former middle school and high school teacher with an undergraduate degree in creative writing and a graduate degree in English education.

Pick your program
When you book Alan Gratz, he expects you to put him to work! Schools may schedule any number of presentations per day of 30 to 50 minutes each.

For larger assemblies of two classes or more, Alan has a prepared talk that discusses his books and his process as a writer. A ten to fifteen minute Q&A session follows.

For classrooms with thirty or fewer students, Alan can present your choice of a prepared talk about the evolution of his books from idea to published novels, conduct a writing workshop inspired by his books, or discuss the novels in a Q&A session. In each case, time will be left at the end for questions.

Book a bonus event
Alan enjoys having special pizza lunches to discuss his novels with small groups of students who've read the books in advance. He's also available for in-school book signings and interviews with students or local media. Bonus events like these can be scheduled when time allows during a regular school visit.

For current availability and fees
Please visit http://www.alangratz.com/appearances.htm

Preparating for a visit
School visits, particularly classroom presentations, work best when the students are familiar with Alan and his work. Teachers and librarians are encouraged to make copies of his books available to students in advance of any school visit.

Pre-event sales of Alan’s books can be arranged through your local bookstore or directly from Dial Books. For more information about ordering books from the publisher, visit: www.alangratz.com/bookorderinginstructions.pdf.

Teaching materials for Samurai Shortstop and Something Rotten, including classroom teaching guides and handouts listing key characters, terms, and concepts, are available at www.alangratz.com.

A flier promoting Alan’s visit is also available.

About the author
A native of Knoxville, Tennessee, Alan Gratz is currently a full-time writer and stay-at-home dad living in the high country of Western North Carolina. In addition to Samurai Shortstop, Something Rotten, Something Wicked, and The Brooklyn Nine, his credits include half a dozen regionally-produced plays, more than 6,000 radio commercials, and a handful of episodes of the A&E television program City Confidential.

Dear Mr. Gratz...
I thought I’d take a minute to share how popular Samurai Shortstop is at our school after your visit. I have at least six copies of your book on the shelf, and all six copies were constantly checked out and never made it to the shelf all last year! What’s even more fantastic is that we have begun a new school year and already all six copies are off the shelf and only a few classes have begun circulating in the library! I saw a student with a copy of Samurai Shortstop in his hand and I commented that it was a great read. He replied, “Yeah, I know. My friend recommended it to me!”

I thought you’d love to hear what a HUGE impact your book and your visit made at our humble school. Thank you so much for inspiring students to read and write!

Julia Hendricks, Media Specialist
Holly Ridge Middle School
Holly Springs, NC