

# Christian Library

Volume 1 No. 1

October 1995

J O U R N A L



## THIS ISSUE FEATURES:

- Great ideas for interesting kids in reading
- Events that build your library
- Drama with classics for high schoolers
- Purchasing library materials through a co-op
- Activities in Namia with your children
- **Preparing preschoolers to write**
- Helping young writers get published



## A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the *Christian Library Journal*! We are excited about bringing this new publication to you who love books, and our prayer is that you will come away from each issue with several titles you can't live without, and at least one good idea you can use. Thank you for your patience while waiting for your first issue.

The purpose of this journal is to provide you with a source that reviews both Christian and secular books, videos, tapes and other media from a Christian point of view. We will publish reviews only for those materials we can recommend. We will also provide you with subject lists of older materials that are still available, to help you fill in holes in your collection. Our goal over the next two to three years is to build a balanced recommended core collection for Christian schools, families, and the church library. As you build your library collection, whether at school, church, or home, our goal is to help you identify the best that's available in all subject areas and at all levels.

We are especially thankful for the many librarians, teachers, and parents who took time to review materials and write articles for us. We are continuously looking for both writers and reviewers, so if you are interested, please call or write for information.

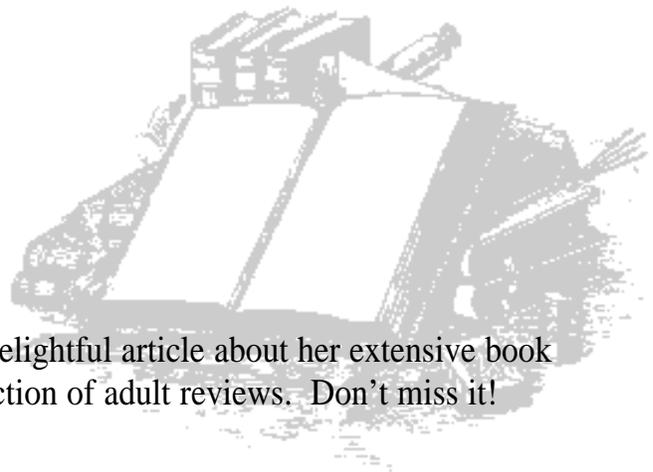
We love to hear from you . . . both compliments and suggestions to help us improve. Share your issue with a friend, and plan to share your good ideas with us.

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy L. Hesch". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Nancy L. Hesch  
Publisher and Editor

P.S. Next month Judy Driscoll brings us a delightful article about her extensive book collection. We'll also have a longer section of adult reviews. Don't miss it!



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The purpose of the *Christian Library Journal* is to provide readers with reviews of library materials from a Christian point of view. About 125 books, cassette tapes, and videos from both Christian and secular publishers will be reviewed each issue, along with subject lists of older materials. Materials reviewed may reflect a broad range of Christian doctrinal positions, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and reviewers of the *Christian Library Journal*.

Nancy Hesch      **Publisher and Editor**

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# Christian Library

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October, 1995

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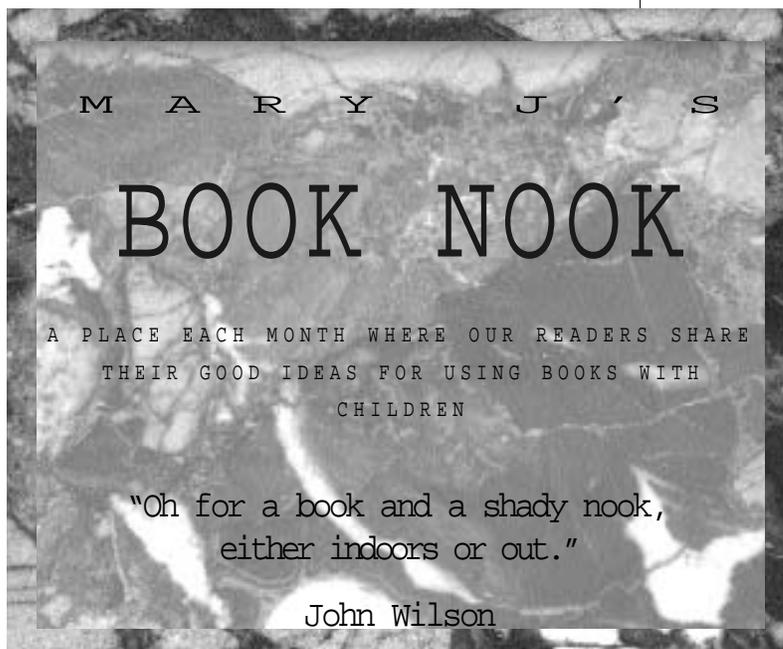
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*By Mary Jarvis*

A favorite corner of my classroom, when I taught for 20 years, was always that spot labeled "Book Nook," where students could relax amidst pillows and bean bags with a collection of books. Perhaps it was a refuge from straight backed, hard chairs and desks, or the rigors of doing assignments, but it was always a favorite place to go and get lost in the world beyond the confines of our four walls. Whether they were six or sixteen, my students relished their time in the Book Nook. I encouraged them, because books have always been so important to me. Occasionally, after a particularly hard day, you might find me curled up against a bean bag, lost in a book for a few precious moments.

As teachers, we should love reading and motivating our students to enjoy and use books. Books stimulate our minds in unique and wonderful ways. In the coming months we will be talking about ways to use books in the classroom. It's wonderful to read just to gain knowledge or for enjoyment. But so often books can be used with a variety of activities to enhance learning and enable our students to stretch and expand their horizons. That is what we want to explore here.

We want to know your ideas. How have you used books successfully in the classroom? We hope you will share ideas and activities that have helped your pupils become excited about learning.

Getting us started this month, on ways to motivate students to read, is

Mary McKinney, retired teacher from Port Orchard, Wash. Most of her suggestions can be adapted to any grade level, kindergarten through grade eight. Here are some of her ideas.

**1** In the 100 Club each student can read up to 100 books and then receive a special T-shirt naming him as part of this exclusive group. The local T-shirt shop may be willing to give a discount on these shirts. Always have a parent or guardian sign a slip when a book is completed.

**2** A Race in Space allows each student to make his/her OWN rocket ship and place it on faraway Pluto. After a certain number of books are read, depending on the age level, rocket ships are moved from planet to planet until they reach the sun. The student then receives a reward. As they reach each planet, you can have the space traveler give you three facts they have learned about that planet before going on.

**3** Read Across America starts each student at their state in a vehicle they have made; they move across the country to a special place they want to visit. They must visit a designated number of states. You can incorporate the learning of state names, locations, and other pertinent facts about each state.

**4** The Silver Record Reading Club makes small records out of foil. For every book read, the student receives a silver record to be hung up around the room. It makes for a flashy classroom by the end of the year.

**5** A Read-In in your classroom on a designated day can spark enthusiasm for reading. Students can bring a comfy pillow, blanket, sleeping bag, or whatever to curl up in and read, read, read. The day is special as everyone feels the importance and fun of reading. Pupils can share their stories around a pretend campfire or have a round-robin story where each student contributes a part to the telling of some great adventure.

**6** Read Aloud. For the older student, junior or senior high level, Kathryn Burns from King Schools, Seattle, Wash., has a great idea to spark reading enthusiasm for a particular book. She reads the first chapter aloud. Students learn correct pronunciation of names, places, and other unfamiliar terms, they “hear” the voices of the different characters in the novel, and they are motivated to read on to find out what happens next.

*These are some wonderful ideas from Mary McKinney and Kathryn Burns.*

*I hope they will encourage you to share some of your classroom-tested ideas with us. Write and tell us what has motivated a child or class in their adventure with books.*

If you give us an idea we can use, we'll publish it in this column. We will pay you \$10 or \$15 for your contribution. Keep it simple, short, and practical — what you did and how you did it. We need just one paragraph that will enable someone else to do something similar. We want ideas that are proven and work. Please include suggested grade levels.

Looking ahead, we need ideas that will show ways to stimulate reading in general or for particular subject areas, seasonal themes, certain skills, or values. As we share activities and ideas we promote excitement for learning and reading. If you would like to expand an idea into an article, request our Writer's Guidelines.

We're looking forward to hearing from you and hoping you'll have a great year with books and your students!



It's almost never too early to begin reading and telling stories to a child. I started reading to my 10-year-old son by the time he was four months old. We began with Rosemary Wells' *Max the Rabbit* board books. Cuddled together in my great-grandmother's old wooden rocker, we discovered the silly adventures of Max.

Most people possessing the ability to write well grow that ability out of their

love affair with reading. For them, writing is more than putting a few words down on paper — it's a whole process of communication. Truth, ideas, descriptions, concepts, people, places, animals, imaginings all burrow their way inside us through words — whether written or spoken. It is part of the mystery that attracts those who love to read and those who write — a mystery rooted in the ultimate Word.

So how do you give the gift of communicating through writing to children? It begins with teaching them to love words. And just as writing is rooted in the spoken word — in oral storytelling — so begins

the ability to write. Plant the seed of writing by reading to your preschooler.

Begin at the beginning: read to your baby. Choose short books with one-sentence pages, like the Max books. Active babies

don't have a very long attention span, but stretch it as far as it can go by adding hand movements and funny voices. With Michael's chubby finger in mine, I would trace the route Max's runaway wagon took over the page and then mimic his sister Ruby's outrage. Michael loved it. Sooner than I would have believed possible, he began to giggle in delight at favorite passages and imitate my vocal pitch. In other words, he began to love reading.

Many parents make a mistake in consigning reading only to bedtime. Instead, keep it as central to a child's day as mealtime. Stretch children's ability to listen by choosing books slightly above their age level. Sharpen their interest and lengthen their attention spans by adding silly voices and extravagant movements. Make reading an occasion of fun, something a child looks forward to with delight. If the child is especially active, instead of reading several books at one sitting, read short books several times throughout the day.

As children grow, talk about new words and their possible meanings. Play with a word before pinning down its definition. Then, once you define it, ask for or suggest other words that might work in that sentence. Don't make it your goal just to finish the story. Instead, savor each word and make the book come alive for the child. Attach humor, tenderness and action to the words you read. Give them meaning and life.

But don't end with simply *reading* books. Become an oral storyteller for children. Lay under a tree with one child or several, close your eyes and tell them a story. If you feel shy, start with a story you know — like 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.' Make it a special story by adding your own touches: name the bears; give Goldilocks a reason for wandering in the woods; arm

# Write from the Start

Preparing



Preschoolers  
to Write

Baby Bear with a special blankie he treasures. Help the listener sympathize with the characters by giving them a human touch a child relates to. Then move on to stories you make up. My children, now 10 and 7, still clamor for tales I created about their pet rats, even though the rats are now dead and gone. These stories are now part of our "family memory."

Oral stories are also a wonderful way of helping children gain experience to deal with tough situations. In his *Better Homes and Gardens* column on parenting, child psychologist John Rosemond tells of a story he told his daughter over and over as she grew up. The story centered on a little bird who persevered (and conquered) in the face of seemingly insurmountable difficulties. Rosemond's daughter later told him that the story helped her in several situations. When things got tough for her, she'd draw on the story her father had told her so many times. Christians could use this simple idea to help children learn to apply biblical truths to situations in their own lives.

At around three years old, children begin to enjoy embellishing the stories you tell them. In fact, they begin to "write" their own ideas through their spoken words. Adults can encourage this process several ways. Choose a picture books without any words and ask the child to "read" the story to you. Prime her "pump" by telling the beginning of a story yourself, then ask her to finish it. Ask a child at the scribble-writing stage to write a story in his own special "writing," then snuggle on the couch and have him "read" it to you.

Depending on their small motor skills, children of three and four years of age can make their own book — with the help of an adult or older child. (See directions in sidebar.) The child dictates the story to the helper, who

then writes the text on the pages of the homemade book. Then the young author becomes an illustrator, drawing and coloring pictures to go along with each page's text.

I did this with both of my children many times. For years, these homemade books were favorite bedtime stories and rainy-day projects. My children still have *The Rescue of the Candy Factory* and *Michael's Rescue of Laura* on their bookshelves. The candy factory book tells an enthralling tale of Batman and Robin liberating a candy factory from the clutches of the Joker, while the other book centers on Laura's disobedience and how her strong brother Michael saved her from the monsters in the woods. Both children still enjoy reading the books and listening to them, although the tales have become more humorous to them with time.

Oral storytelling and reading plant a love for words in young children. Sowing these seeds gives them the best possible chance of becoming good writers later on. If you start early, you'll grow a reader who loves to write — "write" from the start.

#### Next month:

#### Writing with five- to seven-year-olds.

*Georgia Beaverson is a veteran writer and editor with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in Madison, Wisconsin.* ■■■■■

## Homemade Books

**MATERIALS:** 4 pieces blank 8 1/2" x 11" paper

cardboard 2 pieces 5 3/4" x 8 1/4" or poster board

white glue or fabric glue

fabric 2 pieces 12 1/2" x 9" cotton

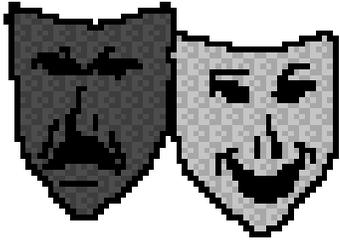
drawing, coloring supplies

First, fold the blank pieces of paper in half. Turn the folded papers and trim off 1/2" so it looks like a 5 1/2" by 8" "book." Ask the child to tell a story. Beginning on the book's second "page," print one or two dictated sentences on each left-hand "page." When that's done, have the child name the book. Fill in the first page with the book's title, the author's and illustrator's name(s), and the date the book was written. Then have the child illustrate each page of text on the right-hand pages of her book. Now you're ready to bind the book.

Lay one piece of fabric on a flat surface, wrong side up. Center the cardboard pieces, long sides together, in the center of this fabric. Leave about 1/4" in the center between the long sides of the cardboard. Apply white glue or fabric glue to the edges of the fabric and fold them over the cardboard. Place under something heavy and flat to let dry. Fit the second piece of fabric over the unfinished side of the book cover, folding the raw edges under so that it's even with the cover edges. Glue in place; dry again under that heavy object. When totally dry, place the pages inside the cover, then, using long stitches, sew (either by machine or hand) down the center fold through all the pages and cover (be sure to sew between the cardboard inserts). Voilà — a long-lasting first book for your budding author!

# Drama

## Brings the Classics to Life



by Bryan Ross

There's an amazing phenomenon that occurs every year in my high school English classes. I find a student who has neither the time nor the desire to read the classics I assign in class because he or she is too busy reading modern books. Every year, somebody like Tom Clancy will beat out Dante for the attention of that type of student. Other teachers have told me that they experience the same kind of unique problem in their classes — the student who hates to read books assigned in class but, nevertheless, loves to read. I, who also love to read, find it hard to accept the fact that this student may resist a really good classic, but there are good reasons.

All of the classics my students read were written long before they were born. The stories might be great, but to a typical high school student who lives in the “now,” a story written by a dead author about a bygone age just isn't relevant. My students want to read stories that impact their lives today, and the classics don't present that attraction for them. That leaves the teacher two choices: dump the classics and search for good modern literature, or find ways to bring the classics to life.

The first choice demands too high a price. The classics are too precious to abandon, and besides, it's difficult to scour the selections of modern literature to find what will be tomorrow's classics. The

second choice preserves the great books. A classic is essentially a piece of literature that is great enough to have withstood the test of time. Readers through the ages have found satisfaction and enrichment in the classics, which offer something relevant to every age. Through drama, I have found ways to give my students keys to the treasures of great literature.

Drama gets the students involved. To act it out is to understand it. When you read about a scene, it's easy to let your eyes drift over a page and simultaneously concentrate on what you are going to have for lunch that day, for it may be that lunch is far more real to you at the time. But if you act out a scene, you must become absorbed by it; you must live the part. It's not enough to read about the characters; you must BE the characters. That takes study, understanding, and involvement. Ultimately, that will result in excitement and satisfaction in literature that formerly had seemed to lie dormant on the page.

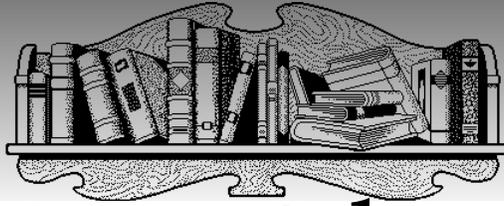
This is most true in our study of Shakespeare. It is the rare student who does not approach Shakespeare with morbid dread. Students who have decided ahead of time that they hate Shakespeare are never swayed by reading a play in class, but many of them are converted by fashioning their own props and costumes and acting scenes from the plays before their peers. I require that they

memorize their lines and write a summary of the scene, as well as a description of how it impacts the whole play. They groan at these requirements, but the result is that they become the play, and the play becomes them. Most of them give Shakespeare at least reluctant admiration after this experience.

Drama is an effective tool for novels. Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* features two of the most endearing characters in literature, Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. Yet, few of my students appreciate their fictional peers when they only read about them. One way I get them to appreciate the distinctiveness of Tom and Huck is to talk about how they are different and how they are alike. Then I put my students into groups of four to brainstorm a brief scene that shows a Tom-type character reacting to a modern situation, and a second scene that shows a Huck-type reacting to the same situation in typical Huck Finn fashion. A few minutes of preparation not only leads to some imaginative and entertaining skits, but it brings Tom and Huck into the world in which my students live.

The bell is often an unwelcome intrusion on an exciting and meaningful presentation.

*Bryan Ross teaches drama and debate at Cascade Christian High School in Tacoma, Washington. In his spare time he coaches soccer, plays the guitar, and is involved in music at his church and school.*



# Building Your School Library

BY HELEN HUNTER

**T**here is an excitement that permeates a school where the library is a vital part of daily activities; where boys and girls read and talk about the books they read. It can happen in your school. Smart planning will help you find the best combination of events and promotions to make your school library vibrate with excitement.

Not every Christian school has a "real" librarian. Parent volunteers take responsibility for the libraries in the Christian schools in my community. The persons who are responsible should love books, be avid readers themselves, and catch a vision for building and promoting reading within their Christian school.

Many Christian schools do not have a library book budget. Without one, there is no incentive to purchase books. So ask your administration or leadership to give you a budget. No matter how small it is, you can buy smart and make it go a long way. Plan to spend it....all of it....every year.

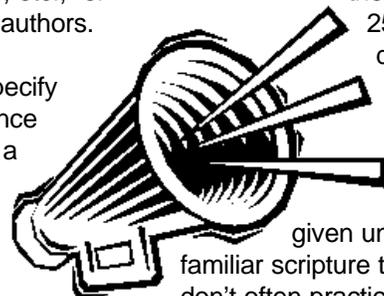
Have a creative brainstorming session with a committee on the kinds of events you could do in your school to promote reading. You might want to set a goal for the first school year to do four events. If you already have an up-and-running library, you might be brave enough to try for one each month. Ask your school administration to approve a yearlong calendar of events. Then you will not have to ask permission each time.

Some ideas which can quickly build up the volume of books to shelve are:

1. Hold a book drive. Ask students and families to dig through their homes and donate to the school their good books that are appropriate for your school library. Be specific about what you are looking for, and about what you are not looking for. You might say something like this: "ABC Christian School is looking for books to be donated from the following series: Little House on the Prairie, Mandie, Sarah's Journeys, Grandma's Attic, etc.," or you might ask for specific authors. Include fiction, nonfiction, reference...everything. Specify good condition and reference books to be no older than a certain number of years. You can decide whether you are willing to receive books that have been underlined or highlighted. Anything you decide not to keep can be sold in a school book sale or given to charitable organizations or your community's library book sale.
2. Run an ad. If you are brave, run an ad in your local newspaper or shopper. A simple two or three line ad will do the trick: "WILL PICK UP: used books from Christian publishers to build library at ABC Christian School. Phone 000-0000 to set a time."

3. Visit library sales. Many larger cities and even some small towns have annual library sales sponsored by Friends of the Library. There are large tables of books. School librarians and teachers would know valuable books when they see them and purchase books their students would read.

4. Watch for sales. Semiannual sales in local Christian book stores are important events to watch for. Many Christian book stores have become good promoters, offering their customers 25% off on certain days during their promotions.



5. Ask. "Ask and it shall be given unto you" is a familiar scripture that we quote but don't often practice, believing that God will provide. Ask students and their parents to tell their churches what the school's need is, and ask them to pray with you that God will provide for the need. Plan to keep the needs of the school's library in front of school supporters regularly. Here are some "regular" ideas:

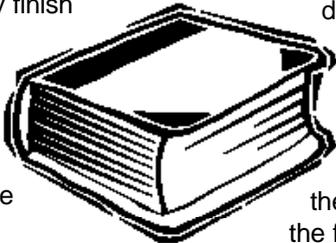
- a. Place a small weekly "ad" in your school newsletter. Design it so that it is recognizable. Ask the school secretary to give you a special location in the

newsletter. Use the space to promote new titles in the library. If more than one copy is donated you might exchange it for another book, or you may decide to have duplicates of some titles.

- b. Monthly appearance in your school's newsletter is a must. Use your space for book reviews. Give students the opportunity to write book reviews and be published. You might save a line or two to ask again for a new title that you would like for the school library.
- c. Hang posters around the school to encourage reading. Advertise new titles and series. Make good use of full-page color ads in Christian publications. Mount them on colorful paper and display in halls and classrooms. Suggest that the book is available in your school library.

Following are several events that have worked for Christian schools. A Christian book store representative in your area can help you immensely with the following ideas:

Reader's Club. Start with ten new books and ten students who agree to read at least one book each month during the school year. When they finish their book, they pass it on to the person whose name is on the list under theirs. The person at the bottom of the list passes their books to the person at the top. Some readers might prefer a new book every two weeks. You could then include 20 people.



If your school has lots of readers, you might even have two or three clubs for each group. Offer incentives to students who read ten books; something less for nine books, eight books, etc. Choose a broad range of material: fiction, nonfiction, devotional, self-help, etc.

Once kids are involved, they will talk to other young people who did not sign up to be in the Reader's Club. At the end of the year all of the books go into the school's library. Dog-eared and beat up? Probably. But think of them as well-read.

Book 'n' Burger Night. Plan a potluck or ask several people to prepare food. Let parents know that if they attend, they will be asked to buy books and contribute them to the library. Have books available that the librarian wants to add to the library.

Each family who attends should be encouraged to bring money and pick out something for the library. The bookseller should have inexpensive items for small children, and videos and tape sets that could be donated by more than one family. Plan to also make a book table available for personal browsing and purchasing after the library event, where the families could select other items for themselves. You may be able to receive a percentage of the sales from the distributor.

Your school library could net

two or three dozen books and other items in a single night without having to purchase from budgeted funds.



One school held a book event where eighteen people attended. The book sales totaled over \$300.00. Many of those books were donated to the library immediately; the rest eventually ended up there. Fifteen percent of the sales (\$45.00) was given back to the school in books of their choice.

Another good way to earn money for your library is to have a book table during your school's conferences when parents are in the school. Ask a bookstore or distributor to bring books for the whole family, and give the library 15% of the sales.

Happy reading!

*Helen Hunter has been working with Christian schools for the past several years, helping them build their libraries.*

If you want to keep fourth through sixth grade children captivated, motivated, and actively learning, read them *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis. These seven books center around the struggle of good and evil, with Christ portrayed as Aslan, the noble lion. The vivid, imaginative weaving of these tales will keep every child fascinated.

You can go beyond just reading these books, however, to challenge and enhance their learning with hands-on activities. Activities that involve them totally will help children develop their creative and critical thinking abilities in a meaningful and relevant context. The list of activities here can easily be integrated into your total learning program, involving language, math, art, social studies, and science.

Only activities related to the first book, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, will be listed here, but similar activities could be utilized for each of the other books. This is only a sampling of ideas; you and your children will be able to think of many more.

# Adventures in Narnia

By Mary Jarvis

## CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been in a large old house that you wanted to explore? What did you do and how did it turn out?
2. Have you ever felt a little frightened, but very inquisitive and excited as well? Tell us about it.
3. If you had been in Lucy's place, would you have decided to follow the Faun? Why or why not?
4. With which character in the book would you have most liked to have become acquainted? Why this character?
5. Which place in Narnia would have been the most interesting to visit? Describe what you would do there.
6. Why did Edmund do what the White Witch wanted him to do? What were the consequences of his actions?
7. How were the children able to defeat the White Witch?
8. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

## ACTIVITIES

1. On completion of reading the first chapter, have students draw and color a picture of the Faun from memory. Then go back and read the description again so they can check to see how well they were listening.
2. Read the scene in chapter two of Lucy and Mr. Tumnus, the Faun, having tea. Have children take paper and crayons and draw a picture, showing as many details as possible, of the faun and Lucy in the room. Reread the scene afterwards. Children get points for correct details.
3. Have children pretend they are visiting Narnia. Ask them to create post cards that they would send back to their families at home. Post these cards on the bulletin board.
4. Designate one or two students to make a list of all the creatures who lived in Narnia as you are reading the book. Other students can make notebooks with descriptions and pictures of the creatures, where they lived, and their habits.
5. Make a class dictionary which defines words, places etc. that are found in Narnia.
6. Have students construct a model of the White Witch's castle. Use different materials such as shoe boxes, oat meal boxes, and papier-mâché.
7. Make a map of Narnia.
8. Make a model of Narnia using papier-mâché or else go outdoors and construct one, if there is a protected space in which it can be done.
9. Get samples of Chamber of Commerce brochures. Make up a brochure for Narnia.
10. Have students pretend they are news reporters for a local TV station. Have them make up questions they would like to ask a particular character. One student may play the role of that particular character and answer the questions.
11. Make papier-mâché masks that look like different creatures from Narnia.
12. On completion of reading the book, view the video of that book and discuss whether it portrayed the story as they had imagined it. (See video review, p. .)
13. After completing the story, invite either parents or another class to view



activities and have a feast as there might have been in Narnia.

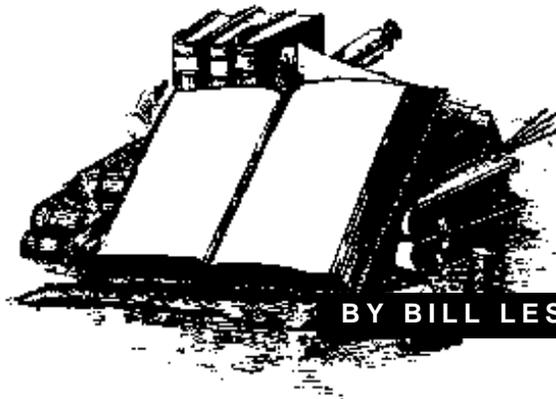
Try some or all of these activities while reading these books. They will take on meaning and significance for both you and the children — an experience none of you will soon forget!

*Mary Jarvis has taught in Christian Schools for over twenty years, in both elementary and high school. She is retired and does free lance writing and editing.*

*The Narnia books are on the Order Form.*

# Christian Library Services

## Purchasing Cooperative



BY BILL LESSLEY

You have just finished a busy day of handling the normal chores that go with running the library — books checked out, books checked in, overdue notices sent out, working with students to find just the right book for a reading assignment or a particular interest. Teachers have requested that sufficient copies of specific titles be available to their students. A few parents have called and asked whether something could be done to enhance the choices and quality of books in the library. You understand the need for quality books and adequate selection as well as or better than anyone. But what can be done about it? You are so busy with the daily tasks that you have precious little time left to do research into what new books are available. When you do find books that you want to add to your library, the only option available is to take a trip to the local bookstore and purchase at retail prices the books you want. Your new book budget is very tight, and at bookstore prices the budget is used up long before your needs are met. Does any of this have a familiar ring to you?

If you have read this far in the *Christian Library Journal*, you already know that it offers great help in making decisions about which books you may wish to purchase. The 125 or so quality book reviews offered in each issue will aid you greatly in deciding which books you will want to place in your library. The staff at *Christian Library Journal* will make every effort to assure that each book reviewed is available for volume purchase.

For the problem of how to stretch those tight budget dollars, we are happy to

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Here is how it works. After reading the reviews in each issue of the *Christian Library Journal*, just fill out the order form in the back with the pertinent data for the book(s) you wish to order, as well as your identifying information. The price listed is the retail price. Sign your order and include a check or money order for half (50 percent) of the extended total retail list prices for all books ordered.

The discount price we pay to the publisher will be your price. The discount will vary depending on the total number of orders which we receive. The general rule is: the larger the order, the greater the discount. But in no case should your final cost be as high as the retail list price. Again, there is no mark up for profit. The *Christian Library Journal* will charge a fifteen percent handling fee. You will be invoiced for the remaining unpaid costs, shipping, and any applicable sales tax at the time your order is shipped to you.

The *Christian Library Journal* will reach many in a possible audience of 46,000 Christian schools, 6,000 churches with libraries, and 300,000 homeschooling families nationwide. With such a large reading audience, the potential for volume buying power is tremendous. We offer this co-op with joy, knowing that this is a service which will help each of you make the most of your book buying dollars, and therefore enable you to touch the lives of more children with the highest quality books available. That's all there is to it! You get the quality books you want at a discounted price. It's simple, uncomplicated for you, and it works! We look forward to the opportunity to assist you in providing the best Christian education possible. Use the co-op. We are convinced you will like it and use it again and again.

ORDER FORM - See pages i through x after page 28.

*Bill Lessley is a Christian businessman who will be handling the purchasing cooperative for Christian Library Services.*

## GETTING PUBLISHED FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS

Boodle magazine, a quarterly "for Kids, by Kids," wants playful and up-beat stories, fillers and poems from students, ages 6 - 12. Pays two contributor's copies, on publication, for one-time rights and gives byline. Send seasonal material six months early. Response in 8 - 10 weeks. Include a cover letter introducing you and why you did the project. Accepts neatly hand-written work. Sample copy for \$2.50. Guidelines free with a SASE. Fiction: 200 - 500 words, all types, 20 per issue. Poetry: 10 - 250 words, all types, 15 per issue. Fillers: quizzes, puzzles, mazes, cartoons, jokes, anecdotes, 3 per issue. Check for accuracy. "Make me smile or laugh when I read it. No violence, death or disease topics," says Editor Mavis Catalfio. Boodle, P.O. Box 1049, Portland, IN 47371.

## GETTING PUBLISHED

Creative With Words wants fiction or nonfiction, to 1,000 words, poetry to 20 lines and B & W artwork on animals, seasons, love or folk and fairy tales by Dec. 31. Manuscript can be neatly hand-written or typed. Include a cover letter and teacher or parent signature. If selected, work will be published in this twice-a-year anthology. Winners get 20% discount on copies. "Write from a different perspective. Don't include violence and death," says Editor Brigitta Geltrich, P.O. Box 223226, Carmel, CA 93922.

## WRITING CONTESTS

College Preview is a quarterly resource guide on college living and financial aid for minority students, ages 16 - 21. Pays \$ .10 a word, on publication, and one contributor's copy. Responds in one month. Must be typed with cover letter and SASE. Sample copy and guidelines free with 9" x 12" SASE and four stamps. Nonfiction: 500 - 2,000 words on education, inspiration, profiles, careers, colleges, health, sports, music, science, current events and nature. Columns on health, news, fitness, and sports: 100 - 500 words. Photos: 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" B&W or color slides. Write entertaining, motivating, easy-to-read pieces full of information and good role models. No fiction or poetry. Editor Georgia Clark, 250 Mark Twain Tower, 106 W. Eleventh St., Kansas City, MO 64105-1806.

## WRITER'S WORDS TO KNOW:

ANECDOTES - very short stories on a person or event, often humorous

B&W - Black and white, glossy photos

BYLINE - Author's name listed with their work: by Jody Jared

CONTRIBUTOR'S COPIES - Free copies, with author's work inside

FILLERS - Small space -fillers like mazes, jokes, anecdotes, poems

FIRST RIGHTS - The first place a work is ever published

GUIDELINES - A publisher's list of what he wants: length, payment, how to submit or send it.

ONE-TIME RIGHTS - The right to print work one time, often a reprint

ON PUBLICATION - Author gets paid when the work is published, long after it's accepted.

SAMPLE COPY - A past issue. Read 6 - 12 issues before submitting.

SASE - Self-addressed Stamped Envelope, for a response

Penny Lent lives in Puyallup, WA, with her husband, two sons, and two orange cats. She's author of *Young Writer's Market Manual*, *Young Writer's Contest Manual*, and *Young Writer's Manuscript Manual* from Kaleidoscope Press.

# Read On, Write On, Get Published



by Penny Lent

Editor's note: Do you have a child or student who loves to write? Would you like to find more opportunities to encourage and motivate this child or young person? Penny Lent knows how you can find publishing sources for young writers. Each month she will include in this column sources and tips for youngsters seeking to be published.

# Welcome to the Christian Library Journal

*The Book Review Publication  
especially published with  
you in mind!*

*We're committed to giving our children the  
guidance in literature that they deserve.*



# Christian Library

J O U R N A L

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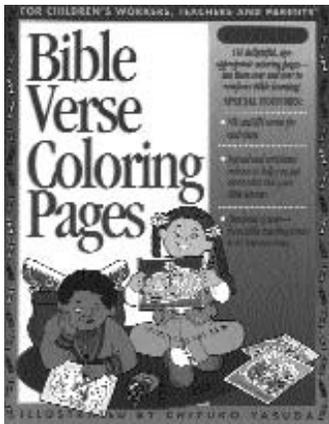
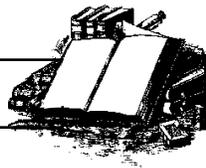
### R A T I N G S Y S T E M

#### Quality of Material

- 4 Excellent - among the very best of this type
- 3 Good - well written: strong recommendation
- 2 Average - readers will enjoy, but not the best
- 1 Poor - cannot recommend

#### Acceptability of Material

- 4 No questionable elements
- 3 Slight concerns
- 2 Moderate concerns
- 1 Too questionable to recommend



**220 Bible Verse Coloring Pages.**  
 Illustrated by Chizuko Yasuda.  
*Gospel Light, 1984. ISBN 2511606720. Paper \$16.99.*

K - Gr. 7. Ground children in the Scriptures with 116 delightful, age-appropriate Bible verse coloring pages. Each page has a Bible verse with a picture to be colored that reinforces the meaning behind the verse. The pages are reproducible with each verse written in the King James Version on one side and the New International Version on the other side. There is a section of the book with art suitable for children 4 through 7 years old, and a section for older youngsters, ages 8 through 12. Topical and Scriptural indexes make it easy to find the illustrated verses you need. There are suggestions for using the verses for Bible learning activities, contests, Vacation Bible School, or transition times. I have used some of these pages with children in numerous situations, and am excited about this new, complete edition. This book will be an invaluable tool for any Christian worker with children.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher  
 Marysville, WA

**222 Rock, Lois. The Ten Commandments for Children.**  
 Illustrated by Claire Henley.  
*Chariot Books, 1995. ISBN 0745930557. \$8.99.*

PS - Gr. 3. Children need to be taught that there is a good and right way to live. God's

standards, given in the ten commandments, have not changed. *The Ten Commandments*, retold by Lois Rock, uses large figures with bright colors to illustrate each commandment. Across the page is an explanation and prayer to make each one a personal experience.

This book is a good resource for a Bible class, or may be used to help solve special classroom problems such as stealing, being untruthful, or lacking respect and obedience. This is a great book to read-aloud to young children, while older children will enjoy reading the book themselves.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 3

Marie Knaupp, Retired Librarian  
 Corvallis, OR

Another title by Rock is:

The Lord's Prayer for Children

**222 Yenne, Bill. Noah and the Ark.**  
 (Children's Bible Classics) Thomas Nelson, 1993. ISBN 0840749147.  
 LCCN 93014131. \$6.99.

PS - Gr. 1. Bill Yenne retells the story of God calling Noah and his family to build the ark and to prepare for the destruction of the wicked world. Unfortunately, the attempt at simplification and the lack of dialogue in this retelling leaves the story flat and unimaginative, saved only by the bright, Disney-like quality of the illustrations. Children will be quick to note that some of the tools Noah and his family use are more suited to today than Biblical times. No mention is made of how many of each animal Noah was to take, a number children listen for.

Quality - 2                      Acceptability - 3

Judy Driscoll, Christ the King Academy  
 Poulsbo, WA



\* **223 The 23rd Psalm.**  
 Illustrated by Helen Caswell.  
 Abingdon Press, 1995. ISBN 0687011728. Paper \$5.95.



\* **225 The Lord's Prayer.**  
 Illustrated by Helen Caswell.  
 Abingdon Press, 1995. ISBN 0687011736. Paper \$5.95.

PS - Adult. Helen Caswell has beautifully illustrated these two scripture books in watercolors evoking the feeling of an English countryside to complement the King James Version used in the text. In *The 23rd Psalm* a young English-looking shepherd boy guides his sheep "beside the still waters" as well as "through the valley of the shadow of death." Two young children explore the countryside in the pages of *The Lord's Prayer*. My children especially enjoyed the page for "deliver us from evil" when the two illustrated children are "treed" on a fence by a couple of little dogs. My favorites were "and the power," depicted by a lightning storm, and "the glory forever" lavishly awash in the bright golden colors of a setting sun. These books could become well-loved by the very young child learning to say the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm, as well as

a nice gift book for a senior citizen who may be confined to home or a nursing home.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Judy Driscoll, *Christ the King Academy*  
Poulsbo, WA

**Other titles available by Helen Caswell:**

God Must Like to Laugh  
God Makes Us Different  
God's Love Is for Sharing  
I Can Talk with God  
My Big Family at Church

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**226 Mignolli, Marisa. Hosanna to You, Jesus! : A Palm Sunday Experience. St. Paul Books & Media, 1993. ISBN 0819833681. Paper \$3.95.**

PS - Gr. 2. Young Daniel asks, "Who is this Lord?" wanting to borrow his little donkey, Balaam. As Daniel refuses to part with his pet, he becomes part of a procession that brings him face to face with Jesus. In childlike innocence, he introduces himself to Jesus and makes Balaam available to the Master. Daniel's question is answered as he hears others in the crowd telling of this One who has raised a son from the dead and healed a leper of his disease. He realizes that it is Jesus who is the Lord. The illustrations are colorful and descriptive of life in Jerusalem. Parents and teachers will be

pleased to find ideas for projects and prayers to reinforce this lesson of the triumphal entry.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Elaine Watts, *Ridgeview Christian Learning Center, Spokane, WA*

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**241.5 Layton, Dian and Al Berg. Mommy, Why Can't I Watch That TV Show? Destiny Image, 1995. ISBN 1560431482. Paper \$2.99.**

Gr. 1 - 3. Benjamin and Johnathan wonder why Mom won't let them watch a television program. This book becomes a story within a story, as Mom proceeds to explain to them by telling a story about an unusual little boy who never went outside his unusual little house. When he let good things into his house he had peace, wisdom, and happiness. When he allowed other things into his house, then disobedience, fear, and lying would sneak in. These things need to be cleaned out and kept out. Young children may lose interest as this story is read to them because of its length and complexity of subject matter, and the story the mother tells may not hold the listener's attention. Some black and white sketches accompany the story.

Quality - 2      Acceptability - 2

**241.5 Winwood, Linda Hacon. Mommy, Why Don't We Celebrate Halloween? Destiny House, 1994. ISBN 1560438231. LCCN 94211076. Paper \$2.99.**

Gr. 1 - 3. "Why can't we go trick-or-treating?" is the question Jerry asks to begin a long discussion he has with his mom and sister. Mom explains the meaning of costumes, jack-o-lanterns, and trick-or-treating in relation to their Christian beliefs. Mom tells her children the truth behind these accepted Halloween traditions to help them understand why they don't celebrate Halloween. Although the entire story is a family conversation, some interesting Halloween facts are revealed. A few black and white sketches accompany the dialogue. A suggested lesson plan for follow-up discussion is included at the end of the book.

Quality - 2      Acceptability - 4

Cathie Coffin, *Sonlight Christian School*  
Kirkland, WA

**Other titles in this series:**

Daddy, Are You Santa Claus?  
Daddy, Does God Take a Vacation?  
Mommy, Are You Afraid of Monsters?  
Mommy, Is God as Strong as Daddy?  
Mommy, Was Santa Claus Born on Christmas Too?  
Mommy, Why Are People Different

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with a friend!  
Call 1-800-605-1775  
for a subscription packet

Colors?

Mommy, Why Did Jesus Have to Die?



**242 Caswell, Helen Rayburn. God's World Makes Me Feel So Little. Abingdon Press, c1985. ISBN 068715510X. LCCN 84014545. Paper \$5.95.**

PS - Gr. 1. This delightful book is written for and from a pre-schooler's point of view. "Does God care about me, really?" is a question that children of all ages grapple with. The answer comes through as a gentle, assuring yes, as this child appreciates the big and little creations surrounding him. The illustrations are whimsical and lovely, taking the reader, big or little, to a simpler, uncomplicated place in life.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Elaine M. Watts, Ridgeview Christian Learning Center, Spokane, WA

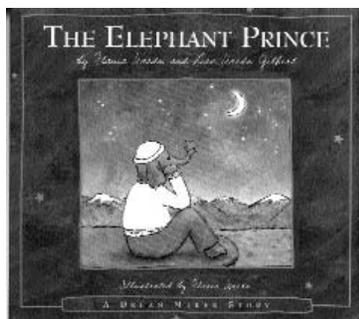
**264 My First Prayers : A Book About Talking to Jesus. Chariot Books, 1995. ISBN 0781402107. \$10.99.**

PS - Gr. 1. This is a compilation of twelve First Prayers books, originally published as separate books. The clear, colorful, simple line drawings are easy for the pre-school child to understand. The text is simply written, with short, sometimes rhyming sentences, one sentence per page on most pages. A Bible verse which is illustrated by the story separates one story from the next. Ideas covered include thanksgiving and praise for home, family, birthdays, Christmas, Easter, friends, and love. Unfortunately, because of its small four by six inch format, intended to make it easy for a small child to handle, its bulk (320 pages) makes it difficult for the very young child to hold open and turn pages. The books would probably have been more effective published

separately. It could be read by beginning readers as a first chapter book.

Quality - 2      Acceptability - 4

Judy Driscoll, Christ the King Academy Poulsville, WA



**398.2 Weedn, Flavia and Lisa Weedn Gilbert. The Elephant Prince : Inspired by an Old Nordic Tale. (Dream Maker Stories) Hyperion Books for Children, c1995. ISBN 0786800437. LCCN 94015055. \$12.95.**

PS - Gr. 2. "Once upon a time, in the middle of a beautiful kingdom, there was a castle." What child could resist such a beginning to a fairy tale? *The Elephant Prince* is a well-told and colorfully illustrated story about a king and his unhappy daughter. The king promises to give his daughter's hand in marriage and half his kingdom to whoever can bring happiness to the princess. Three young suitors are willing to try: a wealthy jeweler's son, a brave farm boy, and a poor young man. The third suitor is the only one who actually loves the princess for herself, and ends up winning her hand. It is a sweet story that shows how love can overcome difficulties, but it is disappointing to read that the first two suitors make fun of the poor suitor by calling him a fool and a stupid man. The name-calling detracts from the wholesomeness of this book.

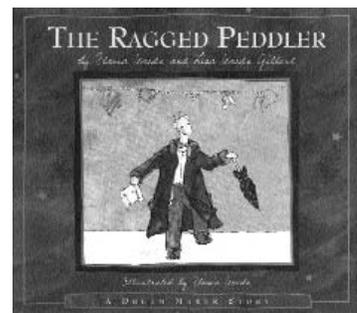
Quality - 4      Acceptability - 3



**398.2 Weedn, Flavia and Lisa Weedn Gilbert. The Moon Maiden : Inspired by an Old Japanese Tale. (Dream Maker Stories) Hyperion Books for Children, c1995. ISBN 0786800453. LCCN 94015054. \$12.95.**

PS - Gr. 2. This magical and fanciful story is about a childless couple who are given the gift of a little girl to love and take care of for awhile. This is no ordinary little girl. She is a moon maiden and her real mother is the moon lady. The girl comes to live on earth and is dearly loved by the couple and all the village people. Years pass and the time comes for the moon maiden to return to her real mother and her home in the sky. On her way up the moon path she leaves behind a gift of love that is to remind everyone that "love, in spite of time or distance, lasts forever." Young children may not grasp this deeper meaning of the story, but will enjoy it nonetheless. The beautiful, detailed illustrations add a delightful charm to the book.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4



**398.2 Weedn, Flavia and Lisa Weedn Gilbert. The Ragged Peddler : Inspired by an Old Middle Eastern Tale. (Dream Maker Stories) Hyperion Books for Children, c1995. ISBN 0786800461. LCCN 94015053. \$12.95.**

PS - Gr. 2. As this story unfolds, the reader meets a village full of unhappy, complaining people. They find no joy in their lives. One day a ragged peddler comes to town. He offers to buy their troubles in exchange for happiness. At first the villagers are skeptical, but then decide to take him up on his offer. What the peddler does is show each person that the troubles they complain of are actually minor things, for which they should in fact be thankful. By the end of the tale the village has become a happy, joyful place to live. Children may be able to identify with complaints they have in their own lives and realize that happiness is a choice they can make. The

illustrations in this book are bright and whimsical.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Sharon Westra, Mt. Vernon Christian School  
Mt. Vernon, WA

**Other titles in this series @ \$10.45 trade,  
\$10.95 library:**

The Enchanted Tree  
The Giant's Garden  
The Magic Cap  
The Star Gift

**398.21 Edens, Cooper. A Present  
for Rose. Illustrated by Molly  
Hashimoto. Sasquatch Books,  
c1993. ISBN 0912365897. LCCN  
93008398. \$16.95.**

Gr. 1 - 3. This book, *A Present for Rose*, is a poem based on a Japanese folktale and a Japanese tradition that presents the seasons and heavenly bodies as gifts to humanity. The text begins with Rose receiving a gift which, when opened, takes her on a journey through the transitions from season to season. The beautiful illustrations by Molly Hashimoto of the gift wrapped seasons are intriguing and capture the reader's attention.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 3

Sally Kuhns, Sylvan Way Christian School  
Bremerton, WA

**398.21 Rappaport, Doreen. The  
New King. Illustrated by E. B.  
Lewis. Dial Books for Young  
Readers, c1995. ISBN 0803714602.  
LCCN 93028561. \$14.99.**

Gr. 1 - 3. Doreen Rappaport sensitively retells a well-known Malagasy tale of young Prince Rakoto. After the sudden death of his father the king, the young boy seeks the help of the most powerful men in the kingdom to bring his father back to life. When neither the Royal Doctor nor the Imperial Wizard possess the power to fulfill Rakoto's demand, he turns to the High Councilor who answers him, "Your majesty, they cannot do that, even if you command them. Doctors do not perform miracles. Magicians do not have the power to turn death into life." Rakoto next turns to the Wise Woman of the kingdom, who tells him the tale of the moon and the banana tree. The young prince finally understands that "giving life to others is a way of living forever," and comes to

accept his father's death and the importance of his role as the new king.

While this book does not have a Christian message, I used it as a springboard in my classroom for a discussion of the beliefs of different cultures and how their beliefs compare with Christian resurrection. Our discussion could have also included how a Christian missionary might answer Rakoto's questions about his father's death. The book might also be useful for the child who is experiencing grief, as a help in understanding the stages of grief. The page dealing with the magician is handled beautifully, showing that the magician can perform illusions but has no real power in matters of life or death. The well-researched watercolor illustrations by E. B. Lewis add authenticity, representing faithfully the geography, homes, and costumes of Madagascar.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 3

Judy Driscoll, Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, WA

**398.8 Bornstein, Harry and Karen  
Luczak Saulnier. Nursery Rhymes  
from Mother Goose : Told in  
Signed English. Illustrated by Pat  
Peters. Galludet/Kendall Green,  
c1992. ISBN 0930323998. LCCN  
91042409. \$14.95.**

PS - Gr. 3. This is a delightful book for those teachers and students interested in signing for the deaf or learning more about it. The book first tells a nursery rhyme, such as "Humpty Dumpty" in English. It then takes the nursery rhyme word by word, showing with black and white illustrations how to make the words by signing with one's hands. The signing pictures are not complicated and are easy to follow. There are arrows to show which way hand movements are needed. Bold and bright colored illustrations depicting the nursery rhymes are on each page. These pictures are eye appealing and give a good balance to the black and white signing.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Sharon Westra, Mt. Vernon Christian School  
Mt. Vernon, WA

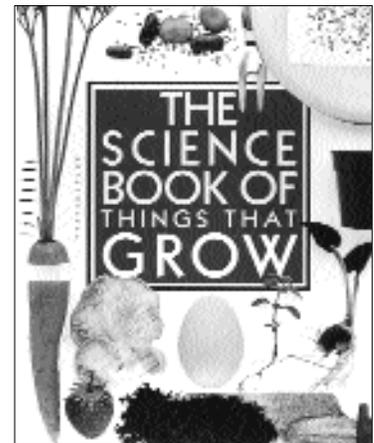
**419 Gillen, Patricia Bellan. My  
Signing Book of Numbers.  
Galludet/Kendall Green, 1988.  
ISBN 0930323378. LCCN  
87028758. \$14.95.**

PS - Gr. 3. This delightful book of signing numbers is a companion book to the author's

first work, *My First Book of Sign*. The simple, colorful pictures illustrate clearly the hand formations used to sign not only the numbers 0 through 20, but many numbers beyond that. In fact, it explains how combinations of these first few basic signs can be used to create any larger number. The pictures in the book, many of which were first used in her previous work, were chosen because of their familiarity and relevance to children, and also because they, too, are fun words to sign. This book goes beyond just showing the hand signs for various numbers; it introduces the importance and the basic workings of American Sign Language itself. There is a lot of valuable information for those interested in learning more about this important language, as well as an enjoyable and colorful text for young children.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Gayle Haberman, West Hills Christian School  
Portland, OR



**\* 581.3 Ardley, Neil. The Science  
Book of Things That Grow.  
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991.  
ISBN 0152005862. LCCN  
90048097. \$10.00.**

K - Gr. 4. Neil Ardley has authored an excellent science book exploring the growth of plants. Subjects covered include: What is growth?, Starting to grow, Seed needs, Too dark to grow?, Too cold to grow?, Plant maze, Brilliant bean, Clever carrot, Plants from cuttings, Spreading strawberries, Root power, Thirsty flower, Bubbling plant, Indoor garden, Yeast feast, Spore print, and Magic mold. The pages are clearly laid out with attractive photographed illustrations, easy enough for even the youngest reader to follow. Nearly every subject includes a footnote photograph of the effect of the topic on that page in its environment. An example is root power; the footnote photograph and short paragraph show the effect of tree roots on a city sidewalk. The

child can then apply what is being learned about science to everyday life. This book is chock full of useful information for the young scientist. Nearly every page has at least one good idea to use for a science experiment. This is an excellent resource for those annual science fair projects.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Judy Driscoll, Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, WA

**Other titles in this series:**

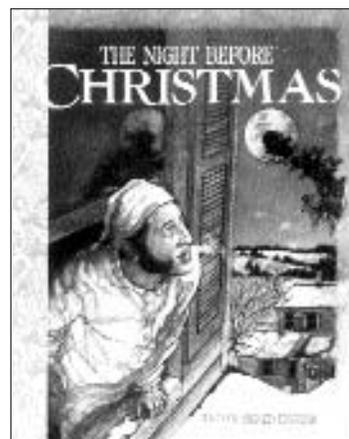
- The Science Book of Air
- The Science Book of Color
- The Science Book of Electricity
- The Science Book of Energy
- The Science Book of Gravity
- The Science Book of Hot and Cold
- The Science Book of Light
- The Science Book of Machines
- The Science Book of Magnets
- The Science Book of Motion
- The Science Book of Numbers
- The Science Book of Sound
- The Science Book of the Senses
- The Science Book of Water
- The Science Book of Weather

**591.51 Hirschi, Ron. A Time for Playing. (A How Animals Live Book) Photographs by Thomas D. Mangelsen. Penguin/Cobblehill, Books/Dutton, c1994. ISBN 0525651594. LCCN 93036773. \$13.99.**

PS - Gr. 2. Vivid photographs by Thomas Mangelsen capture animals, from tiny chipmunks to huge polar bears, at play. Children will easily identify and be absorbed by these pictures of various wild animals playing. The story line is geared also for the young reader. The author explains why it is important for animals, as well as people, to play. This book would be an excellent discussion starter to help children understand and appreciate the benefits of playing.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher  
Marysville, WA



**\* 811 Moore, Clement Clarke. The Night Before Christmas : Told in Signed English. Illustrated by Steve Marchesi and Jan Scrobisz. Galludet/Kendall Green, 1994. ISBN 1563680203. LCCN 94011477. \$14.95.**

K - Adult. "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement C. Moore brings renewed delight with the addition of sign drawings for the hearing-impaired or language-delayed child or adult, or the student or teacher of signed English. The easy-to-follow sign drawings by Jan Scrobisz are well placed to avoid interference with the enjoyment of either the text or the lively and colorful illustrations by Steve Marchesi. Children of all ages will be challenged to learn

## Show your CLJ to a friend.

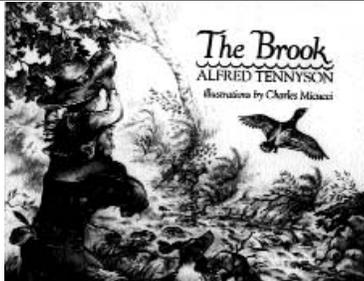
If they subscribe, ask them to put your subscriber number and your subscriber name somewhere on their order, and we will credit \$5 to your next book order!

*(You can find the number and exact name on your mailing label.)*

a new skill, while enjoying this familiar holiday story. Mastering the language of this book would be a fascinating project for a class or family wishing to share this holiday tradition with a hearing- or language-impaired audience. Included in the book as additional helps are the American Manual Alphabet and a bibliography of additional signed-English story books and videotapes.

Quality - 4            Acceptability - 4

Judy Driscoll, *Christ the King Academy*  
Poulsbo, WA



**\* 821 Tennyson, Alfred. *The Brook*. Illustrated by Charles Micucci. Orchard Books, c1994. ISBN 0531068544. LCCN 93046404. \$14.95. Lib. ed. \$14.99.**

PS - Adult. Alfred Tennyson's poem "The Brook," having been enjoyed by children since its publication in 1855, returns in a delightfully illustrated picture book. Farmer Phillip's daughter is seen growing up beside the banks of the river, from childhood play to fishing, falling in love, marriage, and then returning with her own children. Through seasons of life and seasons of the year, the brook runs on continually. The thought is effectively communicated by Charles Micucci's illustrations, using wild life and enough detail to inspire many hours of enjoyment.

Young children will enjoy the simple story; however, the book is an excellent resource for a unit on poetry in Junior or Senior High classes. The illustrations could also be used to inspire a creative writing assignment. Even senior adults, who memorized these lines as children, will find the book very refreshing. I recommend this book as a special treasure for those who love nature.

Quality - 4            Acceptability - 4

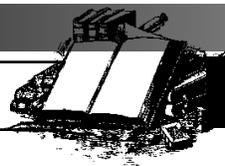
Marie Knaupp, *Retired Librarian*  
Corvallis, OR

**912.71 Wright, Nicola and Tony Potter. *My First Canadian Atlas*. Whitecap Books, 1994. ISBN 1551102536. \$12.95.**

Gr. 2 - 4. Whitecap Books Ltd. has published this atlas for school children from a Canadian perspective. The work is in picturebook style, containing extensive geographical and cultural material from a child's viewpoint. This book would also be of use to older children who find reading long blocks of print difficult. The opening pages are especially well presented, containing detailed instruction on how to read and use maps. The attractive artwork, though a little busy, is used to augment the information given. Four spreadsheets on Canada contain extra information on such subjects as Canadian history, wildlife, things to see, and what people do. Though interestingly arranged, some younger children will find the detailed information on each spread is hard to absorb at one sitting. Teachers may note the continents of Africa and South America are under-represented. They have only one spreadsheet, whereas others may have three and four spreads per continent. An index of countries and regions is included in the back. The best use of this book would be as a reference.

Quality - 3            Acceptability - 4

Harriette Richards, *Retired Teacher*  
Port Orchard, WA



**222 Drane, John. The Bible Story Begins : From Creation to Covenant. (Bible World) Thomas Nelson, 1994. ISBN 0785279032. LCCN 94031031. \$9.99.**

Gr. 3 - 7. This beautifully illustrated book outlines the biblical story from Genesis to the Mosaic Covenant. Each chapter covers a segment of history while summing up the main Bible events. Interesting tidbits of information, with photographs and excellent colorful drawings, give an accurate portrayal of the life and times of the people. Although the Bible stories lack depth, they give a good overview. The coordinating Bible study references in the back make this a good family study book or teacher-directed classroom book.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

*Paula Stewart Marks, Morning Star Christian School, Bend, OR*

**242 Cosby, Clair G. Lord, Help Me Love My Sister : She Breathed on My Food Again. Herald Press, 1986. ISBN 0836134133. LCCN 86004831. Paper \$4.95.**

Gr. 3 - 8. For anyone who has ever lived with a sister, this book will make you think you're reading your own diary. Every page takes us into the lives of two sisters who pray about the same problem or event from their individual point of view. The subjects range from conflicts like "Lord, She Won't Cooperate with Me" and "Lord, She's Always Trying to Tell Me What to Do" to feel goods like "Lord, She Really Liked Her Birthday Present" and "Lord, She Picked a Special Gift." The nice thing about *Lord, Help Me Love My Sister* is that every subject is dealt with quickly and cleverly so you don't have time to start feeling uncomfortable with the bickering of these siblings. There were a few times, reading this, that I felt like shaking one or the other of the girls and saying, "Can't you just get along?" But then the next page would come along and they'd be liking each other that day. The book was written for girls between the ages of eight and fourteen who are trying to work on a better relationship with their sisters. I'm not sure, however, that a girl this age would really feel any empathy for her alter ego in the book, unless her problem paralleled exactly her own. Could girls this age truly assimilate all the feelings and ideas expounded by the author? This book seemed to work for me like an old

movie of my sister and me during our middle school years. We had similar events in our lives, but I question whether we ever philosophized about our relationship like the two sisters in this book do. I enjoyed the book, because I used to be an adolescent sister. This would be a good present from a sister to a sister.

Quality - 2                      Acceptability - 4

*Danell L. Bemis, Williamette Christian School Eugene, OR*

**\* 242 Hurnard, Hannah. Hinds' Feet on High Places. Illustrated by JoAnn Edington. Destiny Image, 1993. ISBN 1560431113. LCCN 94182597. \$14.99.**

Gr. 5 - 7. Dian Layton has adapted this classic allegory by Hannah Hurnard into what now should be a favorite for children. This is the story of a young girl named Much-Afraid, who learns to trust the Chief Shepherd and embark on a journey to the High Places. The Kingdom of Love resides in the High Places. The High Places are difficult to reach and only those with nimble "hinds' feet" can scale the intervening mountains. One has to be changed and healed before reaching this destination. The Chief Shepherd promises to help Much-Afraid if she will call on him. Two companions, Suffering and Sorrow, would lead the way. Much-Afraid and the Shepherd, together with Suffering and Sorrow, go through many difficult places. Her Fearing relatives try to deter her along the way. Despite setbacks and trials, Much-Afraid changes and learns new lessons as she trusts in the Shepherd and continues on the way.

Children will learn and be fascinated by this powerful story. Each new adventure teaches a lesson that will help youngsters to grow in their own faith and walk with the Lord. At the end of each chapter there is a section for discussion and thought which also includes memory work and a prayer. This is a marvelous book for class or home. Children will love the masterful artwork done by JoAnn Edington.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

*Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher Marysville, WA*

**\* 641.5 Pulleyn, Micah. Kids in the Kitchen : 100 Delicious, Fun, and Healthy Recipes to Cook and Bake. A Sterling/Lark Book, 1994. ISBN 080690447X. LCCN 93039111. \$19.95.**

Gr. 3 - 9. This book is just what parents need to help teach their children to cook and feel confident in the kitchen. Color photographs enhance the clear directions, good explanation of terms, and menu ideas. Recipes are easy to follow, nutritious, and appealing to youngsters with hearty appetites. The writing is breezy and enthusiastic, just what young cooks need. The adults in the family will enjoy using and eating these recipes too. This is a great book for all families with school age children.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

*Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher Marysville, WA*

**649 Bree, Loris Theovin and Marlin Bree. The Kid's Squish Book. MarLor Press, c1993. ISBN 0943400767. LCCN 93245016. Paper \$8.95.**

PS - Gr. 7. Get out your old clothes and get ready for some unusual, squishy, gooey arts and crafts ideas! Some projects are very messy and all are very fun. This delightful book was written for elementary readers, but could also include very young children or those twelve and older. The activities are explained in an amusing, appealing, easy-to-follow way. Everything from recipes for finger paint, homemade peanut butter, soft pretzels, and glarch (glue and starch), to collages, beads, napkin rings, lint paper, impasto, and even a volcano are included. Inexpensive or recycled materials can be used for many of the projects. There is also a plan for having a messy party.

This is a good resource book with over forty activities. Let the merry, mucky, mirey makings begin!

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

*Maria Hedman, Falls Christian Academy Post Falls, ID*

743 DuBosque, D. C. Draw!  
Ocean Animals. Peel Productions,  
1994. ISBN 0939217244. LCCN  
94026897. Paper  
\$7.95.

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Gr. 4 - 12. Beginning art instruction is combined with scientific facts in this book. The beautiful yet simple pictures allow even young children to have successful drawings. The step-by-step instructions are clear and easy to understand. Many common ocean animals as well as some lesser known species are included. Entire sections are devoted to different families such as the shark, whale, and coral reef animals. Information about each animal, its scientific name, diet, size, and a few interesting facts, is given. A section of drawing tips is in the back of the book. Suggestions on how to draw scales and fins in a more realistic manner can be found here. Shading and background tips are also in this section. Children in grades four and above, adults as well as the non-artist will enjoy drawing ocean animals using this book.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Anita Utley, Faith Christian School  
Mead, WA

**FIC Baldry, Cherith. Rite of Brotherhood.** (Saga of the Six Worlds; 1) Chariot Books, 1994. ISBN 0781400945. LCCN 94017037. Paper \$4.99.

Gr. 5 - 8. When the peaceful life on Two Islands was sent into turmoil by the invasion of the army Tar-Askar, Aurion was sure he would never be freed from being held hostage. How could he ever stay true to God in the midst of the pagan worship of the god of power and war, Askar? Yet, he felt it was his God-given mission to share the news of the true God and how he could change lives. Meriu, also a captive, but from the world of Kerraven, becomes his friend. When they discovered they both were followers of the true God, they encouraged each other in spite of the sarcasm and hate of the people of Tar Askar. The king's son, Arax, was their most feared enemy until

Aurion had the courage to stand against the Tar-Askan traditions of healing. Arax was only the first of many to be stricken by a deadly disease.

Would God heal him? Aurion struggled with fear and self-doubt. How could one weak alien influence a whole nation? This fast paced science fiction will keep the reader hanging on to each page. The author teaches the joys of trust and true friendship as she weaves an intricate tale of suspense. Young people will enjoy this book in the new Saga of the Six Worlds series.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Sharon Ann Rau, Valley Christian  
Schools  
Abbotsford, BC

**FIC Baldry, Cherith. Cradoc's Quest.** (Saga of the Six Worlds; 2) Chariot Books, 1994. ISBN 0781400937. LCCN 94027074. Paper \$4.99.

Gr. 5 - 8. Life in the world of Barren is just that, barren and very difficult. Cradoc has heard of the times before the Black Years, at which time everything to do with learning was destroyed. He has doubts until he stumbles across the ruins of an ancient civilization. A mysterious phoenix leads him to find the book, the Word of God, which he knows must be protected and taken to a trustworthy person. He follows his instructions and meets Ferelith, niece of Lord Berard, who is eager to help and brave in times of danger. Torquil, a harpist, seems more interested in his music than knowing the truth and carrying through with the secret mission. They are taken to the planet Centre where they search for the Mouse who will verify the authenticity of the Book, copy it, and send it around the Six Worlds for everyone to read.

A strange mixture of medieval customs and science fiction, this story incorporates a search for God's Word and values. Children will enjoy this tale and be eager for other adventures in the series.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 3

Sharon Ann Rau, Valley Christian Schools  
Abbotsford, BC

**Another title in this series is:**

Storm Wind; 3

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**FIC Beiler, Edna. Mattie Mae.**  
*Illustrated by Esther Rose Graber.*  
**Herald Press, 1967. ISBN**  
**0836117891. LCCN 67024800.**  
**Paper \$5.95.**

Gr. 3 - 5. *Mattie Mae* is a collection of value lessons on obedience, cooperation, unselfishness, and courage woven into stories about the simple life of an eight-year-old Amish girl in a modern day setting. Each chapter stands on its own and has pleasant charcoal illustrations. Young children will identify with the problems and feelings that this young girl experiences.

Quality - 3            Acceptability - 4

*Debbie Lindsay, Yelm Christian School*  
*Yelm, WA*

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**FIC Brown, Irene Bennett.**  
**Skitterbrain. Blue Heron, 1978.**  
**ISBN 0936085215. LCCN**  
**91018349. Paper \$6.95.**

Gr. 4 - 6. The hot, dusty Kansas prairie stretched out before eleven-year-old Larnie, making her wish for the hundredth time that she was back home. Yet here she was, following the trail of thousands of cattle being herded to Wichita to be sold at market. Why had their milk cow Bessie strayed into that wild herd anyway? Larnie's mom desperately needed the milk their cow would give, when the new baby arrived. Despite her fears, Larnie determines to find Bessie and get her back, not only to save the baby, but to prove to her papa, as well as to herself, that she is through being a "Skitterbrain." The Kansas landscape is brought to life in accurate detail, as we follow this courageous young girl through trying and often dangerous experiences. This fast-paced adventure will appeal to anyone who enjoys reading about the struggles and triumphs these early homesteaders faced.

Quality - 3            Acceptability - 3

*Mary McKinney, Retired Teacher*  
*Port Orchard, WA*

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**FIC Bryant, Teddie. Randy and**  
**Prince. Windflower**  
**Communications, 1992. ISBN**  
**1895308089. LCCN 92098056.**  
**Paper \$3.99.**

Gr. 3 - 6. Boys and girls will quickly be drawn into this story about eleven-year-old Randy. Six months prior to the story, his father had died. Now Randy is going to spend the summer on his grandfather's horse ranch in Colorado. While he is there, Randy makes new friends

and spends a lot of time riding and caring for horses, and helps solve a mystery about a missing stallion, Prince. But life is not easy for Randy. Children will be able to relate to his occasional disobedience and his questions about God. He can't understand why God would let his dad die, and he no longer feels that prayer will do any good. But through his adventures and the people he gets to know at the ranch, Randy comes back to the Lord and learns that even in difficult times, God is there and takes care of him. The book deals with a drunken ranch hand, the father of one of Randy's new friends. The author handles it well without going into sordid details, yet getting the message across that drunkenness is wrong and harmful to others. All-in-all, this is a wholesome story for middle elementary children.

Quality - 3            Acceptability - 4

*Sharon Westra, Mt. Vernon Christian School*  
*Mt. Vernon, WA*

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**\* FIC Edgren, Mary Elizabeth.**  
**Methuselah's Gift. Illustrated by**  
**Kathryn Penk Koch. Thomas**  
**Nelson, 1994. ISBN 0785280413.**  
**LCCN 94008672. \$9.99.**

Gr. 4 - 6. This is an enchanting story that goes beyond the barriers of language and understanding straight to the heart. Posie, a young raccoon, and her family are caught up in a saga of discovering the wonder and love of a little girl named Sarah. Methuselah, Posie's grandfather, weaves tales of "The Maker" and his plan for all of creation. Beautifully written and full of adventure, this book will capture the hearts of all who read it. This is a great book to encourage children to follow Christ. Kathryn Penk Koch's sensitive illustrations add beauty and warmth to this tender story.

Quality - 4            Acceptability - 4

*Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher*  
*Marysville, WA*

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**FIC Herold, Ann Bixby. The Hard**  
**Life of Seymour S. Newton.**  
**Illustrated by Sherry Neidigh.**  
**Herald Press, 1990. ISBN**  
**0836135326. LCCN 90041297.**  
**Paper \$5.95.**

Gr. 3 - 6. Peter is a struggling third grader. He's good at math, but by the time letters go from his brain to the paper they get all turned around. Spelling and writing terrify him, and as if school work isn't bad enough, the class bully teases him, laughs at him, and picks on him.

Dad thinks Peter's problem is laziness. One night Peter overhears his parents talk about a special class, which brings about Peter's wish to be sick so he can stay home from school. Soon Peter actually gets his wish and, while recovering in bed, he discovers a spider building a web outside his window. He is amazed at the intricate, hard work involved. Through the destruction and rebuilding of the web a few times, and some special interaction with his parents and friends, Peter discovers and accepts some things about himself that help resolve his fears at school. Herold has captured the emotional frustrations and challenges which may accompany learning disabilities. She has portrayed the reality of their effects on student and family, by sensitively creating a story around a boy and a spider. This is "feel good" fiction with real life truth intertwined! Many children may relate to and be encouraged by Peter's failures and successes.

Quality - 3            Acceptability - 4

*Cathie Coffin, Sonlight Christian School*  
*Kirkland, WA*

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**FIC Herold, Ann Bixby. The**  
**Mysterious Passover Visitors.**  
**Illustrated by Mary Chambers.**  
**Herald Press, 1989. ISBN**  
**083613494X. LCCN 89001946.**  
**Paper \$4.95.**

Gr. 4 - 6. Passover is a time of tradition and familiarity, at least until John Mark's mother invites a group of strangers into her home for the Passover meal. John Mark finds himself caught up in the gentle ways of the Rabbi, Jesus. Where suspicion and resentment used to be, John Mark realizes he wants to protect and defend this man who stands for right and holiness. Running desperately through the night, John Mark tries to warn Jesus that his enemies are about to betray him, but it's too late. In a rage, John Mark struggles against the captors until his eyes meet those of Jesus and he feels his anger melting away. "I'm going to follow him," John Mark declares, and he does. Later in his life he becomes a friend of Peter and has many adventures as a missionary. *The Mysterious Passover Visitors* answers questions about what life was like in the days of Jesus, as well as pulling the reader into the excitement and terror of his last days on earth. This book would be an excellent choice for a family or class to read together as a discussion starter about the life and times of Jesus. The illustrations by Mary Chambers are rough pen and ink drawings that enhance the fact that these events take place in ancient times. The book ends abruptly, leaving the reader with

pounding heart from the previous pages, not quite willing to end.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

*Danell L. Bemis, Willamette Christian School  
Eugene, OR*

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***FIC Horne, Constance. Trapped by Coal. Illustrated by Linda Heslop. Pacific Educational Press, 1994. ISBN 0888650914. LCCN 94910645. Paper \$6.95; teachers' packet, \$10.95.***

Gr. 3 - 6. In order for the family to survive and stay together with their step-mother, Art will have to work underground in the mine. Millie and Ben remember the stories of mine disasters and the dreaded illness from coal dust and black lung disease, and fear the worst as they listen to Mr. Warbell explain to Mum that Art must work underground. Art's cough haunts them as they try to think of ways to be able to afford to leave the town. But where else could Art work?

The setting is a northern British Columbia coal mining town in the early 1900's. The town has been split by a strike aimed at improving conditions in the mine. Many families are destitute, and illness has invaded homes like the gray coal dust which settles on everything. There seems to be no hope for the future, except

that Millie has a memory. Over and over she pictures in her mind seeing her grandfather hide money in an old tin. She is sure it would be enough money to take them away from heaps of slag, angry miners, and Extension Mine forever. If only she could remember the rest of the picture. Even if she knew where it was hidden, how could she get into the old house which threatened to fall into the unsafe mine pit? First a fire, then a cave-in, and suddenly the dreaded six blasts of the whistle calling the town rescue teams to a mine disaster, hold the reader intrigued to the very last page.

Young people will gain insight into the lifestyle of the early history of British Columbia, as well as the mindset of coal miners and striking unions. Readers will be inspired by a family that works together and helps one another in spite of almost hopeless circumstances. A detailed novel-study activity guide for teachers is included.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

*Sharon Ann Rau, Valley Christian Schools  
Abbotsford, BC*

Send us a list of your favorite titles on one subject; i.e., bears. We'll find what's new out there and perhaps publish the list.

Include your name, address, phone, perhaps FAX, and identifying information: teacher, librarian, parent, etc.

***FIC Jarman, Jerry. The Long Way Home. (The Journeys of Jessie Land; 1) Victor Books, 1994. ISBN 1564762726. LCCN 94033939. Paper \$4.99.***

Gr. 3 - 7. Desperate to escape an overbearing aunt and find her parents in California, twelve-year-old Jessie stows away in the truck of two men traveling across the dust plagued West in 1935. It's the Depression of the 30's and the dust bowl is raging across the Midwest, forcing families to uproot and seek relief from the grit of dust and grinding poverty. Jessie receives a letter from her parents, who are hoping to begin a new life in California, stating that it will be another six months before they will have enough money to send for her. Weary of the separation and of living with her aunt in dusty Kansas, she stows away in the back of an old pickup with an aging ex-convict called Tennessee Tom and his shirt-tail relative. Her action-packed trek across the Southwest leads her to new friends as she trusts God for guidance and learns to forgive those who have wronged her. There is some mild violence when she and her new friend, Tennessee Tom, stumble into the midst of a bank robbery and foil the getaway. In separate incidents she and Tom are held at gunpoint as Tom's greedy relative tries to manipulate them to fulfill his purposes. All of these incidents are left to the justice of the laws of the land. Although a good tale, some might question the romanticizing of a young girl stowing away on a truck with strangers.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 2

*Debbie Lindsay, Yelm Christian School  
Yelm, WA*

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***FIC Jarman, Jerry. My Father the Horse Thief. (The Journeys of Jessie Land; 2) Victor Books, 1995. ISBN 1564763471. LCCN 94032672. Paper \$4.99.***

Gr. 3 - 7. The famous Will Rogers' favorite horse, Soapsuds, has been stolen. All evidence points to Jessie's father, who was employed at Mr. Rogers' ranch and who has also disappeared without a trace. Her family may be poor but Jessie knows her father is innocent. With trust in God, faith in her father's sterling character and the help of her friend, Leo Little Wolf, they embark upon a thrilling search for clues to locate the whereabouts of her father and the missing horse.

There is mild violence as they come face to face with the real thief. He tries to keep them from exposing him and ruining his plan for getting ransom money. In spite of a bumbling sheriff

who considers Jessie and Leo to be major hindrances, the thief and those involved are finally apprehended and brought to justice.

Quality - 3            Acceptability - 4

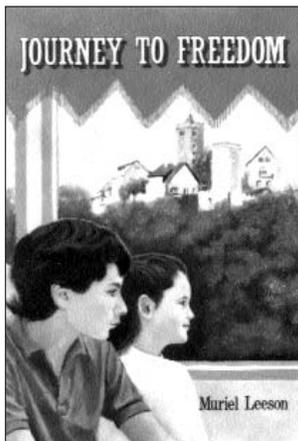
**FIC Jones, Linda K. Fear Strikes at Midnight. Herald Press, 1990. ISBN 0836135075. LCCN 89019924. Paper \$5.95.**

Gr. 3 - 6. Doug Cameron and his best friend, Mark, live across the street from each other. Doug has a quick temper, and when he loses a one-on-one basketball game to Mark, he tells his friend he doesn't want to see him again. That night a tornado strikes. Doug's family and home are spared. But his friend Mark's home is entirely destroyed, and Mark sustains several broken bones. Doug feels guilty, is fearful of other storms, and worries about what God thinks about his poor sportsmanship. The rest of the story action reveals Doug's spiritual and character development.

The incidents in this book capture and hold the attention of youngsters, while exposing the fears children experience. It also gives practical suggestions for dealing with physical and emotional trauma in their lives. The solutions offered include praying and talking to the pastor and other professionals. The book's strength lies in its treatment of problems that children face. It brings out well the relief one feels in knowing he is not alone in these difficulties, and that they can be overcome with God's help.

Quality - 3            Acceptability - 3

*Harriette Richards, Retired Teacher  
Port Orchard, WA*



**\* FIC Leeson, Muriel. Journey to Freedom. Illustrated by Lewis Eaton. Herald Press, 1989. ISBN 0836134982. LCCN 89083735. Paper \$4.95.**

Gr. 4 - 6. "If only I had said no! Oh God, please don't let Mrs. Mueller die!" Paul is caught in a web of lies, extortion by a bully who knows the truth, and a searing conscience. If only he had not gone with his eighth grade companions to play pranks on the neighbors. Now he'd paid money, lied to borrow, and used his European trip savings, to stop anyone from knowing the truth. But God knows the whole story and will not let Paul forget his responsibilities. While on a trip through the historic places where Martin Luther had lived

in Europe, Paul learns how Martin Luther faced the challenge of living his faith day by day, no matter what the circumstance and opposition. On the bus trip he meets Dave and examines the Mennonite heritage as well. Both sets of parents are struggling with personal beliefs and relationships. However, everyone is unprepared for the way that God brings them to a point of helplessness, where the only way out is to trust and then obey. Students will be challenged to sort out the various details. This book is well written and holds the reader in suspense to find out what happens next.

Teachers will find this a good novel to teach the values of truthfulness and having the courage to stand against peer pressure. The historical facts and details guide the reader not only through the life of Martin Luther, but give insight into his impact on all of Christianity.

Quality - 4            Acceptability - 4

*Sharon Ann Rau, Valley Christian Schools  
Abbotsford, BC*

**\* FIC Lewis, C. S. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. (The Chronicles of Narnia; 1) Bridgestone Production Group, 1991. ISBN 08807704829. Video \$14.95.**

Gr. 3 - Adult. The masterful writing of C.S. Lewis comes to life in this saga of four children, Lucy, Peter, Susan and Edmond, as they open the door of an old wardrobe and are transported to the magical kingdom of Narnia. The evil White Witch has kept Narnia in never-



ending winter. Aslan the lion-king, who is a Christ-figure, leads the children in the fight against her evil power. Through the power of the blood of Aslan, the children triumph against the evil queen. This allegory of the struggle against good and evil parallels the pitting of Christ and his followers against Satan.

\* **FIC Lewis, C. S. Prince Caspian and The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.** (*The Chronicles of Narnia*; 2) **Bridgestone Production Group, 1991. ISBN 0880704810. Video \$14.95.**

Gr. 3 - Adult. This is a tale of the four children once again coming to the aid of Narnia. This time they set sail to rescue six lords that have been banished from Narnia. Full of adventure, this is a voyage children will love as they learn of the struggle of good against evil.

\* **FIC Lewis, C. S. The Silver Chair.** (*The Chronicles of Narnia*; 3) **Bridgestone Production Group, 1991. ISBN 0880704802. Video \$14.95.**

Gr. 3 - Adult. One of the children, along with a new friend, visits Narnia to rescue Prince Rilian. Aslan brings encouragement and help as the children embark on this perilous journey.

Originally produced by the BBC, these videos reflect superb British acting and attention to detail in production, earning them a top rating.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher  
Marysville, WA

**Readers may also enjoy a video about Lewis and his life:**

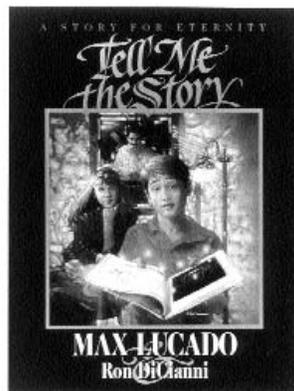
Through Joy and Beyond

**The Narnian books are also available singly or as boxed sets:**

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- Prince Caspian
- The Silver Chair
- The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
- The Magician's Nephew
- The Horse and His Boy
- The Last Battle

*The books and boxed sets are available on the*

*order form.*



\* **FIC Lucado, Max. Tell Me the Story.** *Illustrated by Ron DiCianni.* **Crossway Books, 1992. ISBN 0891076794. LCCN 92026963. \$15.99.**

Gr. 3 - 6. Combining the powerful illustrations of Ron DiCianni with the vivid narrative of Max Lucado, children are given a vivid picture of a loving heavenly Father who delights in creating a special world for us. The love of the Father pours out in this collection of fictionalized, scripture-based stories. These stories illuminate the creation, fall of man, redemption, spiritual warfare, and the coming again of the Lord. Each story would serve as an excellent springboard for adult-child discussion on these topics. This beautiful book promises to become a classic that children and adults will treasure.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Sally Kuhns, Sylvan Way Christian School  
Bremerton, WA

**FIC Marvin, Isabel R. A Bride for Anna's Papa.** *Illustrated by Kay Sather.* **Milkweed Editions, 1994. ISBN 091594393X. LCCN 93041175. Paper \$6.95.**

Gr. 4 - 7. Thirteen-year-old Anna Kallio has learned to shoulder the responsibilities of an adult, since her mother died a year earlier. She now has to cope with the household tasks and worries of how the family will survive in the harsh Minnesota environment. It is 1907 and her father, a blacksmith, works in the dangerous iron mines. Her nine-year-old brother, Matti, challenges her with his escapades and illnesses.

Desiring to find a bride for their father, the children plot to find him a new wife.

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Unexpectedly, their father chooses someone they didn't pick. Anna must then deal with her own conflicting emotions. She begins to grow up and discover some of the really important things in life.

This book gives excellent background and insights into the life of a miner at the turn of the century. It will help young readers understand how a difficult situation can be faced and dealt with.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher  
Marysville, WA

**FIC McCusker, Paul. Strange Journey Back.** (*Adventures in Odyssey*; 1) *Illustrations by Karen Loccisano.* **Focus on the Family, 1992. ISBN 1561791016. LCCN 91000008. Paper \$4.99.**

Gr. 4 - 7. Mark Prescott and his mother move to the town of Odyssey. His father has left them and Mark is sure it's his fault. So how can he fix things between his parents if they live so far away in Odyssey? Not wanting to accept the situation, Mark befriends the local inventor and finds his way into a time machine, hoping he can change the past. Mark's journey into the past does not end the way he expects, but he does learn some valuable lessons on the way. Not only does his father love him, but Mark

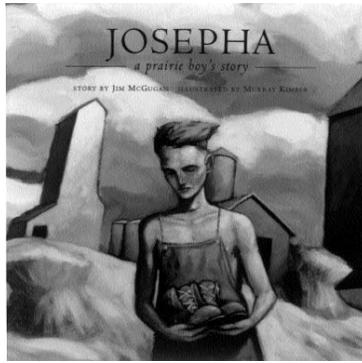
learns that we can't always plan our lives, that change can be a good thing. *Strange Journey Back* is the first in the Adventures in Odyssey series of books taken from the popular radio series by Focus on the Family. The situations and characters from the pen of Paul McCusker come alive with endearing and humorous qualities. The illustrations of Karen Loccisano help trigger the imagination that carries the reader away to Whit's End in a friendly little town called "Odyssey." Life lessons are the gems in this book, cushioned comfortably in a treasure chest of adventure and imagination.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Danell L. Bemis, Willamette Christian School  
Eugene, OR

**Other titles in this series:**

- High Flyer with a Flat Tire; 2
- The Secret Cave of Robinwood; 3
- Behind the Locked Door; 4
- Lights Out at Camp What-A-Nut; 5
- The King's Quest; 6



\* **FIC McGugan, Jim. *Josepha*. Illustrated by Murray Kimber. Chronicle Books, 1993. ISBN 0811808025. LCCN 94006603. \$11.95.**

Gr. 3-6. This is the story of a teenage immigrant, Josepha, who has come to North America in the early 1900's from Europe and has become part of a farming community. He then has to leave school and travel with his family to a place where he can work and earn more money. The narration is from the viewpoint of a younger boy who has become Josepha's friend and attends school with him. They have learned from each other about different life styles and now will learn about saying goodbye to a good friend. Though they don't speak the same language and are not close in age, their friendship has become very important to each of them. This is expressed as they each present the other with a gift that is an illustration of the friendship they value. The story is told in an almost poetic style that would be good to read to younger students as well as to expose older students to a different style of writing. The illustrations are rich with vivid contrasts both in line and color. There are no questionable elements in the book and I feel it would be appropriate for Christian school libraries.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Janet Hicks, Maple Valley Christian School  
Renton WA

**FIC Moore, Ruth Nulton. *The Christmas Surprise*. Herald Press, 1989. ISBN 0836134990. LCCN 89015213. Paper \$5.95.**

Gr. 4 - 7. Historical fiction is a wonderful tool for making the past relevant to today's student. This tale is set in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania during the French and Indian War. The author artfully weaves a story around God's intervention one early Christmas morning.

Twelve-year-old Kate's parents have been killed and her brother kidnapped by a band of Indians. Her Uncle Josh, an itinerant evangelist, takes her to Bethlehem to live while he is away. Under loving care in this Moravian Mission outpost, Kate struggles with bitterness toward the Indian people. The Moravians consider all people, including Indians, their brothers and sisters. The story, and Kate's fears, climax when the people of Bethlehem are told that Indians plan to raid them on Christmas Eve. The defensive plan? Trust in God. The people of Bethlehem are pacifists. Ruth Nulton Moore has evidently done careful research of historical facts, and some of the characters in the book were actually residents of Bethlehem at the time. She cites sources and gives a map of the town. One word of caution: the book opens with Kate's recollection of the murder and kidnapping, and memories return as they would in real life. Descriptions are vivid, but appropriate for the reader to sympathize with the character. However, the scene may be too provocative for younger readers.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Dona Kachele, Neighborhood Christian School  
Bellevue, WA

**FIC Moore, Ruth Nulton. *Distant Thunder*. Illustrated by Allan Eitzen. Herald Press, c1991. ISBN 0836135571. LCCN 91010845. Paper \$5.95.**

Gr. 3 - 7. This story of the Moravians in America at the time of the Revolutionary War centers around a family in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, especially Kate Rau, daughter of missionary parents. The story is gripping from the beginning, when Luke Warner, a cousin, decides to join the Continental Army and fight against the British. This action is remarkable since Moravians did not believe in fighting. In the course of the story, the town of Bethlehem is used by the Continental Army as a hospital for casualties, while also being occupied by the British army. Kate learns first hand the sorrows of war. She deals with conflicting emotions brought on by her Christian beliefs vs. her patriotism.

Historical material and descriptions of the town have been carefully drawn from actual journals and archives of the city. The author has woven the life and customs of this religious group into the story with sympathetic understanding. The characters are well developed and the realities of life are dealt with from a Christian viewpoint. This story would be particularly useful if read in connection with the study of this period of history.

*May  
the LORD  
bless you  
more and  
more, both  
you and  
your  
children.*

*Ps. 115:14*

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Harriette Richards, Retired Teacher  
Port Orchard, WA

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**FIC Nesbit, Jeffrey. The Legend of the Great Grizzly. (High Sierra Adventure; 1) Thomas Nelson, 1994. ISBN 0840792549. LCCN 93039765. Paper \$4.99.**

Gr. 4 - 7. Twelve-year-old Josh Landis is the main character in this adventure story that will be of interest to both boys and girls. In the beginning of the book he is living in Washington, D.C., with his widowed mother. Then his mom becomes engaged to a National Park ranger. After her marriage they all move to the High Sierra Mountains in California. Josh, born and raised a city boy, becomes fascinated with the mountain wildlife, especially the great grizzly bear. He makes friends with a neighbor girl, a wise old Indian woman, and several park rangers. He becomes involved in a terrifying search for a bear that has been attacking tourist's campsites. Throughout the book, Josh deals with the emotions that come with losing his father, gaining a stepdad, moving from city life to the country, and learning to put his trust in God again. It is a story of growth and acceptance. Through the wisdom of an aged Indian woman, the book subtly denounces the New Age idea of worshipping nature. The Indian woman also teaches Josh the value of courage and strength. At first, Josh is somewhat disrespectful and impertinent to his mother, but improves as the book continues.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Sharon Westra, Mt. Vernon Christian School  
Mt. Vernon, WA

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**FIC Pritts, Kim D. The Mystery of Sadler Marsh. Illustrated by Matthew Archambault. Herald Press, c1993. ISBN 0836136187. LCCN 92026454. Paper \$4.95.**

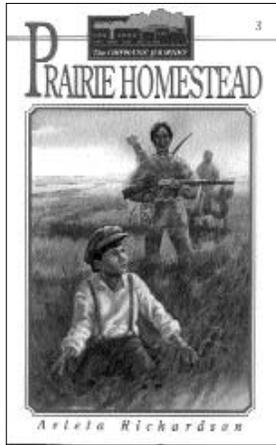
Gr. 4 - 6. Matthew plunges frantically through the marsh, trying to escape the clutches of a shaggy stranger. All he had wanted to do was try to locate and take a picture of Tiny Tim, a bog turtle he had found. He had released the turtle back into the bog after learning it was a protected, endangered species, native to the marsh in back of his folk's property. Matt sets out to solve the mystery of some mysterious footprints and the presence of the lurking stranger at the marsh. Woven into the story are interesting facts about turtles and their habits.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Debbie Lindsay, Yelm Christian School  
Yelm, WA

*You must keep  
his statutes and  
commandments which  
I enjoin on you today,  
that you and your children  
after you may prosper,  
and that you may have  
long life on the land  
which the LORD,  
your God,  
is giving you forever.”*

*Deut. 4:40*



\* **FIC Richardson, Arleta. *Prairie Homestead*. Chariot Books, 1994. ISBN 0781400910. LCCN 94027086. Paper \$4.99.**

Gr. 4 - 6. "The Business Entrepreneur with a Heart" is a good sub-title for this quick moving story of orphaned children learning to become a family again. Chad Rush, new father to Ethan, Alice, Simon, and Will, exhibits tunnel vision for hard work, profit, and discipline, yet gives way to truth and gentleness when he believes his son Ethan's innocence after Ethan was

falsely accused. Ethan learns trusting God is real.

Their new mother, Manda, drops her veil of indifference to the children as she trains them in the skills needed on the farm. All four children respond to the love shown and accept their new sister, Frances, easily. By the time the family and hired hands (who have soft spots for children beneath gruff exteriors) move to South Dakota to homestead, the new unit solidifies emotionally and spiritually.

This book provides a ripe backdrop for classroom discussion with 4th - 6th graders about times in which we struggle. It is a great novel to be read and studied as a class project.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

*Carolyn Hearing, Billings Christian School  
Billings, MT*

**FIC Roddy, Lee. *Secret of the Shark Pit*. (A Ladd Family Adventure; 1) Focus on the Family, 1988. ISBN 0929608143. LCCN 88045300. Paper \$4.99.**

Gr. 3 - 6. When twelve-year-old Josh Ladd meets a stranger in an empty lot near Los Angeles, little does he realize the adventure he

is about to embark on. From smoggy L.A. to sunny Hawaii, this tale is packed with suspense that will engross young readers. The loss of a cryptic map during the burglary of their hotel room spells trouble for his family. Josh, ignoring his father's warnings, is hot on the trail of the mystery when he and his friends find themselves embroiled in big trouble. He learns the hard way the importance of obedience and the true measure of friendship.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

*Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher  
Marysville, WA*

**Other titles in this series:**

- The Legend of Fire; 2
- Mystery of the Island Jungle; 3
- The Dangerous Canoe; 4
- Secret of the Sunken Sub; 5
- Mystery of the Wild Surfer; 6
- Peril at Pirate's Point; 7
- Terror at Forbidden Falls; 8
- Eye of the Hurricane; 9
- Night of the Vanishing Lights; 10

*The mouth of the  
just man  
tells of wisdom  
and his tongue utters  
what is right.*

*Ps. 37:30*



**FIC Signer, Billie Touchstone. *Cry of the Eagle*. (Wind Star Series) Illustrated by Bob Bliss. St. Paul Books & Media, 1990. ISBN 0819814555. LCCN 88018500. Paper \$4.95.**

Gr. 4 - 8. In this fast moving book set during the founding of our country, you meet Willie Kroll, fourteen-year-old son of Karl Kroll, a Dutch immigrant. Willie lives with his father and somewhat stubborn and ornery Dutch grandfather, Pieter. Willie is proud of his Dutch heritage, but he's also proud of the heritage from his mother who has died. To her, a Seneca Indian chief's daughter, he had been

"Little Eagle." In his fourteen years Willie has developed a wisdom of the woods, as well as a tender compassion from his mother and her people. He has learned to be honest, obedient, and resourceful from his father. When the Revolutionary War breaks out, Willie finds he needs all of his skills, education, and inner strength to find his way in a hard time. The reader will agonize with Willie as he struggles to make grown-up decisions, cry with him in his losses, and support him to maintain a healthy respect for both sides of the person he is: Seneca Indian, Dutch immigrant...American boy. The book is not only very enlightening about the life, times, and events of 1776, it also captures and holds the interest of the reader.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

Gayle Chessman Haberman, West Hills Christian School, Portland, OR

**FIC Signer, Billie Touchstone. Shetland Summer. (Wind Star Series) Illustrated by Bob Bliss. St. Paul Books & Media, 1990. ISBN 0819868841. LCCN 88018480. Paper \$4.95.**

Gr. 3 - 6. Ten-year-old Mag knew she had three months to enjoy the little Shetland-Welsh pony her father was boarding for the summer. She wasn't supposed to get too attached though, because after that the pony, Glory, was to be returned to its owner to be sold. Mag didn't plan to fall completely in love with the honey-colored Shetland, in fact, didn't expect to because of Glory's stubborn nature. Before the summer was over, not only had Mag and Glory developed a close bond to one another, they had both learned a lot in the process. From mine shafts to moonshiners, Mag and Glory shared an exciting summer. This book not only deals with the special relationship between a girl and a pony, it touches on a number of issues that have to do with growing up, such as trust, discipline, and friendship. Without even realizing it, the reader learns a lot about country life in the Ozarks. It's difficult to tell if the book is set in a much simpler, quieter, contemporary setting, or if it's reaching back forty to fifty years to a time when life was less complicated. The setting is refreshingly uncluttered and unhurried. The story line and character development are a little weak for older students; but young readers, particularly girls, should enjoy the book.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

Gayle Chessman Haberman, West Hills Christian School, Portland, OR

**FIC Vernon, Louise A. The Beggars' Bible. Herald Press, 1971. ISBN 0836117328. LCCN 77131534. Paper \$5.95.**

Gr. 3 - 6. This book tells the story of a poor young man, Arnold Hutton, who lives in the 1300's in England. He is intrigued by the teachings of the Oxford University teacher, John Wycliffe, and makes every effort to sit under this great teacher. Wycliffe makes it his mission to get the gospel out to all men, not just the rich. He meets considerable opposition from the government and the Catholic church. The story stays with Wycliffe until just before his death, as he and his assistants work to translate the Bible from Latin to English. This book is a good resource for students tracing their Christian heritage.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

**FIC Vernon, Louise A. The Bible Smuggler. Illustrated by Roger Hane. Herald Press, 1967. ISBN 0836115570. LCCN 67015994. Paper \$5.95.**

Gr. 4 - 6. *The Bible Smuggler* is the story of the efforts of William Tyndale to translate the Bible into English. He met with considerable opposition from political and religious leaders in sixteenth century England. His desire to translate the Word of God into the language of the people was considered heresy. Tyndale and his young assistant, Collin Hartley, set out on a journey to find safe places where Tyndale is able to fulfill God's call on his life. He is eventually able to translate, publish, and smuggle back into England his translation of the Bible, which makes up ninety percent of today's King James Version of the Bible. The story is well written and interesting.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

**FIC Vernon, Louise A. Night Preacher. Herald Press, 1969. ISBN 0836117743. LCCN 73094378. Paper \$5.95.**

Gr. 4 - 6. Menno Simons is a former Catholic priest during the reformation in 16th century Holland. Through diligent study of the Bible, he is convinced it is imperative to adhere more closely to the truth of God's Word than is taught in the government-sanctioned church. Menno Simons became the leader of the Anabaptists now known as Mennonites. This book follows the persecution he, his family, and his followers endured as a result of their beliefs. The story is

told from the perspective of his two oldest children, and is an interesting and informative way for young readers to learn about this important time in church history.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

Sally Kuhns, Sylvan Way Christian School Bremerton, WA

**FIC Wisehart, Randall. Luke's Summer Secret. Friends United Press, 1991. ISBN 0944350178. LCCN 91000786. Paper \$8.95.**

Gr. 5 - 8. Luke's parents died of cholera when he was very young and his home with his aunt and Uncle Jonathan is not a happy one. His uncle is forever criticizing him and his aunt hardly speaks to him. Luke's dull life in Cleveland changes overnight when he is allowed to accompany his uncle on a business trip to Newport, Indiana. Here he meets Levi Coffin, a leader in the Underground Railroad. For the first time in his life he is in a home where he feels love and acceptance. He is elated when he is asked to stay and help the Coffins as they prepare to move. His uncle warns him against getting involved with runaway slaves.

He meets his first runaways and begins to get involved in the activities of the Underground Railroad. When he has to return to his uncle's house he has changed on the inside. Knowing his uncle's antagonism toward helping runaway slaves, he visits his abolitionist friends secretly. When his blunder causes three slaves to be captured, he accompanies a group who is going to get them back. After a dramatic rescue, Luke returns to the city to be greeted by the newest member of the Underground Railroad, his Uncle Jonathan. As the story ends, Luke and his uncle are sharing their feelings for the first time ever. This historical fiction book will cause readers to think through their own stand on controversial issues of our day.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

Esther Knaupp, Santiam Christian School Corvallis, OR

**The following Primary books may also be of interest to Intermediate students:**

**220 Bible Verse Coloring Pages. Illustrated by Chizuko Yasuda. Gospel Light, 1984. ISBN 2511606720. Paper \$16.99.**

\* 223 The 23rd Psalm. Illustrated by Helen Caswell. Abingdon Press, 1995. ISBN 0687011728. Paper \$5.95.

\* 225 The Lord's Prayer. Illustrated by Helen Caswell. Abingdon Press, 1995. ISBN 0687011736. Paper \$5.95.

\* 581.3 Ardley, Neil. The Science Book of Things That Grow. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991. ISBN 0152005862. LCCN 90048097. \$9.95.

\* 811 Moore, Clement Clarke. The Night Before Christmas : Told in Signed English. Illustrated by Steve Marchesi and Jan Scrobisz. Galludet/Kendall Green, 1994. ISBN 1563680203. LCCN 94011477. \$14.95.

\* 821 Tennyson, Alfred. The Brook. Illustrated by Charles Micucci. Orchard Books, c1994. ISBN 0531068544. LCCN 93046404. Trade \$14.95. Lib. ed. \$14.99.

912.71 Wright, Nicola and Tony Potter. My First Canadian Atlas. Whitecap Books, 1994. ISBN 1551102536. \$12.95.

E Deedy, Carmen Agra. The Library Dragon. Illustrated by Michael P. White. Peachtree, 1994. ISBN 156145091X. LCCN 94014754. \$16.95.

E Derby, Janice. Are You My Friend? Illustrated by Joy Dunn Keenan. Herald Press, 1993. ISBN 0836136098. LCCN 92038779. \$11.95.

\* E Joyce, Susan. Post Card Passages. Illustrated by Doug DuBosque. Peel Productions, 1994. ISBN 0939217279. LCCN 94002949. \$13.95.

The following Junior High/Senior High books may also be of interest to Intermediate students:

535 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About Light. Enslow, 1994. ISBN 0894905295. LCCN 93023719. \$17.95.

536 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About Temperature and Heat. Enslow, 1994. ISBN 0894905341. LCCN 93048800. \$17.95.

537 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About Electricity and Magnets. Enslow, 1994. ISBN 0894905309. LCCN 93045252. \$17.95.

540 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About Chemistry. Enslow, 1994. ISBN 0894905317. LCCN 94000959. \$17.95.

551.5 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About Weather. Enslow, 1994. ISBN 0894905333. LCCN 93048720. \$17.95.

612 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About the Human Body. Enslow, 1993. ISBN 0894904434. LCCN 92043802. \$17.95.

933 Embry, Margaret. Everyday Life in Bible Times : Work, Worship, and War. (Bible World) Thomas Nelson, 1994. ISBN 0785279024. LCCN 94031053. \$9.99.

FIC Bell, Mary Reeves. The Secret of the Mezuzah. NavPress, 1995. ISBN 0891098720. LCCN 94043826. Paper \$5.00.

FIC Bly, Stephen. Hawks Don't Say Goodbye. (A Nathan T. Riggins Western Adventure; 6) Crossway Books, 1994. ISBN 0891077820. LCCN 94020255. Paper \$4.99.

FIC Borntreger, Mary Christner. Ellie. (Ellie's People; 1) Herald Press, 1988. ISBN 0836134680. LCCN 88002779. Paper \$6.95.

FIC Brown, Irene Bennett. Before the Lark. Blue Heron, 1992, c1982. ISBN 0936085223. LCCN 94452039. Paper \$7.95.

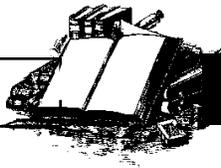
FIC Brown, Irene Bennett. Willow Whip. Blue Heron, 1979. ISBN 0936085231. LCCN 92076152. Paper \$8.95.

FIC Littleton, Mark R. Trouble Down the Creek. (Rocky Creek; 3) Chariot Books, 1994. ISBN 0781400821. LCCN 94009220. Paper \$5.99.

FIC Walton, Mrs. O. F. A Peep Behind the Scenes. (A Victorian Classic for Children) Bridge, 1982. ISBN 0882705385. LCCN 82073063. Paper \$4.95.

The following books by Penny Lent are also available:

Young Writers' Market Manual  
Young Writers' Contest Manual  
Young Writers' Manuscript Manual



**306.7 Johnson, Greg and Susie Shellenberger. What Hollywood Won't Tell You About Sex, Love, and Dating. Regal Books, c1994. ISBN 0830716777. LCCN 94018277. Paper \$9.99.**

Gr. 8 - 12. This is an up front, frank, factual book that handles the tough issues young people face today. It does not waltz around difficult subjects (pre-marital sex, abortion, homosexuality), but meets them head on with straightforward and candid discussion, always using the Bible as the plumbline by which we make our decisions. This book is designed to be used by both groups and individuals. It includes a built in Discussion Leader's Guide. At the end of each chapter is a section titled "For Further Thought" that is very thought provoking. The book includes graphics on almost every page that makes it very readable even for those teenagers who find reading difficult or a chore. The positive aspects of the book include topics such as what makes a fun date, an interesting conversationalist, and how

to divorce proof your marriage in your dating years. The authors have done a great service to their young readers by being vulnerable and sharing areas where they failed and why. They offer specific strategies on how to deal with difficult situations that a young man or woman might encounter during their dating years and how to avoid them altogether. Accountability and restoration are emphasized throughout the book. The authors not only write from their own gender perspective, they also include insightful comments from teenagers plus many celebrities from the fields of sports, music, and entertainment. Probably the best recommendation for the book was when I gave it to my sixteen-year-old daughter and my eighteen-year-old son to look over and give me their impressions. They both sat down and read it!

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

*Robin Vandembark, Snohomish County Christian School, Lynnwood, WA*

**369.4 Ross, Dorothy M. Fund Raising for Youth. Meriwether, 1985. ISBN 0916260283. LCCN 84061477. Paper \$9.95.**

Gr. 10 - Prof. Dorothy Ross offers hundreds of ideas for raising money for community and youth groups in this practical, helpful book. The format of the book is breezy, but practical with all kinds of hints on how to be a success at fund raising. She takes into account that there may be no budget for promotion and offers numerous ways on how to get over that hurdle. Legal cautions, from city ordinances to sales taxes, are outlined to prevent groups from getting in a bind. Creative ideas abound with all the "how to" needed to accomplish them. This book can be utilized by mature young people as well as adults to bring in needed dollars for a group.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

*Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher Marysville, WA*

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**535 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About Light. Enslow, 1994. ISBN 0894905295. LCCN 93023719. \$17.95.**

**536 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About Temperature and Heat. Enslow, 1994. ISBN 0894905341. LCCN 93048800. \$17.95.**

**537 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About Electricity and Magnets. Enslow, 1994. ISBN 0894905309. LCCN 93045252. \$17.95.**

**540 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About Chemistry. Enslow, 1994. ISBN 0894905317. LCCN 94000959. \$17.95.**

**551.5 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About Weather. Enslow, 1994. ISBN 0894905333. LCCN 93048720. \$17.95.**

Gr. 6 - 12. Robert Gardner, drawing on former science teaching experiences, has brought together a highly useful series of "Do it yourself" science books. Each of these books develops an area of science — chemistry, light, electricity and magnets, temperature and heat, and weather — using experiments and projects. Readers are given the opportunity to discover scientific truths through a hands-on approach. Most of the needed materials can be found around home or school, although a list of scientific supply companies is included in each book. These books would be good reference volumes for libraries, classroom teachers, or homeschool parents. Many of the projects are suitable for inclusion in science fairs. Students could be assigned projects such as "Demonstrate how conductors and nonconductors work," or "Make a useable weather station." All of the projects are creative and center in on excellent concepts. The books are progressive, each beginning with basic precepts which are carefully developed and built upon. Teachers could easily develop a series of lesson plans for special units. The black and white line drawings, charts, and photographs are helpful, but not exciting, and the text sometimes lacks attention keeping ability.

Quality - 2                      Acceptability - 4

**612 Gardner, Robert. Science Projects About the Human Body. Enslow, 1993. ISBN 0894904434. LCCN 92043802. \$17.95.**

Gr. 6 - Adult. This book teaches you about the human body through a series of easy-to-do demonstrations using simple materials. Find out how the heart works by squeezing a small rubber ball seventy times a minute and seeing your hand as the muscle of your heart. See your pulse by using a straw and clay. Measure the volume of air in one breath. Explore your senses by locating taste sensors and testing temperature receptors. Find your dominant eye and fool your eye by making a moving picture out of a single piece of paper. These and other experiments will help students to better understand how they are made. The author, a former science teacher, has developed excellent concepts that any student would enjoy. Since many schools begin teaching about senses and the body in primary grades, this would be an excellent teacher resource. The reading level and math ability needed to calculate some of the projects ("How many hairs on your head?") would be at least sixth grade. The black and

white illustrations are adequate, but not exciting.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

*Paula Stewart Marks, Morning Star Christian School, Bend, OR*

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**\* 616.89 Balter, Marie and Richard Katz. Nobody's Child. Addison-Wesley, 1991. ISBN 0201608162. LCCN 90045537. Paper \$8.95.**

Gr. 10 - Adult. This story, written sensitively and with courage, shares the deepest struggles the human mind can face, yet still be able to come out victorious. Marie (Bartello) Balter, having been faced with rejection after rejection, finally succumbs to life's pressures and her own insecurities. She is in and out of mental institutions for twenty years, starting at the tender age of seventeen. Her worst state, a catatonic silence in which she reverts to the fetal position, whimpering like an infant, seems irrevocable until her inner cry to God offers the small thread of hope that she learns to cling to. With great insight, her inner struggles are revealed as Marie slowly recovers and explains, in fascinating detail, the warped and frightening world from which she is determined to escape.

During her rehabilitation, she hears Mother Teresa speak and is inspired by her dedication to reach out to the hopelessly dying. It is then that Marie chooses, through sheer will power and God's grace, to offer her own life to the "hopelessly living." This is accomplished as she acquires a master's degree from Harvard and works diligently with others who suffer with mental illness.

This book is a must for any psychology student or socially aware person who wishes to glean critical insight into the human mind with its frailties and strengths. Marie's favorite scripture sums up the courage and depth her faith offered as a vital link throughout this life crisis: "I will build an altar unto You, O God, of the broken pieces of my heart."

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

*Mary McKinney, Retired Teacher  
Port Orchard, WA*

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**812 Kehret, Peg. Winning Monologs for Young Actors. Meriwether, 1987. ISBN 0916260380. LCCN 86061109. Paper \$12.95.**

Gr. 7 - Adult. These monologues by Peg Kehret will capture the imaginations and eagerness of

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young people. They are not difficult to learn and echo the experiences of students. Topics range from cafeteria lunches to sibling rivalry to child abuse. All of the characters are children, and each story is told from a youthful perspective. I am convinced that Kehret understands the emotions and viewpoints of young people. Students will benefit from the truths imparted in this book. Kehret mixes a delightful combination of humor and seriousness, making performances enjoyable yet poignant. A few monologues will need screening for suitability in the Christian school. The general quality of the material is high enough to warrant their use. As an eighth-through twelfth-grade drama teacher, I have used several of Kehret's scripts from her books in my curriculum. The variety of characterizations may be used for drama classes, role-playing exercises, and discussion starters. This collection is a valuable resource for schools.

I recommend: Performing (grades 6 - 12), Viewing (3 - 8), Reading/Role playing (4 - 8).

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 3

*Sandra Hosking, Falls Christian Academy  
Post Falls, ID*

*Finally,  
brothers,  
whatever is true,  
whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just,  
whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely,  
whatever is gracious,  
if there is any  
excellence and if there  
is anything  
worthy of praise,  
think about these  
things.*

Phil. 4:8

**\* 917.404 Irwin, Bill with David McCasland. Blind Courage. WRS Publishing, 1992. ISBN 1567960928. LCCN 92060012. \$19.95. Paper \$12.95. Cassette tape \$12.95**

Gr. 10 - Adult. Answering the call of God can lead to real adventure and challenge. Bill Irwin's story of his trek across the Appalachian Trail is a remarkable testimony of what God can do in one man's life. This is the amazing chronicle of how Irwin, though blind, walked with his Seeing Eye Dog, Orient, over 2,000 miles through snow, rain, and summer heat. He was propelled on his journey because he believed this was a mission to which God was calling him. For Irwin, each day on the trail was a promise kept to God, to himself, and to the hundreds of thousands of people who read about him or saw him interviewed on TV. Irwin relates how he not only completed this trek, but experienced healing for inner blindness that was a part of his life. Everyday he saw more of who he was and more of God's faithfulness and call. Along the way he encountered numerous brushes with death, a perplexed bear, falls, losing his way, and the constant stress of avoiding obstacles on the trail. You won't be able to put this exciting adventure down until you've read the last sentence. There is also an audio cassette tape of this book that would be great for the visually impaired or those who are short on time and could listen while commuting or working.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

*Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher  
Marysville, WA*

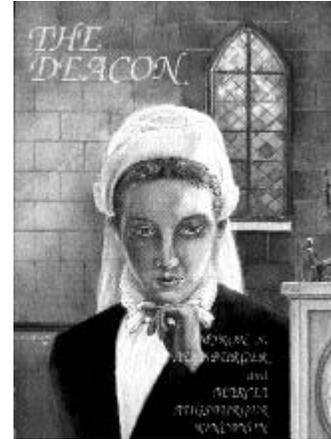
**933 Embry, Margaret. Everyday Life in Bible Times : Work, Worship, and War. (Bible World) Thomas Nelson, 1994. ISBN 0785279024. LCCN 94031053. \$9.99.**

Gr. 3 - 8. This exceptionally detailed book focuses on making the people and times of the Bible real to the reader. Colorful, lifelike illustrations draw the reader into the past and provide an excellent forum for answering questions about Bible times. How did the carpenter, metalworker, potter, and soldier accomplish needed tasks? What tools did they use? How did the poor and sick survive? How did the government interact with the people? How were God's laws implemented? The carefully researched answers to these questions, plus many others, make this an outstanding book for any library, teacher, student, or parent.

Biblical cross references guide the reader into more advanced study.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

*Paula Stewart Marks, Morning Star Christian School, Bend, OR*



**FIC Augsburgers, Myron S. and Marcia Augsburgers Kincanon. The Deacon. Kindred Press, 1990. ISBN 0919797946. LCCN 90097038. Paper \$7.95.**

Gr. 7 - 9. Left as a young child under the care of nuns in a convent, Elizabeth Dirks grows into faith and maturity, eventually to be martyred for her Anabaptist faith. This true story takes place in the sixteenth century in the Netherlands. Her story is both heartwarming and a challenge. With her bright, inquiring mind, she was a favorite of the sisters in the convent, until she sequestered a Bible written in Latin and began to read it. A new relationship with Christ opened up for her. Unfortunately, at that time, only the priests were supposed to read the Scriptures and give their interpretation of God's Word. With the discovery of her actions, she is imprisoned on the convent grounds. Later, she leaves the convent and joins the Anabaptists. With her keen mind and knowledge of Scripture, she becomes a teacher and deacon for this sect. Because of her faith she is imprisoned, interrogated, tortured, and then sentenced to death by drowning.

This is a challenging book that brings alive the dilemma faced by those who must take a stand for their faith. Although a heavy subject for the young reader, the story is told in such a way as to arouse interest and admiration for this unusual woman of faith. It would be an excellent book to read and discuss in class, so as to have a better perspective of the turbulent

times that Christianity went through during this period of history.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher  
Marysville, WA

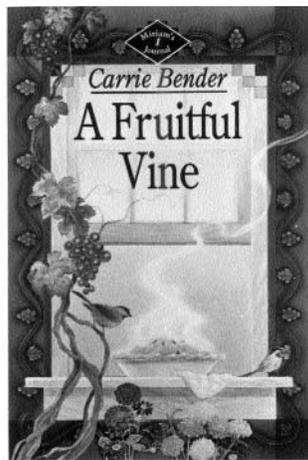


**FIC Bell, Mary Reeves. The Secret of the Mezuzah. NavPress, 1995. ISBN 0891098720. LCCN 94043826. Paper \$5.00.**

Gr. 6 - 9. Vienna, Austria, seems dull to thirteen year old Con, who wishes he could be sent to America. School isn't his strong point, because, as the teachers say, he "doesn't work up to his potential." Plus, getting used to a new dad, even a nice one, when it had always been just him and his mom, adds to his confusion. This well written book takes you into the inner life and thoughts of a very believable, humorous young teenager as he confronts real issues and adventure. When Con involves Hannah, his Jewish friend, in a search for possible spies, they find themselves caught up in more intrigue than they want. After he receives a mezuzah that can convict a former Nazi, he and Hannah find themselves hostages of Holocaust sympathizers. Throughout the book, Con grows as he makes a stand against prejudice and learns to evaluate his friends' attitudes. He also begins to allow his new dad to have a real part of his life. This is an excellent book for those who enjoy strong adventure. However, some sensitive young people may not be able to handle the violence and continuing prejudice of the Holocaust. This could be a good "teacher read aloud" book where events and ideas would be discussed.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

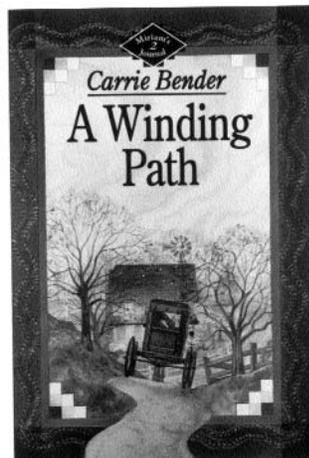
Paula Stewart Marks, Morning Star Christian School, Bend, OR



**FIC Bender, Carrie. A Fruitful Vine. (Miriam's Journal; 1) Herald Press, c1993. ISBN 0836136136. LCCN 92036425. Paper \$6.95.**

Gr. 10 - Adult. Using a simple, unpretentious style, this first book in the trilogy Miriam's Journal presents the life of a single Amish woman, Miriam, in an endearing manner. The reader is drawn into Miriam's world as she faces each crisis. A pretend romance, to get for a male friend the attention of another girl, turns into a heartrending experience for her. As Miriam repents of the little deception, she feels that her hopes for marriage and happiness have been dashed. Miriam's good friend encourages her, "There's nothing on earth that heaven can't heal." The Lord proves this correct as He tenderly directs her toward true fulfillment and blessed joy in a wonderful marriage partner.

Miriam's quiet strength in knowing her Lord and Savior permeates the story with a simple faith. She not only endears the reader to the characters, but inspires us to look more to the Lord for our own daily strength and fulfillment.



**FIC Bender, Carrie. A Winding Path. (Miriam's Journal; 2) Herald Press, c1994. ISBN 083613656X. LCCN 93044864. Paper \$6.95.**

Gr. 10 - Adult. This second book in the series Miriam's Journal is consistent with the inspiration and encouragement found in the first book. As Miriam delights in the beauty and blessings of God's world she remembers an appropriate quote, "All this and heaven too?" Yet, not everything is harmonious in this world. Thievery becomes a problem, much to the surprise of the Amish community. To add to this upset, Miriam discovers that overdue taxes may cause them to lose their farm. Miriam chooses to look to God for their hope and future.

**FIC Bender, Carrie. A Joyous Heart. (Miriam's Journal; 3) Herald Press, c1994. ISBN 0836136683. LCCN 94005836. Paper \$6.95.**

Gr. 10 - Adult. Prayer ascends as a sweet smelling incense to the Lord in this third book of Miriam's Journal. Much prayer and heartache is offered as Miriam faces the most difficult of all trials, the loss of a precious child. Yet, even this tragedy cannot long keep her from delighting in the Lord. As she allows the gentle, healing balm of Jesus to soothe and comfort her aching heart, she finds renewed joy and hope in the eternal promises. "To live is Christ, to die is gain!" (Phil. 1:21) The reader will surely be encouraged to desire a closer walk with the Lord through the reassurance and comfort given in these books.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Mary McKinney, Retired Teacher  
Port Orchard, WA

**FIC Biros, Florence W. Dog Jack. Sunrise, 1990. ISBN 0936369477. Paper \$7.95.**

Gr. 7 - 12. Growing up in a slave family in the South, Jed experiences grief as his father is literally worked to death and his friend abandons him. Urged to head north to freedom, Jed ends up in Pittsburgh where he finds work at the fire station and eventually becomes a Yankee soldier in the Civil War. The dog the fire station has adopted becomes Jed's dearest friend and the mascot for his regiment, the Niagra Volunteers. As the war progresses, Jed not only faces all the horrors of war, but also faces his own relationship with God. In the process he discovers his true family. A gentle

Try  
to  
learn  
what is  
pleasing  
to  
the Lord.

Eph. 5:10

and poignant story, Dog Jack is historically accurate and bears a deeply meaningful message. Authentic Civil War photographs are scattered throughout the book, and it concludes with a sixteen-page gallery.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

*Kathryn Burns, King's High School  
Seattle, WA*

**Other titles in the series:**

- For the Love of Adam
- Reason for Treason
- Finding Eden
- Return to Eden
- God's Signature over the Nation's Capital
- Feet First
- Daughter of the Dawn

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***FIC Bly, Stephen. Hawks Don't Say Goodbye. (A Nathan T. Riggins Western Adventure; 6) Crossway Books, 1994. ISBN 0891077820. LCCN 94020255. Paper \$4.99.***

Gr. 4 - 8. Western enthusiasts will be excited to read this sixth and final episode of *A Nathan T. Riggins Western Adventure* series. Set in Galena, Nevada, we find the three young heroes facing the fact that everyone seems to be moving away. Will Galena end up another deserted ghost town, inhabited only by tumbleweeds and memories? The three friends are determined to see it through together. Then the bank is robbed and Colin is locked in the safe. It seems like just another adventure to Nathan and Leah. But, when it is over, Colin's father, who owns the bank, sells everything and moves his family away. Nathan and Leah are upset and shocked that their friend is gone and everything seems to be falling apart. Their own families are talking of moving and life just couldn't be worse. Through a series of fateful twists, Nathan and Leah find themselves neck-deep in bank robbers and bad guys. Because of the presence of the Lord, Nathan and Leah are able to face the fear and anger they feel about changes in their lives. Stephen Bly does a masterful job of bringing God into a young person's view of the Old West. Yessir! There's God in them thar hills! There are no illustrations, but Bly's ability to draw you into the story leaves no need for an artist's interpretation.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

*Danell L. Bemis, Willamette Christian School  
Eugene, OR*

**Other books in this series are:**

- The Dog Who Would Not Smile; 1
- Coyote True; 2
- You Can Always Trust a Spotted Horse; 3
- The Last Sutborn Buffalo in Nevada; 4
- Never Dance with a Bobcat; 5

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***FIC Borntreger, Mary Christner. Ellie. (Ellie's People; 1) Herald Press, 1988. ISBN 0836134680. LCCN 88002779. Paper \$6.95.***

Gr. 4 - 10. This book is a charming tale about the life of a girl growing up in a strict Amish home. Ellie's story begins when she enters first grade. She is the only child in the school to wear black stockings and an indoor black cap. The other children tease and laugh at her, which makes her so unhappy she pretends to be ill. The next day at school she discovers another child who is mocked and teased, a girl who wears a leg brace and strange heavy shoes. Ellie only sees her beautiful yellow dress. She loves that forbidden color! Soon she and little Missy become fast friends and school is no longer a distressing place. Ellie's life is hard, full of much work and little play. But her parents love her, and in the midst of all her struggles, she decides what is most important to please God. She concludes the rigors of simple Amish life are worth all the difficulties, and she chooses to remain Amish when she is grown. The story includes her courtship and marriage, sweetly and cleanly told.

This material is presented with honest understanding of the longings a child or young person has, and the need for acceptance with peers. The author doesn't proselytize, but describes accurately, life in the Amish community. This book will fascinate any girl, and will be useful for recreational reading, as well as teaching about this Christian group.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

*Harriette Richards, Retired Teacher  
Port Orchard, WA*

**Other book in this series:**

- Rebecca; 2
- Rachel; 3
- Daniel; 4
- Reuben; 5
- Polly; 6

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**FIC Brouwer, Sigmund. Magnus.**  
Victor Books, 1995. ISBN  
1564762963. LCCN 94013611.  
Paper \$11.99.

Gr. 7 - Adult. A young man, Thomas, has been selected at birth to be the conqueror of Magnus, an island kingdom. He is prepared for that day by his nurse, Sarah, who teaches him to read and acquire the power of knowledge which was limited to the monks, priests, and titled people.

As Thomas experiences life, his personal growth and travels will involve other major characters who have a definite influence on his life. The mystery of Magnus will be the cause of traumatic discernment for him and will plague him throughout the novel. Magnus has many secrets and it is up to Thomas to discover the real importance of Magnus.

The novel is cleverly written because, like Thomas, the reader will have a difficult time discovering the truth. The reader will also feel a deep sense of sympathy and sorrow for Thomas in his mental, emotional, and physical sufferings. At the same time, the reader will be amazed at the logic and clear thinking of Thomas throughout his sufferings.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Joseph P. Dano, St. Rose of Lima School  
Ephrata, WA

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**FIC Brown, Irene Bennett. Before the Lark. Blue Heron, 1992, c1982.**  
ISBN 0936085223. LCCN  
94452039. Paper \$7.95.

Gr. 4 - 8. In 1888, a deforming harelip seems to be a permanent affliction to thirteen year old Jocey. Yet, despite this terrible disfigurement, or perhaps because of it, Jocey and her grandmother travel to Missouri to make a new start on the farm Jocey's papa had purchased. Whether Papa was still alive or not, Jocey didn't know, but she determined to succeed no matter what. Just as she resigns herself to being friendless and a loner forever, things start to change. Unbelievably, Jocey makes real friends with her new neighbors and now the promise of a corrective operation for her harelip opens a door of hope that is nothing short of a miracle.

This tender story shares the heartache and cruel rejection people with handicaps often must face. The local history and legends shared within the story make this a good tool for the American history student.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 3

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**FIC Brown, Irene Bennett. Morning Glory Afternoon. Blue Heron, 1991, c1981.** ISBN  
0936085207. Paper \$8.95.

Gr. 7-10. Alone, and with a great hurt from the past, seventeen-year-old Jessamyn faces life away from the farm for the first time. It's 1924, and being Ardenville's only telephone operator requires that she not only answers all calls, but must know everything that is happening in town. Unfortunately, Jessie not only is privy to all the activities that are going on, she also overhears the threats and hatred instigated by the local Ku Klux Klan against the Jewish, Catholic, and minority families. She and her friend, Lilli, work out a code that will warn the families when the Klan is about to strike, but it isn't long before she is discovered and the threats are turned against her. Can her boyfriend, a handsome, upstanding young cowboy, protect her when he has to work in the country, miles away from Jessie? The town needed a healing from all its wrongs, just as Jessie was finally finding healing from her own past.

This story gives an excellent account of life in the twenties, along with exposing the great prejudice that prevailed in many of our states at that time. The story teaches as well as entertains as we follow the romance between Jessie and her beau, Hatch, as they courageously take a stand against the Klan's destruction and hatred. Be aware that profanity is used twice by Hatch.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 2

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**FIC Brown, Irene Bennett. Willow Whip. Blue Heron, 1979.** ISBN  
0936085231. LCCN 92076152.  
Paper \$8.95.

Gr. 4 - 8. Thirteen year old Willow was tired of traveling from farm to farm, taking care of someone else's crops. It was time to settle down with her family and buy their own land. But could immigrant farm workers ever be able to afford it? Or worse yet, would they be allowed to purchase property, considering the prejudice and dislike so many townspeople had for "their type"? Willow's determination to stay put becomes so strong that it threatens to destroy what few friendships she has, as she faces the day-to-day struggles of hard farm labor in 1918. In a life-threatening crisis, she finally begins to realize that relationships take as much time and effort as working the land does. Sensitively portrayed, the reader can appreciate the great fortitude and hard-earned

success of these people as they established homesteads across the American plains.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 3

Mary McKinney, Retired Teacher  
Port Orchard, WA

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**\* FIC Coyle, Neva. Cari's Secret : A Novel. Thomas Nelson, 1994.**  
ISBN 0785281711. LCCN  
94000448. Paper \$9.99.

Gr. 9 - 12. The reader is quickly pulled into the story, wondering and guessing as to what secret is being covered up by the pretty Caroline Nelson, alias "Cari." Although the setting is in the early 60's, the agony of a single, young girl facing an unwanted pregnancy is very timely for the 90's. Her choice to adopt the baby out, and the ensuing struggles of guilt and unworthiness that threaten to overwhelm Cari, can be shared by many who face such decisions. Although this dark secret is not fully revealed immediately, the reader is given small glimpses and hints of the underlying problem, just enough to keep the interest level high and the compassion intense.

Can Cari's interest in handsome, caring Jeff Bennett come to anything, considering her faulty past? Cari's guilt and self condemnation almost destroy their relationship as Jeff struggles to understand Cari's moodiness and the whys of her deep hurts. But her grandparents' demonstration of continual selfless love permeates the storyline and points Cari, as well as the reader, to the greatest source of love, Jesus Christ. When Cari is finally able to realize that forgiveness is real and is willing to forget past wrongs, she is able to allow healing to restore her to a complete person.

This is a beautiful and wholesome love story, one that shares the critical need for forgiveness and a determination to believe that "all things have become new through Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 5:17), Jeff's favorite scripture.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Mary McKinney, Retired Teacher  
Port Orchard, WA

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**FIC Crow, Donna Fletcher. Where Love Begins. (The Cambridge Chronicles; 3) Crossway Books, 1995.** ISBN 0891078088. LCCN  
94005286. Paper \$8.99.

Gr. 9 - Adult. Set in Cambridge, England, in 1824, this historical novel uses known preachers from the era, Charles Simeon and Robert Hall, to help the main character learn

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about Christ's redeeming love. Sir Hilliard, a brilliant young scholar, has withdrawn into academics rather than confront his own bitterness. A childhood affliction has left him with a decided limp and continued social rejection. When confronted with love, he retreats, believing that he is unworthy and cannot truly give love until he first accepts himself. Ultimately, he finds acceptance in Jesus Christ. Charles Simeon suggests that Hilliard is too preoccupied, "looking too much at himself and too little in beholding the Lord Jesus Christ." This book deals firmly with self-centeredness and bitterness, and gives hope in overcoming real or imagined handicaps. Sir Hilliard, the main character, tends to be introspective, but believable. The importance of the inner, rather than the outer, man surfaces in the love story and gives a positive glimpse of what love is really about. This is book three of *The Cambridge Chronicles*.

**FIC Crow, Donna Fletcher. To Be Worthy. (The Cambridge Chronicles; 4) Crossway Books, c1995. ISBN 0891078096. LCCN 94032231. Paper \$8.99.**

Gr. 9 - Adult. Rich with cultural and historical details, Donna Fletcher Crow's novel, *To Be Worthy*, the fourth in *The Cambridge Chronicles*, bears the timeless message of man's struggle to find peace with God in spite of inherent unworthiness. Centered around William Wilberforce's campaign to abolish slavery and the slave trade in England and its colonies, the plot unfolds a tale of aristocratic families' lives, loves, and struggles to know God. A surprising romantic twist at the end makes the book especially enjoyable. Although cultural particulars abound, the characters do lack depth and appear to be slightly stilted. The vocabulary is excellent and a word list is included in the book. A family tree and historical time line are also provided.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

*Kathryn Burns, King's High School  
Seattle, WA*

#### **Other titles in this series:**

- A Gentle Calling; 1
- Treasures of the Heart; 2

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**FIC Gouge, Louise M. Once There Was a Way Back Home. (A Homeward Journey; 1) Crossway Books, c1994. ISBN 0891078045. LCCN 94012226. Paper \$7.99.**

Gr. 10 - Adult. A handsome and popular football star, "Buck" Mason, appears out of nowhere to thrill the heart of twelve year old Billy. He has no idea that this is his real father. Ten years before his mother had divorced Buck after catching him running around with other girls.

Billy and his mom, Janice, had lived a hard life, with not much money, long working hours for Janice, and then an accident that had left Billy with a shortened leg and bad limp. Now he asks his mom, "What can I have faith in that will for sure make things work out all right?" Janice searches for an answer where there seems to be none. But Buck has become a Christian. He knows the answer, yet neither Janice nor Billy is willing to accept this "change of lifestyle" and supposed conversion. A life-threatening injury to Buck shakes up both Janice and Billy enough to face reality and the truth of what he shared. Would they have a chance to tell Buck they understand and forgive him and — more importantly — that they love him? Can God really make "all things work together for good?" (Rom.8:28)

This is a sensitively written story that not only inspires the reader to set priorities right in relationships before problems occur, but shows how to find true forgiveness of past hurts and hope for a better future in Christ. The story is well paced yet tender, giving the reader a wholesome and vital look at how the Lord works in yielded lives.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

*Mary McKinney, Retired Teacher  
Port Orchard, WA*

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**FIC Hardy, Robin. Chataine's Guardian. (The Annals of Lystra; 1) Navpress, 1994. ISBN 0891098364. LCCN 94025936. Paper \$9.00.**

Gr. 7-Adult. *Chataine's Guardian*, Book One in *The Annals of Lystra*, commences with Karel, the Surchataine of Lystra, gravely concerned with his daughter's safety. Chataine Deirdre is his sole heir and a threat has been made on her life. Karel selects a young captain in his army whose sworn duty is to protect her life with his own until she marries. Roman, Chataine's guardian, is reminiscent of George

MacDonald's good and noble characters Robert Falconer and Alec Forbes. One cannot help but be drawn to this strong yet gentle, faithful, and courageous man, just as Deirdre was in spite of herself. Through many adventures, perilous circumstances, and the dailiness of life, Deirdre learns to trust and love Roman and the God he serves. Intertwined in the many character and plot twists, the author explores the great themes of loyalty, forgiveness, integrity, and true sacrificial love. Although the book starts slowly, it begins to capture your heart as you are drawn into Deirdre and Roman's lives. Their struggles to do what is right for both her kingdom and their own relationship is a captivating and uplifting love story.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

*Robin Vandenberg, Snohomish County Christian School, Lynnwood, WA*

**Other titles in this series are:**

- Liberation of Lystra; 2
- Stone of Help; 3

**FIC Hardy, Robin. Padre : A Novel. Navpress, 1994. ISBN 0891097996. LCCN 94006440. Paper \$10.00.**

Gr. 12 - Adult. From the heart of New York City, twenty-five-year old Royce Lindel, along with her two friends, is dumped by a spurious guide in the middle of the hot Texas desert on the first day of their vacation. As darkness settles on their attempt to hike back to the highway, they happen upon the camp of three men of questionable character. They find themselves caught up in the middle of the men's plans to rob drug runners of cocaine and money. Royce finds herself falling in love with the quietest of the three men, whose name is Paul but who is called Padre by his two partners. On the trek to get the girls back to town, Royce learns that Padre is a divorced and embittered ex-Baptist preacher. In a close brush with death, he comes to realize God has never abandoned him. Near the end, Royce realizes that God is her Padre during a quiet time of reflection.

This is a romance novel for mature readers. References to faith in God and spiritual lessons come near the end of the book. There are several sexual references. There is one pre-marital encounter near the beginning, between one of Royce's friends and one of the men. As Royce and Paul become closer in their relationship, she tries to seduce him while at his

apartment. He lets her know that some things are still wrong in spite of his desire.

Quality - 2      Acceptability - 2

*Debbie Lindsay, Yelm Christian School Yelm, WA*

**FIC Littleton, Mark R. Trouble Down the Creek. (Rocky Creek; 3) Chariot Books, 1994. ISBN 0781400821. LCCN 94009220. Paper \$5.99.**

Gr. 6 - 8. Four friends embark on an exploration of the creek that flows behind their homes. Unfortunately, their downriver search brings them more than they bargained for. Tough gang members and drug dealing bring danger to them and their new friend Jessie. Despite the trouble, D. G., the "thinker" of the group, comes up with an extravagant plan to earn money for Jessie's mom and her needed kidney surgery. Amid snapping turtles, attempted sabotage, and star basketball players, the intrigue keeps the reader closely involved. A wonderful application of the story of Zaccheus shows how to bring the reality of Jesus into play.

This well written story intermingles interesting facts about the local wildlife, as well as dealing with difficult yet contemporary problems kids face. It holds the reader's attention and shows the value of choosing to act as Jesus would in any given situation.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

*Mary McKinney, Retired Teacher Port Orchard, WA*

**Other titles in this series include:**

- Adventures at Rocky Creek; 1*
- The Tree Fort Wars; 2*

**FIC Meier, Paul D. The Third Millennium. Thomas Nelson, 1993. ISBN 0840775717. LCCN 93018464. Paper \$10.99.**

Gr. 10 - Adult. The Guardian Angel, Michael, introduces the reader to a fascinating but terrible time as experienced by a Jewish family. The Feinbergs are a typical American family. Things control their lives. Rebellion is entrenched in their family. Without divine intervention, Larry, Sharon, Ben, and Ruth are bound to be swallowed up in the events of the Tribulation. But Ruth sneaks out to go on a date with the rebellious, non-Jewish son of a famous preacher. This son, Jimmy, is the first

to help the family understand the circumstances following the strange disappearance of Christians. He can no longer ignore the life-long teaching of his now raptured father. Ben, a student at UCLA, is not only falling in love with a Chinese student, Cindy, but also realizing his special calling in the Tribulation. Victory, escapes, and death become intertwined in this exciting but speculative story of life after the Rapture.

Author Paul Meier tells an interesting story. The dialogues are, at times, weak and contrived. However, the strength of this book is the studied placing of events on Jewish holy days. The appearance of Michael to a select group, the actions of the President, and the pouring out of the bowls of wrath are very convincingly placed on Jewish holidays. Paul Meier gives his rationale for this in the appendix. An easy, pleasing book to read for those in high school or beyond; challenging, but not overwhelming for junior high. The delightful part about The Third Millennium is that the Christian knows how it will end.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

*Wally Vohland, Liberty Gardens Christian School Salem, OR.*



\* **FIC Minatra, MaryAnn. The Tapestry. (Alcott Legacy; 1) Harvest House, c1993. ISBN 1565070372. LCCN 92020866. Paper \$9.99.**

Gr. 9 - Adult. *The Tapestry* is set around the time of the Civil War and focuses on the lives of two brothers who had never known each other. Their lives become intertwined with the O'Dell family in Illinois, where they are nurtured and loved. Through a unique set of circumstances they discover their blood relationship. This historical fiction book brings to life many well-known events surrounding the Civil War through the eyes of Ethan Alcott who becomes a personal aide to President Lincoln. It gives a sensitive view of the heart-

breaking results of the war between the states. This poignant story includes personal struggles of jealousy, revenge, love, and loyalty, and the need for a God who is present and involved in every aspect of life. Mystery, spies, romance, and war are masterfully woven together to result in a thought-provoking story of life and hope.



\* *FIC Minatra, MaryAnn. The Masterpiece. (Alcott Legacy; 2) Harvest House, c1994. ISBN 1565071727. LCCN 93027042. Paper \$9.99.*

Gr. 9 - Adult. In *The Masterpiece* the reader is plunged into the drama of Andy Alcott and his sister Meg. From the treacherous sailing voyages around the Horn, to the life-threatening reality of the Ku Klux Klan and the personal vengeance of an evil step-brother, the plot draws the reader into the lives of the characters. Andy Alcott seeks to escape his problems by living at sea. After a year aboard his ship, where Meg experiences much of Europe, she goes for a visit to Tanglewood, a Southern home owned by their uncle. She becomes immersed in her vision of teaching children of former slaves in Mississippi. The challenges and dangers she faces cause her to turn to God for His strength. This book is filled with drama, intrigue, and the underlying assurance of God's presence and hope even when things seem hopeless. The author's major desire in writing this historical novel is to dramatically portray "the importance of family relationships free of bitterness and estrangement."



\* *FIC Minatra, MaryAnn. The Heirloom. (Alcott Legacy; 3) Harvest House, c1994. ISBN 1565072359. LCCN 94030954. Paper \$9.99.*

Gr. 9 - Adult. This third and final book of the *Alcott Legacy* centers around the lives of Katherine Alcott and her cousin Ben. At the heart of the story is the rocky relationship of Katherine and her father, Andy. Katherine finds herself face to face with God following months of inner struggles after surviving the sinking of the *Lusitania*, while her father faces his own struggles back in the States. After months of inner turmoil she finds freedom from her past hurt, anger, bitterness, and disappointment. At the same time, Ben faces adventures on the battle front in France as an Allied flier. After being shot down behind enemy lines, he comes to grips with his personal relationship with Jesus Christ while reading his grandfather Ethan's Civil War diary. This book is gripping and compelling, as the real-life tragedies and triumphs are felt in this historical fiction book set during World War I.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

*Esther Knaupp, Santiam Christian School  
Corvallis, OR.*

\* *FIC Newman, Daisy. I Take Thee, Serenity. (The Firbank Trilogy; 1) Friends United Press, 1975. ISBN 0944350097. LCCN 89011798. Paper \$10.95.*

Gr. 10 - Adult. Home between semesters at college, Rennie (Serenity) casually mentions to her parents that she and Peter, her boyfriend, are thinking of spending the summer camping in the Rockies. Her parent's response is that she should get married in June before she goes off alone with Peter. The two young people, knowing they love each other but not sure they want to be catapulted into marriage, begin a

quest for what their relationship means and the kind of wedding they should have.

Rennie's parents begin planning a big pretentious ceremony. Rennie's father remembers a picture of his great-grandmother Serenity, after whom Rennie is named, at her Quaker wedding. Rennie yearns for the kind of serenity the picture and her namesake depicts. Wanting to voice her own choices, she searches out her Uncle Oliver, a Quaker, and flies to Rhode Island on a weekend. She hopes he can tell her what a Quaker wedding is like and whether she can have one. Arriving at the farm at Firbank, and meeting his wife Daphne, an artist recovering from a stroke, Rennie discovers a whole different life from what she is used to. These people, their beliefs and lifestyle, change Rennie's and Peter's lives completely.

This is a beautiful book, written with depth and perception. It deals realistically with the moral issues and struggles young people face today. The history and beliefs of Quakers are woven into the story in an appealing way. Spirituality and moral choices are dealt with in such a way that young people and adults alike will find themselves challenged and searching for answers. This is a 'must' book for anyone making decisions about marriage, vocation, and life itself.

*FIC Newman, Daisy. Indian Summer of the Heart. (The Firbank Trilogy; 2) Friends United Press, 1982. ISBN 0944350151. LCCN 82006226. Paper \$11.95.*

Gr.12 - Adult. In the summer of his seventy-ninth year Oliver Otis of Firbank Farm, Rhode Island, falls madly in love. This dignified Quaker gentleman, a widower, discovers he is experiencing the tumultuous emotions of a young man. A remarkable woman, also in her seventies, Loveday Mead has come to the village of Kendal to search out the Quaker roots of her mother's family.

The story traces the uncertainty and changes these two strong people are faced with as they confront their feelings and relationship. Intertwined in their lives is the family of Peter and Serenity Holland with their young son Ross. Both couples must go through many difficulties and stresses. Undergirding them is the strong faith and direction that their Quaker beliefs bring. Hope rings out for them and the reader, as one sees that change and obstacles can be won over. Victory is possible where there is faith in God and the courage to grow.

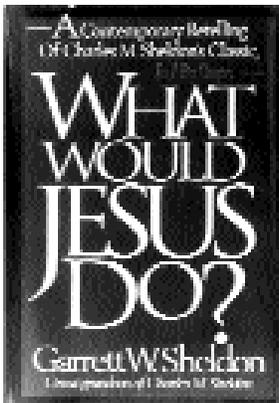
Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher  
Marysville, WA

**Other titles by Daisy Newman:**

**The Autumn's Brightness; 3  
Diligence in Love**

**\* FIC Sheldon, Garrett Ward.  
What Would Jesus Do? : A  
Contemporary Re-Telling of  
Charles M. Sheldon's Classic *In  
His Steps*. Broadman & Holman,  
1993. ISBN 0805460675. LCCN  
93024386. \$14.99.**



Gr. 7 - Adult. As up-to-date as the nightly news is the contemporary retelling of Charles M. Sheldon's classic *In His Steps*. A pregnant, black, homeless woman comes down a church aisle with her toddler and collapses. The "totally correct" pastor, who has previously turned her away, is shocked and shaken when both she and her baby die a few days later. The next Sunday he challenges his congregation to make every decision for the next year based on the question, "What would Jesus do?" The pastor's life is transformed as well as the lives of others who take "the pledge." From young lovers to crabby spinsters, life is indeed different when efforts are made to live their daily lives as Jesus would. The people met in these pages remind us of people we know. It is easy to relate to their hurts, their disappointments, and their triumphs. The challenge to the church and to us to make every decision based on what Jesus would do could transform lives today as *In His Steps* has done for generations of readers.

Quality - 4      Acceptability - 4

Robin Vandenberg, Snohomish County Christian School, Lynnwood, WA

**Also available are:**

*In His Steps*  
*The Sheldon Collection*  
(gift set of both books)

**FIC Walton, Mrs. O. F. A Peep  
Behind the Scenes. (A Victorian  
Classic for Children) Bridge, 1982.  
ISBN 0882705385. LCCN  
82073063. Paper \$4.95.**

Gr. 4 - 8. Rosalie has known nothing but her life in a traveling troupe of actors with her ailing mother and tyrannical father. When an old man gives her a picture of the Good Shepherd, Rosalie's life begins to change. Knowing that she is about to die, her mother tells Rosalie the story of her sad life and bad choices. They both pray to the Shepherd for strength, her mother dies in peace, and Rosalie finds strength to go on in her sorrow.

Rosalie continues to tell the story of the Good Shepherd in her own simple way and shares the peace of knowing God with others. She faces her greatest challenge when her father remarries a harsh woman in a town where they spend the winter. Even there, she reads her Bible to the young servant girl and brings light into her life. When her drunken father is hit by a cab and dies, her step-mother informs her that she will be sent to the workhouse. Rosalie runs away to find her mother's sister, as her mother had requested her to do, just before she died. She prays for the Shepherd to guide her and experiences God's presence on her way. Her previously sad life is left behind as she finds a home filled with love and acceptance and a life of satisfaction and fulfillment, growing in her relationship with Jesus.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

Esther Knaupp, Santiam Christian School  
Corvallis, OR

**Other Victorian Classics for Children  
include:**

*Christiana's Journey*  
*Target Earth*  
*Young Christian's Pilgrimage*  
*Rocky Island & Other Stories*  
*Mary Jones & Her Bible*  
*At the Back of the North Wind*

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*Dangerous Journey*  
*Christie's Old Organ*

**FIC Wick, Lori. The Hawk and  
the Jewel. (The Kensington  
Chronicles; 1) Harvest House,  
c1993. ISBN 1565071018. LCCN  
93018835. Paper \$9.99.**

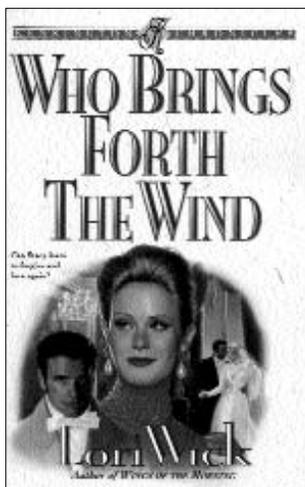
Gr. 8 - Adult. This delightful story, the first in *The Kensington Chronicles* romance series, ushers the reader into a gentler time of lords and ladies in the 1800's of proper England. Headstrong, yet charming, Sunny Gallagher finds her stunning beauty a challenge to the young gentlemen she encounters, but she is not interested. She is much too distracted trying to learn the ways of her English heritage after being raised for thirteen years as the ward of an emir amid harems, slaves, and domineering men. Trained to not show her true feelings, her self-restraint finally threatens to not only keep her from finding true love, but also from being able to trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of her life. This charming tale unfolds graciously and enjoyably as the reader becomes immersed in the elegant existence of England's titled upper class.

Quality - 3      Acceptability - 4

**FIC Wick, Lori. Wings of the Morning. (The Kensington Chronicles; 2) Harvest House, c1994. ISBN 1565071778. LCCN 93023531. Paper \$9.99.**

Gr. 8 - Adult. Smokey, her name the same as her deep gray eyes, was the captain of the fastest merchant ship around. She was already becoming a legend as she sailed to the many seaports claiming precious cargo before other ships could even reach them. But her fame did not daunt the cruel pirate, Haamich Wynn, from kidnapping Smokey and wanting to claim her as his own. Who could rescue her from these dire circumstances — who would want to, now that the keenest competition for shipping was out of the way? Her limited knowledge of the Lord was put to the test as she cried out to God for safety and her very life. This second book in *The Kensington Chronicles* is written with flair and tenderness. Although the plot is a bit too predictable, the characters are charming and the Victorian era filled with warmth and grace.

Quality - 2                      Acceptability - 4



**FIC Wick, Lori. Who Brings Forth the Wind? (The Kensington Chronicles; 3) Harvest House, c1994. ISBN 1565072294. LCCN 94010718. Paper \$9.99.**

Gr. 8 - Adult. A tender, gripping love story, this third book in *The Kensington Chronicles*, gives fresh insight into trusting God in all circumstances. Stacy, a gentle, unassuming beauty, finds the whirlwind life of London too much for her sweet innocence and quiet upbringing. But then she notices Lord Tanner Richardson, Duke of Cambridge, watching her across the ballroom. From that moment on, Stacy chooses to become a faithful and loving wife, if the opportunity arises. But when marriage to Tanner comes, so does tremendous upheaval, embittered words from her husband's

past hurts, and false accusations. Yet God's hand is not too short that it cannot save, and as Stacy applies this truth and her own humble obedience to "win him without a word," she is finally rewarded with her heart's desire. This story allows conviction to come to the reader as well as to the characters in the book and its gentle exhortation to appreciate all that the Lord has given leaves the reader with a fervor to be more Christ-like.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

**FIC Wick, Lori. The Knight and the Dove. (The Kensington Chronicles; 4) Harvest House, 1994. ISBN 1565072898. LCCN 94029332. Paper \$9.99.**

Gr. 8 - Adult. Looking 400 years to the past, this delightful tale transpires within the world of chivalry, knights, and King Henry VIII's Tudor England. This is an enticing story as Megan, chosen after her sister's refusal to marry "only an earl," determines to be a good wife to Bracken. Yet her temper and impetuous actions seem to only get her in trouble. Always repentant, she fears that her many failings will stand in the way of her husband's search for God. After being honored with the title of "Duke," Bracken becomes the focus of Megan's jealous sister, if not to steal his heart, at least to cause pain to Megan, maybe even her death. It is this vicious attack on Megan that finally brings Bracken to terms with his God. The author is most adept at bringing God's word into light, and any marriage relationship will benefit by heeding the beautiful lessons this story imparts.

Quality - 3                      Acceptability - 4

Mary McKinney, Retired Teacher  
Port Orchard, WA

The following Primary books may be of interest to Junior High/Senior High students:

**220 Bible Verse Coloring Pages. Illustrated by Chizuko Yasuda. Gospel Light, 1984. ISBN 2511606720. Paper \$16.99.**

**\* 223 The 23rd Psalm. Illustrated by Helen Caswell. Abingdon Press, 1995. ISBN 0687011728. Paper \$5.95.**

**H 225 The Lord's Prayer. Illustrated by Helen Caswell. Abingdon Press, 1995. ISBN 0687011736. Paper \$5.95.**

**H 811 Moore, Clement Clarke. The Night Before Christmas : Told in Signed English. Illustrated by Steve Marchesi and Jan Scrobisz. Galludet/Kendall Green, 1994. ISBN 1563680203. LCCN 94011477. \$14.95.**

**H 821 Tennyson, Alfred. The Brook. Illustrated by Charles Micucci. Orchard Books, c1994. ISBN 0531068544. LCCN 93046404. \$14.95. Lib. ed. \$14.99**

The following Intermediate books may be of interest to Junior High/Senior High students:

**222 Drane, John. The Bible Story Begins : From Creation to Covenant. (Bible World) Thomas Nelson, 1994. ISBN 0785279032. LCCN 94031031. \$9.99.**

**H 242 Hurnard, Hannah. Hinds' Feet on High Places. Destiny Image, 1993. ISBN 1560431113. LCCN 94182597. \$14.99.**

**242 Cosby, Clair G. Lord, Help Me Love My Sister : She Breathed on My Food Again. Herald Press, 1986. ISBN 0836134133. LCCN 86004831. Paper \$4.95.**

**H 641.5 Pulleyn, Micah. Kids in the Kitchen : 100 Delicious, Fun, and Healthy Recipes to Cook and Bake. A Sterling/Lark Book, 1994. ISBN 080690447X. LCCN 93039111. \$19.95.**

**649 Bree, Loris Theovin and Marlin Bree. The Kid's Squish Book. MarLor Press, c1993. ISBN 0943400767. LCCN 93245016. Paper \$8.95.**

743 *DuBosque, D. C. Draw! Ocean Animals. Peel Productions, 1994. ISBN 0939217244. LCCN 94026897. Paper \$7.95.*

*FIC Baldry, Cherith. Rite of Brotherhood. (Saga of the Six Worlds; 1) Chariot Books, 1994. ISBN 0794017037 LCCN 94017037 Paper \$4.99.*

*FIC Baldry, Cherith. Cradoc's Quest. (Saga of the Six Worlds; 2) Chariot Books, 1994. ISBN 0781400937. LCCN 94027074. Paper \$4.99.*

*FIC Jarman, Jerry. The Long Way Home. (The Journeys of Jessi Land; 1) Victor Books, 1994. ISBN 1564762726. LCCN 94033939. Paper \$4.99.*

*FIC Jarman, Jerry. My Father the Horse Thief. (The Journeys of Jessie Land; 2) Victor Books, 1995. ISBN 1564763471. LCCN 94032672. Paper \$4.99.*

H *FIC Lewis, C. S. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. (The Chronicles of Narnia; 1) Bridgestone Production Group, 1991. ISBN 0880704829. Video \$14.95.*

H *FIC Lewis, C. S. Prince Caspian and The Voyage of the Dawn Treader. (The Chronicles of Narnia; 2) Bridgestone Production Group, 1991. ISBN 0880704810. Video \$14.95.*

H *FIC Lewis, C. S. The Silver Chair. (The Chronicles of Narnia; 3) Bridgestone Production Group, 1991. ISBN 0880704802. Video \$14.95.*

*FIC Marvin, Isabel R. A Bride for Anna's Papa. Illustrated by Kay Sather. Milkweed Editions, 1994. ISBN 091594393X. LCCN 93041175. Paper \$6.95.*

*FIC McCusker, Paul. Strange Journey Back. (Adventures in Odyssey; 1) Illustrations by Karen Loccisano. Focus on the Family, 1992. ISBN 1561791016. LCCN 91000008. Paper \$4.99.*

*FIC Moore, Ruth Nulton. The Christmas Surprise. Herald Press, 1989. ISBN 0836134990. LCCN 89015213. Paper \$ 5.95.*

*FIC Moore, Ruth Nulton and Allan Eitzen. Distant Thunder. Herald Press, c1991. ISBN 0836135571. LCCN 91010845. Paper \$5.95.*

*FIC Nesbit, Jeffrey. The Legend of the Great Grizzly. (High Sierra Adventure; 1) Thomas Nelson, 1994. ISBN 0840792549. LCCN 93039765. Paper \$4.99.*

*FIC Signer, Billie Touchstone. Cry of the Eagle. (Wind Star Series) Illustrated by Bob Bliss. St. Paul Books & Media, 1990. ISBN 0819814555. LCCN 88018500. Paper \$4.95*

*FIC Wisheart, Randall. Luke's Summer Secret. Friends United Press, 1991. ISBN 0944350178. LCCN 91000786. Paper \$8.95.*

The following Adult books may be of interest to Junior High/Senior High students:

792 *Novelly, Maria C. Theatre Games for Young Performers : Improvisations & Exercises for Developing Acting Skills. Meriwether, 1985. ISBN 0916260313. LCCN 85060572. Paper \$10.95.*

The following books by Penny Lent are also available:

Young Writers' Market Manual  
Young Writers' Contest Manual  
Young Writers' Manuscript Manual

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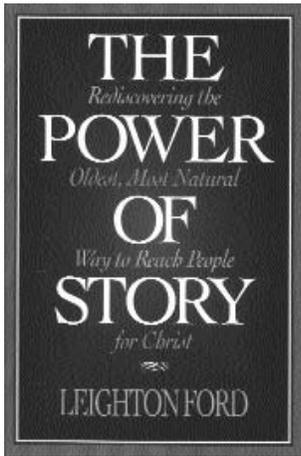
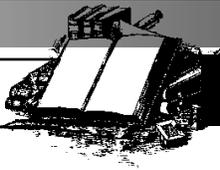
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**\* 269 Ford, Leighton and James D. Denney. *The Power of Story : Rediscovering the Oldest, Most Natural Way to Reach People for Christ.* NavPress, c1994. ISBN 0891098518. LCCN 94014344. Paper \$10.00.**

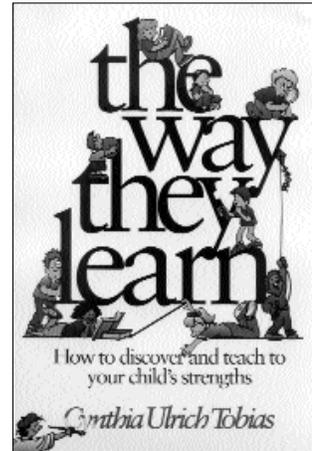
Adult. Everyone has a story to tell, whether it be the gospel or one's personal testimony of a life changed by Christ. Leighton Ford, in his book *The Power of Story*, tells Christians that

they don't have to be world renowned evangelists to witness. Ford suggests a simple strategy for Christians, utilizing their own gifts and lifestyles. Christ wants His sheep to plant seeds.

A personal story leads to a vision for the lost, which creates character and results in evangelism. Ford follows three fictional yet realistic characters, Ben, Judith, and Darrell, through a period of four years, to show how personal testimony profoundly affects the listener. Christians may share their faith through the love of God, the grace of the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Ford also combats the false beliefs of some of the most popular false teachers of our time. Story is "the oldest, most natural way to reach people for Christ."

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

*Sandra K. Hosking, Falls Christian Academy  
Post Falls, ID*



**\* 370.15 Tobias, Cynthia Ulrich. *The Way They Learn. Focus on the Family, c1994. ISBN 1561792535. LCCN 94014104. \$14.99.***

Prof- Family. Cynthia Tobias, a teacher and the founder of Learning Styles Unlimited Inc., an organization that trains parents and teachers to recognize learning styles, outlines in this book how to work with children to develop their potential and success in learning. Each child is

**EXPERIENCE  
THE  
WONDERS OF  
GOD'S  
WORLD!**

**READ  
A  
GOOD  
BOOK**

a unique individual with his or her own natural strengths and preferences. Capitalizing on these innate ways of learning is the message of this book.

This is a very practical, hands-on book that gives quizzes and outlines ways to actually work with children. It identifies and illustrates the four basic styles of learning. Then it goes on to discuss the study environment and how to help each child achieve his best at school and in doing homework. The three modalities of learning, auditory, visual, and kinesthetic, are discussed, while illustrating how they can best be utilized for the student. Each person perceives his world and communicates in a unique way. Understanding this can make a tremendous difference in how we interact with one another. This book can give both parents and teachers an insightful way of dealing with young learners. She also has an excellent bibliography for parents and educators who desire to delve deeper into this subject.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher  
Marysville, WA

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**372.3 Butzow, Carol and John  
Butzow. Science Through  
Children's Literature. Illustrated by  
Hannah L. Ben-Zvi. Teacher Idea  
Press, 1989. ISBN 0872876675.  
LCCN 8920152. Prebound \$29.05.**

Prof. The purpose of this book is to present an approach to the teaching of elementary science that utilizes the reading of children's fictional literature. This is a method that is probably incorporated by many teachers already. A multitude of ideas and activities are given, suggesting books to use. This is a wonderful resource for the teacher already too busy, or not having a good background in science. Excellent diagrams and instructions for experiments and activities abound. If your science program needs a shot in the arm, this is the book to have as a resource.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher  
Marysville, WA

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**372.83 Fredricks, Anthony D.  
Social Studies through Children's  
Literature. Illustrated by Rebecca  
N. Fredericks. Teacher Idea Press,  
1991. ISBN 0872879704. LCCN  
91032627. Prebound \$19.00.**

Prof. "Children need to be provided with constant and frequent opportunities to stretch

their imaginations and expand their perceptions of the world outside the classroom," according to author and teacher Anthony Fredricks. He believes that we can facilitate discoveries by students through an active, process-oriented and literature-based social studies program. This book is designed to offer teachers, librarians, parents, and anyone else who works with children a resource for ensuring a positive experience for children's learning. A host of ideas are presented, organized around different topics. Each class session centers around a particular book, with related books and references listed in a bibliography. The format is easy for the busy teacher to utilize, with background material, questions to ask, and activities to do. Although the material covers a large age range, kindergarten through sixth grade, there are enough varied questions and activities to cover most classroom needs. This is an excellent resource for every elementary teacher. I was not familiar with a number of the books listed, but am sure that substitutions could be made if some were not suitable or available.

Quality - 4                      Acceptability - 4

Mary Jarvis, Retired Teacher  
Marysville, WA

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**508 Wallace, Jeffery Scott.  
Discovering the Four Seasons.  
(Creation Up Close) Chariot  
Books/Lion, 1993. ISBN  
0745926177. LCCN 92043796.  
Paper \$9.99.**

Prof. There is nothing more exciting to young scientists than discovering all the wonders of nature. Besides actually standing and watching things go on in our outdoor world, the next best thing is to go to books and the experiences of others. In *Discovering the Four Seasons*, information ranges from tips for saving trees, to the history of Thanksgiving, to making apple heads. This book is full of interesting facts and projects. It is written in a light, fun-filled style, and once you find a subject you're interested in, it will keep your attention. The drawings are well done, but are too small at times. One does get overwhelmed at times with too much information for the size of the book. Another distraction is the use of side bars on every sixth page or so. There are occasions where the subject of the side bar correlates with the subject on that particular page, but often the side bar doesn't work with the page or is a page or two off from where it would have been appropriate. All in all, *Discovering the Four Seasons* would make a better reference book for teachers than a "fun-filled guide" for kids.

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Quality - 2                      Acceptability - 3

Danell L. Bemis, Willamette Christian School  
Eugene, OR

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**551.4 Frame, Jeron Ashford.  
Discovering Oceans, Lakes, Ponds  
and Puddles. (Creation Up Close)  
Chariot Books/Lion, 1994. ISBN  
0745926215. Paper \$9.99.**

Prof. This book is one of a series on discovering nature for 4th - 6th graders. The style of writing is light and easy to read. There is a good vein of humor that flows through all the watery ways *Discovering Oceans, Lakes, Ponds and Puddles* leads the reader into. However, the way the book is set up makes a confusing conglomeration of information, with too many words, too few pictures. If this is a field guide, it needs an index. Chapter headings are ambiguous. If I want to know if there is any information on edible seaweed, I have to thumb through every page to find it. I do think this would make a good teacher's book because the information is good, albeit hard to find. I don't recommend it for general reading by kids.

Quality - 2                      Acceptability - 4

Danell L. Bemis, Willamette Christian School  
Eugene, OR

**702 Press, Judy and Loretta Trezzo Braren. The Little Hands Art Book. Williamson, 1994. ISBN 0913589861. LCCN 94013910. Paper \$12.95.**

Prof. A large variety of art projects for young children is compiled in this easy-to-read, attractive book. It is organized according to art medium categories such as glue, markers, recycled art, paper; it also has recipes for finger paint, clay, squeeze-bottle paint, and sawdust dough. Unique crafts such as pinch pots, clay porcupines, spaghetti and meatballs, roller painting, and three kinds of rainbows will be a wonderful beginning for a child's entrance into the world of art. What youngster would not want to create his or her own treasure chest, wear a vest made from a paper bag, make and fly a kite, or wear a sparkling crown?

The author's enthusiasm for art and creativity in children comes through in her poetry to motivate at the beginning of each project. Children are encouraged to manipulate materials and solve problems, skills so important in their development. Easy-to-follow directions and whimsical, child-like drawings are two ingredients that will help the adults who instruct children. Extended activities in language, science, and cooking are added to each project to enhance children's senses and provide further learning experiences. Children can enjoy and successfully complete over eighty fun creations. Freedom in children's expressing themselves is stressed over the finished project.

Quality - 3            Acceptability - 4

*Maria Hedman, Falls Christian Academy  
Post Falls, ID*

**Other books in the series:**

- Ecoart! Earth Friendly Art and Craft Experiences*
- The Kids' Multicultural Cookbook*
- Kids Learn America!*
- Kids & Weekends*
- Kids Garden*
- Kids' Crazy Concoctions*
- The Kids' Science Book*
- Adventures in Art (ages 7 to 14)*
- Hand Around the World*
- The Kids' Nature Book*
- Kids' Computer Creations*
- The Kids' Wildlife Book*

*The Kids' Multicultural Art Book  
Kids Cook!*

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**792 Novelty, Maria C. Theatre Games for Young Performers : Improvisations & Exercises for Developing Acting Skills. Meriwether, 1985. ISBN 0916260313. LCCN 85060572. Paper \$10.95.**

Prof. *Theatre Games for Young Performers* by Maria Novelty is an essential resource for drama teachers and coaches. It provides teachers with a plethora of lessons organized in a logical sequence, perfect for the no-budget curriculum. Novelty familiarizes students inexperienced in theater with the basics of acting, beginning with pantomime and improvisation. By the end of the 18 week course, students will know how to create characters and scenes in which they may interact. Novelty introduces such skills as voice projection, facial expression, body language, characterization, and conflict.

Teachers of general subjects including English and social studies, church drama leaders, and youth organization leaders can benefit from the use of Novelty's role-playing games. Some instructors may not agree with the relaxation techniques.

Theatre Games illustrates its ideas through real-life pictures of students in action. This use of photographs adds to the validity of Novelty's proposal.

Quality - 3            Acceptability - 3

*Sandra Hosking, Falls Christian Academy  
Post Falls, ID*

The following titles will also be of interest to adults:

From the Preschool/Primary section:

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**\* 223 The 23rd Psalm. Illustrated by Helen Caswell. Abingdon Press, 1995. ISBN 0687011728. Paper \$5.95.**

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**\* 225 The Lord's Prayer. Illustrated by Helen Caswell. Abingdon Press, 1995. ISBN 0687011736. Paper \$5.95.**

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**H 811 Moore, Clement Clarke. The Night Before Christmas : Told in Signed English. Illustrated by Steve Marchesi and Jan Scrobisz. Galludet/Kendall Green, 1994. ISBN 1563680203. LCCN 94011477. \$14.95.**

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**H 821 Tennyson, Alfred. The Brook. Illustrated by Charles Micucci. Orchard Books, c1994. ISBN 0531068544. LCCN 93046404. \$14.95. Lib. ed. \$14.99**

From the Junior High/Senior High section:

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**369.4 Ross, Dorothy M. Fund Raising for Youth. Meriwether, 1985. ISBN 0916260283. LCCN 84061477. Paper \$9.95.**

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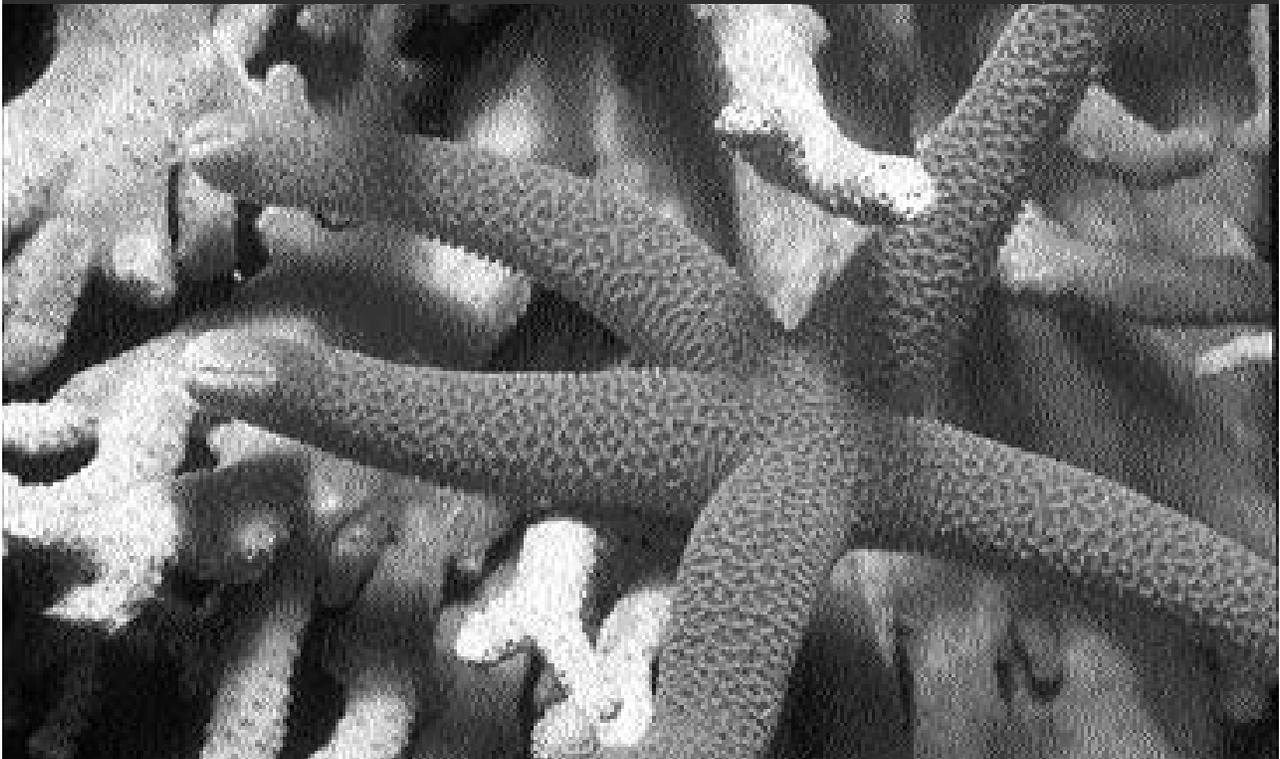
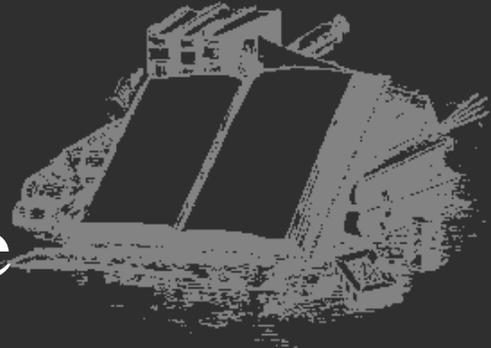
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