

SPACER

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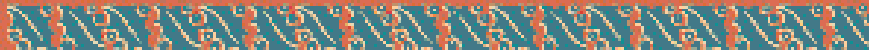
# Christian Library

J O U R N A L



## THIS ISSUE FEATURES:

- Nurturing Students with Literature :  
**Book Nook**
- **State Study Resources : Check It Out : Home Schoolers Use Their Public Library**
- **Adolescent Angst: Writing with Middle Schoolers**
- **Using Debate to Absorb Your Students in Literature**
- **Get published: earn prize money**
- **Surfing the Internet?**





## A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

After the business of packing, moving, and getting settled here in Oregon, it has been a relief and a blessing to spend some time each evening with books once again. And in the last two weeks I have come across two new titles to add to my list of “keepers.”

Do you have “keepers” in your personal library? For me, each new book is a venture into new territory. Some books turn out to be good entertainment, or have lessons to be learned, or are maybe not worth the time to finish. But out of all the books I read, every once in a while I find a keeper. A keeper? A book to keep in my library, to be read again and perhaps again and again.

My keepers from over the years include books by C.S. Lewis, Madeleine L'Engle, Pearl Buck, Katherine Paterson, Jean Little, Cynthia Voigt, Hannah Whitehall Smith, Catherine Marshall, Gary Paulsen, Jan Karon, Wallace Stegner (especially his nonfiction), Willa Cather, J.R.R. Tolkien, George MacDonald, and Chaim Potok. Madeleine L'Engle's *Two-Part Invention*, the story of her marriage and her husband's death from cancer, was an old friend that sustained me at the time of my husband's cancer and death two years ago. Also helpful at that time was C.S. Lewis' *A Grief Observed*.

The two new keepers I found recently are both young adult novels: Katherine Paterson's *Jip : His Story*, the story of a poor-farm boy looking for his identity, and Gary Schmidt's *The Sin Eater*, a story of loss, grief, and acceptance. Both are titles that moved me greatly; neither is overtly Christian, but both contain evidence of God's loving care over his people.

Thinking of keepers, I asked my three daughters who still live at home what their keepers are. Elizabeth, soon to be sixteen, says hers are Norma Johnston's *The Keeping Days* trilogy, because she identifies with Tish's learning about family relationships; *John, Son of Thunder*, by Ellen Gunderson Traylor, because it brought Jesus and the New Testament church alive to her in a new and different way. She also loves *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon. Keepers for Heather at age thirteen are Cynthia Voigt's *Homecoming* and *Dacey's Song*, and *White Lilacs* by Carolyn Meyer. Her most recent keeper is Mildred Taylor's Logan family saga, which includes *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*, and *The Road to Memphis*. Stephanie, our newest reader at age eleven, has recently read and re-read *The Ordinary Princess* by M.M. Kaye. The younger two girls are my adopted great-nieces who have lived with us for only seven months, and who are becoming confirmed readers. Finding keepers is a challenge to them at this time.

How about you? Do you have keepers in your library? Do you go back to them again and again for enjoyment and sustenance? And how about your students? What are their keepers?

We would love to hear from you and share your responses with other readers, thereby enriching us all. Will you send us your list?

*Nancy L. Hesch*  
In Christ's love,

## Our Readers Write

Dear Ms. Hesch,

Thank you for sending me the sample issue of CLJ. It is very impressive. I am pleased to see you reaching out to public libraries. I do have a question or two.

1. Is this an independent publication, rather than one connected with specific publishers?
2. Is Spring Arbor's connection to your journal that of a contract vendor? In other words, do they subsidize the journal or exercise any control over what you choose to review?

I...would like to know what, if any, biases may exist before I come to rely on a reviewing source.

*Suzanne Robinson*  
*Dickson County Public Library*  
*Dickson County, Tennessee*

Dear Ms. Robinson,

Thank you for your letter. I understand your concerns, as they are shared by all professional librarians.

The *Christian Library Journal* is an independent journal, not connected with any publisher or distributor. We choose the titles we review independent of any outside source.

Last year we offered a purchasing cooperative to help libraries save money. When we found that it was not as helpful as we wished, we went looking for a distributor who would

1. give libraries a helpful discount,
2. fill orders in a timely manner,
3. offer free cataloging,
4. and advertise in CLJ.

Spring Arbor Distributors graciously met all of these requirements, and you see their advertisement, the order form in the center of the journal.

Thank you for asking questions which others have as well, and we hope you come to rely on CLJ as one of your review sources.

*The Editor*

# Christian Library

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Inside Front Cover

### C O L U M N S

Mary J's Book Nook	Mary Jarvis . . . . .	2
Writing With Kids	Georgia Beaverson . . . . .	4
Read On, Write On	Penny Lent . . . . .	6
Check It Out	Michele Howe . . . . .	7

### A R T I C L E S

What About Surfing?	Debra Stombres . . . . .	9
Using Debate to Absorb Your Students in Literature	Bryan Ross . . . . .	11

### R E V I E W S

Picture Books	. . . . .	14
Children's Fiction	. . . . .	24
Children's Nonfiction	. . . . .	33
Young Adult Fiction	. . . . .	53
Adult Fiction	. . . . .	64
Nonfiction	. . . . .	72
INDEX	. . . . .	82

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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 250 books, cassette tapes, and videos from both Christian and secular publishers are reviewed each issue. Materials reviewed may reflect a broad range of Christian doctrinal positions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor of the *Christian Library Journal*.

Nancy Hesch **Publisher  
Editor**

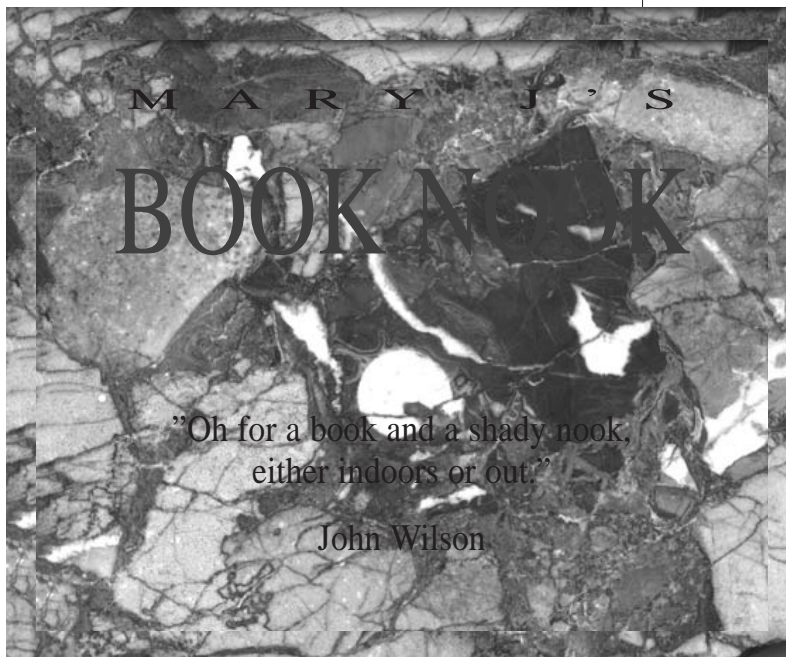
Kitty Lindstrom **Design and Layout**

Cover illustration from MANDIE  
AND JOE'S CHRISTMAS  
SURPRISE, by Lois Gladys Leppard.  
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One of my most vivid memories of early school years was when as a second grader I sat spellbound listening to a recording of actress

Loretta Young reading the classic Christmas story, "The Littlest Angel" by Charles Tazewell. I completely identified with the clumsy little cherub who could never do anything quite right according to the expectations of the older angels. The tenderness and beauty with which Miss Young read this delightful tale totally captivated me. Almost twenty years later I was able to obtain the same recording and played it for the second graders I was teaching. They too listened enthralled to this wonderful story, read with marvelous sensitivity.



*By Mary Jarvis*

I have a dog-eared copy of this book that has been read to hundreds of children since then. Each time I read it, I once more experience some of the same feelings I did that first time, and I hear the voice of Loretta Young resonating in my mind. A touching story, a beautiful reading that will never be forgotten.

We probably can all recall times when a story, a poem, or a play was read to us with such depth and power it stayed with us for years. Writer Dan Wakefield remembers sitting spellbound in a classroom at Shortridge High School listening to

the reading of Carl Sandburg's poem "The People Yes." He says, "I went home to read more of those American midwestern poems about Chicago, Abraham Lincoln, and the longings of the heart, and something stirred in me deeply." He goes on to say, "It wasn't a poetry class but a history class, and Sandburg wasn't part of the curriculum, but was added to enrich our understanding and appreciation by the teacher, a track, football, and basketball coach, one of the dedicated teachers who blessed and nurtured as well as educated me."

I encourage you to become engrossed with the literature you share with your pupils. Let the writings of others come alive in you so that you can transmit the beauty, the humor, or the wisdom to young minds. Select books and poetry that excite and teach you. Know your subject and the literature that relates to it to undergird your instruction. Use your opportunity as a teacher to instill excitement in others.

I recall senior English with Miss Cora Henderson. Not your typical teenage role model, she stood tall and bulky, wisps of graying hair escaping from a bun anchored to the back of her head. She lived and breathed English literature, escaping every summer to travel in the British Isles. She would pace back and forth at the front of the classroom reciting Shakespeare. The sheer power and strength of her reading kept even macho football players glued to their seats, taking in every word. Then we would

ponder and discuss good and evil and why people are motivated to make certain choices. Miss Henderson brought the struggles of life into focus for us through Shakespeare.

This is what teaching is all about; to be caught up completely in what you're doing and then communicating it so that the hearts and minds of students are stirred. Teach creatively. Read with gusto. Grab their attention. Read with solemn quiet, that a thought sublime may rest in the pool of the mind. Pause, and let your students travel to far flung space or look upon another face with new sight. Read with exuberance. Let the words live, challenge, and stir the hearts of your pupils. Bless and nurture your students as well as educate them. ■■■



Writing with middle-school students can be frustrating, bewildering, disappointing, surprising, delightful and rewarding. In fact, it very often reflects the emotional turmoil that rules this age group. So if you're encouraging these young adults to write, be prepared for a roller coaster experience yourself.

After you have discerned the pecking order within the group and dealt with it accordingly, concentrate on making the assignments rich and meaty. In middle school, it is not usually cool to be too smart or too academically inclined. So a teacher or parent has two choices in snaring adolescent interest: pull the rug out from under them or sneak in through the back door.

# Adolescent Angst

## Writing with Middle-Schoolers



*by Georgia Beaverson*

The first thing to remember in establishing a rapport with kids this age is that the two most important factors on their minds are: 1) what the "group" is going to think about the activity, and 2) if s/he participates, will peer ridicule result? They find themselves trapped in the adolescent cage, and it is your job quietly and unobtrusively to open the door to that cage and usher them outside.

Each spring, my school district offers a day-long writing seminar to promising young writers. The participants' ages stretch from fifth grade to eighth. The first year I participated in the seminar, I noticed that most of the kids in my small group seemed joined together at the hip. They did not want to talk as individuals, but passively submitted to the ringleader's direction. Knowing that I could not possibly break these kids up in the short time I

possessed, I went after the leader. Drawing her in and piquing her interest drew in the younger participants. Aside from some giggling and a little complaining, the group soon settled down to their writing tasks.

The first time I taught a middle-school writing seminar, I unwittingly chose to pull the rug out from under my students. It was a poetry seminar, and I wanted my students to realize that poetry encompassed more than just stiffly metered rhymes. I wanted them to hear the oral nature of the genre. I had brought several different poems along to read aloud. That's what pulled out the rug.

Rather than picking narrative poetry or poems that were impossible for the average thirteen-year-old to relate to, I chose slightly more unusual poems. The verses of Edna St. Vincent Millay touched my students as they listened to her rush of emotions (something every adolescent can relate to) describe the world around her (and them). Adolescents enjoy melancholy poetry, so the Millay poem was a sad one. I then changed the pace of things with an exuberant poem called "The Tomato" by Pablo Neruda. The students literally blinked with shock as their sad emotions gave way to celebration of this humble fruit. They laughed and asked questions like, "Hey, can you write poems about veggies?"

Finally, I rounded the poetry tasting out by introducing poetry in a foreign language. I explained that good poetry produces a mood and conjures pictures in the reader's (or listener's) head, and that it does that in part through word sounds and line meter. The students then listened to me read a poem by the

Norwegian poet Olav Hauge in the original nynorsk. After listening to the poem twice, the students took turns guessing the subject of the poem. They were pleased and surprised at how accurate those guesses were when I read aloud a translation.

To follow up on my rug-pulling, I restricted what the students could write about. Instead of just leaving the field wide open (and leaving the student prey to agoraphobia), I gave them a list of words. Each had to choose two and incorporate them into their own poem (or paragraph, if they were writing prose). Each writer then shared his/her work with the group. The next exercise clipped their wings a little further. Each student had to choose one phrase out of a group I provided and then write a poem (or paragraph or short story) based on it. After sharing the results of this effort, the group members went on to write a poem based on a rigid structure system (e.g., a haiku, a sonnet, etc.). These exercises helped the young writers rein in their emotions and concentrate on the act of putting words on paper. The resulting poetry was interesting to both the writer and reader.

Sneaking writing in through the back door can be just as effective. Last year, I again taught a poetry seminar. This time, I had a group who had little interest in writing or poetry -- as one of them put it, "Hey, I just wanted to get out of school for the day." I felt disheartened, but not crushed. Luckily, I had an ace up my sleeve: I'd brought my boombox with me.

Music is something that permeates the lives of adolescents. It impresses them no end if you can

talk this language. So, instead of requiring that your students write poems, why not listen to some rap music and have them write their own rap lyrics? Or how about taking a popular song of the moment and assigning them the task of writing a parody of the song, a la Weird Al Yankovic? Or use a popular song and let your students write a story that elaborates on the lyrics of the song.

What else interests adolescents? Television and movies, comics, sports heroes, the opposite sex. Find ways to incorporate these interests into writing exercises. For instance, how about suggesting they write their own comic books? Sponsor a contest in which groups of students write scripts for their favorite T.V. shows and act them out for the class. Encourage them to write essays for your local or school newspapers on issues that concern them, such as school board happenings or skateboard restrictions. Suggest that they write a biography of their favorite sports hero or musician. Work with their interests -- instead of trying to make your interests theirs -- if you want to avoid adolescent angst over writing.

*Next time:  
Beyond the Theme*

## On the Record

Music can be a great bridge-builder for a teacher or parent trying to encourage a middle-schooler to write. As stated in the article, music is a catalyst to get kids to put words down on paper -- and it shows them that the resident adult is paying attention (without judging them), too.

But what if you don't listen to the radio and know next-to-nothing about any contemporary music? And what about the subjects of lyrics and language choice on albums? These are valid, important concerns for parents and teachers alike. But a little judicious planning will help separate the musical sheep and goats.

If your adolescents listen to it, try using contemporary Christian music. Performers like Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith combine thoughtful lyrics with secular air play. Rap group D.C. Talk is hot with Christian middle schoolers right now, and my twelve-year-old son loves the irrepressible Steve Taylor's C.D. *Squint*.

Avoid pitfalls with secular music through research. Get a list of the "Top Ten" songs or albums from a local radio station, or ask the deejay for some suggestions. Check out a few of the C.D.s at your public library and scan the jacket inserts for appropriate lyrics. Then give a listen to any that pique your interest. Despite what the press so often reports, not every group writes about sex and killing police officers. For instance, the group Arrested Development often addresses issues like poverty, God, and racism in their lyrics. Sometimes movie soundtracks can be great idea sources. These, too, are usually readily available at local libraries, so you can get well acquainted with all aspects of a song before you commit to using it in a classroom setting.

But before you use a song as a writing galvanizer, remember to do the single most important thing. Check it out with a middle-schooler!



## PRIMARY & SECONDARY STUDENTS GET PUBLISHED

High Adventure magazine is a quarterly for boys, ages 6 to 17, in Royal Rangers Clubs. However, boys or girls not involved can submit their writing. Send fiction up to 1,000 words on nature, adventure, sports, inspiration, humor, multicultural, problem solving or historical focus. Be realistic. Pays \$.03 cents a word, for first or reprint rights. Nonfiction articles, to 1,000 words, on topics of religion, sports, careers, computers, multicultural issues, geography, travel and college. Pays \$.03 word. Color photos are accepted. Fillers needed include: puzzles, cartoons, jokes, games, activities, and news items. Pays from \$2-20. About 75% of each issue is theme related. Be sure to get guidelines and theme list first, with a SASE. Send seasonal six months early. Accepts simultaneous pieces, if stated. All work must be typed and sent with an IBM disk in MS-DOS. Responds within eight weeks. For a free sample copy send a 9x12" SASE with two stamps. Circulation around 60,000. Editor Marshal Bruner, 1445 Boonville Ave., Springfield MO 65802-1894.

## TEENS GET PUBLISHED

High School Writer magazine provides an audience for students ages 13 to 18, each month during the school year. They need fiction and nonfiction, up to 2,000 words, on any topic. About 135 stories and 135 articles are used in each issue. Poetry, any length; send up to 30 poems at a time. No love poems. All manuscripts must be typed. Students get a byline and clip for one-time rights. Submit seasonal pieces two months in advance. Reprints and simultaneous submissions accepted. No response is given for work received. Guidelines and a sample copy are free, on request. No projects on suicide, New Age or the occult. Circulation is 43,000, through school subscriptions. A school must have at least one

classroom subscription (25 copies for \$60) for students at that location to submit their work. Write to Editor Bob Lemen, PO Box 718, Grand Rapids MN 55744-0718, or phone 1.218.326.8025.

## STUDENT CONTEST

Creative Kids magazine has from one to five contests in almost every bi-monthly issue, designed for students, ages 5 to 18. Fiction is often used. Keep the theme and word -limit stated in each contest. Articles usually ask students to express an opinion on a topic. Poetry length varies. Fillers include recipes, puzzles, jokes, games and cartoons. B/W and color art and photos are sometimes requested. Manuscripts can be typed or neatly hand-written. Response in three weeks. One contributor's copy is sent. Byline is always given. Prizes vary: art kits, cameras, baking kits, books, etc. Send entries requested to "Submissions Editor," PO Box 8813, Waco TX 76714-8813.

## NEW WRITER'S WORDS TO KNOW

Circulation--How many subscribe and/or how many copies are printed for sale  
Historical--Stories based on events or people in history. Some action may be fiction.  
IBM disk--Type of disk to save and send work on to editor  
MS-DOS--Specific format to save disk in  
Multicultural--Stories or articles with people from other cultures, or of interest to them  
Problem-solving--Stories showing why and how the main characters solve their problem  
Quarterly--A publication released every three months. Uses less work than a monthly  
Seasonal--Any project (poems, stories, art, puzzles, photos) about a holiday or season  
Theme list--List of main topic or focus of each issue (season, sport, bug, weather, person)  
Theme related--All work must revolve around the theme in some way

*Penny Lent lives in Puyallup WA with her husband, two sons, two orange cats and assorted NW slugs. Lent is a frequent school and conference speaker and has free-lanced over 800 articles for radio, magazines and newspaper columns. She is editor of and designs two national newsletters and has authored seven books, including 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

*Penny Lent lives in Puyallup, Washington, with her husband, two sons, two orange cats, and assorted northwest slugs. Lent is a frequent conference and school speaker and has freelanced over six hundred articles for radio, magazines, and her newspaper columns. She is editor and designer of two national newsletters and has authored seven books, including Young Writer's Market Manual, Young Writer's Contest Manual and Young Writer's Manuscript Manual from Kaleidoscope Press.*

# Check It Out

## Homeschoolers Using Their Public Library



by Michele Howe

*This issue our subject area will be the study of our home state. As I began researching some of the materials available for varying areas of interest; I found a multitude of good general resource books, maps, atlases, as well as books and periodicals specific to each individual state. I will list the general title under which I located many sub-topics for easier location.*

**G**et to a computer and begin! Key Words to cue in: (state...travel, songs, birds, flags, trees, plants, animals, government, religion, social, history, economy, statistics, climate, geology, energy). Before the word "state" cue in your own state's name. For example... "Michigan travel" or "Colorado state songs." This will target your inquiry much faster. If you desire to stay broad based and want only an overview of our entire country, simply cue in the same Key Words given above and leave off any particular state. Remember, the more Key Word information you provide, the more specific the computer will attempt to be in locating information for you.

*If you're interested in studying about your state's weather, surface geology, economy or energy, check under the general term "climate."*

*If you want some information about your state's names, seals, flags, trees, flowers, check under the general term "U. S. state songs/statehood."*

*If you're interested in your state's plants, animals, soil, check under the general term "natural resources."*

*If you want to locate more information on your state's civil government, legislative process, capitals, census, religion, social conditions, folklore, universities, vital statistics, check under the general term "politics and government."*

*If you desire some materials on your state's authors, biographies, general history, genealogy, industries, maps, check under the general term "attractions."*

### **For some excellent general reference materials, see below.**

✓ *The Kids' World Almanac of the United States* by Thomas Aylesworth. Imprint of Pharos Books, a Scripps Howard Company, 1990. This hardbound book begins by giving a short sketch of each state. Next, the author shares the heritage of each state. He discusses important dates, when each state joined the Union, where the names came from, state capitals, odd facts and laws, statistics, fun places, historical sites, sports, state symbols, important people, and much more! This is one handy and fascinating book.

✓ *Information Please Almanac*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1996. This hefty edition contains everything about everything you'd want to know. Adults would need to assist in finding topic areas until students become familiar with the format. From passports to Pulitzer prizes or weather to world statistics; this is one interesting book.

✓ *Maps On File. Facts On File*. This is a large bound edition containing maps and graphs for the following areas of interest: United States, demographic, medical, natural and energy resources, political, economic, military, social, educational and historical.

✓ *National Geographic Picture Atlas of Our Fifty States*. National Geographic Society, 1991. This beautiful pictorial edition includes a section entitled, "Facts at Your Fingertips" which provides population, largest cities, top products and top states. It also gives statistics and a map for each state. The colorful pictures truly bring to life the best of each state in our country.

Look also for a series entitled, "America The Beautiful" with your home state underscored beneath this title. Children's Press, Chicago. An elementary aged student would love reading these books because they are filled with pictures which bring the history of the state to life. They detail the history and beginnings of the state up to the present.

For a fun way to incorporate a little action into your study, check out *My Backyard History Book* by David Weitzman. Little, Brown and Company. Or for those more adventurous types who want to explore firsthand the land they've been studying about read *Land Navigation Handbook* by W. S. Kals. Sierra Club Books.

If you want to hear as well as read about your state, inquire about the supply of audio tapes in your library. Ask your librarian for a complete listing, and feel free to request from another system when you find those you're interested in listening.

Be sure to peruse your state and local magazines which provide numerous ideas for visiting historical places of importance and will also put you in touch with local groups who meet together to help preserve the state's history and wildlife.

Local AAA offices can provide information on statewide attractions, museums, maps, etc. Check into your local museums for tours or special shows. Call your parks and recreation department for information on any historical sites or monuments in your area. County extension offices, commerce departments, and local government are also good places to inquire about any "state" information. ■■■

*Michele Howe is a freelance writer who lives in LaSalle, Michigan with her husband Jim (a public high school instructor) and their four homeschooled children.*

## *Tips To Take With You*

\* Inquire into the Internet accessibility in your library system. Many systems are making available an 800 number which allows you to check into the resources currently in your library system without leaving home.

\* If your library is using the Dewey Decimal System, the first number on the binding of the call number will usually be grouped with similar books of its kind. Once you locate a particular call number, you can select from a larger grouping of books than you knew was available.

\* Check to see if your library has an encyclopedia in CD-Rom such as Microsoft Encarta. This is yet another good way to locate information pertinent to your home state in bite sized chunks.

# What about Surfing?

by Debra Stombres

**B**Y NOW "SURFING THE NET" IS PRACTICALLY A HOUSEHOLD CLICHE. Certainly "The Information Superhighway" is not an unfamiliar phrase even by those who have yet to travel on it. But as Christian librarians, can we and should we benefit from this massive, worldwide connection of computers and information? Shouldn't we avoid it because of the sinful and worldly avenues we could accidentally "surf" into? I have found having access to the internet in my Christian school library has been beneficial in a number of ways. While I keep student's

access limited, I use the net as a resource for both students' and teachers' information needs. I do feel we have little choice as information professionals but to take the plunge and "surf the net"!

My first contact with the net was two summers ago when I filled in summer reference hours at a college library. At that time my access was textually driven and I learned how to "gopher" my way around the world. I have since joined America Online which offers gopher access to the internet and a World Wide Web browser. While everyone finds unique and individual interests on the net, let me cover just a few applications that can benefit school librarians.

Different institutions around the country have been set up as Eric Clearinghouses with Eric Digests containing whole texts of Eric documents free for the downloading. Aim your gopher, (or search gopherspace) at either Eric Clearinghouse or Eric Digest. Try these at different institutions and you will find different documents related to all areas of education. I have helped a number of teachers research their graduate projects in this way, for free! (Eric can be expensive if ordered through a vendor.)

For another reference connection, point your gopher at "Gopher Jewels". A number of menus have been constructed for the "jewels" of the internet, including reference sources, government connections, full text of classic literature, and even unbelievable amounts of full text of all kinds. These collections of text are being added to almost daily. As I wrote this I printed out a few of Aesop's fables for my son from a Gopher Jewels menu.

America Online and the other major online services also offer a wealth of more easily accessed reference sources. AOL is less than \$10.00 per month for the five hour package rate. Additional hours are \$2.50. (*Ed. note: new AOL rates include \$19.95 for unlimited hours.*) If you have an AOL account, try keyword "reference." AOL offers *Compton's Encyclopedia*, *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, a thesaurus, Barron's booknotes, scholarship information, grants and loans, an atlas, Medline, etc. It also offers a wealth of full text magazines and newspapers including *Time*, *Congressional Quarterly*, *Consumer Reports*, *Scientific American*, and the *New York Times*.

Christianity Online joined America Online over a year ago, bringing all eight magazines owned by Christianity Today, Inc. Full text of *Christianity Today*, *Today's Christian Woman*, *Campus Life*, *Your Church*, and the rest are searchable by keyword. Past issues are also available, as well as chat rooms, special events with speakers, authors and Christian musicians, and an online bookstore. Try keyword, Christianity. Focus on the Family is also on AOL at keyword, Dobson. I shouldn't neglect to mention AOL's Scholastic Network for educators to connect, share ideas and even work together on projects that reach across the country.

Another internet resource for the school librarian is a listserve called LMNet. This stands for Library/Media specialist network. Basically, librarians around the country belong to this network and ask/answer questions daily about all kinds of school library related issues. I signed up for awhile but did not have time to read all of the

email I received, so I did not stay on. LMNet is a valuable resource for the new librarian who has a lot of questions! To sign on, address a regular e-mail message to [listserv@listserv.syr.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.syr.edu) and put nothing in the subject line. The entire text of the message should be: **Subscribe LM\_NET** your name. You will receive confirmation of your request and information on how to unsubscribe. There is no fee.

The fasted growing area of internet use now is the World Wide Web. More powerful hardware is needed to "browse the Web" in order to accommodate graphics and multimedia. You will want a high speed modem and as much RAM memory as you can afford! Then you need Web browsing software such as Netscape. AOL includes a Web browser that accommodates most Web functions.

There are virtually thousands of Web Sites already available for every possible convenience, be it shopping, hobbies, businesses, etc. At the end of this article is a list of some sites useful to librarians and educators.

This is only a nibble of the wealth available on the net. Your community may have an online source, your local public libraries and college libraries may have online access. So, while you may wish to monitor its use, surfing the net is Okay!!

*Debra Stombres is K-12 librarian at Aurora Christian School, Aurora, Illinois. She has an MA in Library and Information Studies, has both school and college library experience, and has published articles on library automation and censorship in the Christian school library. She is happily married, and is an accomplished musician, playing the keyboard and the flute.*

## World Wide Web URL's

### (Uniform Resource Locators)

#### \*\* Young Adult Literature

[http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/young\\_adult\\_lib\\_ass/yaweb.html](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/young_adult_lib_ass/yaweb.html)

#### \*\* Global SchoolNet Foundation

<http://gsn.org/>

#### Focus on the Family

<http://www.webcom.com/dms.focus/html>

#### CNN

<http://www.cnn.com/>

#### Christian Magazines Online

<http://iclnet93.iclnet.org/pub/resources/res9.html>

#### Uncle Bob 's Kid's Page

<http://gagme.wva.com/~boba/kidsi.html>

#### Christian Book Connection

<http://www.xmission.com/~seer/Christian-Book/index.html>

#### Microsoft

<http://www.microsoft.com>

#### Information Access Company

<http://www.iacnet.com>

#### Electronic Serials

<http://arl.cni.org/index.html>

#### SIRS Information Systems

<http://www.sirs.com>

#### Chicago Public Library

<http://cpl.lib.uic.edu/CPL.html>

#### OCLC

<http://www.ref.oclc.org:2000>

#### Library of Congress

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/z39501>

#### Ebsco

<http://www.epnet.com>

#### Scholastic Center

<http://www.scholastic.com/>

#### UPDATES

World Wide Web URL's ( Uniform Resource Locators)

#### \*\* Young Adult Literature

[http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/young\\_adult\\_lib\\_ass/yaweb.html](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/young_adult_lib_ass/yaweb.html)

#### \*\* Global SchoolNet Foundation

<http://www.gsn.org/>

#### CNN

<http://www.cnn.com/>

#### Christian ResourcesOnline

<http://iclnet93.iclnet.org/pub/resources/Christian-resources.html>

#### Christian Book Connection

<http://www.seercom.com/cbc>

#### Microsoft

<http://www.microsoft.com>

#### Information Access Company

<http://www.iacnet.com>

#### Chicago Public Library

<http://cpl.lib.uic.edu/CPL.html>

#### OCLC

<http://homer.prod.oclc.org:3050/>

#### Ebsco

<http://www.epnet.com>

#### Scholastic Center

<http://www.scholastic.com/>

#### Christianity Online (CTi)

<http://www.christianity.net>

#### USNews online

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/main.htm>

#### Internet Public Library

<http://ipl.sils.umich.edu/>

#### Electronic Library

<http://www.elibrary.com/>

#### AskEric

<http://eric.sunsite.syr.edu/>

#### Educom

<http://www.educom.edu/>

#### FedWorld

<http://www.fedworld.gov/>

#### Library of Congress

<http://lcweb.loc.gov>

#### NASA

<http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/>

#### Peterson's Education Center

<http://www.petersons.com/>



# USING DEBATE TO ABSORB YOUR STUDENTS IN LITERATURE

by Bryan Ross

*Bryan Ross teaches English, journalism, media communications, and debate at Cascade Christian High School in Tacoma, Washington. He also coaches soccer, plays the guitar, and is the youth leader in his church.*

One evening, my wife and I watched a movie based on the novel *Lord Jim*, by Joseph Conrad. The discussion that followed was more interesting than the movie and lasted nearly as long. We found ourselves divided on the question of whether Jim's death signified his ultimate triumph or failure.

I remember thinking in the midst of our debate that it would be wonderful if I could get my high school English students embroiled in such a lively discussion. It was that experience that led me to introduce principles of debate to the discussion of novels.

As a debate coach, I already knew of the significant benefits of debate. Not only does the competitive format tend to stir up wild enthusiasm for a controversial topic, but it helps the students to learn how to "think on their feet." In real life, decisions must often be made or words be chosen under pressure.

There's no denying the speaking skills the students develop. Even if they have great ideas, they won't win a round if they can't clearly and persuasively present their arguments. And as students become more successful in proving their points of view in open debate, they will grow in confidence. Confidence has a way of infecting all areas of a student's performance.

As they prepare their cases, they develop invaluable organizational and analytical skills. They find they must delve deeply into the topic and the

book, and then pull their information together into a form that can be easily delivered and understood.

How elaborate a debate the teacher uses in the classroom depends on time available and teacher preference. When I teach *Lord Jim*, I prefer to take a whole class period with my students--half to prepare and half to debate. Since I don't have days or weeks to teach formal debate theory, I keep it simple.

I ask my students to develop their side of the topic by first carefully defining the key terms of the topic. If the topic is "Does Jim die a hero or a coward?" then the key terms for both sides might be "hero" and "coward." "Hero" might be defined as someone who stands by his principles and faces his fears. "Coward" could bring out definitions of a person who runs away from his fears or compromises his principles in the face of danger.

Those students who argue in favor of the position that Jim is a hero in the end will likely try to prove that Jim overcomes the cowardice that leads him to jump ship earlier in the book. They often propose that in jumping, Jim violates his principle that a sailor never abandon ship, and he does so because of his fear of death. By volunteering to face his own execution for the loss of a friend, the "hero" side might argue, Jim finally sticks by his principles and faces death head on. The "coward" side, on the other hand, would point out that by the time Jim faces his execution, he has already faced death as the defender of the natives of Patusan. This side would likely argue that Jim's real deficiency is not in his fear of



death or in his compromise of principle, but of his fear of facing the judgment of his own world for his previous failures. By choosing to die on Patusan, he merely finds a safer and more permanent hiding place from the world, and that could be construed as an act of cowardice. Both sides are also required to use the Bible as the authoritative basis for all value judgments.

### **Here's a way to use long (60-90 minutes) or formal debates in the classroom:**

1. Split the class into groups of four.
2. Write down the topic and assign opposite sides to the groups--half for, half against. 3. Spend a few minutes analyzing the topic as a class, developing mutually-accepted definitions for the key terms (10-15 minutes).
4. Give the groups time (15-20 minutes) to formulate convincing arguments that support the agreed-upon definitions. If there are six groups, three will separately prepare cases for one side, and the other three will separately prepare opposing cases.
5. Explain your preferred rules of order (raising hands, taking turns, no personal attacks, etc.) and begin the debate by selecting one group to read it's case. After giving the other side (all the groups on the opposing side) a chance to attack the case, let a group from the other side read a case and continue until you run out of time or all the cases have been read.

### **Here's a way to use short (20-30 minutes) or informal debates in the classroom:**

1. Split the classroom into groups of four.
2. Present both the topic and the definitions of terms. Assign sides.
3. Allow the groups to write a position statement or mini-editorial supporting their sides (10 minutes).
4. Explain rules of order and take turns reading statements and holding open discussions of them.

I usually play the part of the judge, but I have chosen, on occasion, to let the students decide by secret ballot. There are other times when I don't render a decision, but merely comment on points made on both sides.

It's also important to leave a few minutes at the end of the activity to synthesize and evaluate the debate, being sure to point out strong arguments on both sides, so all the students will feel like they have succeeded in producing a lively debate.

Good debates always leave students wanting more--not only more debates but more good books to use as topics. ■■■

# Christian Library

J O U R N A L

## B O O K R E V I E W S

Picture Books .....	14
Children's Fiction .....	24
Children's Nonfiction .....	33
Young Adult Fiction .....	53
Fiction .....	64
Nonfiction .....	72

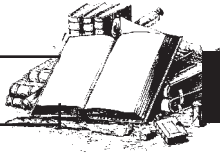
### R A T I N G S Y S T E M

#### Quality of Material

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

#### Acceptability of Material

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



**E. Arnold, Marsha Diane. *The Heart of a Tiger*. Illustrated by Jamichael Henterly. ISBN 0803716966. Dial Books for Young Children, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.99. Gr. 1 - 2.**

The animals were all anxiously awaiting Naming Day. Tradition had long had it that in the spring of their first year, the animals could choose their own permanent name, and if all the other animals agreed it was a suitable name, it became theirs for a lifetime. *The Heart of a Tiger*, by Marsha Diane Arnold, begins with the kittens discussing what they hope their names will be. Number One chooses 'Mighty Hunter' as he scouts around for a mouse. Number Two, while carefully grooming her long fur, likes 'Calico Colors.'

And Number Three feels 'Adventurer' is right for him. They all taunt Number Four, the runt of the litter, and dub him 'Smallest of All.' But the small, gray kitten is not so sure that that is his destiny, to be called 'Smallest.'

This wonderful children's book feels like it came right out of Indian legend, and the jungle comes alive as Number Four sets out in search of his true name. The Parakeets call him 'Murky Gray Coat,' the langurs laughingly name him 'One Morsel,' but in the end the young kitten earns his name, 'Heart of a Tiger,' and all agree it is right.

Jamichael Henterly's large water color prints wonderfully enhance the quality of this children's storybook. The colors are vivid and bright capturing the beauty and soul of India and the animals. They bring out the wistfulness and determination of Number Four as he sets out into the jungle on his search.

Children will love this book for its pictures as well as its story. Young readers may struggle somewhat with the pronunciation of the Indian names, but there is a pronunciation guide in the beginning. It's a fun book for a read aloud and could easily enhance a unit on Asia, or literature from other cultures, or even on animals from around the world. Its value also comes through in bringing out lessons in following a dream, believing in yourself, looking beyond outward appearances, acceptance, and determination.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Gayle Chessman Haberman  
Teacher, West Hills Christian School  
Portland, Oregon

**E. Bahr, Mary. *The Memory Box*. Illustrated by David Cunningham. ISBN 0907550531. Albert Whitman, 1992. Paper, \$5.95. Gr. 1 - 4.**

Gramps and Gram, their beautiful house in the woods, fishing--Zach knows it is going to be a great vacation. Add to all of this the wonderful suggestion of a Memory Box and Zach is having the best time of his life. After a "fish-full" dinner, Gramps explains the Memory Box as a wonderful repository of written family tales and traditions passed from old to young. "No matter what happens to the old person, the memories are saved forever." Then Gramps begins to forget, to wander, to not know what he knew just yesterday. Helped by a faithful Gram who has already begun to learn, Zach begins to fathom the dire mystery of Alzheimer's in one he loves deeply.

Written from Mary Bahr's understanding heart to the heart of the child who needs to understand, *The Memory Box* is a moving, truth filled story. The simple words are evocative, engaging the child's interest immediately. They will also catch the adult who has the privilege of helping the child through the story. It is a guide that can teach a cynical, self-serving society that tender, knowledgeable care for a weakening loved one is a worthwhile action for everybody concerned. Each part of this story fits one into the other, forming a tightly planned picture of three who love learning together to victoriously face a fearful inevitability. David Cunningham's gouache illustrations are an integral part of the story. Animatedly painted with slightly misty, eye catching colors, they mirror the story while perceptively leading the eye into understanding that with which the brain is grappling.

*The Memory Box* was written from personal experience and is dedicated to The Colorado Springs Alzheimer Steering Committee and the Namaste Alzheimer Center.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Donna Eggett  
Freelance Writer, Crisis Pregnancy Center  
Counselor  
Maiden, North Carolina

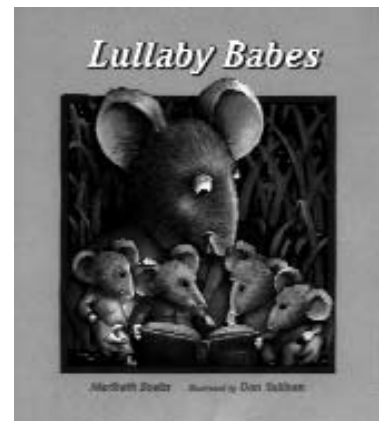
**E. Barracca, Debra and Sal. *The Adventures of Taxi Dog*. ISBN 0803706723. Dial Books for Young Readers, c1990. Hardbound, \$14.99. K - Gr. 3.**

*The Adventures of Taxi Dog* by Debra and Sal Barracca features Maxi, a New York City street dog, who finds happiness and excitement when the taxi driver Jim adopts him, taking him along as Jim makes his runs. Along the way, Maxi meets circus clowns with chimps and a couple about to give birth. Maxi often entertains Jim's passengers by wearing his Groucho Marx glasses but gets his own entertainment from each new rider as he and Jim travel throughout New York.

Mark Buehner used a combination of oil and acrylic paints along with special photography to create vibrant illustrations which are sure to hold the attention of even the most active listener during story time. Each page of text is surrounded by a yellow cab border, and each illustration tells a story of its own. Maxi travels along, head hanging out of the window of the cab, soaking it all in. Along the way, on every page is a repeat of some previous character or object, most frequently a black cat, all awaiting discovery as the reader investigates each detailed scene. The text is sparse but to the point, making it ideal for beginning readers as Maxi tells his story. The love Jim has developed for his adorable mutt is evident in both text and pictures as Maxi tells his story.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Jeanita Lovelace  
Librarian, St. Anne Tri-Parish School  
Beaumont, Texas



**E. Boelts, Maribeth. *Lullaby Babes*. Illustrated by Don Sullivan. ISBN 0807547921. Albert Whitman, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.95. Birth - PS.**

*Lullaby Babes* is the perfect bedtime book to share with any small child. Accompanied by the sway of a rocker, the short four line, rhymed jingles and the colorful, whimsical creatures pictured with their babies will delight both the eye and imagination. By the time the last page is turned, many sleepyheads will have closed their eyes.

Bright full-page pictures of mother and baby are delightfully portrayed; a dove, cat, trout, owl, pig, horse, cow, mouse, and sheep all sing in their own way.

Older children and even adults will also enjoy the clever rhymes and pictures. Maribeth Boelts wrote this story for her own two-year-old daughter who asked for "one more story." On the last page is a short song for the musically inclined to sing their lullaby.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Marie Knaupp  
Retired Librarian  
Monmouth, Oregon

★ **E. Byars, Betsy. *My Brother, Ant*. Illustrated by Marc Simont. ISBN 0670866644. Viking, 1996. Hardbound, \$11.99. K - Gr. 3.**

Ant, short for Anthony, cries and cannot get to sleep because the monster under his bed frightens him. After discussions with Dad, big brother takes care of the monster in a manner that satisfies Ant.

In the next chapter big brother fusses because "Ant drew a spider on my homework." An argument follows with Ant declaring, "I did not!" Mother tries to determine the truth, but instead, the quarrel heats up. The chapter concludes with Ant's surprise disclosure.

Big brother reads a familiar story to Ant, dressing it up with laughable details that do not amuse Ant. Big brother then reads the story correctly, but still Ant walks away before he finishes, because "I don't like the rest of the story. It has a big bad wolf in it." Big brother offers a change, but Ant said, "No. I would know it was a wolf."

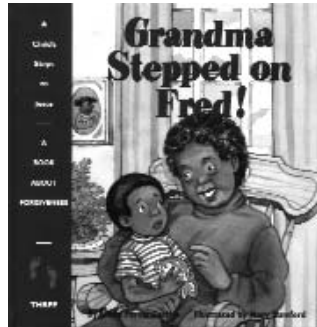
Ant asks big brother's help to write a letter to Santa. "Nobody writes to Santa in July," big brother criticizes. In the end, he helps Ant when he discovers the letter's unusual content.

Byars uses short sentences and easy vocabulary to make this a just right book for beginning readers. It will delight children who can barely wait to announce, "I'm reading a chapter book." The brief chapters hold interest all the way. Adult readers will chuckle over Ant and big brother right along with the children who will

laugh loudly. Marc Simont's delightful illustrations give a wonderful visual effect.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Betty M. Hockett  
Freelance Writer and Writing Teacher  
Newberg, Oregon



**E. Carlyle, Linda Porter. *Grandma Stepped on Fred*. Illustrated by Mary Rumford. (A Child's Steps to Jesus; 3). ISBN 0816310947. Pacific Press Pub. Association, c1992. Hardbound, \$6.49. PS - Gr. 2.**

*Grandma Stepped on Fred* is a book about forgiveness. First Grandma comforts and forgives when her favorite vase falls off the table and breaks into "five and thirty-seven" pieces. Then it is Grandma's turn to ask for forgiveness when she steps on Fred, the plastic fish, and he is in "five and thirty-seven" pieces.

These experiences are used to teach about God's forgiveness. A parent's guide in the back of the book gives many valuable suggestions for teaching a child about forgiveness. Bright, bold, full-page illustrations expressively communicate the feelings as well as the facts of the story.

Parents as well as teachers will find this book a valuable teaching tool.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Marie Knaupp  
Retired Librarian  
Monmouth, Oregon

**E. Carlyle, Linda Porter. *Rescued From the River*. Illustrated by Mary Rumford. (A Child's Steps to Jesus; 2). ISBN 0816310939. Pacific Press Pub. Association, c1992. Hardbound, \$6.49. PS - Gr. 1.**

Even though his family has taken every precaution to be prepared and safe on their picnic outing, a young boy meets with a near disaster. Losing his footing while wading in a river, he nearly drowns before the strong arms of a stranger rescue him. His father uses the experience to relate the illustration of Jesus coming to rescue us from drowning in our sins through his crucifixion on the cross. The story ends with the short prayer "Thank you, Jesus, for saving me and keeping me safe forever. I love

You, Jesus, for saving me and keeping me safe forever."

Author Linda Porter Carlyle has told what could be a terribly frightening story with sensitivity, so that the young child can understand the seriousness of the situation without being overly scared. The simple vocabulary and sentence structure supplemented by the colorful illustrations of Mary Rumford make this a good choice for Sunday School libraries as well as preschools and families.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judy Driscoll  
Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, Washington

**E. Cowley, Joy. *The Mouse Bride*. Illustrated by David Christiana. ISBN 0590475037. Scholastic, 1995. Hardbound, \$13.95. PS - Gr. 3.**

*The Mouse Bride* is the story of one little mouse who is unhappy because she feels so small and weak. Deciding that if she marries someone who is very strong, at least she will have strong children, the adventure begins. Based on a traditional folk tale, the mouse sets out to find and marry the strongest thing in the world. Little mouse runs quickly from the sun to a cloud, from the wind to a house, just to find that the strongest thing in the world is down in the cellar nibbling and gnawing at the timbers of the house. When mouse arrives in the cellar she finds another little mouse. This concludes the courageous journey toward self-acceptance.

The text is short but well complimented by double spread pictures around and behind the words which will transport the reader to the scene of each adventure. Each scene is shown from the perspective of a mouse.

Joy Crowley, who lives in New Zealand, gives lectures and writing workshops. David Christiana, the illustrator, makes good use of perspective and color. Children will want to read this book themselves after hearing it many times. They will relate to the feeling of being small and weak and will enjoy the feeling of acceptance of who you are.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Marie Knaupp  
Retired Librarian  
Monmouth, Oregon

**E. Degen, Bruce. *Sailaway Home*. ISBN 0590464434. Scholastic, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.95. PS - Gr. 2.**

An ear catching jingle and fanciful illustrations will keep children reading this book again and again as author Bruce Degen introduces them to an adventurous pig who follows his father fishing and turns it into a full day of imaginative fun riding a whale, chasing pirates, flying a plane,



and becoming a butterfly. Can pigs really fly? The reader at times becomes so involved with the illustrations in this short picture book that at times it is difficult to tell which is real and which is make-believe. Degen employs illustrated balloons within his full page spreads to move the reader in and out of this lively adventure which includes a message on the joy of home.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judy Driscoll  
Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, Washington

**E. Graystone, Peter. *If I Had Lived in Jesus' Time*. Illustrated by Jacqui Thomas. ISBN 0687004381. Abingdon Press, 1995. Hardbound, \$8.95. K - Gr. 3.**

School, transportation, sunscreen, chores ... so many things have changed since Jesus was a little boy--or have they? Have your children or students ever screwed up their faces in frustration after reading a Bible story? Were the concepts or cultural differences too foreign for your children to relate to them? Peter Graystone has solved the dilemma by presenting the daily life and routines of a child growing up in Bible times, alongside today's western lifestyle.

A western child dreams that he was alive in Jesus' time and then throughout the book the biblical scene is depicted on the page on the left and the western analogous scene is portrayed on the right. Unique details are hidden in the intricate drawings and will entertain children who love to look for the hidden treasures in illustrations.

As the boy travels through a typical day in each culture, he compares protection from the sun, father's occupations, caring for pets and doing chores. Even schoolwork makes the reader smile as one finds tremendous expression on the faces of the students who are too hot to work. "How many girls are in each class?" That question will elicit a wide-mouthed "Why?" from boys and girls alike. Girls may not have been allowed to go in Jesus' time, but perhaps illness will keep our sisters from school. The introduction of the modes of transportation, washing clothes, and shopping for shoes will be stepping stones for discussion, drawings, and writing assignments of comparison of our cultures and perhaps even expressions of satisfaction with our lifestyles. "What would you like to thank God for today?"

I look forward to reading this story with children and opening up the world of eastern cultures and lifestyles. At the end of the book, the author has included a page-by-page extended explanation of the customs in Bible times. This book is a colorful trip into another culture beautifully interwoven with the familiar life of a western child.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sharon Ann Rau  
Librarian, Valley Christian Schools  
Abbotsford, British Columbia

**E. Hess, Paul. *Farmyard Animals*. ISBN 1899883347.**

---***Safari Animals*. ISBN 1899883355.**

**(Animal Word Books). DeAgostini Children's Books, 1996. Hardbound, \$6.95. PS - K.**

Two delightful books, illustrated with full page colorful, up front and center paintings by Paul Hess, will appeal especially to the preschool crowd. Each double page spread features an animal of the farmyard or jungle with its name printed in large black type, a feature to intrigue the youngest child becoming familiar with printed letters. Accompanying each animal is a four line verse describing some feature of the animal. While some of the verses like:

Way down south where bananas grow,  
A grasshopper stepped on an elephant's toe.  
The elephant said, with tears in his eyes,  
"Pick on somebody your own size."

may be familiar to adult readers, others like:

The cow mainly moos  
as she chooses to moo...  
and she chooses to chew  
as she muses

may be more unfamiliar but certainly entertaining in its rhythm even if the listener can't appreciate the humor. Two-year-olds will love the illustrations of their familiar farmyard friends like the sheep, rooster, cow, horse, goat, pig, goose, and dog in *Farmyard Animals*, and may meet some new friends with the zebra, rhino, hyena, lion, vulture, leopard, wildebeest, and elephant of *Safari Animals*. Both books will be entertaining enough to keep the adult reader chuckling even after the fiftieth reading. Sturdy hardcover bindings and heavy weight pages make this one ideal for the youngest child.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judy Driscoll  
Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, Washington

**E. Hollingsworth, Mary. *Bumper and Noah*. ISBN 0781401860. Chariot Books, 199 . Hardbound, \$10.99. PS - Gr. 3.**

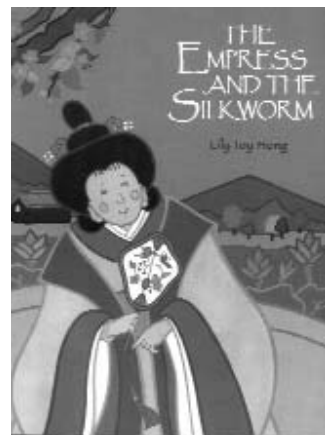
This is a tale of Noah's ark, with a twist. It tells the story of Bumper the Dinosaur and how he helped Noah finish building the ark. Bumper comes from a long line of dinosaurs that bump their way through life. His great tail is a hindrance to the animals around him as he bumps and stumbles over things on his way to find and help Noah. But Noah has a use for that tail. It is Bumper's job to bump the boards of the ark into place. After the job is done Noah tells Bumper that God has chosen him to live on the boat when the big rains come.

The characterization of the different animals, and Bumper in particular, is warm and appealing. The illustrations are large, colorful, and will attract children's interest. The story teaches the value of helpfulness.

The author has included a "disclaimer" at the beginning of the story telling the reader that the Bible doesn't say much about dinosaurs and that it might have happened like this. She also includes "DinoFacts" at the end to explain what the Bible says and doesn't say about dinosaurs. With these additions she helps parents explain Bible facts from fictional stories to their children.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Donna Brown  
Church Librarian  
Portland, Oregon



**E. Hong, Lily Toy. *The Empress and the Silk*. ISBN 0807520098. Albert Whitman, 1995. Hardbound, \$16.95. PS - Gr. 5.**

Poor Si Ling-Chi, just as she is about to enjoy her morning cup of tea beneath the mulberry trees, plop! something splashes into her cup. Recovering from her momentary shock, Empress Si Ling-Chi becomes fascinated as she watches the sodden cocoon begin to unwind in the hot tea. Little does she realize that she has just discovered the thread from heaven, silk, which will revolutionize the fabric industry in China and change the economy of the world!

Lily Toy Hong, a Chinese-American author and illustrator, has beautifully told the legend of Empress Si Ling-Chi in an almost fairy tale fashion. Children and adults will be fascinated with the story of how the Empress presents her vision of the Yellow Emperor clothed in a robe woven from the heavenly thread to her husband the Emperor Huang-Ti. At the same time the readers will learn how silk is made. An epilogue to the legend tells the history of the silk trade and the process of obtaining silk from worm to weaver.

Beautiful pastel illustrations not only add sparkle to the story but also additional information about

life in ancient China. This wonderful story may inspire young historians to explore further the history and culture of China.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judy Driscoll  
First Grade Teacher  
Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, Washington

**E. Hunter, Sara Hoagland. *Miss Piggy's Night Out.* Illustrated by Tom Leigh. (Viking Easy-to-Read, Level 2). ISBN 0670861073. Viking, 1995. Hardbound, \$11.99. PS - Gr. 2.**

Miss Piggy learns a lesson in pride when she begs Kermit to take her to a popular restaurant. Miss Piggy is certain that she will meet a famous star who will be captivated by her beauty and talent. While drinking hot chocolate, Miss Piggy unknowingly leaves a large pat of whipped cream on her nose. Miss Piggy is at first excited by all the attention she is receiving until a famous movie producer points out her flaw. With tears running down her face, Miss Piggy flees the restaurant in shame. Kermit saves the day by telling her that he is her biggest fan of all.

Sara Hoagland Hunter's charming easy reader will appeal to students who are growing in their reading abilities. The vocabulary is a combination of simple words such as "big" and "star" with harder words like "answer" and "chocolate." Children will feel comfortable as they read the familiar words, but will also be challenged to learn new vocabulary. There is enough repetition of words to help readers practice new words.

Tom Leigh's large, colorful illustrations will help students decode new vocabulary as they connect the actions of the characters with the words they are reading. The bright, cheerful pictures add to the attractiveness and tender humor of this reader.

*Miss Piggy's Night Out* is a welcome addition to the growing number of easy readers at different levels which are in much demand. Students will enjoy this charming story as they begin to cross the bridge to independent reading.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Susan Robinson  
Elementary Librarian  
Delaware County Christian School  
Newtown Square, Pennsylvania

**E. Lawson, Julie. *Blown Away.* Illustrated by Kathryn Naylor. ISBN 0889951195. Northern Lights Books for Children, 1995. Hardbound, \$15.95. K - Gr. 3.**

A naughty autumn wind plays havoc with the world of the Mistaken Road children as they hurry off to school. Hats and kites and white sea froth are whipped and stolen away. Even Molly

Melinda is carried away. Then in the dark of night on the first eve of autumn, Jess and her friends decide to follow the wind and confront the giant.

A tale of pure fantasy follows in lilting, almost musical prose. It is a modern fairy tale told just for fun. The children find the giant and his kite castle which is filled with all the things the wind has whisked to the sky.

Quickly they filled their packs and pockets with the lost and blown away, then one by one, slid down the kite string. When they reached the foot of the maple tree, they reeled in the Castle of Kite and left it there for the giant.

Is it a dream? or a flight of imagination? or both? The author's poetic language weaves a beautiful story. Teachers will love to use this tale as a story starter for writing projects and paintings. The colorful illustrations are in one way simple but at the same time filled with detail, humor, and surprise.

The text is uniquely laid out in several sizes of print which adds to the fun of the story. The only drawback is that the font is almost a script style which will hinder primary children from being able to read this on their own. Librarians and storytellers, teachers and parents will love to read this lovely book aloud and pore over it with their children.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sharon Ann Rau  
Librarian  
Valley Christian Schools  
Abbotsford, British Columbia

**E. Le Guin, Ursula K. *Wonderful Alexander and the Catwings.* Illustrated by S. D. Schindler. ISBN 053106851X. Orchard Books, c1994. Hardbound, \$12.95. PS - Gr. 3.**

Alexander is the oldest, biggest, strongest and loudest of all the kittens in the Furby family. Alexander fancies himself as quite a brave, bold kitten. One day he sets off to see the world and determines that he will do something wonderful. His ensuing adventures finally cause him to admit that he is lost, cold, lonely, and frightened. In fact, he is too frightened to even try to climb down from the tallest tree in the forest.

Jane, a beautiful black kitten with wings, "flies" to his rescue. Jane cannot talk. Alexander learns that something happened in her young life that so frightened or hurt her that she has never talked. He determines that the wonderful thing he can do is help Jane to talk. Ms. Le Guin weaves a wonderful tale of a kitten exploring his world with such freshness and clarity. This book could be used quite easily to read with children who have challenges to overcome. The story, as well as the illustrations by S. D. Schindler, are delightful and heartwarming.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Elaine M. Watts  
Freelance Writer  
Spokane, Washington



**E. Levine, Abby. *Ollie Knows Everything.* Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger. ISBN 0807560200HB; 0807560219PB. Albert Whitman, 1994. Hardbound, \$15.95; Paper, \$6.95. K - Gr. 2.**

Ollie knows everything! He knows how to fold down the tray on the airplane, how to swim with his eyes open under water, and how to read hamburger on the menu at the restaurant. For younger brother Herbert, Ollie is a pain. Abby Levine tells the entertaining story of the O'Hare rabbit family on their trip to New York City. It seems Ollie knows everything, and just when Herbert is about to despair of having to live with his older brother forever and never knowing as much as he, Ollie gets lost in the subway. Several anxious hours of hunting for him in New York finally ends when the family returns to their hotel to find Ollie sitting in the lobby sucking on a lollipop and the center of everyone's attention. Ollie knew how to find his way home, too!

While Abby Levine's entertaining story depicts characters and emotions children can easily identify with, the real delight of this story is the art work by Lynn Munsinger. From the sedate pig Doorman to the crowd of impeccably dressed animals on the subway, the characters who populate this book will leave young readers giggling.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judy Driscoll  
Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, Washington



**E. Levine, Ellen. *I Hate English.***  
**Illustrated by Steve Björkman. ISBN**  
**0590423045. Scholastic, 1989. Paper, \$3.95.**  
**Gr. 1 - 3.**

Mei Mei is convinced that she hates English. As long as she is in Chinatown in New York, her new home, she feels comfortable and surrounded by familiar sounds and faces, but in school, everything is unfamiliar. Everything is in English, and Mei Mei hates English. In Hong Kong she was smart, in Chinese. She could speak it, think in it, write its beautiful characters; but in New York, everything is different. Mei Mei struggles with feelings of isolation, confusion, and transition.

This is a delightful, and somewhat thought-provoking, story about a young girl's struggle to make the changeover from her home in Hong Kong to New York City in America. Actually, learning the language and customs takes place faster for the young girl than she wants to admit, and it's those inner feelings of reluctance to let go of the familiar that are so poignantly portrayed in this simple story. Mei Mei begins to learn some valuable things about herself, as well as the city and people around her.

Steve Björkman's water color illustrations are cheerful and bright. They capture the bustle and energy of the city, as well as the shifting emotions of the young Mei Mei. The book captures well the diversity of our culture and what it's like to be the one who is different and trying to adjust.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Gayle Chessman Haberman*  
*Teacher, West Hills Christian School*  
*Portland, Oregon*

**E. Lindman, Maj. *Flicka, Ricka, Dicka and the Big Red Hen.*** ISBN 080752493X.

**---*Flicka, Ricka, Dicka and Their New Friend.*** ISBN 0807524980.

**Albert Whitman, 1995. Paper, \$6.95. PS - Gr. 2**

Flicka, Ricka, and Dicka are back! The three Swedish triplets first appeared in the US in 1942. The six book series created by author/artist Maj Lindman was written for first readers and young listeners.

*Flicka, Ricka, Dicka and Their New Friend* begins with the triplets rolling a snowball and discussing their elderly neighbor. When the large snowball rolls down the hill to stop in front of his home, the girls meet the man. Sharing toboggan rides, and lollipops, the triplets gain a friend who teaches them of far off places--Canada and the United States.

In *Flicka, Ricka, Dicka and the Big Red Hen*, first published in 1960, the girls take care of their aunt's hens. They enjoy collecting eggs and tending the chickens. One hen eventually

disappears, and the triplets grieve until she returns with her six chicks.

Both books reflect the decade they were written in. *The New Friend's* watercolor paintings have broad areas of flat color popular in the 1940's; *The Big Red Hen* has layers of paint and thicker lines indicative of the 1960's. In both books, large text fills the left hand side of the layout. The amount may be daunting for the earliest readers, but the big paperback form is inviting to pick up. An illustration occupies the entire right hand page.

The triplet series is wholesome and full of positive examples. However, the dialogue may sound stilted to the child and parent of the 1990's. *Flicka, Ricka, Dicka, and the Big Red Hen* occurs over many days, but the triplets remain in the same clothes throughout the story. The reader is left wondering what ever happened to that giant snowball in *Flicka, Ricka, Dicka, and Their New Friend*. Despite these concerns, it is interesting to revisit literature of the past with children today.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Lorie Ann Grover*  
*Freelance Writer*  
*Kent, Washington*

**E. London, Jonathan. *Red Wolf Country.***

**Illustrated by Daniel San Souci. ISBN**  
**0525451919. Dutton Children's Books,**  
**1996. Hardbound, \$15.99. Gr. 1 - 8.**

Beautifully illustrated by Daniel San Souci, Jonathan London's text follows a pair of Red Wolves through their winter habitat, into their den, and finally into the spring as they emerge with their wolf pups. The simply told story in non-rhyming poetic style invites the reader into the world of the red wolf, once nearly extinct and now making a comeback in the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina and other nearby reserves in the South Eastern United States. Wild-life lovers will thrill to San Souci's rich paintings of *Red Wolf Country*. An afterword by Roland Smith of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service describes the current preservation projects undertaken to restore the red wolf.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

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

**E. Lucado, Max. *Just in Case You Ever Wonder.*** ISBN 0849952530. Word, 1996.  
**HB \$4.99. PS - Gr. 5.**

Long ago, God made a decision-a very important decision...one that I'm really glad He made. He made the decision to make you. This begins a story designed to let children know how special they are to their parents and to God. Pictures trace the development of a child from

babyhood to about age ten as the story talks about the qualities God gave that child.

This book weaves a gentle loving story with biblical principles relating a parent's love and the love of God. The parent teaches the child about God's love and protection, his angels, and what heaven will be like.

Lavish illustrations cover the pages. The spiritual principles are based firmly on biblical teaching.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Donna Brown*  
*Church Librarian*  
*Portland, Oregon*

**E. McLerran, Alice. *The Year of the Ranch.***  
**Illustrated by Kimberly Bulcken Root.**  
**Viking, 1996. ISBN 0670851310.**  
**Hardbound, \$14.99. Gr. 3 - 5.**

It may have been a pioneering era, but this family is used to flush toilets. Now here they are on a mesa outside Yuma, Arizona, homesteading several acres of desert, with an old patchwork lumber shack and an outhouse. Papa, an office worker who wants to be a farmer, is seeking to make his big dream come true. With misgivings, Mama is following Papa. Having to kill scorpions on the window screen doesn't help her much. Jane is ashamed of the outhouse. Carol has her books and doesn't need much else. Helen is too little to care. But Emily loves it all: the beauty of the desert Papa is sure he can make blossom like the rose, playing on the home-made tennis court, racing to close the windows before the sand storms arrive, their very own pump and well, the desert Christmas stars that blaze as brightly as those that shone over Bethlehem, even the outhouse.

*The Year of the Ranch* is a true account from that intriguing section of American history, homesteading. It is based on the diary of Alice McLerran's Aunt Tahe, one of the girls who lived through Papa's impulsive attempt to make the desert blossom as the rose. This is not an annal of failure. It is adventurous Emily's celebration of her Papa's attempt to reach for the stars. There are many details of pioneer life included in this story and in Kimberly Bulcken Root's pencil and watercolor illustrations. Filled with forward movement and desert color, the illustrations bring reality to both the actions and the family. The Author's Note is an intriguing explanation of the genesis of the story. It ends with the *raison d'être* for the whole book--pursue your special dreams even if they seem doomed. The part of the Arizona desert Papa tried to farm is now verdantly blossoming as the rose.

*The Year of the Ranch* is a useful companion to the craft book *The Quilt-Block History of Pioneer Days* by Mary Cobb (reviewed in this issue). Together these two books will help the young student prepare an enjoyable project about American pioneer days.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Donna Eggett*  
Freelance Writer  
Crisis Pregnancy Center Counselor  
Maiden, North Carolina

★ **E. Mitchell, Margaree King. *Uncle Jed's Barbershop*. Illustrated by James Ransome. ISBN 0671769693. Simon & Schuster, 1993. Hardbound, \$15.00. Gr. 2 - 5.**

Once in awhile, a book comes along that totally enchants the reader. *Uncle Jed's Barbershop* is one of those. Written by Margaree King, the story is superior, told lovingly in first person by a little black girl in the South about her beloved Uncle Jedidiah.

Jedidiah is a barber, the only one in the county, and he travels around to the black families' homes to give them haircuts. Jedidiah's dream is to own his own four-chair barbershop. Outside will be a big, tall, red-and-white barber pole.

He has been saving for his dream for years. But people are poor and most are struggling sharecroppers. When the narrator, Sarah Jean, is five, she becomes very ill and requires an operation. Uncle Jedidiah says he can't let anything happen to his Sarah Jean, and uses his barbershop money to pay for the surgery.

After Jedidiah has almost enough money saved again for his dream, the Depression begins and the bank where his savings are fails. Then his customers can only pay him with a hot meal, fresh eggs, or vegetables from their gardens. Gradually, the customers are able to pay again, and once more, Jedidiah starts saving.

Heartwarming and tender, this story emphasizes family values, friendship, and the quality of persistence. As beautiful as the story is, the illustrations by James Ransome are a superb enhancement to the narration. The illustrations show such kindness in some of the characters' expressions. They also show stories in the background that deal with segregation and racial bias, such as the doctor laughing and joking with his white patients, while Sarah Jane's parents wait impatiently for their critically ill daughter to be examined.

Winner of a Coretta Scott King Award for Non-Violent Social Change, this little tome is a jewel!

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Barbara Goy Taenzler*  
Freelance Writer  
Glenwood, Iowa

**E. Muntean, Michaela. *Kermit and Robin's Scary Story*. Illustrated by Tom Leigh. ISBN 0670861065. Viking, 1995. Hardbound, \$11.99. K - Gr. 2.**

This is a delightfully illustrated, three-chapter picture book with well-known Kermit the Frog as

the Uncle and Robin as his anthropomorphic nephew.

All children love to be read to. Robin is no exception; when the story is finished he says, "Read it again." Instead, Kermit suggests that they write their own story, which begins immediately with "Once upon a time ..."

It turns into a scary story when Mother's laundry all blows off the clothesline and into the deep, dark woods, and Shorty (the main character of Kermit and Robin's story) bravely goes into the woods to search for sheets, socks, shirts, and shorts. There he encounters a ghost--a ghost covered with little blue flowers. Oh, it's his mother's sheet.

All the birds of the forest help Shorty gather up the laundry and return it to his mother. Shorty is a hero, and when his uncle comes to visit, he reads "Shorty's favorite story to him twenty-two times"--one more effort on Robin's part to get Uncle Kermit to read the story again.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Helen Hunter*  
Author/Freelance Writer  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**E. Phifer, Martha Nelson. *The Colors of Christmas*. Illustrated by Judy I. Roberts. ISBN 0836190297. Herald Press, 1995. Paper, \$6.95. PS - Gr. 2.**

Martha Nelson Phifer has captured a veritable rainbow of Christmas colors in this gentle rendition of the birth of Jesus. Each page with its soft colored pencil illustrations by Judy I. Roberts highlights one color and relates it to the Christmas story with a two line verse. One interesting departure from the ordinary is that when the world is shown coming to the manger to worship the newborn child, the figures in the manger are in traditional Bible land clothes, but the people coming across the hills are in modern dress. The overall effect of words and pictures is a quiet presentation of the Holy Night. An excellent go-to-bed book. It is nearly a lullaby.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Judy Driscoll*  
First Grade Teacher  
Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, Washington

**E. Rich, Scharlotte. *The Nursery Quiet & Noisy Book*. Illustrated by Tish Tenud. ISBN 0880707704. Gold 'n' Honey Books, 1995. Hardbound, \$7.99. PS - K.**

In *The Nursery Quiet & Noisy Book*, children will count and rhyme noisily to ten in the first half, quietly to ten in the second half. Each page has a simple rhyme with the appropriate number of objects, for example, three big trucks, four frisky monkeys, etc., and a sound that the object would make.

Nicely illustrated with color drawings, each page is bordered with a black and white drawn frame. For easy reference, the noisy section has light yellow pages and the quiet section has lavender pages. Children will enjoy looking at the pictures and sounding like bees, bubbles, and snowflakes. One problematic page is the rhyme that asks the reader to find the pig that ran away. All seven pigs are accounted for, with three inside the sty and four of them outside the fenced pen.

Understanding that there are times to be loud and times to be quiet is a difficult concept for small children to grasp. This book helps to steer children towards this concept.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Elizabeth Coleman*  
Freelance Writer  
Tumwater, Washington

**E. Roche, Hannah. *My Mom Is Magic*. ISBN 1899883606**

---***My Dad's a Wizard*. ISBN 1899883614.**

**Illustrated by Chris Fisher. (Science Made Simple). DeAgostini Children's Books, 1996. Hardbound, \$6.95. PS - Gr. 2.**

Jamie's mother makes "magic" while baking meringue cookies and Jessie's dad proves to be a wizard while making a frozen fruit dessert. *My Mom is Magic* and *My Dad's a Wizard* picture books illustrate science through cooking. The only magic performed involves the natural processes of food preparation, such as beating egg whites into a foam or turning liquid fruit juice into a frozen solid. Both books include notes for parents, the appropriate recipe, and practical hints which allow the stories to become participatory science lessons. Notes for parents include brief explanations of the processes at work and general suggestions regarding what can be learned from the "experiment." If your child discovers a taste for meringues or frozen fruit, be prepared to be asked to cook every time the book is read. The same type of learning experience can be attached to other recipes and kitchen activities.

Hannah Roche, with the help of food science consultant Shirley Corriher, makes science fun and useful. Chris Fisher's illustrations are action packed and humorous. These books contain vocabulary, such as "separated, whisked, mixture, patient, abracadabra, and meringues," which may prove challenging to the early reader.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Karla Kessell*  
Academic Librarian  
Kirkland, Washington

**E. Rothenberg, Joan. *Inside-out Grandma : A Hanukkah Story.* ISBN 0786801077. Hyperion Books for Children, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.95. PS - Gr. 3.**

"Grandma," Rosie asks in the picture book, *Inside-out Grandma*, "do you know that you have your clothes on inside out?" Not only does Grandma know, she has a reason for doing so--it's to remind her to buy enough oil to fry the potato latkes for Hanukkah. Rosie learns that inside-out clothes remind Grandma of Rosie's father and Grandpa Reuben. They in turn remind Grandma of pennies. Pennies for the Hanukkah gelt remind Grandma of her papa's silver dreidel. The dreidel reminds Grandma of their Hanukkah menorah. Grandma can imagine the faces of all the gathered family and friends in the glow of the menorah, and she says it will take a lot of latkes to feed them. Rosie says Grandma's potato latkes are crunchy and delicious. Grandma asks Rosie if she knows what it takes to make the latkes that way. "OIL!" Rosie answers. Her father arrives and the story ends leaving the reader with the feeling that the questions and answers could start all over again.

In some parts of her story, Rothenberg forgets the unobtrusiveness of "said" and "asked" and uses distracting words such as "raved" and "declared" with her characters' dialogue. Younger readers will enjoy the repetition of Rosie's question, which gets longer and longer throughout the story.

Through Rosie's questions and Grandma's answers, author/illustrator Joan Rothenberg, introduces the reader to the celebration of Hanukkah. Rothenberg shows more than the rituals of the holiday. Her warm drawings let the reader see Rosie and her grandmother working together in the kitchen, looking at photo albums together, and simply enjoying each other. Rothenberg also introduces the idea of inviting someone, who otherwise would be alone, to share a family celebration. That and other aspects of the story provide good jumping off places for discussion. A recipe for making potato latkes, a fun adult-guided activity, is also included in the book.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sue Ford  
Freelance Writer  
Renton, Washington

**★ E. Rylant, Cynthia. *The Whales.* ISBN 0590582852. The Blue Sky Press, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.95. K - Gr. 6.**

Like a bird's song floating on the morning breeze, so the text of *The Whales*, by Cynthia Rylant, floats and sings. *The Whales* is a lyrical tribute to the majesty, power, and mystery of whales, yet it is also a tribute to the one who created them.

Whales do not know how they change people, how they make them better, how

they make them kind. Like angels appearing in the sky, whales are proof of God. Isaiah 45:18 says, "He is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited..." Rylant's words echo this truth, and they bring to light how the largest inhabitants of the undersea world are not proof of evolution, as so many scientific writers suggest, but instead are proof of an intelligent and all knowing creator.

Library shelves are full of books on the subject of whales, most of which promote evolutionary themes. This makes Rylant's work a refreshing change.

*The Whales* provides interesting facts about these mammals, but it weaves them into the poetic form, rather than listing them as dry facts to be learned and regurgitated. It is the type of book children of all ages will want to read over and over again, not only to hear the sound of the words on their tongues, but to view the brightly colored illustrations, which were painted by Rylant with acrylics and natural sea sponges.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Virginia Schnabel  
Freelance Writer  
Shelton, Washingt



**E. Sattgast, L. J. *The Nursery Bedtime Book.* Illustrated by Tish Tenud. ISBN 0880707496. Gold 'n' Honey Books, 1995. Hardbound, \$7.99. PS.**

*The Nursery Bedtime Book* is delightfully illustrated and filled with eight simple rhymes focusing on bedtime activities. All of the short rhymes include a reference to God; either through saying bedtime prayers, thanking God for a nice warm bed, or remembering all those who love you.

Each page is beautifully framed with borders and backgrounds to accompany the drawings. With average writing and editing, the strength of this book is the illustrations and solid Christian theme. A rhyme called "Bedtime Hunt" is somewhat confusing. The title suggests there is something to find, and the rhyme even asks the

reader to find the sleeping toys. While some of the toys are in plain sight, visibly "sleeping," the remainder of the toys are in a closed toy box. Even an adult may have to think twice about a bedtime hunt that has the hidden objects either in view or completely out-of-sight. Very young children will gravitate towards this book and enjoy the finger play and repetition

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Elizabeth Coleman  
Freelance Writer  
Tumwater, Washington

**E. Slater, Teddy. *Walt Disney's Alice in Wonderland.* Illustrated by Franc Mateu and Holly Hannon. ISBN 0786830344. Disney Press, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.95. K - Gr. 4.**

For those who have seen the movie, the picture storybook, *Walt Disney's Alice in Wonderland*, will be reassuringly familiar. Teddy Slater has done a good job adapting the film adaptation of Lewis Carroll's story into an eighty-nine page picture storybook. Franc Mateu's and Holly Hannon's beautiful and fun illustrations match the animation pictures from the movie. Throughout most of the book an illustration on one page is followed by text on the next. There are some places where text flows for several pages.

Alice imagines a world of her own where her cat and all the other animals would talk and wear clothes, just like people. Alice drifts asleep. When she wakes up, a large white rabbit is fretting that he's late. He races off and Alice chases after him. In the process Alice experiences many adventures and much nonsense. She comes upon a live doorknob, eats food that makes her grow or shrink, meets such characters as Tweedledee and Tweedledum, talking flowers who decide Alice is a weed, the disappearing Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter and the March Hare celebrating an unbirthday party, and the Queen and King of Hearts and their deck of card guards. The Queen, who easily loses her temper, gets angry at Alice and yells, "Off with her head." Alice runs. She awakens to the sound of her sister's voice.

*Walt Disney's Alice in Wonderland* is broken into fourteen chapters. This makes for nice reading lengths, but kids will probably not want to stop at chapter breaks

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Sue Ford  
Freelance Writer  
Renton, Washington



**E. Stover, Jo Ann. *They Didn't Use Their Heads*. ISBN 0890845468. Bob Jones University Press, 1990. Paper, \$5.49. K - Gr. 3.**

Using your head the right way brings joy and the feeling of accomplishment. But if you don't use your head, trouble comes your way. The many different qualities a child can exhibit all depend on one thing--the choices that are made. In other words, how things are thought out and acted upon determines the results. But selfishness, being unkind, or careless can be turned around with just a little thoughtfulness.

Clever and succinct, each "lesson" gives a clear and pointed message. The storyline clearly shows how the little things we do can accomplish good or can go wrong and cause trouble for others. The author's words of wisdom are like little proverbs--words to live by that help make us and the world we live in a better place!

Jo Ann Stover uses her clever illustrations to make a visual point that compliments the simple rhyming text. With each pictured "foible," a small caption on the side portrays wisdom and the better choice for each.

The illustrations are comical, which adds appeal to the book. Although the drawings are in black and white, the images are enjoyable and appealing to children in their simplicity and child-likeness. This is a fun book to share with a friend.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Mary McKinney  
Freelance Writer  
Port Orchard, Washington



**E. Thomas, Mack. *A Mouse in Solomon's House : A Child's Book of Wisdom*. Illustrated by Normand Chartier. ISBN 0880707712. Gold 'n' Honey Books, 1995. Hardbound, \$9.99. PS - Gr. 2.**

*A Mouse in Solomon's House* is a lively assortment of lessons on wisdom that children can easily relate to and apply to their world. Marble the Mouse is characteristic of every curious child alive, continuously testing the waters of life. Much like H. A. Rey's *Curious George*, Marble ventures away from protective

boundaries to discover the world on his own. Adventure awaits him outside the secure walls of Solomon's Temple, but inexperience and forgetfulness get Marble into situations he is unable to handle without the guidance of a Hawk named Wisdom. This intriguing Hawk watches over Marble and encourages him to make right choices in the midst of adverse circumstances. Marble comes home to listen to his father teach the family all the wise things he heard King Solomon say during the day, yet quickly forgets until his own wrong choices call wisdom back. Marble is an effective example of one becoming wiser due to the application of lessons learned.

The bright illustrations are captivating, bringing to life the action and characterization. Children will undoubtedly spend much time examining each picture. Mack Thomas does a fantastic job of making the priceless virtues found in Proverbs simple and attainable. However, there lacks a smooth segue between chapters; continuity of the storyline is broken up in some places. Preschool children will be delighted to hear this story time and again. It is also a book that any primary student will enjoy reading. This will be an excellent supplement to any Bible curriculum, or for any parent who needs help teaching their children about God's word.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Nikkoly Stanley  
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School  
Bremerton, Washington

**E. Thomassie, Tynia. *Mimi's Tutu*. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. ISBN 0590440209. Scholastic, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.95. K - Gr. 6.**

In *Mimi's Tutu* Tynia Thomassie creates a warm family setting that celebrates the tradition of African dance and music. After the birth of many boys in the family, one baby girl is finally born. Grandfathers and uncles have had a child named for them; now two grandmothers and two aunts have someone to be named for them. That is why Mimi is named M'beive Iecine Magalee Isabella and has always felt so special.

Mimi's mother allows her to accompany her to the traditional African dance class. Mimi is happy until a new girl, Sophie, comes to the class wearing a beautiful green tutu. However, Mimi's family knows exactly what to do. At the next dance class Mimi has a beautiful, colorful skirt with a belt of beige cowrie shells to wear. Her heart is happy as she proudly carries on her family's tradition.

The story in this book is greatly enhanced by the paintings of Jan Spivey Gilchrist which portray emotions between closely knit family members, as well as depth of feeling expressed by the rhythm and music pictured in the illustrations.

This is a good book to use in the study of people and their culture, as well as of family relationships and values.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Marie Knaupp  
Retired Librarian  
Monmouth, Oregon

**E. Vagin, Vladimir. *The Nutcracker Ballet*. ISBN 0590472208. Scholastic, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.95. PS - Adult.**

Vladimir Vagin, in this new illustrated edition, *The Nutcracker Ballet*, provides a simple retelling of the 19th century story written by E.T.A. Hoffmann. A play staged by George Balanchine in 1954 is actually the basis for this adaptation of *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*.

On a magical Christmas Eve, Clara receives a nutcracker from her godfather, an eccentric toy maker. The magic does not begin until after midnight. Then Clara witnesses the battle of the Mouse King and the toys. The toys win and the nutcracker is changed into a handsome prince who takes Clara to the "Land of Sweets." Here Clara meets the Sugar Plum Fairy and her troupe of Delicacies.

On Christmas morning Clara awakes in her own bed hugging the nutcracker and remembering the adventures of the night before.

The beautifully, detailed, full-page illustrations will occupy even the youngest listener long after the story line of the page is finished. This edition of *The Nutcracker* is a must for every collection of Christmas stories.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Marie Knaupp  
Retired Librarian  
Monmouth, Oregon

**E. Van Allsburg, Chris. *The Polar Express*. ISBN 0395389496. Houghton Mifflin, 1985. Hardbound, \$17.95. PS - Adult.**

"On Christmas Eve, many years ago..." a little boy just like us listened. Soon he heard, then he saw--a train! He climbed on board. Faster and faster, filled inside with eager children and Christmas goodies, passing an outside vista of forests, mountains, animals, and ice barrens, the Polar Express carried its load of children towards the North Pole, Santa Claus, and the opening of the first gift of Christmas. And that first gift was a choice. And the boy was given the privilege of making it. What did he choose? A bell, only a bell, sometimes missing, to some unhearable, to others a diminishing joy, to those who continued to hear, a lifelong delight.

If you and yours enjoy finding the allegory in the myth, enjoy this age-old truth about belief: listen, hear, see, begin to participate, and get swept into the great adventure of believing.

This 10th Anniversary edition of *The Polar Express* has Van Allsburg's beautiful text and original, rainbow colored, dreamlike illustrations. Each time you look at the pictures

you will see new detail, intriguing lighting effects, a smile here, a wondering eye there. Together text and pictures tell an intriguing tale, blending well in the music of reading aloud. This special edition is prefaced by a letter from Van Allsburg, explaining how first "I wrote down his story, making small changes and pretending it was mine." The allegory continues.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Donna Eggett  
Pioneer Guide and Sunday School Teacher  
Maiden, North Carolina

**E. Vaughan, Marcia. *Snap*. Illustrated by Sascha Hutchinson. ISBN 0590603779. Scholastic, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.95. PS - Gr. 2.**

In *SNAP!* by Marcia Vaughan, it's a hot dry day, and Joey Kangaroo is tired of being in Mama Roo's pouch. "Do you know any games," he asks, but Mama Roo is too hot to play, and falls asleep instead. Then along comes a mouse, a snake, a porcupine, and a platypus. One by one, Joey convinces them to stay and teach him a game. All goes well, until along comes a crafty crocodile. "Please stay and play," pleads Joey, so the crocodile stays and tricks Joey and his friends into playing hide and seek inside the big, dark cave of his open jaws. Then, *SNAP!*, Joey and his friends are trapped! That is, until they play a new game which frees them from the crocodile's snare.

While Vaughan uses some fun language in *SNAP!* the narrative fails to provide any compelling reason to want to read it. It is simplistic and repetitive, definitely for the younger set, although they might be frightened by the sudden violent turn of events. This violence is countered by the introduction of another game, called "tickle the tonsils," which is supposed to provide comedy relief, but the effort seems to fall flat. To her credit, Vaughan assigns creative names to each of the animals, such as Twisker, Slider, and Sly-tooth, giving the animals personality, but there is not enough action to fully realize the potential of these carefully chosen monikers, except in the case of the crocodile.

The best part of *SNAP!* is the quirky mosaic-like illustrations by Sascha Hutchinson. These images captivate the eye and mind, and in themselves, make the book worth looking at. Also included is a brief glossary, which provides a few real life facts about each of the animals mentioned.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Virginia Schnabel  
Freelance Writer  
Shelton, Washington

**E. Walsh, Jill Paton. *Connie Came To Play*. Illustrated by Stephen Lambert. ISBN 067086210X. Viking, 1995. Hardbound, \$12.99. PS.**

It is Robert's train and he is not going to share. Connie knows just what to do about the problem. Happily she plays with a train he cannot get hold of, the one in her imagination. Soon Robert gets upset because Connie doesn't share her many wonderful, imaginary toys. Connie knows how to handle this problem too. She will tell him a story.

"Everything is mine," shouts Robert. Any little, or big, person can understand the simple convincing words and bright illustrations with which this eye catching book presents positive, workable problem solving. Jill Paton Walsh's few, jewel-like words present each problem and its resolution in tandem with Stephen Lambert's happy, brightly colored illustrations. The format is simple and appropriate: each problem and resolution explained in a few words on two illustrated pages followed by a wordless two-page illustration that lucidly displays the satisfyingly right action Connie chooses. *Connie Came to Play* should lead to valuable discussion between teacher or parent and child about coping with the Roberts in the child's life.

*Connie Came to Play* is a useful book for the transition between wordless picture books and the story book with more words than pictures. It is a good size for sitting on the laps of the reader and the listener at the same time, or for holding up to let a class to look at the illustrations.

The binding is very strong, allowing the book to open flat and bend backwards.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Donna Eggett  
Freelance Writer, Crisis Pregnancy Center  
Counselor  
Maiden, North Carolina

**E. Watkins, Dawn L. *The Cranky Blue Crab*. Illustrated by Tim Davis. ISBN 0890845069. Bob Jones University Press, 1990. Paper, \$5.49. Gr. 1 - 2.**

Dawn Watkins introduces Crusty the Crab who lives down near the sea under Jaggedy Ledge. Told in rhyme reminiscent of some Seuss stories, Crusty decides that Jaggedy Ledge is "unbearably drab" and decides to strike out on his own for greener pastures. He barely climbs out onto the beach when he is swooped by raucous sea gulls who threaten to undo him. Next he meets a flea who brags "I'm the cleverest flea That you'll ever meet." Fleabus O'Tooly at once takes on the responsibility of getting Crusty safely across the meadow and to the far hedge. In the process the unlikely duo meets a veritable zoo of insects, all with their own brand of advice to Crusty that he should stay where he belongs. When a fox convinces Crusty to allow him to give him a ride back to the seashore, Fleabus

O'Tooly and his buggy friends unite to save Crusty from the jaws of death. Save him they do, and Crusty follows a band of fireflies home to his Jaggedy Ledge where an older but wiser Crusty devotes his life to singing the joys of his sea home and offering friendly advice to other young crabs determined to head out on their own.

An entertaining story with cartoon-like illustrations, this story is good for primary students but perhaps a little too long for preschool and kindergarten.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judy Driscoll  
Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, Washington

**E. Watson, Nancy Dingman. *Tommy's Mommy's Fish*. Illustrated by Thomas Aldren Dingman Watson. ISBN 0670856819. Viking, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.99. PS - Gr. 3.**

*Tommy's Mommy's Fish* is a story of a boy's love for his mother and his desire for independence. Tommy desperately wants to find a special birthday gift for his mother. His brother and sisters offer to share theirs, but Tommy wants to present his own gift. He decides that he is going to catch a big striped bass. No other fish will do. Tommy waits patiently into the early evening to catch his special fish. When the big moment arrives, the striped bass spits out Tommy's bait and hook. Instead of being disappointed, Tommy is glad to see the fish go free. He knows that the specialness of his present was not in the object itself but in the love that went into trying to acquire it.

*Tommy's Mommy's Fish* is beautifully illustrated by the same Tommy who stars in the book. Thomas Aldren Dingman Watson's vibrant paintings portray his family's activities on Cape Cod's beaches. Readers will see as well as read about the unique landscape, vegetation, and living creatures of Cape Cod.

*Tommy's Mommy's Fish* is a celebration of families and the love that draws them together. Children will enjoy hearing the rich language which supports the beautiful illustrations as they catch a glimpse of Cape Cod.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Susan Robinson  
Elementary Librarian  
Delaware Co. Christian School  
Newtown Square, Pennsylvania

**E. Yep, Laurence. *The City of Dragons*. Illustrated by Jean and Mou-sien Tseng. ISBN 0590478656. Scholastic, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.95. PS - Gr. 3.**

In *The City of Dragons* Laurence Yep presents a deceptively simple tale about the many faces of prejudice. The central character, who is only

identified as “the boy,” has a face that is so sorrowful, anyone who sees it becomes sad.

Shunned by the people of his own village, the boy runs away. As he travels, he encounters a caravan of giants. The chief giant takes him under his wing, and then under water, to the city of dragons which lies beneath the waves, on the floor of the sea.

It is in this magical place that the boy finds true self-worth, for the dragons are in dire straights. Their most prized commodity, pearls, are in very short supply, for the dragon maidens are completely dry-eyed, and everyone knows that pearls are really the tears of dragon maidens. The saddest story can no longer wring a single tear from them. But after one look at the boy’s face, they begin to weep uncontrollably.

So it is that the boy’s face, which had caused him such grief, is now his greatest asset. He returns home in triumph and the villagers, who have all come to regret their treatment of him, never tire of hearing about his adventures in the city of dragons.

Like all timeless folktales, this story illuminates aspects of the human condition. It shows how the tendency to judge by outward appearance can rob us of our greatest gifts. It also explores the need to belong, to be truly accepted.

Yep is adept in the use of spare, evocative language, in the tradition of the oral tales handed down over generations. Character development is negligible, as it should be, for the boy stands for us all.

The graceful watercolor illustrations provide the perfect backdrop for Yep’s tale. The Chinese peasant village comes to life, as does the swirling underwater city. Strong colors and generous proportions make book ideal for a group setting. The only incongruity is the almost cartoonish depiction of the dragons.

Magical elements, such as giants and dragons, permeate the story.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability -5

*Sylvia Stopforth*  
*Librarian, Trinity Western University*  
*Langley, British Columbia*

**E. Ziefert, Harriet. *The Turnip*. Illustrated by Laura Rader. (Viking Easy-to-read). ISBN 0670860530. Viking, 1996. Hardbound, \$11.99. K - Gr. 1.**

In *The Turnip*, we meet a farmer with a big problem. His turnip, which he has carefully planted and nurtured, is too big to pull. It takes all of the resources that he can think of to free his tremendous turnip.

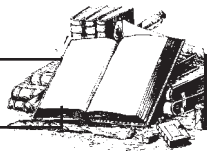
*The Turnip*, by Harriet Ziefert, is an easy-to-read, build-upon story with a sing-song pattern that young readers love. It’s written along the lines of the classic “House That Jack Built.”

Laura Rader’s illustrations are colorful and fun, and the repetitive rhythm and easy language of the story make this a good book for beginning readers, as well as young listeners. The storyline may seem a bit too simple for more advanced readers, though.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Gayle Chessman Haberman*  
*Teacher, West Hills Christian School*  
*Portland, Oregon*





**F. Ackerman, Susan Yoder. *The Flying Pie and Other Stories*. ISBN 0836190327. Herald Press, 1995. Paper, \$10.95. PS - Gr. 5.**

Mother has told Kenneth he is too small to push baby Alta in the baby carriage. But one day when Mother isn't looking, he gives a hard push and thinks he is big enough, until the carriage starts going faster and faster and then disappears over the edge racing down to the river.

Sarah gets up one night to go to the barn and tries to find out where Blackie has hidden her new baby kittens, when she hears a shovel scraping. Someone is stealing their grain!

Susan is mad at her brother Buzzy. He is always trying to show off how smart he is, which only makes Susan feel even more stupid. Then just before supper he is showing how centripetal force works as he balances and turns two freshly made lemon pies on each hand.

These are a few samples from the fourteen short stories in this book by Susan Yoder Ackerman. Each story jumps immediately into action and ends with a character building value such as honesty, obedience, respect, and sensitivity for other's feelings. Simple illustrations preface each story. This will make a favorite anytime story book and be useful to teachers and parents for instilling positive values.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Debbie Lindsay*  
Homeschool Parent  
Eatonville, Washington

**F. Albrecht, Peggy. *The Secret of the Old House*. (Debby Newton Series; 1). ISBN 0875086535. Christian Literature Crusade, 1982. Paper, \$3.95. Gr. 4 - 6.**

Debby and her missionary family have arrived in Miami, Florida, on their furlough from Africa. Debby's sixth-grade classmates in her new school do not accept her. Star Lee, a next-door neighbor and ring leader of her class, seems particularly bent on rejecting Debby. The children make fun of Debby's clothing and pointedly leave her out of class parties. When Debby tries to reach out to Star in friendship, Star rejects her overture and even lies about what Debby said to her.

A missionary group has bought an old house across the street which Debby is allowed to visit.

Only when she is there in the unkempt gardens does she feel like she's "home"--back in Africa. There, she encounters a pet skunk, some mysterious plants growing on the veranda, and a very sick young man.

The plot thickens when it is learned that the young man is a relative of Star's and the plants growing on the veranda are marijuana. And then Debby gets caught and locked in an underground room. The Manet twins come to her aid and finally befriend her.

Debby's attitude toward her classmates is Christian. Though she does not push her Christian beliefs, it is clear that she strives to live her faith. And ultimately her goodness wins her classmates over.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Helen Hunter*  
Author/Freelance Writer  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**F. Anderson, Peggy King. *Safe at Home*. ISBN 0689316860. Atheneum, 1992. Hardbound, \$12.96. ISBN 0689718330. Aladdin, 1995. Gr. 2 - 6.**

Tony loves baseball, and he joins the school's baseball team after the other sixth-grade boys encourage him to. When he stands on the mound, Tony feels his world is under control. He knows what to expect on the baseball field.

At home life is more confusing. His father has been on a business trip for six months, and he doesn't know when he will return. Since his father left, his mother has been sick in bed a lot, and Tony doesn't understand why his mother can be sick one day and fine the next. Because of her sickness, the care of Tony's four-year-old sister, Christy, often falls on him.

One evening, when Tony returns from winning his first baseball game, his world comes crashing down. His mother has had an accident, and he has to call 911. His father flies home and tells Tony that his mother was an alcoholic. At first, Tony doesn't want to believe it. Alcoholics are the bums on First Avenue, not people like his mother. Nor does he trust his father, because Tony blames him for what has happened to his mom. In the end, Tony does accept the news and is reconciled with his father.

Throughout the book, Tony struggles with the need to care for his sister, the confusion about his

mother's sickness, his anger towards his father for deserting them, and his yearning to just be a kid and play baseball. Anderson brings these feelings alive through several action-packed, description-filled scenes and the well-developed characters of Tony and Christy. The emotional conflict of a child dealing with an alcoholic parent tugs even at an adult's heart.

The fast pace of the book will keep children reading. Children who live in alcoholic homes may also identify with Tony's emotions and find them helpful. The fast pace of the book will keep children reading.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Lorinda K. F. Newton*  
Freelance Writer  
Kirkland, Washington

**F. Bodie, Idella. *The Secret of Telfair Inn*. Illustrated by Louise Yancey. ISBN 087844050X. Sandlapper Publishing, 1971. Paper, \$6.95. Gr. 4 - 8.**

When Phil and Marcy Dunlap get used to the idea of going to South Carolina for the summer months while their dad does historical research, they begin looking for adventure. Since all their friends and interests are still back home, both brother and sister decide to team up to find some fun in this small town.

They need not look far, for when they pull up to the ancient Telfair Inn which is to be their home for the next few months, a gnarled old man sporting a wooden cane tells them in no uncertain terms that children are not allowed on the property. Taken aback by Mr. Silas Crowe, Phil and Marcy begin the explorations outside and as far away as possible from the cranky old innkeeper.

It doesn't take long, however, for the children's outdoor adventure to lead them back to the Inn and to a most surprising secret. Careful to keep their secret between themselves, the Dunlap children end up discovering an unlikely person hidden within the walls of their own apartment building. But just how long can they keep the secret to themselves? Should they even try?

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Michele Howe*  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan

**F. Bray, Marian. *Danger at Echo Cliffs*. (Lassie.) ISBN 0781402743. Chariot Books, 1996. Paper, \$5.99. Gr. 3 - 6.**

Jimmy and Sarah Harmon never expected they would be helping Lassie, their copper and white collie, fight for his life. Each chapter unfolds a new challenge for the trio in this "fast-reading" book.

A week spent with their Uncle Cully and four of his archeology students in New Mexico's desert exploring ancient Indian ruins couldn't sound more exciting to thirteen-year-old Jimmy and his ten-year-old sister, Sarah. Lassie joins them as they set out on horseback for Echo Cliffs.

The fairly harmless expedition becomes dangerous when Jimmy, Sarah, Lassie, and one of Uncle Cully's students are trapped during a rain and lightning storm in an ancient rock and wood tower constructed by the Hopi Indians. As Lassie lies helpless after being injured in the storm, Jimmy realizes that he must depend on God alone to get them through and back to safety. Jimmy has the opportunity to share with the university student, Karen, who is part Hopi, that it is possible to have a personal relationship with God. She struggles with this idea, having been raised to worship gods that are impersonal and distant; then she begins to understand what effect prayer to a living God can have. Readers will discover what it means to place total trust in God and his protection, even when the situation seems hopeless.

Upper elementary age children will be on the edge of their seats as they read *Danger at Echo Cliffs*. Marion Bray brings new life to the canine legend, Lassie, who easily wins readers over as they get to know this very lovable, very wise pet of the Harmon family. Other books have been written by Bray about Lassie, but each one is a treasure to be enjoyed by itself.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sharla Bartel  
Teacher, Faith Christian Academy  
Lakewood, Colorado

**F. Chekhov, Anton Pavlovich. *Kashtanka*. Illustrated by Gennadii Spirin. ISBN 0152005390. Harcourt Brace, 1995. Hardbound, \$16.00. Gr. 2 - 4.**

*Kashtanka* is the story of a little dog who is adopted by a clown after losing his master on an unfamiliar, snowy street. Though he often thinks of his former master's son, Fedyushka, he soon adjusts to his new surroundings. The clown begins to train *Kashtanka*, whom he calls Auntie, to take his place in his animal act consisting of the grey goose, Ivan Ivanych, the white cat, Fyodor Timofeyich, and a sow named Khavronya Ivanovna. Soon he replaces Ivan entirely when Ivan suddenly dies. During a performance, *Kashtanka* is spotted by Fedyushka and returns to live in his former home.

*Kashtanka* was originally written by Anton Chekhov, a well-known and respected short story author and dramatist. Though the story has been translated and published in German by Verlag J. F. Schreiber, this edition is adapted from a new English translation by Ronald Meyer. The plot is disjointed and awkward, perhaps due to either a poor translation or editing needed to condense the original format to make it feasible as a picture book. The difficulty of the characters' names would make it a difficult read-aloud. Also, the author's choice of point-of-view and the flat, one-dimensional characterizations prevent the reader from being drawn into the story.

Only the beautiful artwork of Gennadii Spirin causes the reader to care about the plight of the little dog. From the cover, to the end papers, to the pages of the book, the reader is enchanted by the exquisite illustrations of Spirin. Each picture is finely detailed and washed in soft brown shades which results in the warm, dream-like quality of the muted colors. The clown's face is rotund and ruddy. The animals, especially the little dog, are sweet and innocent. Add this book only for its artwork; choose something else if a good read is needed.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Jeanita Lovelace  
Librarian, St. Anne Tri-Parish School  
Beaumont, Texas

**★ F. Clary, Margie Willis. *A Sweet, Sweet Basket*. Illustrated by Dennis L. Brown. ISBN 0878441271. Sandlapper Publishing Co, 1995. Hardbound, \$15.95. PS - Gr. 5.**

Seven-year-old Keisha hurries home from the bus stop to find out how many baskets her grandma has sold during the day, the first day of opening her basket stand after a long winter of making the sweetgrass baskets. Glad that Grandma has sold two for the asking price, Keisha voices her long held desire to learn how to weave a basket herself. Grandma is elated that Keisha has asked, since she had been unable to spark any interest from her daughters as they were growing up.

Keisha's brother Raymond comes into the stand as Grandma is getting Keisha started on a basket coil. Raymond asks if men make baskets also. Grandma tells the children about their great-grandfather who was one of the very best in his day. Realizing how much basket weaving is a part of his heritage, Raymond is anxious to have Grandma teach him, too.

Margie Clary introduces the young reader to the history of sweetgrass basket weaving, an art that comes directly from Africa well before the Revolutionary War and is found in the low country of South Carolina. Colorful pastel illustrations by Dennis L. Brown add warmth and appeal to the story with every turn of the page.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Debbie Lindsay  
Homeschool Parent  
Eatonville, Washington

**F. Davis, Tim. *Mice of the Herring Bone*. ISBN 089084626X. Bob Jones University Press, 1992. Paper, \$6.49. Gr. 2 - 4.**

After sneaking into a barrel of meal, two charming mice, Oliver and Charles, suddenly find themselves aboard the *Herring Bone*. "Of course I had no idea they'd load our barrel onto a ship," says Charles when Oliver complains. Hoping for better food, Oliver suggests they try the captain's cabin. "He seems to eat better than most."

They scramble along the rail and cross the deck, finding their way into the captain's cabin. There they hear the old pirate dogs talking about the Queen's ship, *Nine Lives*, sent to locate a sunken treasure ship. The pirate dogs laugh with glee. "An' cats fer drownin' too?" asks one.

Charles insists he and Oliver must warn the sailor cats aboard the *Nine Lives*. On the way they get corked into a bottle of soda water, meet a shark, and find the sunken treasure. Rescued at last, they help the sailor cats retrieve the treasure, only to encounter trouble from the pirate dogs and the *Herring Bone*. They end up, through an unusual circumstance, back aboard the *Herring Bone*. Using their ingenuity, they save the day for the *Nine Lives* and the sailor cats.

Author/illustrator Davis has created a fun, easy-to-read story with a special twist at the end. The drawings will interest young readers as will the mice, dog, and cat characters cast into human roles. The story hurries along, full of exciting adventures that will surely keep the reader turning the pages.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Betty M. Hockett  
Freelance Writer  
Newberg, Oregon

**F. Flournoy, Valerie. *Tanya's Reunion*. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. ISBN 0803716052. Dial Books for Young Readers, c1995. Hardbound, \$15.99. Gr. 3 - 6.**

Tanya is all excited about going with her grandmother for a visit to her home place down South. Not only does Tanya discover new emotions and different weather conditions, but she has to struggle with accepting and understanding her other relatives' way of life. Everything is different, even Grandma who sees things as they used to be. Tanya, an African-American child, learns to appreciate her family ties and the history behind her family. In doing so, she becomes adjusted and a part of the family again.

The pictures are large and colorful, the print slightly larger than normal for easier reading, and spaced out so a young reader won't get

overwhelmed. It would make a good starting point for discussing one's own family's relatives and your family history with your child.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Dorcas Walker*  
Freelance Writer  
Jamestown, Tennessee

**Gaeddert, Louann. *Hope*. Atheneum, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.00. Gr. 3 - 7.**

At one time, almost 4000 Shakers lived in the United States. They considered Ann Lee, their foundress, to be the daughter of God, as Jesus was his Son. They lived communally, with strict separation of the sexes. Their homes, though plain, were well-constructed and their farms successful. In part because they had no children of their own, they welcomed orphans and foster children and raised them as part of the community as long as allowed.

For this reason, perhaps, Josiah Douglas brings his niece Hope and his nephew John to Hancock Shaker Village near Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Their mother has died, and their father has been gone for almost a year to California in search of gold. He is most likely dead, and Josiah Douglas has neither the funds nor the inclination to raise extra children.

Hope is appalled by their new home. True, the food is plentiful, the work easy, and the schooling satisfactory. However, she cannot even see her younger brother, whom she is accustomed to care for (and dominate). The other young girls in the village range from the depressingly devout Eunice to the high-spirited Jemima, who eventually elopes with Zeke, from the boys' side.

John adjusts to his new life more easily and far more happily. He loves his teacher, who rewards achievement with peppermints. The brothers discover it's an allergy to feathers that makes him so sickly, and he's soon more robust than ever in his life. He has a best friend in another foundling, and a surrogate grandfather who teaches him the woodcrafting for which Shakers were famous.

He is, therefore, frightened and angry when Hope engineers their "escape" from the village in the company of Jemima and Zeke. When the older couple desert them and John falls ill, Hope is forced to return to the Shakers for help. She pledges not to run away again and finds some contentment in working as a nurse and herbalist. However, when a letter from her father finally arrives with money for the children to join him on his new California farm, she cannot wait to leave.

John, on the other hand, does not even remember his father. His health is still delicate, making the journey a risk. More mature and independent minded that when they arrived, he tells Hope she must go without him, and, in the end, she reluctantly agrees, taking with her memories of

how good the Shakers were to her, despite her discontented ways.

As a novel, *HOPE* is weak. It's impossible to believe that Hope will ever settle into life among the Shakers, even when one suggests they might let her train as a doctor. John's decision to remain with them is equally predictable. Having two children make two different choices is just one example of the pains Gaeddert takes to be fair and evenhanded in her treatment of Shaker belief and practice. Unfortunately, these pains strip the plot of any dramatic tension. Even a severe flu epidemic seems only mildly sad. However, as history, *HOPE* is an informative look at a small offshoot of Christianity and would enrich a school library collection.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Kathleen T. Choi*  
Retired Teacher  
Hilo, Hawaii

**F. Gaetz, Dayle. *A Sea Lion Called Salena*. Illustrated by Diane Paul. ISBN 0888650698. Pacific Educational Press, c1994. Paper, \$7.95. Gr. 4 - 8.**

Kristie lives with her mother and father and little brother on Salt Spring Island, off the coast of British Columbia. One day when she seeks solace by going down to the wharf to watch the water, she discovers an injured sea lion. Kristie befriends it, names it Salena after the Greek word for salty, and eventually protects and saves its life with the help of her family, friends, and scientists at Undersea World in Victoria.

*A Sea Lion Called Salena* by Dayle Campbell Gaetz is an appealing story of a very normal ten-to twelve-year-old girl and her struggles. Kristie enjoys some parts of her school experience, but has difficulty in her relationships with other kids there when her best friend moves. She feels awkward, and the pain she feels when she is made fun of seems very real. Her family is very supportive and she makes some new friends along the way. She perseveres and is very courageous.

A few pen and ink drawings help the reader visualize what is happening. Certainly the theme of this book is very politically correct: we must protect the wild animals that we find around us. The setting is an integral part of the story, as the girl interacts with her environment. The author captures the essence of the value of human relationships and Kristie matures in her understanding of life. Students could easily identify with her and learn about sea life along the way.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Judy Belcher*  
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School  
Bremerton, Washington

**F. Hoehne, Marcia. *The Music Box Test*. Lion Publishing, 1994. Paper, \$4.99. Gr. 5 - 7.**

When burglars break into her home and steal the VCR, the microwave, the TV, and among other things, her mother's prized antique music box, twelve-year-old academically gifted Caroline Grade decides to test her brain on a reallife puzzle. She'll track down the crooks and recover the stolen items.

Working with gifted classmate Chad and her best friend Erica, she finds suspects surprisingly close to home—as close as the small town middle school she attends. More break-ins occur, sending the three young sleuths down a scary path. A kidnapping and a battle of wits between Caroline and a chilling, young adversary bring the story to an exciting end.

In *The Music Box Test*, author Marcia Hoehne delivers more than a nicely paced mystery story for girls in late elementary and early middle school. She lets her reader know what it's like to be a gifted student. And she promotes such important values as friendship and forgiveness. Also, God enters the picture when a favorite teacher introduces Caroline to a caring Creator upon whom she can rely in any situation. She learns with gratitude that gifted kids don't need to know all the answers.

Ms. Hoehne's youthful characters ring true. And her pages sometimes sparkle with very humorous analogies. She offers a bonus at the end of the book with an explanation of puzzles Caroline solves in the story.

Young readers can look forward to more adventures with Caroline and her friends, as *The Music Box Test* is the first in a series of "Caroline Grade Mysteries."

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Nancy B. Clarke*  
Freelance Writer  
Sun City, Arizona

**F. Hutchins, Hazel. *Believing Sophie*. Illustrated by Dorothy Donohue. ISBN 0807506257. Albert Whitman, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.95. PS- Gr. 4.**

Shopping for candy-coated chocolate pieces for the monster cookie recipe Sophie had cut from a magazine becomes more of an adventure than she expected. However, finding the cough drops for her father, the biggest bag of candy for the best price, and paying for her purchases is no problem. Then as she starts home, the bag of candy she holds in her hand slips into the spokes of her bike. All the candy-coated chocolate pieces fall into the puddles on the road. Sophie returns to purchase more candy-coated chocolate pieces, but as she leaves the store, another shopper spots the cough drops in her belt.

Now the accusation of shop lifting allows Hazel Hutchins to turn *Believing Sophie* into a powerful



example of honesty and doing the right thing in a difficult situation.

The reader will be pleased to see how Sophie clears her name and tells of her adventures to her family. Then, not only does Sophie make cookies, but Mr. Luca, the grocer, and his cats are seen working with cookie ingredients too. Since the complete recipe is given on the last page of the book many readers will also munch on monster cookies just as Sophie did. This book is a valuable resource for teaching honesty.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Marie Knaupp  
Retired Librarian  
Monmouth, Oregon

**F. A Journey of Choices. ISBN 1561793116**

**---The Changing Times. ISBN 1561793795**

**---Wish You Were Here. ISBN 1561793159.**

(Adventures in Odyssey Audio Series).  
Focus on the Family Publishers, 1994-95.  
Cassette, \$22.99. Family.

These Odyssey volumes are a parade of wonderful adventures and characters. Ten-year-old Sam is good but is trying to be bad and his friends are helping. Connie and the kids of Odyssey find a new way to insult each other--milladroid. Most of volume twenty-one is taken up with the hilariously involved adventures of California bound Bernard, who is old enough to find it hard to meet the Barclays--son, daughter, Dad going to seminary, Mom expecting a new baby (and wanting ketchup on cake). Towards the end of volume twenty-two we are worrying that the baby won't be born before the volume ends. Will Eugene and his "friend" Katherine ever admit their love to each other? Talk about soap operas. Which is what they do in volume twenty-three when soapie Connie finds herself Old Testament adventures, complete with on the spot TV announcers; a talking chicken who addicts people; Whit's End and its soda eating inhabitants; Spies; Mayoral and Presidential races; little Danny who is embarrassed to admit a girl keeps beating him up--and a lot more.

Shades of P.G. Wodehouse, but with a definite emphasis on Christianity! These cassettes are fun and full of plot twists, have ditty, lovable people, and encourage living according to God's laws. The whole family will enjoy them. Most humor is understandable by everyone. Each side of a cassette runs about twenty minutes and is usually a complete story in itself. The language is easy to understand without being overly simple. Many of the real problems that children face are paired with the adult version of that problem. Children listen to adults, adults listen to children, and everybody finds biblically based help for their problems. The characters are all believable (except where they are meant to be wonderfully unbelievable) showing good, bad, silly, wise, lovable, and irritating traits. Each family member will be able to identify with a

favorite character. This will help parents and children to open up about their own problems.

These cassettes can be used in many ways: for family and individual entertainment; to fill empty moments for bed, house, or wheelchair bound children and adults; as illustrations for Sunday School and other Bible lessons; a gift for non-Christian friends; in the classroom.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Donna Eggett  
Pioneer Guide and Sunday School Teacher  
Maiden, North Carolina

**F. Kehret, Peg. Earthquake Terror. ISBN 0525652264. Cobblehill Books/Dutton, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.99. Gr. 2 - 5.**

*Earthquake Terror* contains everything for a perfect mystery. Children, a dog, a close family, and an unexpected disaster are all the ingredients for a terrific story!

Author Peg Kehret has a very successful knack for keeping the reader fully alert and eager to get to the next chapter. Jonathan Palmer, twelve years old, is left in charge of his little sister, Abby, at their campground in Northern California, after their mother breaks her ankle in a slippery streambed. Abby uses a walker as a result of an accident when she was two. Because she walks so slowly, the parents decide to take Mrs. Palmer to the emergency room of the nearby hospital while Jonathan and Abby eat their lunch and return at a leisurely pace to their camper trailer. Mr and Mrs. Palmer plan to return in two or three hours.

Jonathan feels very grown-up, being left in charge, but his pleasure soon evaporates when the unexpected happens. An earthquake tumbles him and Abby off their feet, and soon trees are toppling all around them. They find shelter under a huge redwood and huddle there until the tremors subside.

Returning to their camper is very slow progress because Abby's walker has been crushed beneath a tree, and so she has to lean on her brother, and crawl over the many obstructions in the path. Imagine Jonathan's shock when he finally reaches the camper and discovers that another huge redwood has crushed it totally.

To add to the childrens' troubles, the earthquake and falling trees have diverted the river that runs through the island campground and water is slowly covering the whole island. Jonathan tries to be calm for his sister's sake, and tries to reason his way through their dilemma. When he decides their only hope to escape drowning is to ride on two of the downed trees, he and Abby climb on two that are side by side and very soon the trees begin floating down the river.

Their dog, Moose, who gave the first alarm of the earthquake, has stuck close to the children, and Jonathan lifts him onto his log, and lays across his back to hold him on, and keeps his hand on

Abby's log to keep her close to him. She is a brave six-year-old, but tells Jonathan often that she "wants to go home" or that she "wants her Mother." He sings with her to take her mind off their hardships, and bribes her with the promise of all the treats he will give her or the games he will play with her when they reach safety.

The parents' car is wrecked by the earthquake on the way to the hospital, and Mr. Palmer has to leave Mrs. Palmer in the car while he tries to return to the island to help the children. Imagine his horror on seeing that the bridge to the island has broken in two. He then decides to walk several miles to the nearest town to get help for his wife and rescue efforts started for the children. His heart is broken when he is told that the island is gone, that it is all under the water since the quake. He refuses to give up hope, and tells the rescuers that his son is very resourceful and that he is sure they will be found somewhere along the shore of the river that flows out of former campground.

It is easy to imagine this book being read to a group of children in a classroom or at camp. This would also be great for a family reading session.

Peg Kehret has written many successful novels and this shows that she hasn't lost her touch.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Barbara Goy Taenzler  
Freelance Writer and Book Reviewer  
Glenwood, Iowa

**F. Kline, Suzy. Mary Marony and the Chocolate Surprise. Illustrated by Blanche Sims. ISBN 0399228292. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1995. Hardbound, \$13.95. Gr. 1 - 4.**

Spirited Mary Marony, the little girl with a stutter who only stumbles over her words when she becomes nervous; finds herself facing a moral dilemma. Should she take justice into her own hands and make certain that mean Marvin does not win one of the five coveted golden tickets? Mary ponders over the situation when she conveniently finds herself alone with an empty classroom...and desks covered with chocolate candy bars. Should she or shouldn't she? Who would it hurt to just take a quick peek at her own candy wrapper? What about peeking under mean Marvin's too?

Once the dirty deed is done, Mary finds herself feeling anything but happy. She tries to pretend that Marvin got his due; however, her conscience won't allow her to carry out her plan. Finally, Mary does the right thing and owns up to her dishonestly. Whew! What a relief. Even though Mary can't attend the long awaited pizza party with the other winners, Mary feels better.

Before all is said and done; Mary does get to experience yet another surprise. This time Marvin, the meanest boy in class, has something important to say that even Mary must hear. Read



along and enjoy the black and white illustrations which give the story some added interest and zip.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Michele Howe*  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan

**F. Kroll, Virginia. *Shelter Folks.* Illustrated by Jan Maimo Jones. ISBN 0802851061. Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.00. Gr. 2 - 4.**

"What are you doing here?" I asked. "What are you doing here?" she mimicked. We both stared, waiting. Nine year old Joelle has just received still another shock. This time, however, a much more pleasant one.

Soon after Joelle, brother Eli, and their mother move from their apartment to a public shelter; Joelle discovers a reason for not being ashamed of her new home. She unexpectedly meets up with a fellow classmate, Violet. Together they learn that living in a "shelter" isn't as bad as it sounds. All around them are caring families who willingly help each other out. Before long, Joelle discovers she has a large "adopted family" whom she can count on.

Joelle's painful journey of moving to a shelter takes many turns. As readers, we empathize with her tumultuous feelings. Better still, the black and white illustrations help us see her drama as it unfolds. Page by page our emotions lock with Joelle's until she reaches a place of contentment and acceptance.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Michele Howe*  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan

**F. Lasky, Kathryn. *She's Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head.* Illustrated by David Catrow. ISBN 0786800658. Hyperion Books for Children, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.95. Gr. 3 - 6.**

When two fashionable Boston ladies became serious about a project, the Massachusetts chapter of the Audubon Society is founded. Harriet Hemmenway, appalled by the bird feathers she observed on women's hats, enlists the help of her cousin, Minna. Not only do they encourage preservation of birds, but they also influence the movement which will give women the right to vote.

*She's Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head* by Kathryn Lasky describes in a very dramatic way the origin of a well-known conservation organization. David Catrow has delightfully illustrated this book with exotic hats and birds, and even a cat who playfully considers the many birds.

Younger children will enjoy the flamboyant illustrations, while older readers will learn many facts of early attempts at bird protection and conservation efforts in the United States.

The author's note at the end of the book has a concise history of the people and events of this story.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Marie Knaupp*  
Retired Librarian  
Monmouth, Oregon

**F. Lawson, Julie. *Cougar Cove.* Illustrated by David Powell. ISBN 155143072X. Orca Book Publishers, 1996. Paper, \$6.95. Gr. 3 - 6.**

The trip from Toronto to Vancouver Island in itself is an exciting one. So when eleven-year-old "Sam" Samantha arrives at her cousins' home at Brackenwood Point, her expectations are high. Unfortunately, the warning heralded by her mother before her trip keeps popping up in Sam's mind. As high as her expectations flew prior to landing at the airport; they crash mercilessly afterward. Not only does she keep making silly mistakes, but her older twin cousins won't let her forget it.

As Sam tries to fit in at Brackenwood Point; she finds herself more and more the outsider. Robyn and Alex, Sam's cousins, find it great fun to tease their younger relative, often in a very negative way. About to give up, Sam musters her own courage and self-reliance and finally begins having a delightful time by herself. She takes off on her own to find solitary happiness in nature itself. Before long, Sam is absorbed in her surroundings and she even has the privilege of spying on a real cougar and her cubs. From then on, Sam learns all she can about the habits and behaviors of this fierce creature; eventually she wins the respect of her cousins and even becomes their hero.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Michele Howe*  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan

**F. Leppard, Lois Gladys. *Mandie and Her Missing Kin.* (A Mandie Book; 25.) ISBN 1556615116. Bethany House Publishers, \$4.99. Gr. 2 - 7.**

In *Mandie and Her Missing Kin*, thirteen-year-old Mandie has gone back to where she lived with her father before his death. She would like to visit the old homestead to see if it is as she remembers it. When she does, she discovers a badly neglected farm and an abandoned house. At least it seems abandoned until she sees smoke coming from the chimney.

Mandie solves the mystery concerning the abandoned house and the shots fired toward her

and her friend Joe Woodard. They also discover who had been writing messages on the schoolhouse blackboard.

Walking through a cemetery after dark, hearing a strange howling, and listening to something rustle in the bushes scares Mandie enough to remind her of her favorite verse, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee."

Fifteen-year-old Joe decides they need the protection of his rifle, so he carries it with him while they roam the countryside trying to find his lost dog and to solve the mystery.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Myrtlema Pittman Crane*  
Freelance Writer  
Alderwood Manor, Washington

**F. Leppard, Lois Gladys. *Mandie and Joe's Christmas Surprise.* (A Mandie Book.) ISBN 1556615523. Bethany House Publishers, c1995. Hardbound, \$9.99. Gr. 4 - 7.**

Thirteen-year-old Mandie and her fifteen-year-old friend Joe are in the middle of planning a Christmas play at the church to present to their community. They are hoping to keep it a secret from as many people as possible, including their immediate family members, because their plan is to use local orphans as the actors. Their main objective in doing so is to try to change the community's attitude toward using the young orphans as hired help in exchange for their room and board and convincing everyone to help buy and support a home for orphans.

They soon discover that in order for their plans to work more smoothly they will need to take more people into their confidence. Grandmother Taft and some of the household maids prove to be valuable help as the day for the play draws closer. The play is a success and at the end Mandie stands up and pitches hard for the town folk's support. So hard that she comes across as bossy, which brings a surprisingly opposite reaction from what she expected. Mandie is shocked and disappointed. Her Uncle Ned helps her to realize that rather than making demands she must set an example and trust the Lord to work on the hearts of the rest of the people.

Those who are familiar with the Mandie series by Lois Gladys Leppard will enjoy this special Christmas tale in a nice hardbound book with pencil illustrations that enhance the story. As a special treat, the complete script for the Christmas play, which was written by Ms. Leppard as a young teenager, is included for Mandie fans, parents, and teachers to utilize.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Debbie Lindsay*  
Homeschool Parent  
Eatonville, Washington



**F. Lewis, Beverly.** *No Grown-ups Allowed.* ISBN 1556616449.

---*Frog Power.* ISBN 1556616457.

---*The Mystery of Case D. Luc.* ISBN 1556616465.

(The Cul-de-sac Kids). **Bethany House Publishers, 1995. Paper, \$3.99. Gr. 2 - 3.**

In "The Cul-de-Sac Series" by Beverly Lewis, ten neighboring children share adventures and their faith in Christ. In *No Grown-ups Allowed*, Jason Birchall is struggling with trying to control his Attention Deficit Disorder by watching his diet and taking his medicine regularly. Jason's parents go on a trip, leaving his grandmother in charge. Jason decides to take advantage of his grandmother by sneaking sweets and forgoing his medicine. As a result, Jason's ADD becomes out of control. Jason learns a hard lesson in obedience as he sees that rules are established for his own good.

Beverly Lewis has written an exciting series for young readers which is entertaining as well as bibliotherapeutic. Children will read about characters who may share the same struggles they themselves or their friends have. For example, in *Frog Power*, Stacy learns to resolve her anger towards her father after her parents' divorce. Dunkum learns the value of friendship in *The Mystery of Case D. Luc*. Readers will learn how the characters sought help through God's word and prayer without ever feeling that the author is preaching to them. Beverly Lewis weaves the godly lessons into her stories while continuing the natural flow of the story itself.

Children still new to chapter books will confidently read these books with their large print and age appropriate vocabulary. Barbara Birch's clear and attractive illustrations plus the bright, colorful covers will draw readers to this wonderful new series.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Susan Robinson*  
Elementary Librarian  
Delaware County Christian School  
Newtown Square, Pennsylvania

**F. Lucado, Max.** *The Children of the King.* Illustrated by Toni Goffe. ISBN 0891078959. Crossway Books, c1995. Audiocassette, \$12.99. PS - Gr. 1.

*The Children of the King*, by Max Lucado, is the story of an orphan girl who has no gifts to offer the king except her time. Unlike her talented brothers and sisters, who spend all their time trying to impress the king upon his visit, this young child desires only to spend time with him. This powerful illustration of our own relationship with God is a vivid way for children to realize the importance of their relationship with their Heavenly Father lies not in what they have or what they can do, but in time spent in prayer and reading his word.

Children can follow along with this tape and the book with its beautiful illustrations by Toni Goffe, or just listen to the tape by itself. In addition to the story, there are songs that also teach these same values. The songs are easy to learn and a great way to reinforce important truths. Audio tapes are a great way to encourage reading and listening.

◆ Quality- 5      ♥ Acceptability- 5

*Janet Hicks*  
Librarian, Maple Valley Christian School  
Renton, Washington

**F. McFarlane, Sheryl.** *Going to the Fair.* Illustrated by Sheena Lott. ISBN 1551430622. Orca Book Publishers, 1996. Paper, \$7.95. Gr. 3 - 6.

Sheryl McFarlane and Sheena Lott team up in their description of one long day at the fair. Sights, sounds, and smells are vividly portrayed in the experience of reading *Going to the Fair*.

Erin has entered her prize pumpkin, so the day also holds the anticipation and the excitement of receiving a ribbon at the fair. Since the ribbon she receives is for third prize, the book ends with dreams of next year's prize winning pumpkin.

*Going to the Fair* will give a touch of nostalgia for all who have anticipated and received prizes at a fair. For others this can be a new and enjoyable experience.

By showing many activities and exhibits, the illustrations compliment the text to give quite a complete picture of a small community fair. Children will enjoy this book and many adults will be able to add experiences of their own when the story is finished. This book could be a valuable tool to introduce sharing time with students in school.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Marie Knaupp*  
Retired Librarian  
Monmouth, Oregon

**F. Massi, Jeri.** *Courage by Darkness.* (Peabody Adventure Series.) ISBN 0890844127. Bob Jones University Press, 1987. Paper, \$6.49. Gr. 4 - 8.

Can God really answer a prayer to have an adventure? Jean Derwood hopes so, and yet at the same time, hopes that maybe he won't answer. After all, Jean is a big fraidy cat and facing an adventure takes courage—something she feels very short of. But somehow Jean feels that God is preparing her for something special as she finally manages to speak up about how she feels to a friend who is way too bossy and a tattletale. With that incident behind her, Jean feels like she did some real growing up and just might be ready for a little more.

Visiting her Aunt Bessie and Uncle Rufus turns out to be that "something more" that comes her way. Jean gets to stay a whole month on the farm with them in Alabama. With lots of stretching she finally begins to feel comfortable with the two big watch dogs on the place and even is able to ride Uncle Rufus' horse, Sarge. But the blowing cave poses a much larger challenge. One of the neighbor boys, Robbie Maclaran, dares Jean to go with him into the cave, and she finally accepts only because he makes her so angry. Unfortunately, after winding through the dark underworld, Robbie thinks it's funny to desert Jean so she can find her own way out. After fighting down her initial panic, Jean not only discovers the courage she didn't know she had, but she also uncovers some important clues that may help solve the mystery of a missing will and stolen jewel. All in all, Jean finds her prayed-for adventure and understands a little better how God works.

Jeri Massi writes with humor and understanding about the struggles young people have trying to grow up and grow closer to the Lord. She draws the reader into the newest adventure of the "Peabody Adventure Series" through Jean's short-comings and escapades to find courage. Having explored the Limrock Blowing Cave in Alabama herself, Ms. Massi is able to write with authority and insight as she takes the main character, Jean, on a journey towards more trust and confidence in the abilities and sensitivity God has given her.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Mary McKinney*  
Freelance Writer  
Port Orchard, Washington

**F. Nystrom, Carolyn.** *Mario's Big Question : A Child's Guide : Adoption.* Illustrated by Ann Baum. (The Lion Care Series.) ISBN 0745929230. Lion Publishing, 1994. Paper, \$4.99. Gr. 1 - 5.

Mario likes his home, a busy place with lots of children, where some of them stay a long time, others only a short time. He remembers the day his first mom left him there, his arms full of Foofee, his stuffed dog, and Geegee, his blanket full of holes. Mario understands his new mother and father adopted him, and that means, he knows, "I belong."

Now, however, Mario wonders if he wants to stay. Does he really belong here? He can almost remember his first mom if he thinks hard. Maybe he would rather live with her.

One night he chooses to lie about finishing his homework. Dad says, "...you'll have no more outdoor play the rest of this week." Mario's anger spills out. More than ever his mind turns to his first mom. He decides, "Maybe if I look every day, I'll find her." Since he doesn't remember exactly what she looks like or where he could find her, he gives up that idea. The emptiness remains inside Mario.

Soon, however, he talks about it to his adopted mom. His feelings soften, and he begins to find answers to his questions. At last he knows for sure, "I do belong."

Adoptive parents and their chosen children will find encouragement in the pages of questions and explanations Nystrom has included in *Mario's Big Question*. Ann Baum's colorful illustrations fit the narrative, giving both listener and reader good visual contact with the story.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Betty M. Hockett  
Freelance Writer and Writing Teacher  
Newberg, Oregon

**F. Nystrom, Carolyn.** *Mike's Lonely Summer : A Child's Guide : Divorce.* Illustrated by Ann Baum. (The Lion Care Series.) ISBN 0745929257. Lion Publishing, 1994. Paper, \$4.99. Gr. 1 - 5.

Ten-year-old Mike's mother "makes the best spaghetti sauce in the world," and his dad teaches high school history. He has a younger brother, a cat, and a dog. The family goes to church on Sunday. One day, though, "a scary thing" happens to Mike's family. Mother and Father announce they will soon get a divorce. "Your father will move to an apartment tomorrow," says Mother. Both parents assure the boys they love them.

The book follows Mike through the summer. He visits his dad often, and after one visit decides "this divorce stuff isn't so bad after all." Then his bicycle chain breaks, he and his brother spend after-school hours home alone while Mom

works, and Mike has to do Dad's work at home. All these changes make the questions pile up in Mike's mind.

When school begins again, he meets a new girl. They talk about their families, quickly finding out they have similar situations and common questions.

One night while at Dad's house, Mike discovers Dad has lonely feelings, too. They talk and Dad admits, "All of us are more lonely now." His assurance about God and his love comforts Mike.

In special pages throughout the book, Nystrom answers questions common to children living through a divorce. She speaks plainly, offering hope through God's invitation to become part of his family. Parent and child could read the book together, perhaps making a way for frank discussions. The four-color illustrations nicely break up the text that naturally includes heartache and sadness.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Betty M. Hockett  
Freelance Writer and Writing Teacher  
Newberg, Oregon

**F. Porter, Connie.** *Addy's Surprise : A Christmas Story.* Illustrated by Melodye Rosales. ISBN 1562470807HB; 1562470795PB.

---Tripp, Valerie. *Felicity's Surprise : A Christmas Story.* Illustrated by Dan Andreasen. ISBN 1562470116HB; 1562470108PB.

---Shaw, Janet. *Happy Birthday, Kirsten! : A Springtime Story.* Illustrated by Renée Graef. ISBN 0937295884HB; 0937295337PB.

(The American Girls Collection.) Pleasant Company Publications, 1987-91. Hardbound, \$12.95; Paper, \$5.95. Gr. 1 - 5.

*Addy's Surprise* is the third book in the American Girls Collection of books about Addy, a freed slave living in Philadelphia in the 1860's. Addy Walker and her mother were able to escape their life of slavery and are now trying to establish a home of their own. As Christmas is approaching, Addy is trying to save pennies to buy her mother a scarf. But then she and her mother decide to give all they have saved for a lamp to the church to help other slaves in their quest for freedom. Several surprises make this Christmas extra special for Addy, including a new dress and the arrival of her father. These historical fiction books in the American Girl Collection each have pages at the end of the book describing life during the particular time period in which the girl lives.

Each series of books (about five different girls during different time periods) are by different authors. *Felicity's Surprise*, by Valerie Tripp, and *Happy Birthday, Kirsten*, by Janet Shaw, are two

of the other books in this collection of about twenty-seven books. Felicity lives in colonial America in the 1770's and Kirsten arrives in Minnesota in the 1850's with her family from Sweden. Each of these books is a complete story in itself, but further adventures of each girl are developed in the books that follow. These are a great way for young readers to enjoy reading as well as learn about life in our country over the years.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Janet Hicks  
Librarian, Maple Valley Christian School  
Renton, Washington

**F. Richardson, Jean.** *The Courage Seed.* Illustrated by Nancy Garnett Peterson. ISBN 0890159025. Eakin Press, c1993. Hardbound, \$13.95. Gr. 1 - 5.

In *The Courage Seed* young Mary Manygoats is suddenly orphaned, and so must leave behind her familiar Navajo village in New Mexico for life with her aunt in the big city of Houston, Texas. When the first day of school in this strange new city arrives, Mary is afraid to face the unknown. After much procrastination, Aunt Betsy manages to get her up and moving, but instead of putting on the new city clothes her aunt has given her, Mary prefers the comfort of her old Indian clothes and her grandmother's turquoise necklace, because they remind her of her heritage.

At school, the children are asked to share about themselves, but Mary is afraid because she looks different. Yet, as she listens to the other children, she realizes that everyone has a heritage to share, and that there is no such thing as a regular American.

*The Courage Seed* ignites an interest in other cultures by looking at how many different nationalities can be represented in one room full of children. Characters in the story are based on Richardson's own experiences as a teacher in Shiprock, New Mexico, and the main focus is on the Navajo Indians. Richardson interweaves Mary's present situation with memories of experiences with her grandparents in New Mexico, through the use of Navajo legends and folklore. This unique blending technique gives the story substance and energy.

Some of the material includes a subtle humanistic teaching on mind power. Also included is a section on Native American healing rituals. Richardson presents the Navajo's beliefs and rituals.

An interesting information section includes a world map, a brief glossary of Navajo words, and a selection of illustrations of Native American face painting techniques. It also includes some Navajo beliefs, legends and chants, Native American pictographs, and a short list of additional resources.



*The Courage Seed* contains a few printing errors which detract from its overall appearance, but tricolor illustrations, in blue, black, and gray tones, lend color to the newsprint pages without overpowering the text. This gives the book a grown-up feel, which will probably appeal to younger readers who are moving toward chapter books.

◆ Quality - 3

♥ Acceptability - 4

Virginia Schnabel  
Freelance Writer  
Shelton, Washington



F. Schulte, Elaine L. *Melanie and the Modeling Mess*. ISBN 1556612540

---*Bridesmaid Blues for Becky*. (ISBN 1556612559).

---*Double Trouble for Jess McColl*. ISBN 1556615353.

(The Twelve Candles Club.) Bethany House Publishers, c1995. Paper, \$5.99. Gr. 2 - 7.

In *Melanie and the Modeling Mess*, Melanie Lin is a transplanted Asian girl who moves to California. Far from her friends, her school, and her life, she tries to make new friends with a quad of girls who belong to the Twelve Candles Club. This group of enterprising young girls take on baby-sitting jobs, car washing, house cleaning, and even run a small morning day care center for neighborhood kids. From what Melanie can see these girls are spunky, interesting, and definitely having fun.

But how can Melanie break the ice and fit in? She's so different. Not only is she of a different ethnic background, but she's never done the kinds of things the Twelve Candles Club girls do everyday. Her time was spent modeling clothes while in New York. Almost immediately, Melanie finds herself breaking down the barriers. Once she begins attending the community church where the other girls attend, Melanie's whole relationship with God deepens and takes on new meaning. Learn together with Melanie how to make friends by being one. Don't forget to laugh along the way, because with this crazy club anything can happen.

*Bridesmaid Blues for Becky* finds twelve-year-old Becky Hamilton trying to find a way...any way to stop her mother's upcoming wedding. As much as Becky hates to admit it, this wedding has her terrified and more than a little angry.

How could her mom be marrying another man? Determined to put an end to their courtship, Becky learns some insightful lessons about accepting change and perhaps even welcoming it. She has her four Twelve Candles Club members to help her along too, much to Becky's dismay.

In *Double Trouble for Jess McColl*, athletic Jess has trouble meeting her feminine mom's ideals of how a young girl should act and dress. Compound the pressure to change with an upcoming "working" vacation to Israel with her church group, and Jess is ready to pull her own hair out with worry. She frets over her young charges, twins who are notorious for being disobedient and rowdy. Add to that the fact that her father recently became a Christian, resulting in distrust in the remaining family. Jess finds the strength she needs in Christ as she relinquishes her will for his. As she travels, Jess even finds herself building a bridge to her mother.

◆ Quality - 4

♥ Acceptability - 5

Michele Howe  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan

F. Schur, Maxine Rose. *When I Left My Village*. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. ISBN 0803715625. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.99. Gr. 4 - 8.

Following years of persecution and famine, thousands of Beta Israel people from the high mountains of Ethiopia are air-lifted to begin a new life in Israel.

In *When I Left My Village* Maxine Rose Schur describes the difficult journey of one family as they walk alone for many days, then escape guards as they cross the border into Sudan. After weeks of waiting in a refugee camp the family is finally included in a secret air-lift and they set their feet on Israeli soil.

Menelick and his family feel they are in paradise now as they receive a clean hut, plenty of good food, and the opportunity to attend school all day. The events of this story are true to the actual history of Jewish people in Ethiopia, making this book an excellent resource when studying these countries.

A moving story with fabulous black and white illustrations portrays the varied feelings of Menelick and Semba, his brother, as their father and mother courageously guide, protect, and encourage them through fear and despair to final joy and fulfillment. This is an inspiring story of faithfulness and hope receiving its reward.

◆ Quality - 5

♥ Acceptability - 5

Marie Knaupp  
Retired Librarian  
Monmouth, Oregon



F. Spears-Stewart, Reta. *Toby's Big Truck Adventure*. Pacific Press, 1993. ISBN 0816311412. Paper, \$0.97. Gr. 1 - 5.

Toby has just moved to a new town with his mom and is wishing he had a new friend or a pet to make his lonely summer more interesting. One day mother surprises Toby with the news that her brother, Uncle Dan, is on his way through town with his eighteen-wheel truck and wants to take Toby on a delivery across country to Illinois. Thinking he will be away from the rules of home, Toby is ecstatic.

On his way with Uncle Dan, Toby soon learns about all kinds of rules that truckers must follow to be safe drivers. He learns that there are even rules for talking on the CB radio. Part of Toby's adventure on the big truck is finding a lost puppy and hoping he can convince Mom to let him keep it. But it is not to be. Over the CB they hear a plea from a girl who has lost her puppy at a truck stop. Even though Toby quotes the saying "finders, keepers-losers, weepers," Uncle Dan tells him that he likes the saying "lost returned is friendship earned," and to think about what Jesus would do in this situation.

Sprinkled with detailed pencil illustrations, this book will be a favorite for children who are future truckers. Written in the first person, it is fast paced to hold interest and has large type for easy reading. The author upholds solid Christian values and through the story relates to children how they can be a witness for the Lord to their friends.

◆ Quality - 5

♥ Acceptability - 5

Debbie Lindsay  
Homeschool Parent  
Eatonville, Washington

F. Thomson, Andy. *Sheriff at Waterstop*. Illustrated by Timothy N. Davis. ISBN 0890843716. Bob Jones University Press, 1986. Paper, \$6.49. Gr. 3 - 7.

Bret Jensen has already lived a lifetime of pain and suffering with his father who has sold whiskey illegally for years. Despite the years of mistreatment and neglect, both Bret and his mother live their lives as believers, praying for their father/husband. Once Mr. Jensen accepts Christ, family life changes dramatically. Still, Bret is uneasy. He keeps expecting his dad to fall back on his familiar habits.



After traveling West with many mishaps, the Jensen family ends up in Waterstop, Wyoming, where the only job available is that of sheriff. Despite his family's reservations, Mr. Jensen takes the job and attempts to live out his Christianity in the face of outlaws and barroom brawls. He succeeds in making a name for himself and a home for his family. The elder Jensen even plays a key role in taking in an orphan and seeing to it that the young man has the chance to live a healthy life with those who love Christ.

The first year takes many turns for this pioneer family. At each new juncture, everyone learns how to trust in God more fully and with increasing abandonment.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Michele Howe*  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan

**F. Vandevenne, Jean. *Some Summer.* Illustrated by Marty Hartman. ISBN 0890843805. Bob Jones University Press, 1987. Paper, \$6.49. Gr. 2 - 5.**

The carefree days of summer are beckoning Charlie, promising fun and freedom as he, his brother Ben, and their best friends Doug and Mike anticipate building a clubhouse out on the "Back Forty." Enter Great Aunt Essie, an unexpected guest for the whole summer, with plans for the boys' assistance with a proper vegetable garden.

Charlie has a difficult time dealing with his feelings of resentment towards the rather stern Aunt Essie as she commandeers Ben and him for garden duty when they'd rather be working on the clubhouse. As the summer continues, his frustrations grow; this is not the summer of his dreams!

During Vacation Bible School Charlie is confronted with the question, "How do you know God is real?" He is troubled by the fact that he can't readily answer the question, nor does he come up with an answer by the end of the week.

Jean Vandevenne weaves the excitement of boys working on their dream project, the frustrations of life, and a young man's pondering of who God is in his life into a pleasantly paced story that works through these issues in a spiritually insightful manner. Charlie's spiritual journey is taking him through that crucial stage from living his family's Christianity to making it his own, forming a true relationship with God.

The pen and ink illustrations by Marty Hartman are fun, revealing more about the personalities of Aunt Essie and the boys through the depictions of their facial expressions and even posture. They add fullness to our understanding of the characters.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Sally Kuhns*  
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School  
Bremerton, Washington

**F. Warner, Gertrude Chandler. *The Pilgrim Village Mystery.* Illustrated by Charles Tang. (Boxcar Children Mysteries.) ISBN 080756530X. A. Whitman, 1995. Hardbound, \$11.95. Gr. 2 - 4.**

The four children, made popular in the Boxcar Children books, are reintroduced in this mild mystery set in Pilgrim Village. Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny, orphaned when their parents died, now live with their grandfather. When he plans a surprise trip to Pilgrim Village, they are very excited to see how the Pilgrims lived long ago.

Because the children lived on their own before their grandfather found them, they are very resourceful and quite close-knit. Mysterious events occur at Pilgrim Village during their stay. Events such as the type being spilled in the print shop, the clay being left open to dry in the potter's shop, and the food being burned in the restaurant, has Linda Crawley, the manager, quite puzzled. The children volunteer to use their famous detecting skills to solve the mysteries.

Author Gertrude Chandler Warner totally captured children's imaginations with her original Boxcar Children series; however, the action in this book is slow and the clues quite obvious. The clues might stimulate discussion, if read to a group of children, letting them guess what is causing the accident. Or the historical interest of Pilgrim Village might interest those children who have visited similar facilities.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Barbara Goy Taenzler*  
Freelance Writer and Book Reviewer  
Glenwood, Iowa

**★ F. Watkins, Dawn L. *Pulling Together.* Illustrated by Kathy Pflug. ISBN 089084609X. Bob Jones University Press, 1992. Paper, \$6.49. Gr. 1 - 3.**

"Will it be a big one?" Matthew asks, looking at black clouds that cover half the sky.

"Could be," his father replies.

The storm hits, a big one for sure. Then the barn burns, and soon the disaster forces John Briggs, Matthew's father, to make a hard decision. "We can't afford to keep both horses. I have to sell one in order to keep the others."

Matthew cannot bear to think of not having Ben and Dolly, their dependable, solid work horses. How can his dad farm without them? "We will all pull together. Just like always," says John Briggs.

A poster advertising the Cherry Springs Horse Pull attracts Matthew's attention. The prize

money, fifty dollars, sounds mighty good. If Ben and Dolly could win that fifty dollars his father could keep both horses. His excitement plummets when the banker tells him about the two-dollar entry fee. Hope rises again when Matthew discovers how he can earn the fee.

Fair day arrives, but Bailey's huge grays surely will win. Ben and Dolly don't have a chance. Or do they?

Watkins and Pflug have created a lovely story full of values important for children to know and practice: trust in God, family loyalty, trustworthiness, and carrying out responsibilities. John Briggs and his wife quietly demonstrate their love for each other and for their children. The happy ending comes about in an unexpected manner, showing the importance of kindness to animals. The reader can't help but want to pull together with Matthew and his family.

This chapter book with the attractive black and white drawings will please young readers, their parents and teachers.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Betty M. Hockett*  
Freelance Writer and Writing Teacher  
Newberg, Oregon

**F. Wiebe, Rudy. *Chinook Christmas.* Illustrated by David More. ISBN 0889950865. Red Deer College Press, 1992. Hardbound, \$12.95. Gr. 4 - 6.**

Vivid colors and fresh smells on full-page paintings make *Chinook Christmas* an unusual portrayal of Christmas Eve in a Mennonite community on the Canadian prairie of southern Alberta, Canada.

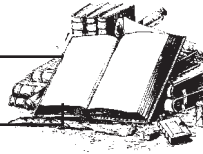
Jakie and Anni had always found their Christmas tree in the muskeg when they lived up north. Now on the open prairie they are facing Christmas Eve without a tree. However, as the day unfolds, in unexpected ways they receive arm loads of tree branches and a box of Japanese oranges.

The Christmas Eve service at the church warms hearts even as the bright lights streaming from the arched church windows glow on the dark prairie night.

In several places, crude language is used to depict the life of the people.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 3

*Marie Knaupp*  
Retired Librarian  
Monmouth, Oregon



**070. Guthrie, Donna and others. *The Young Author's Do-it-yourself Book : How to Write, Illustrate, and Produce Your Own Book.* ISBN 1562947230. The Millbrook Press, 1994. Paper, \$7.95. Gr. 2 - 7.**

*How to Write, Illustrate, and Produce Your Own Book* is the sub-title to this well-organized and thought-provoking how-to book for young writers. Authors Guthrie, Bentley, and Arnsteen use their education backgrounds to clearly lay out five steps for planning, writing and producing a book. Topics covered in "Step One: Writing" include, Fiction (with sections on planning the plot, characters, setting, problem and solution, and Nonfiction (how to conduct an interview, writing a how to book, personal experience stories, and factual reports.) "Step Two: Editing" presents a list of eight questions the editor must ask about the manuscript and a list of proofreading marks that editors use. "Step Three: Illustrating" considers the mood of the story, the age level, making a storyboard, planning the title page, dedication, text, and pictures. "Step Four: Binding" includes clear step by step illustrations for making one kind of bound book. "Step Five: Promotion" gives the young author ideas on how to share the finished book with family, friends, classmates...and the world.

While *The Young Author's Do-It-Yourself Book* is an excellent resource book for elementary and home-school teachers, its primary focus is on the young writer. The language and cartoon-like illustrations are presented especially so that children can pick up the book and follow the ideas and instructions. One page includes cartoon witches as part of the illustrations.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Judy Driscoll, Teacher  
Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, Washington

**220.5. Hartman, Bob. *The Lion Storyteller Bible.* Illustrated by Susie Poole. ISBN 0745929214. Lion Publishing, 1995. Hardbound, \$12.95. PS - Gr. 3.**

Beginning with "the beginning" and ending with Jesus' disciples going to tell the world about him, fifty stories from the Bible are rewritten specifically to be read aloud. Written in an engaging way, the stories are entertaining and fun. With clever word choice and phrases,

the author is able to convey the message of God's love and faithfulness in a way that children will easily understand. While many of the stories selected for retelling are standard children's fare: Daniel in the lion's den, Joshua marching around Jericho, and the first Christmas, it is the way they are written that is new. In many of the stories, "God watched or God listened." That God is interested and near is sometimes a subtle point for children when reading out of an adult Bible.

The author simplifies each story to fit the short story format and the audience. The seamier aspects of the stories are glossed over. For example, the reason (Gen. 39 - 41) Joseph was thrown in prison was that Potiphar's wife was evil and told lies about him.

Delightfully illustrated, the color drawings match perfectly with the style of the stories and will help capture beginning listeners. Overall, an excellent resource for home or class, especially for those who have a difficult time retelling stories of the Bible on their own.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Elizabeth Coleman  
Freelance Writer  
Tumwater, Washington

**226.4. Figley, Marty Rhodes. *Mary and Martha.* Illustrated by Cat Bowman Smith. ISBN 0802850790. Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1995. Hardbound, \$15.00. PS - Gr. 2.**

We are all familiar with the Bible story of Mary and Martha. Mary took the time to sit and listen to Jesus, but Martha was too concerned with her chores to take the time to listen as well. This colorfully illustrated book retells this story for children and helps them to see the importance of spending time with the Lord as well as understanding how personalities are different...even in the same family.

Author Marty Rhodes Figley goes beyond just the Bible story to illustrate a glimpse into the lives of Mary and Martha, and what their personalities were like as they tried to live peacefully together. Mary had no problem sitting down to read or going out to play with the children and often forgot to do things Martha asked. Martha never sat down and was forever frustrated with Mary's irresponsibility and playfulness. After a visit from Jesus at their home, Martha realizes what is truly most

important and with Mary's help tries to play a little herself.

Cartoon-like drawings by Cat Bowman Smith add humor to this book, and children will enjoy a new look at a timeless story.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Janet Hicks  
Librarian, Maple Valley Christian School  
Renton, Washington

**231.7. Gish, Duane T. *The Amazing Story of Creation from Science and the Bible.* ISBN 0890511209. Institute for Creation Research, 1990. Hardbound, \$18.95. Gr. 4 - Adult.**

The creationist believes that in six literal days God created all that we know today, from the vast universe to the diversity of plants, animals, and humankind that dwell on the earth. *The Amazing Story of Creation from Science and the Bible* presents a thorough look at creation and the scientific facts that back it up.

Scientific studies reveal the intriguing complexities of nature, indicating order and design rather than random chance. For example, the amazing bombardier beetle can heat up chemicals in his body to 212 degrees and then accurately shoot them at a predator in any direction. The woodpecker's tongue is so long it has to be attached within the left nostril rather than the back of the beak. These are a few examples of the intricacies found in living things.

Evolutionists are often baffled by what they see and admit their theories don't work, yet the struggle continues between the two approaches to life's origins. Dr. Duane T. Gish presents a creator God, yet he also explains the evolutionist's point of view for comparison and contrast. This balanced approach helps the student to gain knowledge and understanding that is non-condemning yet thought-provoking.

Creationists don't have all the answers, but this presentation of the first six days of creation brings insight and scientific data to bear. This book can be used as an effective tool for presenting a viable alternative to evolution.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Mary McKinney  
Freelance Writer  
Port Orchard, Washington

**245. Beall, Pamela Conn and Susan Hagen Nipp.** *Wee Sing More Bible Songs.* Illustrated by Nancy Spence Klein. ISBN 0843138920. Price Stern Sloan, 1995. Audiocassette, booklet, \$2.95 . PS - Gr. 5.

A children's choir sings approximately an hour of Bible songs on this audio cassette, a sequel to *Wee Sing Bible Songs*. The tape is packaged with a sixty-four page illustrated book that provides the lyrics and music to the songs. In between songs a small child quotes scripture verses that relate to the upcoming song. The verses are also printed in the book. There are forty-seven songs in all. While many of the songs are Sunday school type songs, i.e. "The Happy Day Express," a fair number of songs are ones that adults and children would both enjoy, i.e. "What a Mighty God We Serve."

Because this is the second in the "Wee Sing Bible Song" series, there may be songs that are unfamiliar. All songs, however, are Christian standards; there are no original songs or new twists on old songs (i.e. sung to the tune of....) The book supplies the action instructions for the various songs that can have hand or body motions. The soft cover book is illustrated with simple drawings.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Elizabeth Coleman  
Freelance Writer  
Tumwater, Washington

**266. Alex, Ben.** *David Livingstone : The Missionary Who "Discovered" Africa, 1813-1873.* Illustrated by Giuseppe Rava. ISBN 1564764745.

---*Martin Luther : The German Monk Who Changed the Church, 1483-1546.* Illustrated by Giuseppe Rava. ISBN 1564764753.

---*Hudson Taylor : The Missionary Who Won a Nation by Prayer, 1832-1905.* Illustrated by Giuseppe Rava. ISBN 1564764761.

---*Higgins, Caroline.* *Mother Teresa : The Woman Who Served the Poorest of the Poor, 1910-.* Illustrated by Giuseppe Rava. ISBN 156476477X.

(Heroes of Faith and Courage.) Victor Books, 1995. Hardbound, \$9.99. Gr. 3 - 7.

**David Livingstone : The Missionary Who "Discovered" Africa, 1813-1873**

A lively introduction in *David Livingstone* invites the reader to take a trip to Africa and meet the Scottish missionary, doctor, and explorer, David Livingstone. The story gives

the reader an overview of Livingstone's life and faith. Illustrations, maps, and/or photos on every page enhance the story and hold the reader's interest. Frequent sidebars give more detail on specific events, places, or historic information. The book contains a list of the main events in Livingstone's life and an illustrated map of "Livingstone's Africa."

The book introduces David Livingstone near the end of his life. He witnesses a massacre in an African village by a group of Arab slave traders. Shortly afterward he meets Henry Stanley, a young newspaper reporter for the *New York Herald*. Through Stanley's article about Dr. Livingstone, the world learns of the horrors of the slave trade. This significantly affects Europeans' view of the practice and in five years the slave market at Zanzibar is effectively shut down.

**Martin Luther, the German Monk Who Changed the Church**

Living in the years between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, Luther's greatest desire was to please God and earn his mercy. He became a monk and followed every rule of his order. But as he struggled to find peace with God, he discovered that the doctrines of the Church did not agree with the Bible's teaching of salvation by faith.

**Hudson Taylor, the Missionary Who Won a Nation by Prayer**

Taylor as a young man chooses to trust God to meet his needs rather than reminding a forgetful employer of money owed him. After giving away his last coin to a starving family, Taylor discovers that God can supply every need through prayer. He carries this principle with him to China where his goal is to "move men and women to God through prayer alone."

**Mother Teresa, The Woman Who Served God With Her Hands**

Sister Teresa is content to teach the children of wealthy families in Calcutta, India, until the evening she looks out the window on the poverty of the people below. Believing that God has given her a second calling to leave the convent and care for the poorest of the poor, Sister Teresa overcomes every obstacle by prayer and faith to reach those people.

This is an excellent series for young readers. Each book gives an overview of the subject's life, showing not only their achievements, but also their personal faith in God and how that faith grows and develops. The artwork and layout are attractive, informative, and inviting. This series will appeal to young readers in the eight- to twelve-year-old range, but could have strong appeal for older readers as well. It is an excellent series for use in home schooling.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Donna Brown  
Church Librarian  
Portland, Oregon

**266. Hockett, Betty M.** *Looking Through the Window : Real-life Missionary Stories.* ISBN 0943701228. George Fox Press, 1995. Paper, \$8.99. Gr. 3 - 7.

*Looking Through the Window* takes a peek at life on the mission field through ten different snapshot stories. The short, uplifting, faith-packed stories show moments on the mission field where God's hand, his care, his protection, and his leading are evident to all those around. These stories take you around the world—from India to Mexico to Kenya and beyond in just a few moment's time. As a devotional reading or a bedtime story, *Looking Through the Window* can help you see the world in a different way.

For those who enjoy fully developed stories and in depth character development, this book could lose your interest. However, as a devotional or quick snapshot picture of a mission's experience, *Looking Through the Window* could be a useful vehicle to open the world to your students or your children.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Susan Adderley  
Freelance Writer/Former Teacher  
International Ministries, ACSI  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

**266. Hockett, Betty M.** *Outside Doctor on Call : The Life-story of Ezra and Frances DeVol. (A Life-story from Missions.)* ISBN 0943701201. George Fox Press, 1992. Paper, \$4.95. Gr. 3 - 7.

Ezra and Frances DeVol struggle their way through medical school, Ezra becoming a doctor and Frances a nurse. Their hearts long to go on the mission field to China. After several years of waiting, and twin girls besides, the DeVols land in China, only to find their hopes dashed by fighting and unrest. Ezra, however, chooses to stay in Nanking while his wife and daughters return to the States. After serving several months working as a surgeon and leading many to the Lord, Ezra tries to leave China, but finds it impossible because of the war with Japan. Through many more months of hardship and disappointment, Ezra waits until he is finally granted permission to return to his family.

Several years later, the growing family of six boards a ship to return to the mission field, this time to the land of India. As the hospital superintendent, Ezra shares the Gospel, performs surgery, and works hard to bring hope and life to many. Francis becomes the head nurse and juggles her ministry and her responsibilities at home with amazing strength and success. Yet, after years of ministering in India, the Lord turns the DeVols' hearts north, to



the land of Nepal. After another dozen years of ministry and adventure, the DeVols return to the States, ill of health and needing time with their now grown family. It is eight long years before the DeVols return to Nepal, but the surprise of their life awaits them. What could it be?

Although Hockett's writing is occasionally hard to follow, the story of the DeVols is worth reading, especially if the reader has an interest in a life career as a medical missionary.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Susan Adderley  
Freelance Writer/Former Teacher  
International Ministries, ACSI  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

**266. House, Janie. *Mthunzi's Reed Mats*. Illustrated by Susan Meyer. ISBN 1563091321. New Hope, 1995. Paper, \$6.95. K - Gr. 3.**

This is the story of Mthunzi (Mm-toon-zee), an African girl living in Zambia. Janie House introduces her young readers to a different culture as she relates events that are typical of life in a Zambian village. Home and family life, a child's work around the home, schooling, Sunday School and church, and a visit from an uncle from the big city are all a part of this short story. Reed mats are seen on nearly every page as Mthunzi sleeps, eats, works, plays, and sits to learn on different reed mats. The brightly colored watercolor illustrations by Susan Meyer are beneficial for visualizing the similarities and differences of Mthunzi's world with the reader's world. Directions for making your own reed mat and a recipe are found at the end of this twenty-four page book.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Patricia Perry  
Librarian  
Northside Christian School  
Westerville, Ohio



**266. Johnstone, Jill. *You Can Change the World*. ISBN 0310400414. Zondervan Publishing House, 1992. Hardbound, \$16.99. Gr. 3 - Adult.**

*You Can Change The World* is a traveling alphabet book that introduces children to prayer for peoples worldwide. Each letter introduces two people groups: who they are, how they live, their needs in Christ, how you can pray for them. Clara is a Gypsy girl, unable to read, yet longing to read the Bible. God touched her with a miracle and she is now reading the Bible and telling her people what it says. South Korea is a Christian nation with many of its people going to other lands as missionaries; but North Korea is forbidden to hear about Jesus. In 1986 a blind Navajo man and his wife translated the first Navajo language Bible from a Braille Bible. Twelve out of every thirteen Navajo still need to learn about Jesus. Rakhima is a Christian living in Uzbek, a Muslim world. Because she is a Christian, Rakhima is humiliated by having her head shaved and her legs cut.

Drawing on WEC International's expertise and knowledge, using true stories, charts, maps, interesting facts, full-color illustrations, and authentic prayer needs, Jill Johnstone has produced an intensely interesting compendium of people and prayer needs throughout the world. This compendium was drawn from material received during the writing of the world prayer manual *Operation World*. At turns amazing, sad, troubling, and uplifting, *You Can...* encourages children to take on the active work of praying for those who need Christ and his help. In simple, unpatronizing language the introduction explains the mechanics and the wonder of this task as well as how to use the book.

*You Can...* encourages children to want to come back day-by-day to prayer time. It is usable in many ways; nearly a month of daily prayer times or a half year of weekly ones; a starting place for a Christian study of geography; Sunday School prayer 'spots.' Published in 1993, the information still ties into what is happening worldwide today. *You Can...* was first published in Great Britain, so some of the

information has a definitely English flavour; however, this adds to the interest rather than detracting from it.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Donna Eggett  
Freelance Writer  
Crisis Pregnancy Center Counselor  
Maiden, North Carolina

**266. Whalin, Terry. *When I Grow Up I Can Go Anywhere for Jesus*. Illustrated by Jim Engel. ISBN 1555134882. Chariot Books, 1992. Hardbound, \$10.00. PS- Gr. 2.**

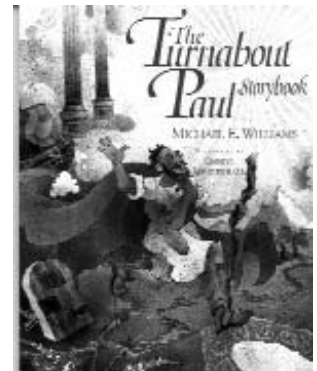
Every child thinks about what they would like to be when they grow up, but how often do they consider service as a missionary? As adorable cartoon characters interact with real-life photographs, the reader is taken to several different mission fields around the globe. Not only do the photographs show various lands and people, but an assortment of occupations in which a missionary can serve is pictured and discussed in an appealing manner. At least once in his young life, every child should think about service as a missionary; *When I Grow Up* is a wonderful way to present the challenge.

This easy-to-read book is colorful, interesting, and well done. The whimsical characters, the real-life photographs, the maps, and the text combine to present a well-rounded look at missionary service. Every school and home should own this book!

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Susan Adderley  
Freelance Writer/Former Teacher  
International Ministries, ACSI  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

(Editor's note: the above two books were graciously given to CLJ by Wycliffe Bible Translators.)



**270.1. Williams, Michael E. *The Turnabout Paul Storybook*. Illustrated by Cheryl Mendenhall. ISBN 0687007933. Abingdon Press, 1995. Paper, \$7.95. Gr. 2 - 5.**

What was Paul really like? What happened to make him turn about? What did other Christians think of him? These are questions



that Michael Williams answers in his stories of Paul's conversion and later life. Readers will enjoy getting to know New Testament characters from Paul's teacher Gamaliel to Priscilla and Aquila. Written in a simple, easy-to-read style, each chapter is a complete story. The style lends itself well to short Bible studies or discussion group starters.

The illustrations by Cheryl Mendenhall are cheerful and somewhat humorous, but have a slightly amateurish, Sunday School curriculum appearance. Ten short chapters are laid out with large chapter titles, wide margins outside a thin black border around the text.

Although no introduction, explanatory notes, or Biblical references are included, the stories appear firmly grounded in the biblical account. Children will enjoy reading the short chapters and may be inspired to search the Scriptures to find out the rest of the story.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Cathy Bittner  
Librarian, Cascade Christian School  
Tacoma, Washington

**271. Wildsmith, Brian. *Saint Francis*. ISBN 0802851231. Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1995. Hardbound, \$20.00. K - Gr. 6.**

*Saint Francis* takes us from the birth of the saint in 1181 to a wealthy Italian family, to his death at age forty-five in the humble setting of his little church outside of Assisi. God had spoken to Francis as a young man in a powerful, life changing way, entreating him to repair his church that was falling into ruins. Francis responded and this became his mission, to meet the needs of the poor and sick. In one scene from his life we are shown how he set up a living nativity scene to demonstrate to people the reality of Christ's birth. The detailed illustrations by the author, Brian Wildsmith, are a combination of pen and ink and vibrant color. In each double page drawing there is a guardian angel intently observing the events of the life of Saint Francis and at times interacting with the scene, unbeknownst to Saint Francis, making a very striking and provocative reminder of how God is watching over his children.

The story, in first person, is told in isolated vignettes, as the author is conveying only events that are reputed to have happened in Saint Francis' life and not filling in the blanks with supposition. In relaying some of the stories in this manner we are left to wonder what happened next, but the omissions also build the credibility of the accounts.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sally Kuhns  
Second Grade Teacher  
Bremerton, Washington

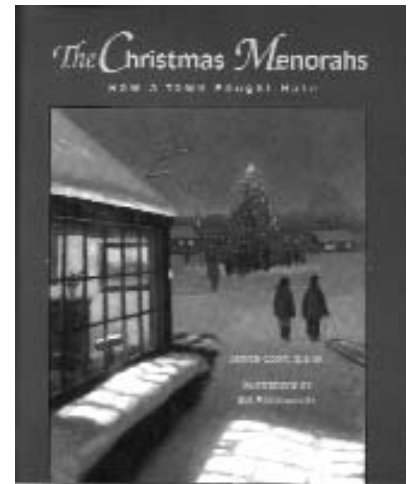
**304.8. Maestro, Betsy. *Coming to America : The Story of Immigration*. Illustrated by Susannah Ryan. ISBN 0590441515. Scholastic, 1996. Hardbound, \$15.95. Gr. 1 - 4.**

From the nomads who crossed the land bridge from Asia to Alaska to the thousands arriving in the United States today from Russia, Asia, Central and South America and other lands, Betsy Maestro's *Coming to America* traces the history of immigration in America from earliest days to the present. Along the way, Maestro helps the reader to understand why so many have left their native land to come to America, and to appreciate the hardships endured both en route and after their arrival in this country. Changing American attitudes toward immigration, as seen through legislation establishing rules and quotas, are evident as the author tells of Ellis Island, post-World War II refugees, and the challenging problem of illegal immigration in recent decades. America, the great "melting pot" and truly a nation of immigrants, is presented as a country that is also learning to better appreciate its rich cultural and ethnic differences.

With clear and skillfully written text, *Coming to America* paints a vivid word-picture of the joys, disappointments, hopes, and sacrifices of the millions of brave men, women and children who have immigrated to this country seeking a better life. Complementing the excellent narrative, Susannah Ryan's beautiful illustrations capture the deep emotions and drama of this important piece of our nation's past and present. Difficult topics such as the forced "immigration" of black slaves, the treatment of Indians by American immigrants pushing westward, and illegal immigration along our southern borders, are handled sensitively and honestly. The author's appreciation and enthusiasm for the unique contributions of America's many ethnic groups is convincing and avoids the much over-used term "diversity." A table of dates and listing of lesser known facts about immigration (two out of every five of us are descended from a relative who passed through Ellis Island) conclude this outstanding addition to American social history for young readers.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Randl Ockey  
Librarian/Freelance Writer  
Camano Island, Washington



**305.892. Cohn, Janice. *The Christmas Menorahs : How a Town Fought Hate*. Illustrations by Bill Farnsworth. Albert Whitman, 1995. ISBN 0807511528. Hardcover \$16.95. Gr. 3 - 8.**

It is a cold December night in Billings, Montana. Christmas lights twinkle on many houses, and from a few homes, Hanukkah Menorahs shine in the windows. Isaac Schnitzer's house has a Menorah in almost every window. Isaac is working on his math homework in the den when he hears a loud crash. Someone has thrown a rock through his bedroom window and knocked the Menorah onto the floor. If Isaac had been in his bed asleep, the rock would have hit him. Isaac is scared and confused. Who did this and why would they want to? Isaac has to learn young about the hatred that some people have toward those who are different. Shall he hide his Menorah and let them win, or fight back?

Isaac's parents refuse to be intimidated. In fact, the entire community becomes involved to fight acts of bigotry and violence. Many lay church leaders and clergy of all faiths helped inspire their community. The *Billings Gazette* seeks out and publishes the truth and urges others to take a stand. Town residents, of many different religions and backgrounds, are willing to fight against threats of violence.

As the town of Billings is fighting back, one girl is taking a personal stand for a friend. Teresa is in Isaac's class at school and tells her family about what has happened. Her family decides to do what they can to fight this hatred. They understand there is a risk, but know they have to stand up for religious freedom. Teresa, along with her brothers and sisters, makes a beautiful picture of a Menorah. Underneath the picture is a Jewish star and a Christian cross. They hang the picture on the window in front of their house with this message, "For our friend Isaac, with love from Teresa and the rest of the Hanley

family." Teresa is a true friend; she exhibits the real meaning of Christmas--love.

This book is about a true incident that took place in 1993; however, some of the events have been slightly altered or the sequence changed. Janice Cohn uses powerful narrative to bring out the emotions behind this incredible story. She brings out Jewish history and the story behind the Menorah. She also tells the legend of King Christian and the Danes who all wore a Jewish star in support of the Jewish community against the Nazis during World War II. Several references are listed to support the authenticity of the information.

There is a sense of light and goodness throughout the entire book. Much of this is due to Bill Farnsworth's beautiful oil paintings. These illustrations truly bring the story to life. The book has a reinforced library binding and is printed on thick, good quality paper. This is a truly inspiring story, a story that those of all ages should read and take to heart.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Marcia Snyder, Librarian  
Valley Christian School  
Missoula, Montana

**338.1. Bial, Raymond. *Portrait of a Farm Family*. ISBN 0395699363. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. Hardbound, \$15.95. K - Gr. 6.**

A photo essay about life on a small farm in America, *Portrait of a Farm Family* attracts readers with aspects of human interest. Decisions the family faces as they try to remain self sufficient and the struggles of keeping a farm in today's economy are described, as well as the basics of farm operation. Members of the family, farm equipment, and scenic shots are equally illustrated with full color photographs. Explanatory captions are an effective addition to text describing life on a family farm.

The author's dedication also sets forth the premise of the work: a visit with a farm family. This "hands on" research and general background information are successfully combined to present this individual farm in the larger context of farming in America today. The bibliography lists a variety of useful sources, including other photo essays.

General concepts of farming are well explained, using accurate vocabulary. There are some detailed passages which are very informative, but may detract the reader's attention. Throughout the work a strong work ethic and family values are portrayed. The text does not preach to the reader; rather, personal quotes from members of the farm family introduce children to a way of life and thinking.

A glossary would be useful, especially for primary grades, as some terms are explained and others are not. Readers may stumble over

the use of statistics in the text. The statistical information, including a few tables, would be useful for research, though. Also, transitions between pages aren't consistently smooth; there are jumps between a straight nonfiction narrative and a more dramatized format with occasional bits of dialogue.

The closing pages are well done, with a quick summary of farming in general and an emphasis on the values of the family interviewed.

*Portrait of a Farm Family* would be appropriate for read-aloud use in grades K - 2 as part of a farm unit. Children in grades 3 - 6 could read the book as research for class assignments, or for personal information.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Tracie Mabry  
Parent Volunteer, Freelance Writer  
Vancouver, Washington

**338.7. Toby, Marlene. *Madam C. J. Walker : Pioneer Businesswoman*. (A Rookie Biography.) ISBN 0516042726. Children's Press, 1995. Hardbound, \$18.30. Gr. 1 - Gr. 5.**

This volume of the series entitled "Rookie Biographies" is a solid beginning for young readers to experience what it was like to live in earlier times, different countries, and participate in unique vocations. Filled with photographs from the life of Sarah Breedlove, later known as Madam C.J. Walker, this book helps the reader along by providing visual aids to the written story.

In the late 1800's Sarah Breedlove was born the first free black child in her family--she was her family's only Christmas present. Sarah lived on a cotton plantation and picked cotton with her family. When she was seven, her parents died. Sarah and her brother and sister maintained their family home for years on their own.

By age fourteen she had married, had a baby at seventeen, and lost her husband at age twenty. As time went on, Sarah prayed for a way to make money. She thought of making women's hair care products. These products worked so well that Sarah sold them quickly.

Her business grew and grew until Sarah became a millionaire. Her life's ambition was not just to make money, though. She remembered how hard her own life had been and gave much away to other black women who were in need.

This book provides an accurate portrayal of Sarah's life, while simultaneously making it simple enough for youngsters to grasp. What a great way to start children off in biographical reading!

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Michele Howe  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan

**362.1. Aldape, Virginia Totorica. *Nicole's Story : A Book About a Girl with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis*. Illustrated by Lillian S. Kossacoff. ISBN 082252578X. Lerner Publications, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.96. Gr. 2 - 6.**

*Nicole's Story* is a compelling look at a girl with a chronic and disabling disease. The story is written in first person, as if Nicole were discussing JRA (Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis) with an interested friend. She goes through her daily routine and explains her struggles in a straightforward manner, without speaking down to her audience. Her capabilities and limitations are discussed, and she explains her therapy. She does not complain about her condition or try to evoke pity, but leaves the reader with a very clear understanding of her condition. While looking at one particular picture, the reader might think that Nicole looks pretty heavy for a nine-year-old girl. The text explains that weight gain is a side effect of one of the medications that she must take.

The black and white photos vary in quality and accompany the text closely. They look like they could have come from Nicole's scrapbook. Virginia Totorica Aldape, the author, has JRA and a Rehabilitation Counseling Degree, so is obviously particularly adept at detailing information about this crippling disease for a wide audience.

The book concludes with information about current laws that affect sufferers of JRA, a glossary of terms, and a list of resources for teachers and parents. These help make this an informative and useful book.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judy Belcher  
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School  
Bremerton, Washington

**398.2. Andersen, Hans Christian. *Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen*. Illustrated by Isabelle Brent. Translated by Neil Philip. ISBN 0670859303. Viking, 1995. Hardbound, \$19.99. K - Gr. 6**

Old favorites and less familiar tales are combined in this eye-catching collection of Hans Christian Andersen fairy tales. The twelve selections include "The Princess and the Pea," "Thumbelina," and "The Ugly Duckling." Translated by Neil Philip, the stories seem conversational and would make wonderful read-alouds.

As with most collections of folklore, there are elements of the magical and mystical. In the story of "Thumbelina," a witch is the source of the barleycorn that grows the tiny little girl; in

"The Wild Swans" a wicked queen uses toads that have been "kissed by a witch." In spite of these references, the stories focus on the goodness of God and the importance of being upright.

An introduction by Neil Philip includes biographical information about Hans Christian Andersen, focusing on the autobiographical nature of his stories. Gold leafing highlights the lavish, jewel-toned illustrations by Isabelle Bent. The illustrations are enhanced by colorful borders with a gold leaf strip.

*Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen* would be a beautiful addition to any folklore collection.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Cathy Bittner  
Librarian, Cascade Christian School  
Tacoma, Washington

★ 398.2. Sanderson, Ruth. *Papa Gatto : An Italian Fairy Tale*. ISBN 0316770736. Little, Brown and Company, 1995. Hardbound, \$15.95. PS - Gr. 2.

"Long ago, in a time when it was not unusual for animals to speak, there lived a very clever cat." So begins Ruth Sanderson's retelling of an Italian fairy tale. Papa Gatto, a wise advisor to the prince of his town, needs someone to care for his newly orphaned kittens while he travels about on his master's business. To find someone, he advertises, saying, "Helper needed to cook and to clean for eight little kittens, already weaned. You choose your payment, no amount too great. Please see Papa Gatto before it's too late." His ad attracts the attention of a town widow with two daughters: lovely Sophia, lazy and greedy, and stepdaughter Beatrice, plain but kind-hearted and hard-working. Sophia is sent to work for Papa Gatto against her wishes, does a terrible job, and is fired. Beatrice, who pities the kittens, then comes in secret to help, impressing Papa Gatto with her loving ways and hard work before she returns to her home where she is scolded and put back to work.

When the prince visits Papa Gatto and hears of the greed and laziness of one girl and the kindness and hard work of the other, Beatrice's story wins his heart and he tries to meet her. Despite the machinations of the widow and Sophia, the prince and Beatrice finally do meet and he promptly asks her to marry him.

However, in an interesting twist, she refuses him, saying, "You are known to be a kind and generous man, but I cannot marry you. I do not know you and so cannot yet love you. For too long I have lived in a house without love; I would not exchange one joyless house for another."

She is then welcomed back into Papa Gatto's house to live, leaving the widow and her

daughter with no one to work for them, while the prince agrees to visit Papa Gatto's house often, so that he and Beatrice can become acquainted.

*Papa Gatto* is well written and reads like a long-established classic, despite the unusual ending. Sanderson's oil paintings, reminiscent of paintings from the Italian Renaissance period, add to the classic feel and are filled with details, rich colors and textures, glowing skin tones and realistically frisky kittens (a task made easier, I'm sure, by Sanderson's own family of cats.)

The characters are a bit flat, but that is not unusual in this type of fairy tale, where the moral of the story is often more important than the individuals in it. However, here, the typical moral of hard work and kindness rewarded is given added weight by the heroine's refreshing refusal to marry just for worldly goods. It would make an excellent addition to any library's fairy tale section.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

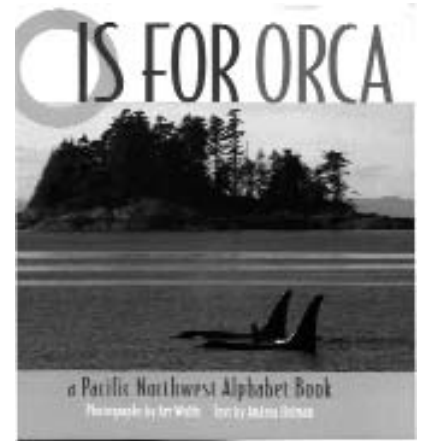
Betty Winslow  
Freelance Writer  
Librarian, Bowling Green Christian Academy  
Bowling Green, Ohio

398.24. Young, Ed. *Seven Blind Mice*. ISBN 0399222618. Philomel Books, 1991. Hardbound, \$16.95. PS - Gr. 2.

*Seven Blind Mice* is the beautifully written and illustrated work of Ed Young, who retells for children the ancient fable of "The Blind Men and the Elephant." Each page of this Caldecott Honor Book is a brightly colored collage on a black background. As young children view these illustrations they will make discoveries along with the mice as to what the "strange Something" is that they have found by their pond. Each different colored mouse goes out on a different day of the week and inspects a part of the "Something" and makes his own conclusion as to what it is. It is not until the seventh mouse goes out on the seventh day and checks out the entire "Something" that the discovery is made that this is an elephant. This short story of thirty-six pages will lead young children to discoveries of colors, days of the week, and one of the true paths to wisdom--not just seeing in part but seeing something as a whole.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Patricia Perry  
Librarian  
Northside Christian School  
Westerville, Ohio



428.1. Holman, Andrea. *O Is for Orca*. Photographs by Art Wolfe. ISBN 157061038X. Sasquatch Books, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.95. PS - Gr. 3.

"Spectacular" is not usually the description for an alphabet book, but this unusual travelogue of the Pacific Northwest deserves that award from cover to cover. The bright photo of two orcas swimming peacefully in a quiet cove with only their fins and top body outline showing above the water pulls the reader into the scene and past the cover page. From "A is for auklet" to "Z is for zigzag" the reader is left in awe of this truly unique exploration of the animals, people, land, birds, and plants of the beautiful northwestern states, British Columbia, and Alaska.

The layouts are anything but predictable and each page is brightly colored, enhancing the beautiful photographs. Each unusual animal is given a closeup exposure and one wants to reach out and pet the feathery northern spotted owl.

Two surprised marmots standing at attention will make the kids mimic their expressions. Can they name all the colors of the starfish in the tide pool? How many have heard their parents talk about the volcano that blew in 1980? And where can we find out how to pronounce *Xerophyllun tenax*?

Children will enjoy this book as an alphabet book, a nature exploration, a book of colors, an opportunity to learn new words, and most of all just a book to enjoy.

God's creation can teach us so much about the creator if we would take the opportunities we have to simply look and learn. Preschoolers will be drawn to the realism. Kindergartners will trace the large letters and learn their sounds as they laugh over the new words. Beginning readers will twist the unfamiliar sounds around experimenting tongues. And older readers will be happy for the details in the text which will give them a reason to be reading an alphabet book. Even adults will pore over this spectacular book--I know I did.



◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sharon Ann Rau  
 Librarian, Valley Christian Schools  
 Abbotsford, British Columbia

**508. MacKinnon, Debbie. *The Seasons : Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter. Photographs by Anthea Sieveking.* ISBN 0812064224. Barron, c1995. Hardbound, \$12.95. PS - Gr. 1.**

Bright, colorful photographs introduce children to the joys of the seasons. Photographs capture children enjoying a variety of activities throughout the year, from sniffing flowers in spring, examining a snail in summer, collecting apples in autumn, to throwing snowballs in winter. The attractive layout includes a colorful border with a separate chapter and eye-catching heading for each season. Three to five paragraphs of text are combined with photographs of various sizes in each two-page spread.

The author has included references to colors, shapes, and numbers, along with basic information about the seasons. Facts about weather and plant and animal life are interwoven with descriptions of the children's activities. Although the text is slightly long for the intended audience, it is enhanced by the use of questions, animal sounds, and onomatopoeic words like "crackle," "crunch," and "thwack." Large enough to be shared with a group, this is a nice addition to the early childhood library.

◆ Quality 4     ♥ Acceptability 5

Cathy Bittner  
 Librarian, Cascade Christian School  
 Tacoma, Washington

**508.315. Yolen, Jane. *Welcome to the Sea of Sand.* Illustrated by Laura Regan. ISBN 0399227652. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1996. Hardbound, \$15.95. PS - Gr. 6.**

Comparing the sand to a vast sea, author Jane Yolen paints a word portrait of the great Sonora desert in *Welcome to the Sea of Sand*. In free verse poetic form, she introduces the reader to the wide variety of plant and animal life that inhabits this large arid region of our continent. From the speckled roadrunner to the diamondback rattlesnake, and from fields of poppies to stands of saguaro, she describes a landscape that is ever changing and teeming with life.

Illustrator Laura Regan complements the text with full-page color paintings that pull the reader into the scenes. The intense eyes of the mountain lion and the scaly back of the gila are enough to captivate any reader, even without the addition of the text. The book's hard cover and dust jacket are also illustrated with a full color painting of the distant desert landscape.

A "Did you know?" page at the end of the story gives additional information about the Sonora Desert and the animals pictured in the illustrations. A pronunciation guide at the beginning of the story aids the reader who is unfamiliar with the unusual names of plants and animals.

With liberal use of alliteration and onomatopoeia, Yolen has created a story that begs to be read aloud. Preschoolers to adults will enjoy studying the intricate illustrations as well, and all will feel a greater reverence for the beauty of the desert and its inhabitants.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Catherine W. Ockey  
 Freelance Writer  
 Camano Island, Washington

**520. Kerrod, Robin. *The Night Sky.* (ISBN 076140029X.**

**---530. Kerrod, Robin. *Matter and Materials.* ISBN 0761400311.**

**---535. Lafferty, Peter. *Light and Sound.* ISBN 0761400303.**

**---536. Lafferty, Peter. *Heat and Cold.* ISBN 0761400338.**

**---621.8. Kerrod, Robin. *Machines.* ISBN 076140032X.**

Illustrated by George Fryer. (Let's Investigate Science.) Marshall Cavendish, 1996. Hardbound, \$17.95. Gr. 5 - 8.

Part of the fifteen volume "Let's Investigate Science" series, these titles cover a lot of ground in each of their sixty-four pages. Kerrod's *The Night Sky* introduces the young reader to astronomy, with chapters on celestial observation, the formation and death of stars, and galaxies. The author's *Matter and Materials* discusses the various states of matter, chemical elements, and natural and synthetic materials. *Machines*, also by Robin Kerrod, takes the reader from the simplest of machines, such as a spade, to gasoline engines, turbines, and hydraulic power. Peter Lafferty's *Light and Sound* examines light waves and how man uses light, and discusses how sounds are produced and heard. Lafferty's *Heat and Cold* helps the reader understand what heat is and how it is produced, measured, and used.

Each volume in the series is similar in format and appearance, with numerous color photographs and illustrations, invitations to conduct experiments, enthusiastic sidebar items ("It's Amazing!"), a page of milestones in that particular branch of science, a glossary, and an index.

Clearly written for the serious young student of the sciences (hopefully accompanied by a knowledgeable parent), this series is not for the uninitiated. However, the well-written text, engaging photographs, and clear illustrations

will go a long way toward helping the excited young reader understand often challenging scientific laws, principles, and processes. The directions for further exploration (boxes labeled "Investigate") are carefully written, with due attention to safety, but will frequently require the assistance of a parent or older sibling. A question and answer format, with questions in the body of the text and answers at the end of the book, provides additional challenge for the budding scientist. The glossary and index sections in each volume are well-done and a bibliography for further reading will delight the precocious student and his/her parent and teacher.

Only a questionable binding and a few annoying proofreading errors mar what is otherwise an excellent series for future junior high and high school science team members.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Randl Ockey  
 Librarian/Freelance Writer  
 Camano Island, Washington

**530.4. Gardner, Robert. *Experiments with Bubbles.* ISBN 0894906666.**

**---507.8. *Experiments with Balloons.* ISBN 0894906690.**

**---535.2. *Experiments with Lights and Mirrors.* ISBN 0894906682.**

**---531. *Experiments with Motion.* ISBN 0894906674.**

Illustrated by Kimberly Austin Daly. (Getting Started In Science.) Enslow Publishers, 1995. Hardbound, \$18.95. Gr. 4 - 8.

**Experiments with Bubbles.**

Using bubbles in a variety of ways, Robert Gardner presents scientific principles through his experiments. Making bubbles is an entertaining way to learn about color, light, buoyancy, motion, and many other aspects of science. By building simple pipe cleaner "cages," the experimenter can blow several geometric shapes, pyramids and prisms included. If you want to know how you can keep a bubble longer, or how humidity, temperature, carbon dioxide, or colored liquids will affect your bubbles, you should read this book. Various recipes are given for larger, thicker, and more colorful bubbles.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

**Experiments with Motion.**

Using simple, readily available materials, Robert Gardner demonstrates principles and properties of light in this collection of easy-to-do experiments. Mr. Gardner's thorough explanations and Ms. Daly's detailed diagrams are easy to follow and understand. Students can easily work independently on most of these experiments.



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\_\_\_Danger at Echo Cliffs. Bray, Marian. 0781402743 Chariot Books, PB, \$5.99.

\_\_\_Double Trouble for Jess McColl. Schulte, Elaine L. 1556615353 Bethany House Publishers, PB, \$5.99.

\_\_\_Earthquake Terror. Kehret, Peg. 0525652264 Cobblehill Books/Dutton, HB, \$14.99.

\_\_\_Felicity's Surprise. Tripp, Valerie. 1562470108 Pleasant Company Publications, PB, \$5.95.

\_\_\_Felicity's Surprise. Tripp, Valerie. 1562470116 Pleasant Company Publications, HB, \$12.95.

\_\_\_Flying Pie and Other Stories. Ackerman, Susan Yoder. 0836190327 Herald Press, PB, \$10.95.

\_\_\_Frog Power. Lewis, Beverly. 1556616457 Bethany House Publishers, PB, \$3.99.

\_\_\_Going to the Fair. McFarlane, Sheryl. 1551430622. Orca Book Publishers. PB, \$7.95.

\_\_\_Happy Birthday, Kirsten!. Shaw, Janet. 0937295337 Pleasant Company Publications, PB, \$5.95.

\_\_\_Happy Birthday, Kirsten!. Shaw, Janet. 0937295884 Pleasant Company Publications, HB, \$12.95.

\_\_\_Hope. Gaeddert, Louann. Atheneum, HB, \$14.00.

\_\_\_Journey of Choices. 1561793116 Focus on the Family Publishers, CAS, \$22.99.

\_\_\_Kashtanka. Chekhov, Anton Pavlovich. 0152005390 Harcourt Brace, HB, \$16.

\_\_\_Mandie and her Missing Kin. Leppard, Lois Gladys. 1556615116 Bethany House Publishers, PB, \$4.99.

\_\_\_Mandie and Joe's Christmas Surprise. Leppard, Lois Gladys. 1556615523 Bethany House Publishers, HB, \$9.99.

\_\_\_Mario's Big Question. Nystrom, Carolyn. 0745929230 Lion Publishing, PB, \$4.99.

\_\_\_Mary Marony and the Chocolate Surprise. Kline, Suzy. 0399228292 G. P. Putnam's Sons, HB, \$13.95.

\_\_\_Melanie and the Modeling Mess. Schulte, Elaine L. 1556612540 Bethany House, PB, \$5.99.

\_\_\_Mice of the Herring Bone. Davis, Tim. 089084626X Bob Jones University Press, PB, \$6.49.

\_\_\_Mike's Lonely Summer. Nystrom, Carolyn. 0745929257 Lion Publishing, PB, \$4.99.

\_\_\_Mystery of Case D. Luc. Lewis, Beverly. 1556616465 Bethany House Publishers, PB, \$3.99.

\_\_\_No Grown-ups Allowed. Lewis, Beverly. 1556616449 Bethany House Publishers, PB, \$3.99.

\_\_\_Pilgrim Village Mystery. Warner, Gertrude Chandler. 080756530X A. Whitman, HB, \$11.95.

\_\_\_Pulling Together. Watkins, Dawn L.. 089084609X Bob Jones University Press, PB, \$6.49.

\_\_\_Safe at Home. Anderson, Peggy King. 0689316860 Atheneum, HB, \$13.95.

\_\_\_Safe at Home. Anderson, Peggy King. 0689718330 Aladdin, PB, \$3.95.

\_\_\_Sea Lion Called Salena. Gaetz, Dayle. 0888650698 Pacific Educational Press, PB, \$7.95.

\_\_\_Secret of Telfair Inn. Bodie, Idella. 087844050X Sandlapper Publishing, PB, \$6.95.

\_\_\_Secret of the Old House. Albrecht, Peggy. 0875086535 Christian Literature Crusade, PB, \$3.95.

\_\_\_She's Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head!. Lasky, Kathryn. 0786800658 Hyperion Books for Children, HB, \$14.95.

\_\_\_Shelter Folks. Kroll, Virginia. 0802851061 Wm. B. Eerdmans, HB, \$14.00.

\_\_\_Sheriff at Waterstop. Thomson, Andy. 0890843716 Bob Jones University Press, PB, \$6.49.

\_\_\_Some Summer!. Vandevenne, Jean. 0890843805 Bob Jones University Press, PB, \$6.49.

\_\_\_Sweet, Sweet Basket. Clary, Margie Willis. 0878441271 Sandlapper Publishing Co, HB, \$15.95.

\_\_\_Tanya's Reunion. Flournoy, Valerie. 0803716052 Dial Books for Young Readers, HB, \$15.99.

\_\_\_The Music Box Test. Hoehne, Marcia. 0745926282 Lion Publishing, PB, \$0.

\_\_\_Toby's Big Truck Adventure. Spears-Stewart, Reta. 0816311412 Pacific Press, PB, \$7.95.

\_\_\_When I Left My Village. Schur, Maxine Rose. 0803715625 Dial Books for Young Readers, HB, \$14.95.

\_\_\_Wish You Were Here!. 1561793159 Focus on the Family Publishers, CAS, \$22.99.

**CHILDREN'S NONFICTION**

\_\_\_Amazing Story of Creation from Science and the Bible. Gish, Duane T.. 0890511209 Institute for Creation Research, HB, \$18.95.

\_\_\_American Inventors of the 20th Century. Jeffrey, Laura S. 0894906321 Enslow Publishers, HB, \$18.95.

\_\_\_Ancient Egypt. Harris, Geraldine. 0816019711 Facts on File, HB, \$17.95.

\_\_\_Ancient Greece. Powell, Anton. 081601972X Facts on File, HB, \$17.95.

\_\_\_Behind the Scenes at the Ballet. Spatt, Leslie E. 0670861626 Viking, HB, \$13.99.

<p>___Children of Bolivia. Hermes, Jules. 0876149352 Carolrhoda Books, HB, \$14.96.</p> <p>___Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters. McKissack, Patricia C. and Fredrick. 0590430270 Scholastic, HB, \$15.95.</p> <p>___Christmas Menorahs. Cohn, Janice. 0807511528 Albert Whitman, HB, \$16.95.</p> <p>___Coming to America. Maestro, Betsy. 0590441515 Scholastic, HB, \$15.95.</p> <p>___Cowboy. Klausmeier, Robert. 0822529750 Lerner Publications, HB, \$14.96.</p> <p>___David Livingstone. Alex, Ben. 1564764745 Victor Books, HB, \$9.99.</p> <p>___Dorothea Lange. Turner, Robyn Montana. 0316856568 Little, Brown and Company, HB, \$15.95.</p> <p>___Experiments with Balloons. Gardner, Robert. 894906690 Enslow Publishers, HB, \$187.95.</p> <p>___Experiments with Bubbles. Gardner, Robert. 0894906666 Enslow Publishers, HB, \$18.95.</p> <p>___Experiments with Light and Mirrors. Gardner, Robert. 0894906682 Enslow Publishers, HB, \$18.95.</p> <p>___Experiments with Motion. Gardner, Robert. 0894906674 Enslow Publishers, HB, \$18.95.</p> <p>___Eye on the Wild. Dunlap, Julie. 0876149441 Carolrhoda Books, HB, \$17.50.</p> <p>___Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen. Andersen, Hans Christian. 0670859303 Viking, HB, \$19.99.</p> <p>___Heat and Cold. Lafferty, Peter. 0761400338 Marshall Cavendish, HB, \$17.95.</p> <p>___How Sweet the Sound. Hudson, Wade. 0590480308 Scholastic, HB, \$15.95.</p> <p>___Hudson Taylor. Alex, Marlee. 1564764761 Victor Books, HB, \$9.99.</p> <p>___I Can Make a Rainbow. Frank, Marjorie. 0913916196 Incentive Publications, PB, \$16.95.</p> <p>___If You Should Hear a Honey Guide. Sayre, April Pulley. 0395715458 Houghton Mifflin, HB, \$14.95.</p> <p>___Kansas. Fradin, Dennis Brindell. 0516038168 Children's Press, HB, \$24.00.</p> <p>___Leonard Bernstein. Toby, Marlene. 0516042734 Children's Press, HB, \$18.30.</p> <p>___Light and Sound. Lafferty, Peter. 0761400303 Marshall Cavendish, HB, \$17.95.</p> <p>___Lion Storyteller Bible. Hartman, Bob. 0745929214 Lion Publishing, HB, \$12.95.</p> <p>___Looking Through the Window. Hockett, Betty M.. 0943701228 George Fox Press, PB, \$8.99.</p> <p>___Machines. Kerrod, Robin. 076140032X Marshall Cavendish, HB, \$17.95.</p> <p>___Madam C. J. Walker. Toby, Marlene. 0516042726 Children's Press, HB, \$18.30.</p> <p>___Martin Luther. Alex, Ben. 1564764753 Victor Books, HB, \$9.99.</p> <p>___Mary and Martha. Figley, Marty Rhodes. 0802850790 Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, HB, \$15.00.</p> <p>___Mary Cassatt. Turner, Robyn Montana. 0316856401 Little, Brown and Company, PB, \$6.95.</p> <p>___Matter and Materials. Kerrod, Robin. 0761400311</p>	<p>Marshall Cavendish, HB, \$17.95.</p> <p>___Monet. Mason, Antony. 0812064941 Barron's, HB, \$10.95.</p> <p>___Mother Teresa. Higgins, Caroline. 156476477X Victor Books, HB, \$9.99.</p> <p>___Mthunzi's Reed Mats. House, Janie. 1563091321 New Hope, PB, \$6.95.</p> <p>___My Very Own Birthday. West, Robin. 0876149808 Carolrhoda Books, HB, \$14.96.</p> <p>___My Very Own Mother's Day. West, Robin. 0876149816 Carolrhoda Books, HB, \$14.96.</p> <p>___New England Whaler. Baldwin, Robert F. 0822529785 Lerner Publications, HB, \$14.96.</p> <p>___Nicole's Story. Aldape, Virginia Totorica. 082252578X Lerner Publications, HB, \$14.96.</p> <p>___Night Sky. Kerrod, Robin. 076140029X Marshall Cavendish, HB, \$17.95.</p> <p>___O Is for Orca. Holman, Andre. 157061038X Sasquatch Books, HB, \$14.95.</p> <p>___Outside Doctor on Call. Hockett, Betty M.. 0943701201 George Fox Press, PB, \$4.95.</p> <p>___OUTside INside Poems. Adoff, Arnold. 0152002243 Harcourt Brace, PB, \$5.00.</p> <p>___Papa Gatto. Sanderson, Ruth. 0316770736 Little, Brown and Company, HB, \$15.95.</p> <p>___Peanut Butter Cookbook for Kids. Ralph, Judy. 0786810289 Hyperion Books for Children, PB, \$10.95.</p> <p>___Plays for Young Audiences. Bush, Max. 1566080118 Meriwether, PB, \$14.95.</p> <p>___Portrait of a Farm Family. Bial, Raymond. 0395699363 Houghton Mifflin, HB, \$15.95.</p> <p>___Pueblo Indian. Cory, Steven. 0822529769 Lerner Publications, HB, \$14.96.</p> <p>___Quilt-block History of Pioneer Days. Cobb, Mary. 1562944851 The Millbrook Press, HB, \$15.99.</p> <p>___Rhode Island. Fradin, Dennis Brindell. 0516038397 Children's Press, HB, \$24.00.</p> <p>___Saint Francis. Wildsmith, Brian. 0802851231 Wm. B. Eerdmans, HB, \$20.00.</p> <p>___Seasons. MacKinnon, Debbie. 0812064224 Barron, HB, \$12.95.</p> <p>___Seven Blind Mice. Young, Ed. 0399222618 Philomel Books, HB, \$16.95.</p> <p>___Sodbuster. Toht, David W. 0822529777 Lerner Publications, HB, \$14.96.</p> <p>___Songs from the Loom. Roessel, Marty. 0822526573 Lerner Publications, HB, \$14.96.</p> <p>___Songs of Our Ancestors. Turcotte, Mark. 0516051547 Children's Press, HB, \$22.10.</p> <p>___Toby the Tabby Kitten. Bare, Colleen Stanley. 0525652116 Cobblehill Books/Dutton, HB, \$13.99.</p> <p>___True Adventure of Daniel Hall. Stanley, Diane. 0803714696 Dial Books for Young Readers, HB, \$15.89.</p> <p>___Turnabout Paul Storybook. Williams, Michael E.. 0687007933 Abingdon Press, PB, \$7.95.</p> <p>___Wee Sing More Bible Songs. Beall, Pamela Conn and Nipp, Susan Hagen. 0843138920 Price Stern Sloan, KIT, \$2.95.</p>	<p>___Welcome to the Sea of Sand. Yolen, Jane. 0399227652 G. P. Putnam's Sons, HB, \$15.95.</p> <p>___When I Grow Up I Can Go Anywhere for Jesus. Whalin, Terry. 1555134882 Chariot Books, HB, \$15.99.</p> <p>___When the Frost is on the Punkin. Riley, James Whitcomb. 0879239883 David R. Godine, PB, \$8.95.</p> <p>___When This Cruel War Is Over. Damon, Duane. 0822517310 Lerner Publications, HB, \$14.21.</p> <p>___Who Comes? Chandra, Deborah. 0871564076 Sierra Club Books for Children, HB, \$16.95.</p> <p>___You Can Change the World. Johnstone, Jill. 0310400414 Zondervan Publishing House, HB, \$16.99.</p> <p>___Young Author's Do-it-yourself Book. Guthrie, Donna. 1562947230 The Millbrook Press, PB, \$7.95.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>YOUNG ADULT FICTION</b></p> <p>___Ainesworth Prowler. Albrecht, Peggy. 0875086586 Christian Literature Crusade, PB, \$3.95.</p> <p>___Aryan. Kelly, Clint. 0785279601 T. Nelson, PB, \$11.99.</p> <p>___Betrayed. Rushford, Patricia H. 1556615604 Bethany House Publishers, PB, \$4.99.</p> <p>___Brentwood. Hill, Grace Livingston. 0842303642 Tyndale House Publishers, PB, \$5.99.</p> <p>___Call me Graywolf. Metzler, Jack. 156043659X Destiny Image, PB, \$8.99.</p> <p>___Christy Volume 3 : A Closer Walk; and Both Your Houses. 8513526215 Broadman &amp; Holman, VID, \$19.99.</p> <p>___Comedy of Errors. Johnson, Lissa Halls. 1561793914 Focus on the Family Publishers, PB, \$5.99.</p> <p>___Dangerous Devices. Bunn, T. Davis. 0781402328 Chariot Family Publishing, PB, \$9.99.</p> <p>___Dangerous Game. Massi, Jeri. 0890843473 Bob Jones University Press, PB, \$6.49.</p> <p>___Darkness over Covenant. Eyer, William J. 0882707221 Bridge Publishing, PB, \$9.95.</p> <p>___Dream Voyager. Locke, Thomas. 1556614330 Bethany House, PB, \$5.99.</p> <p>___False Coin, True Coin. Dick, Lois Hoadley. 0890846642 Bob Jones University Press, PB, \$3.97.</p> <p>___Giver. Lowry, Lois. 0395645662 Houghton Mifflin, HB, \$14.95.</p> <p>___House Beyond Congo Cross. Albrecht, Peggy. 0875086519 Christian Literature Crusade, PB, \$3.95.</p> <p>___Landing Place. Kelly, Clint. 0840734638 Thomas Nelson Publishers, PB, \$10.99.</p> <p>___Light Weaver. Locke, Thomas. 1556614322 Bethany House, PB, \$5.99.</p> <p>___Lost Kingdom. Kelly, Clint. 0840778228 Thomas Nelson, PB, \$10.99.</p> <p>___Of Eagles and Ravens. Rao, Linda Rae. 0800755804 Fleming H. Revell, PB, \$8.99.</p> <p>___Paradise War. Lawhead, Stephen. 0732405734 Lion Publishing, PB, \$13.99.</p> <p>___Pastwatch. Card, Orson Scott. Tor, HB, \$23.95.</p> <p>___Pocahontas. Hanes, Mari. 0880708565 Multnomah Books, PB, \$5.99.</p> <p>___Rebel. Johnson, Grace. 0842353011 Tyndale House Publishers, PB, \$10.99.</p>
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\_\_\_ Search for the King. O'Dell, Tommy. 1560436506 Destiny Image Publishers, PB, \$9.99.

\_\_\_ Shadow of the Red Moon. Myers, Walter Dean. 0590458957 Scholastic Inc, HB, \$0.

\_\_\_ Silent Thief. Baer, Judy. 1556615884 Bethany House Publishers, PB, \$4.99.

\_\_\_ Sky in Silver Lace. Klein, Robin. 067086692X Viking, HB, \$13.99.

\_\_\_ Time to Weep. Morris, Gilbert. 0800755766 Fleming H. Revell, PB, \$9.99.

\_\_\_ Treasure of Pawley's Island. Halford, Celia Childress. 0878440682 Sandlapper Publishing, PB, \$7.95.

\_\_\_ Vanishing Clues. Morris, Gilbert. 1556613962 Bethany House Publishers, PB, \$5.99.

\_\_\_ Walk Two Moons. Creech, Sharon. 0060233346 HarperCollins Publishers, HB, \$16.00.

\_\_\_ War Canoe. Bryson, Jamie S.. 0882403680 Alaska Northwest Books, PB, \$9.95.

\_\_\_ White Orchids. Hill, Grace Livingston. 0842381503 Tyndale House Publishers, PB, \$4.99.

\_\_\_ Wreck of the Zanzibar. Morpurgo, Michael. 0670863602 Viking, HB, \$14.99.

**ADULT FICTION**

\_\_\_ Black Dragon. Davis, W. E. 0891078703 Crossway Books, PB, \$8.99.

\_\_\_ Caught. 1564080161 Broadman & Holman, VID, \$19.99.

\_\_\_ Doomsday Flight. Stewart, Ed. 1564764826 Victor Books, PB, \$12.99.

\_\_\_ Fields of Glory. Morris, Gilbert. 0842362290 Tyndale House Publishers, PB, \$11.99.

\_\_\_ Final Chapter of Chance McCall. Bly, Stephen A.. 0891079033 Crossway Books, PB, \$11.99.

\_\_\_ Fisherman's Lady. MacDonald, George. Edited by Michael R. Phillips. 0871231972 Bethany House Publishers, PB, \$13.99.

\_\_\_ Gathering Dawn. Laity, Sally and Dianna Crawford. 0842313036 Tyndale House Publishers, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ Gathering Storm. Davis, W. E. 0891078878 Crossway Books, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ Heart of a Stranger. Hawkins, Kathy. 082542867X Kregel Publications, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ In the Midst of Lions. Mitchell, Sara. 1556614985 Bethany House Publishers, PB, \$9.99.

\_\_\_ Jacob of Canaan. Wood, Helen. 1887065008 Selah House Publishing, PB, \$9.95.

\_\_\_ Jamestown. Hunt, Angela Elwell. 084232013X Tyndale House, PB, \$11.99.

\_\_\_ Kindled Flame. Laity, Sally and Dianna Crawford. 0842313362 Tyndale House Publishers, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ Marquis' Secret. MacDonald, George. Edited by Michael R. Phillips. 0871239140 Bethany House, PB, \$13.99.

\_\_\_ Measures of Grace. Blackwell, Lawana. 0842379568 Tyndale House Publishers, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ Ordeal at Iron Mountain. Rao, Linda Rae. 0800755685 Fleming H. Revell, PB, \$9.99.

\_\_\_ Proving Ground. Davis, W. E. 0891078843 Crossway Books, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ Return. Edwards, Gene. 0842356010 Tyndale House

Publishers, PB, \$8.99.

\_\_\_ Roanoke. Hunt, Angela Elwell. 0842320121 Tyndale House, PB, \$11.99.

\_\_\_ Scarlet Thread. Rivers, Francine. 0842335684 Tyndale House Publishers, PB, \$12.99.

\_\_\_ Stars in Their Courses. Morris, Gilbert. 0842316744 Tyndale House, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ String Too Short to be Saved. Hall, Donald. 087923282X Nonpareil, PB, \$13.99.

\_\_\_ Tempering Blaze. Laity, Sally and Dianna Crawford. 0842369023 Tyndale House Publishers, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ To Live Again. Riols, Noreen. 0891078444 Crossway Books, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ Treasured Friendship. Bender, Carrie. 0836190335 Herald Press, PB, \$7.95.

\_\_\_ Veiled Threats. Simon, Frank. 0891078800 Crossway Books, PB, \$12.99.

\_\_\_ Wall of Fire. Morris, Gilbert. 0842381260 Tyndale House Publishers, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ Wells of Glory. McReynolds, Mary. 0891078894 Crossway Books, PB, \$9.99.

\_\_\_ Where Hope Shines Through. Riols, Noreen. 0891077901 Crossway Books, PB, \$8.99.

\_\_\_ Winds of Graystone Manor. Hoff, B. J. 1556614357 Bethany House Publishers, PB, \$9.99.

**NONFICTION**

\_\_\_ Bound for the Promised Land. Cooper, Michael L. 0525674764 Lodestar Books, HB, \$15.99.

\_\_\_ Christ in Christmas. Dobson, James C. 0891096051 NavPress, PB, \$8.00.

\_\_\_ Christ in Easter. Colson, Charles and others. 0891093095 NavPress, PB, \$8.00.

\_\_\_ Columbus & Cortez, Conquerors for Christ. Eidsmoe, John. 0892212233 New Leaf Press, PB, \$9.95.

\_\_\_ Cowboys in the Old West. Stewart, Gail B.. 1560060778 Lucent Books, HB, \$16.95.

\_\_\_ Earthquakes. Walker, Sally M. 0876148887 Carolrhoda Books, HB, \$14.96.

\_\_\_ Eleanor Roosevelt. Freedman, Russell. 0899198627 Clarion Books, HB, \$17.95.

\_\_\_ Garden of Virtues. 068701736X Dimensions for Living, HB, \$15.00.

\_\_\_ Great American Statesmen and Heroes. Millard, Catherine. 0889651205 Horizon Books, PB, \$13.99.

\_\_\_ Heaven Help Us! Lawson, Steven J.. 0891099123 NavPress, HB, \$16.00.

\_\_\_ Help! My Child Isn't Learning. Martin, Grant. 1561794023 Focus on the Family Publishers, HB, \$17.99.

\_\_\_ Homemade Business. Partow, Donna. 1561790435 Focus on the Family Publishing, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ House Full of Friends. Yates, Susan Alexander. 1561794090 Focus on the Family Publishing, PB, \$10.99.

\_\_\_ How and When to Tell Your Kids About Sex. Jones, Stanton L. and Brenna B. ?0801097511 NavPress, HB, \$8.00.

\_\_\_ How and Why of Home Schooling. Ballmann, Ray E. 0891078592 Crossway Books, PB, \$9.99.

\_\_\_ John F. Kennedy. Cole, Michael D. 0894906933 Enslow Publishers, HB, \$18.95.

\_\_\_ Life and Times of the Apostle Paul. Ball, Charles Ferguson. 0842335005 Tyndale House Publishers, PB, \$9.99.

\_\_\_ Life During the French Revolution. Stewart, Gail. 1560060786 Lucent Books, HB, \$16.95.

\_\_\_ Life in an Eskimo Village. Stewart, Gail. 156006076X Lucent Books, HB, \$16.95.

\_\_\_ Life in the Ancient Greece. Stewart, Gail B.. 1560063270 Lucent Books, HB, \$16.95.

\_\_\_ Life in the Warsaw Ghetto. Stewart, Gail. 1560060751 Lucent Books, HB, \$16.95.

\_\_\_ Life in War-torn Bosnia. Stewart, Gail. 1560063262 Lucent Books, HB, \$16.95.

\_\_\_ Life on a Medieval Pilgrimage. Nardo, Don. 1560063254 Lucent Books, HB, \$16.95.

\_\_\_ Life on an Israeli Kibbutz. Altman, Linda Jacobs. 1560063289 Lucent Books, HB, \$16.95.

\_\_\_ Maria Montessori. Pollard, Michael. 0819215392 Morehouse Publishing, PB, \$7.95.

\_\_\_ Martin Luther King, Jr. Schloredt, Valerie. 0819215244 Morehouse Publishing, PB, \$7.95.

\_\_\_ Orphans and the Ravens. Francis, Julia. Living Sacrifice Books, PB, \$5.00.

\_\_\_ Raoul Wallenberg. Nicholson, Michael and David Winner. 0819215252 Morehouse Publishing, PB, \$7.95.

\_\_\_ Reagan Way. Morris Jeffrey. 0822529319 Lerner Publications, HB, \$22.95.

\_\_\_ Ross Perot. Bredeson, Carmen. 0894905457 Enslow Publishers, HB, \$18.95.

\_\_\_ Scientists of Faith. Graves, Dan. 082542724X Kregel Publications, PB, \$9.99.

\_\_\_ Search for Lost Fathering. Schaller, James L.. 0800755529 Fleming H. Revell, PB, \$9.99.

\_\_\_ Seize The Moment, Share the Message. Kuhne, Roberta. 0880706619 Multnomah Books, PB, \$8.99.

\_\_\_ Sojourner Truth. McKissack, Patricia C. and Fredrick. 0590446908 Scholastic, HB, \$13.95.

\_\_\_ Spread of Islam. Dunn, John. 1560062851 Lucent Books, HB, \$16.95.

\_\_\_ That the World May Know. Vander Laan, Raynard. 1561793841 Focus on the Family, KIT, \$53.00.

\_\_\_ This Too Shall Pass. Groseclose, Kel. 0687006104 Dimensions for Living, PB, \$9.00.

\_\_\_ United States in the 20th Century. Rubel, David. 0590271342 Scholastic, HB, \$16.95.

\_\_\_ Water Brought Us. Branch, Muriel Miller. 0525651853 Cobblehill Books/Dutton, HB, \$16.99.

\_\_\_ Way We Work. Tobias, Cynthia Ulrich. 1561794074 Focus on the Family Publishing, HB, \$19.99.

\_\_\_ With Daring Faith. Davis, Rebecca Henry. 0890844143 Bob Jones University Press, PB, \$3.97.

\_\_\_ You Gotta Believe! Shinn, George. 0842385843 Tyndale House Publishers, HB, \$19.99.

\_\_\_ Your Home Is a Learning Place. Weinberg, Pamela. 088336641X New Readers Press, PB, \$6.95.

\_\_\_ Zamperini. 1564081605 Broadman & Holman, VID, \$19.99.

Principles covered range from simple reflection to multiple reflection and how mirrors are used in science. Students discover through hands on work how light travels, the many forms mirrors take and how mirrors create illusionary effects for magicians and in stage productions. Mr. Gardner is careful to warn the reader about looking straight into the sun, since many of these experiments use that light source.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 4

All of the books in this series use objects and materials that are easily obtained or found in the home. Each book explores various areas of science by doing experiments centered around one topic: motion, light and mirrors, or balloons. The steps are easy to follow and most can be done independently or with little supervision. These are ideal books for a teacher who wants to supplement lectures and/or textbooks with more experiments. They are useful for homeschoolers or with children needing more hands-on methods of instruction.

There are "pullers" at the end of each chapter. If you can't figure them out, or your experiment flops, the answers are in the back of the book. Kimberly Dale's black and white diagrams are helpful and clarifying, but color would have added interest.

Betty Venables  
Principal and Teacher  
Haines, Alaska

**598.7. Sayre, April Pulley. *If You Should Hear a Honey Guide*. Illustrated by S. D. Schindler. ISBN 0395715458. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.95. PS - Gr. 3.**

The honey guide is a small African bird looking for assistance from humans or honey badgers to accomplish its ultimate goal, to reach the honeycomb. The reader is entreated by the repeated call of the honey guide to follow it through the Kenyan countryside, past a variety of landscapes and wildlife, to a nest of bees. The paintings by S. D. Schindler are warm and soft and appealingly illustrate African habitats. Several of the habitats displayed are occupied by animals that could pose a danger to travelers. The author carefully points out how to avoid dangerous situations with the caution, "If she flies to a tree where a snake hides in the shadows, still follow. But make your path wide--very wide--around the snake." The story line doesn't quite capture the warmth and invitation of the illustrations. The reader doesn't feel compelled to follow the honey guide, but rather to flip through the book admiring the illustrations.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sally Kuhns  
Second Grade Teacher  
Bremerton, Washington

**609.2. Jeffrey, Laura S. *American Inventors of the 20th Century*. (Collective Biographies.) ISBN 0894906321. Enslow Publishers, 1996. Hardbound, \$18.95. Gr. 3 - 8.**

The picture of the man using the Super Soaker on the front cover, with the title *American Inventors of the 20th Century*, certainly draws the prospective reader to open the book and begin reading. Laura Jeffrey has highlighted the lives and inventions of ten different inventors in this informative book. A variety of inventions from televisions and lasers to cures for leukemia are covered, and a variety of people are presented: black and white, men and women. The life of each person is described, including their early family life, background, and education. Their dreams and heroes and work experience are detailed. The author follows a theme of valuing creativity, the exploration of ideas, and perseverance through difficulty. She emphasizes the choices that women had to make in order to accomplish their dreams, because of sexist cultural limitations. These ideas are presented matter-of-factly and supported with details.

For the most part book is written in a straightforward manner. Terminology is explained carefully, and generally not in a patronizing way. A few chapters use short sentences, and connections of ideas and the diction seems a little forced. Each chapter includes a frontpiece-type black and white photo of the inventor, and then has another picture of the person with one of their inventions. One chapter mentions that the man and his wife had "been together for 25 years, and married a few years ago." Other references are made to marriage and divorce and family relationships. Generally, these are expressed in supportive and realistic terms.

Stephanie Kwolek, the inventor of Kevlar (used to make bullet proof vests), advises students to spend a lot of time reading and observing with an open mind. She gives them a valuable observation when she says, "I've noticed that creative people seem to notice things that other people just don't notice."

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Judy Belcher  
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School  
Bremerton, Washington

**636.2. Klausmeier, Robert. *Cowboy*. ISBN 0822529750.**

---638.2. Baldwin, Robert F. *New England Whaler*. ISBN 0822529785.

---973. Cory, Steven. *Pueblo Indian*. ISBN 0822529769.

---977. Toht, David W. *Sodbuster*. ISBN 0822529777.

**Illustrated by Richard Erickson. (American Pastfinder.) Lerner Publications, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.96. Gr. 4 - 6.**

#### Cowboy

The author provides a more realistic look into the life of real-life cowboys and girls of the 19th century. Cattle trails, cowboys' jobs and lives, open range, and cattle drives are described in an interesting and well arranged format. The author sites weather and falling beef prices as reasons why the cowboy era ended, but no mention is made of barbed wire and its impact on open range.

#### New England Whaler

Provides a well-documented look into the whaling industry as it existed in the 19th century, including information about the women who went to sea on whaler and the art of scrimshaw.

#### Pueblo Indian

The history, social life, and customs of the Pueblo Indians are described along with culture and daily life. A map of major Pueblo sites in Arizona and New Mexico is given.

#### Sodbuster

Daily life on a 19th century prairie farm is explained by using primary source materials, illustrations, and text.

The four books of this series all try to answer young readers' questions: "What was it like?" "What did they do?" "What happened to them?" and explain daily life in times gone by to today's young readers.

Formats are the same: explanation, primary source quotes, diagrams, glossary and index, with recipes, some songs, and riddles in forty-eight pages with illustration. Some strong language in primary source materials and the discussion of the Pueblo culture and religion will need explaining. But in general, these books will be useful for both students writing reports, for teachers who wish to enhance the social studies curriculum, and for interesting browsing. Titles can easily be paired with other available materials for theme units. The recipes could be made in the classroom with supervision, while the songs could be sung...most melodies are in folk song anthologies. At first glance the pages seem heavy with print, but the text is well-written and broken into sections of smaller bits of information which students in grades four-six can easily read.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Leslie Greaves Radloff  
Librarian/Teacher  
Emanuel Lutheran School(WELS)  
West St. Paul, Minnesota

**636.8 Bare, Colleen Stanley. *Toby the Tabby Kitten*. ISBN 0525652116. Cobblehill Books/Dutton, 1995. Hardbound, \$13.99. PS - Gr. 1.**

*Toby the Tabby Kitten* will work its way into your heart through close-up photography and select nonfiction text. Author-photographer Colleen Stanley Bare has captured the life of a tabby manx kitten for the young child. The listener learns how the kitten, Toby, talks, bathes, and plays.

The strength of the book lies in its photographs. Each clearly illustrates the text. No fact is introduced without an enticing picture to accompany it. A child will not be left wondering, "What would that look like?" *Toby the Tabby Kitten* is a true picture book.

The written word is laid out in an inviting poetic form. Although much fact is provided, it is dispersed down the page in artistic patterns. The early reader will be encouraged to pick up the book himself.

When the book concludes, "Now Toby is almost grown up, from kitten to cat," young listeners will ask to see the personable Toby again. They will be retaining cat facts and gaining a love for cats at the same time. Here is an opportunity to learn about kittens through enjoyment and entertainment.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Lorie Ann Grover  
Freelance Writer  
Kent, Washington

**641. Ralph, Judy. *The Peanut Butter Cookbook for Kids*. Illustrated by Ray Gompf. ISBN 0786810289. Hyperion Books for Children, 1995. Paper, \$10.95. Gr. 2 - 6.**

From old stand-byes to new recipes with ethnic twists, Judy Ralph and Ray Gompf have compiled dozens of tasty peanut butter recipes for varying cooking abilities and tastes in this well designed volume. With young cooks in mind, recipes are clearly written, listing ingredients first, followed by the utensils needed to prepare the recipe. Steps in the cooking process are numbered, and if caution or adult supervision is advised, a red stop sign appears. Cartoon-like color drawings are used through-out the book and also illustrate some steps in each recipe. Design of pages allows the reader to easily follow directions. A measurement conversion table and index are included. Ingredients are widely available in most grocery stores and from staples in the kitchen shelves. While most recipes are simple

to prepare, some will require extra preparation time.

Kids will love the peanut butter trivia found in the "Did you know?" boxes found on many pages such as..."people in the United States and Canada eat enough peanut butter in a year to cover the bottom of the Grand Canyon." Adults will like the end product of some of the more "adult" recipes: Orange Salad with PB Dressing, PB Spicy Chicken with Noodles, and Chicken Stir-fry with Rice and Peanut Butter Sauce. The latter two are very similar to recipes found in Thai and Chinese cookbooks. Readers also find a quick course in the history and uses of the peanut.

Pages are a heavier weight paper with a paperback binding that stays open on the counter for cooking. The oblong length allows the recipe and information to be written in three columns for ease of reading. These may seem minor points, but what cook hasn't had a cookbook refuse to stay open just at the critical point in directions?

Some of the recipes could be used with classes in school, latch key, or day care as well as at home, to begin learning how to cook and bake. In the introduction food caution and safety is stressed along with the advice to read the recipe thoroughly first and check your ingredients. How many of us have neglected that step and had to substitute because of being "out" of an ingredient? No calorie or fat counts are given here but the authors tell the readers that children don't usually have to consider those things while they are growing. It is only after they become adults that caution is needed, a point that could be argued if one wished to do so. Substitutions using lowfat ingredients could be made in an effort to control the fat content if so desired.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Leslie Greaves Radloff  
Librarian/Teacher  
Emanuel Lutheran School (WELS)  
West St. Paul, Minnesota

**641.5 West, Robin. *My Very Own Birthday : A Book of Cooking and Crafts*. ISBN 0876149808.**

**---My Very Own Mother's Day : A Book of Cooking and Crafts. ISBN 0876149816.**

**Illustrated by Jackie Urbanovic. (My Very Own Holiday Books.) Carolrhoda Books, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.96.**

*My Very Own Birthday: A Book of Cooking and Crafts* is perfect for creative young people. This book tells everything you need to know to plan the perfect birthday party. Whether it is for a member of the family or a friend, you get help from the invitations to the recipe list. You can

plan one of five different parties: Alien Adventure, By the Sea, Pizza Party, A Perfect Pet Party, or the Starry, Starry Night. The food, treats, decorations, and crafts all center around a particular theme. The child planning the party may have more fun than the one having the birthday.

*My Very Own Mother's Day: A Book of Cooking and Crafts* is a book packed full of ideas for those youngsters who want to do something special to surprise Mom. It is often hard to find a way to surprise Mom because kids always need Mom's help; but not with this book. There are ideas for a Mother's Day Greeting, Good Moming Breakfast, Spring Breeze Brunch, Picnic in Paradise, Afternoon Tea, and a Down-home dinner. All the instructions are given for easy, and safe recipes and crafts.

These are beautiful hardcover books with reinforced library bindings. Each book contains a section of "Make it your very own: I love to use this book" and "Cooking Smart." These sections give tips that will keep kids from making huge messes. There is also a glossary to terms that may not be familiar. There is a color-photograph of each finished recipe and craft. Throughout the books there are also cute illustrations of families sharing together. These are great books that are especially good for young people ages ten and up. They will be excited to carry out these plans without anyone else's help.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Marcia Snyder, Librarian  
Valley Christian School  
Missoula, Montana

**745. Frank, Marjorie. *I Can Make a Rainbow : Things to Create and Do for Children and Their Grown Up Friends*. Illustrated by Gayle Seaberg. ISBN 0913916196. Incentive Publications, c1976. Paper, \$16.95. PS - Gr. 6.**

Did you ever wonder what kind of creative activities you could do with the children in your care? In her book *I Can Make A Rainbow*, Marjorie Frank shares hundreds of ways for children to "make their own rainbows." This collection of ideas for learning, making, doing, and having fun can provide the foundation for many different arts and craft projects for home or school.

Laid out in a creative fashion, the book itself has the appearance of a rainbow, with each of its ten sections printed on different colored papers. With creative drawings to illustrate the activities and some hand-written instructions, the reader feels as though he is looking at the personal lesson plans of an expert.

Beginning with an instructional section for getting started, there are chapters that deal with different art mediums including drawing,



painting, sculpture and even cooking. There is a chapter with instructions for special things to make such as puppets, kites, or candles and a final chapter entitled "Things to Do When There's Nothing to Do."

For the parent or teacher who does not consider herself artistic, *I Can Make a Rainbow* can be a lifesaver when teaching art to children. Older children can work with the book on their own to make their own projects.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Patricia Perry  
Librarian  
Northside Christian School  
Westerville, Ohio

**746.1. Roessel, Marty. *Songs from the Loom : A Navajo Girl Learns to Weave. (We Are Still Here.)* ISBN 0822526573. Lerner Publications, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.96. Gr. 3 - 6.**

Take a visual journey with Jaclyn and her family as she begins learning the traditions of weaving from her grandmother. Jaclyn is a Navajo Indian girl who lives in Kayenta, Arizona. As a fifth grader, Jaclyn begins to express interest in learning this form of art so meaningful to her ancestors. Her grandmother invites her to visit and they begin their lessons by helping shear the sheep. Once that task is complete, Jaclyn is taught how to card the wool and spin it onto the spindle. She then dyes the wool into vibrant colors and is now ready to begin weaving.

Throughout this book, historical information is given via the text and through the colorful photographs. Readers can actually see the weaving develop and take shape. As we watch young Jaclyn weave her own unique patterns, a design takes shape. A lovely, visually instructional book.

The Indian beliefs about their God and Mother Earth are expounded upon several times. Also included are two stories about a mythical Changing Woman who instructs would-be weavers in her art.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Michele Howe  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan

**746.9. Cobb, Mary. *The Quilt-block History of Pioneer Days : With Projects Kids Can Make.* Illustrated by Jan Davey Ellis. ISBN 1562944851. The Millbrook Press, 1995. Hardbound, \$15.99. Gr. 4 - 6.**

Do you have a quilt that Great-Grandma made? Go take another look at that quilt. It is an American history book. From the time colonists first started coming to the eastern shores of what is now our United States of

America, they have been recording their lives in their patchwork quilts. With plenty of scraps and no hope of getting whole large pieces of cloth, the ever inventive pioneers began using the scraps to make new quilts. Being as artful as they were inventive, these pioneers used their quilt-blocks to tell their everyday and special events. Some quilts were albums, each block especially made by a friend to remind the adventuring family of the ones they left behind. Other blocks depicted the pioneer trails west, log cabins, rail fences, Indians met along the way, bear paws, britches, wedding rings, baby toys, weather, stars, and much more.

To help us understand this, Mary Cobb has produced this history/project book for children. *The Quilt-Block History of Pioneer Days* is fun to read, encourages pride in our pioneer forebears, and presents a simple, understandable narrative backed by illustrations and projects that grip the imagination. There are ten chapters, each with its own relevant project. These projects are all based on the quilt-blocks that tell about our American heritage. They are not needlework projects. Aiming to be workable by a child's hands, they are mostly paper, scissors, paste, and crayon projects that produce work worthy of being gifts or artwork for the home.

This book will be useful for the home schooler, the classroom, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School. It will provide entertainment for those confined in wheelchair or bed. Adult nursing home patients will enjoy the history and be able to do the projects. The book ends with an index which is helpful for preparing lessons, handcrafts, and tying this book to other history and handcraft books.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Donna Eggett  
Freelance Writer  
Crisis Pregnancy Center Counselor  
Maiden, North Carolina

**759.13 Turner, Robyn Montana. *Mary Cassatt.* ISBN 0316856401.**

**---Dorothea Lange. ISBN 0316856568.**

**(Portraits of Women Artists for Children.) Little, Brown and Company, 1992-94. Hardbound, \$15.95. Gr. 3 - 8.**

In straightforward prose, Robyn Montana Turner describes the life and work of each woman artist in her series, "Portraits of Women Artists for Children." In *Mary Cassatt*, the reader is introduced to the willful and stubborn young American woman who firmly establishes her position among the prominent impressionistic painters of the late nineteenth century. Dissatisfied with what the art schools in the United States offer for women, she travels to Paris, where she spends most of the rest of her life and is heavily influenced by the European masters.

In contrast, *Dorothea Lange* is the story of an artist who chronicles the American people in the first half of the twentieth century through her rich photography. Traveling from one end of the country to the other, she captures the emotions of her subjects on black and white film over a span of almost fifty years, creating truly American portraits.

These artists come from different backgrounds and their personal lives are very dissimilar; however, Turner aptly describes the creative drive that motivates both of them and the artistic temperament that often gets in the way of personal relationships.

Both books in this series begin with basically the same introduction, in which the author deplores the state of women in art 150 years ago, and praises how far they have come since then. A particular complaint that she makes in both books is that women artists in the past were not allowed to view nude models to learn how to paint the human body.

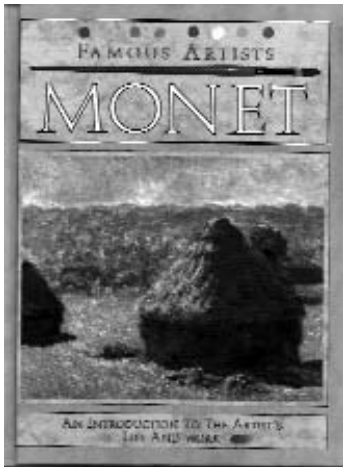
In addition to biographical information, Turner gives the reader a simple analysis of many of the artists' works, explaining technique, style, and composition. Children will find these explanations useful in understanding the artist and her work, and adults who are unfamiliar with these artists, or art in general, will find it informative. *Mary Cassatt* is a good introduction to the Impressionists, and Dorothea Lange's familiar photographs are an excellent place to begin a study of the art of photography.

Both books contain numerous reproductions of the artists' works, with the locations of the originals. Mary Cassatt often used people bathing for her subjects, and this book contains one print that shows a woman's bare back from the waist up. There is also a print of Cassatt's sister at the opera in which the fashion of the day is a low-cut evening gown.

Though each book can be used on its own, it is interesting to read the books together to compare the artists. Actual photographs of Cassatt and Lange as children and adults add further interest to the biographies. Quotations from the artists also help the reader to understand who they were and their peculiar approaches to life.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Catherine W. Ockey  
Freelance Writer  
Camano Island, Washington



**759.4. Mason, Antony. *Monet: An Introduction to the Artist's Life and Work*. Illustrations by Andrew Hughes and Jen Green. (Famous Artists.) ISBN 0812064941. Barron's, 1995. Hardbound, \$10.95. All ages.**

We begin with a brief introduction to Claude Monet and what has made him so famous. Then there is a brief illustration of the book and how it is arranged. Throughout the rest of the book you will find the story of the artist's life with an illustration of his home or environment, enlargements of some of his paintings, and an indicator which puts the size of an entire work into perspective. There is also an explanation of the artist's work at the time a particular piece was done. Finally you will find a featured technique and some practical projects for the aspiring artist to try. The book ends with a chronology of Monet's life and a brief history of art. There is also a list of museums and galleries, a glossary, and an index of pictures.

This is truly a beautiful hardcover book with reinforced library binding. Through it even the untutored will develop an appreciation for the artist and his work. You feel as if you have gotten inside the artist to experience his struggles and see how life's experiences impressed and affected his work. Antony Mason has done a good job of creating a book that can be appreciated by the young and the old.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Marcia Snyder, Librarian  
Valley Christian School  
Missoula, Montana*

**770. Dunlap, Julie. *Eye on the Wild: A Story about Ansel Adams*. Illustrated by Kerry Maguire. (A Carolrhoda Creative Minds Book.) ISBN 0876149441. Carolrhoda Books, 1995. Hardbound, \$17.50. Gr. 2 - 4.**

*Eye on the Wild, A Story about Ansel Adams* brings the photographer to life. Author Julie

Dunlap begins Ansel's story at his birth and chronicles his life work. Various events and struggles of the 1900's are included. The Second World War and internment camps enter Ansel's story. The photographic method and artistic techniques of the era are described as Ansel discovers his own style. The battle to recognize photography as an art form is fought by Ansel and other photographers. The growth of environmentalism and the Sierra Club are also included in the biography.

Dunlap uses small details to enliven the text. "Chewing hot meatballs and gulping black coffee," the hikers eat dinner. Ansel is human to the reader when Dunlap states, "Ansel loved to write and star in goofy skits." After a long climb he sat back and ate raisins.

The young reader will identify with Ansel's struggle with school. Homeschooled children will find encouragement as they see a successful artist taught as they are now. Readers will learn it is profitable to focus effort for one achievement. Ansel debated over being a musician or photographer, but he chose photography to communicate his emotions.

Dunlap makes vague statements about physical land having spiritual worth. The book is honest about Ansel's beliefs; land use and protection must be balanced.

Black and white drawn illustrations by Kerry Maguire accompany the text. Unfortunately, none of Ansel Adams's photography is included. *Eye on the Wild* is easily read and will act as a catalyst for further study on Ansel Adams.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Lorie Ann Grover  
Freelance Writer  
Kent, Washington*

**780. Toby, Marlene. *Leonard Bernstein: All-American Musician*. (A Rookie Biography.) ISBN 0516042734. Children's Press, 1995. Hardbound, \$18.30. Gr. 2 - 4.**

Young musicians will be encouraged to "Practice, practice, practice!" after reading this biographical account of a very successful musician, Leonard Bernstein. Leonard was enthralled with music from the time he first heard the organ in the Jewish temple as a child. Later his family was given an old piano and Leonard spent hours playing, finding a joy and magic he'd never experienced.

Leonard studied music at Harvard University and conducting at the Curtis Institute of Music. Throughout his life he found delight in composing, performing, and conducting music. His compositions were performed on stage and screen and he became the musical director for the New York Philharmonic in 1958, continuing in that position for many years.

A liberal sprinkling of black and white photos accompany the story of Leonard's life. The

highlights of the span of his life and career are simply and clearly told. The author conveys the determination of Leonard's heart to produce music in a variety of venues. The final photo of Leonard, conducting his last symphony, reflects the depth of his feeling and involvement in his music.

The book is one in a large series, "Rookie Biographies," written to encourage children to become familiar with the lives of influential people in past and current history.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Sally Kuhns  
Second Grade Teacher  
Bremerton, Washington*

**782.42. Hudson, Wade and Cheryl. *How Sweet the Sound: African-American Songs for Children*. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. ISBN 0590480308. Scholastic, 1995. Hardbound, \$15.95. Gr. 4 - 6.**

Music! Poetry! The muted oil wash on board illustrations by award-winning artist Floyd Cooper bring the music of African-American history to life in *How Sweet the Sound: African-American Songs for Children*. The colorful pictures sweep across the pages as the backdrop for the words of the songs. Each illustration reflects the time period and enhances the song's message.

The 8 1/2" x 10 3/4" picture/song book begins with the traditional "Kum Ba Ya," which portrays a young African child deeply intent on the words "Come by here, my Lord, Come by here." A child toiling in a cotton field gazes upward for the spiritual, "Over My Head." In "Take this Hammer," the work song shows a man holding a hammer, thinking wistfully of his desire for freedom. An old man with a horse and wagon sings out in a street cry, "Blueberries, fresh and fine." The hymn, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," today's Black National Anthem, depicts a windswept tree overlooking a valley. "That's How the Cake Walk's Done," new words adapted by Wade Hudson, displays a dancing couple dressed in their finery, for the off-beat rhythm of ragtime. A lone guitar player strums the blues/folk song "The Boll Weevil." The gospel song, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," is expressed by a woman gloriously singing praises. Jazz is represented in "Take the 'A' Train," which reveals a group waiting to catch the train to Harlem. Chants such as "Hambone," and the Hand-clapping song, "Miss Mary Mack," reveals a girl and boy clapping their hands and singing to the beat. A freedom song like "Freedom's Comin'" is represented with marchers carrying signs. The positive soul song, "Say it Loud, I'm Black and Proud," is illustrated with smiling children. The work echoes with a strong sense of great faith, prayer and hope in God.

A brief explanation of the twenty-three songs and composers, including the music for each song, is located in the back of the book. The music contains only the melody, with words and chords for piano and guitar. Children may need to read the explanation to understand the lyrics and pictures. A recommended reading and listening list, which can be used by children and adults, includes cassette tapes and books on black music. The index is useful in locating specific subjects in the songs. The book is a useful stepping-stone for all researchers or leisure readers of black music and appropriate for assignments for upper elementary level students.

A music program for Black History Month or Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday could be drawn from this book. *Pass it On: African-American Poetry for Children* selected by Wade Hudson, Scholastic, (1993) and *Hold Christmas in your Heart: African-American Songs, and Stories for the Holidays* compiled by Cheryl Willis Hudson (1995) Scholastic, complement this title.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 3

Carolyn Jo Ballard  
Librarian, Z. J. Loussac Public Library  
Anchorage, Alaska

**792.8. Spatt, Leslie E. *Behind the Scenes at the Ballet : Rehearsing and Performing The Sleeping Beauty Ballet*. ISBN 0670861626. Viking, 1995. Hardbound, \$13.99. Gr. 3 - 8.**

Novices as well as students of ballet will find *Behind the Scenes at the Ballet* highly informative and intriguing. The author Leslie Spatt presents an in-depth view of the contributions of many in producing a ballet.

Leslie Spatt's work is a photographic journey which takes its readers from rehearsals, costume design, and makeup applications to the actual performance of the ballet, *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Readers are first introduced to the main characters of the ballet in full costume before being shown the dancers rehearsing their parts. Backstage scenes such as the sewing of a tutu, a display of ballet shoes, and the preparations of the stage hands increase the anticipation leading up to the ballet itself. Readers will feel as if they too have experienced the preparations for the final performance with the description of the complete ballet as a reward for their efforts.

*Behind the Scenes at the Ballet* is a well-organized work of nonfiction. Well-placed photographs and simple, concise definitions explain difficult ballet terms but do not interrupt the flow of the book. The captions included with each photograph add to, not repeat, the information given on each page. The glossary and index aid in the understanding of ballet terminology and link the different pieces of information together.

Leslie Spatt has photographed many ballets especially in Great Britain, Germany, and Amsterdam. Her colorful and clear photographs add greatly to the descriptions of ballet preparations. The photography helps to illustrate the amount of time and effort put forth for just one ballet performance as we view the challenging steps the dancers must learn and the step-by-step demonstration of makeup applications. Her close-up as well as distant shots of the ballet performance reveal the beauty, emotion, and magnificence of such a large scale production.

Leslie Spatt's work will appeal to readers seeking to research a new and interesting topic as well as to those wanting to add to their already growing knowledge of ballet. *Behind the Scenes at the Ballet* would be a worthwhile addition to a library's nonfiction collection as it provides a detailed overview of ballet life not found in most children's collections.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Susan Robinson  
Elementary Librarian  
Delaware County Christian School  
Newtown Square, Pennsylvania

**811. Adoff, Arnold. *OUTside INside Poems*. Illustrated by John Steptoe. ISBN 0152002243. Harcourt Brace, 1995. Paper, \$5.00. Gr. 4 - 8.**

In the poetic style of e e cummings Arnold Adoff explores the outside and inside feelings and thoughts of a young baseball player.

OUTside...on the school yard field...  
i am standing in my baseball shoes...  
and yellow hat... that... new glove...  
is hanging...from my hand...and...  
i am just too...small for...everything i...need  
to be a star.  
INside...the baseball glove...  
is my hand...and...inside the fingers of my  
hand...  
are strands of golden wires...  
sliding through...my wrist bones...  
and up my arms...to a  
secret...central...signal...system...:

Black and white pencil drawings by John Steptoe help clarify the poetry which might be difficult for younger readers to follow with its broken lines scattered down the pages. The combination of words and illustrations invite the reader to return to the pages and savor their images and emotions.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judy Driscoll  
Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, Washington



**811. Chandra, Deborah. *Who Comes*. Illustrated by Katie Lee. ISBN 0871564076. Sierra Club Books for Children, 1995. Hardbound, \$16.95. PS - Adult.**

A lion comes to the waterhole, glistening in the evening sun, to cool his paws and wet his tongue. Throughout the book you feel the golden eyes of the lion as the animals on the African savanna come to the waterhole to quench their thirst. A wildebeest comes, the cuckoos sing, a waterbuck comes, a giraffe comes, and a zebra comes--as the lion is watching. Then--the lion leaps--and the zebra is dead.

Deborah Chandra has created a poem that tells a beautiful story of survival. You can feel the prowling of the lion as the story progresses, but he goes unnoticed by the other animals until it's too late. Katie Lee has used watercolor pictures to perfectly illustrate the soft colors and the glow of the sky at sunset. The waterhole looks so cool and refreshing next to the scorched land.

This is a beautiful hardcover book with reinforced library binding. The jacket cover is stunning! Everyone who sees this book will have to pick it up to look inside. This is a great addition to any collection. It will prove useful to preschool through adults.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Marcia Snyder, Librarian  
Valley Christian School  
Missoula, Montana



**811. Riley, James Whitcomb. *When the Frost Is on the Punkin*. Illustrated by Glenna Lang. ISBN 0879239883. David R. Godine, 1993. Paper, \$8.95. Gr. 1 - Adult.**

When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock,...

Riley's familiar lines at once put the reader to rest and allow him to enjoy this relaxing stroll through farm land in autumn. The colorful but simple illustrations of Glenna Lang capture the feel of this famous poet's words in a way which will bring memories back to adult readers and introduce young readers to another age of poetry. While most children won't understand the dialect which speaks of "atmufere" and "stubble in the furries," they can certainly take delight in the "rooster's hallylooyer."

*When the Frost Is on the Punkin* can be a great vocabulary builder for both elementary and secondary students when used in an English lesson with the illustrations helping to demonstrate the meaning of words which are less familiar to the modern urban child. Be aware that there is a jack o'lantern face carved on one punkin at the end of the book.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Judy Driscoll  
Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, Washington

**811. Turcotte, Mark. *Songs of Our Ancestors: Poems about Native Americans*. Illustrated by Kathleen S. Presnell. (Many Voices One Song.) ISBN 0516051547. Children's Press, 1995. Hardbound, \$22.10. Gr. 1 - 6.**

*Songs of Our Ancestors* is a compilation of poetry reviewing famous Native Americans and great events in their history. From Geronimo to Buffy Sainte-Marie, and The Trail of Tears to Will Rogers, author/poet Mark Turcotte presents the bare facts in rhyme.

*Songs of Our Ancestors* is illustrated by Kathleen S. Presnell, the author's wife. Graphic borders are placed on top of photographs. Images of Native Americans are reserved for pastel rendering. No photographs are provided of the people showcased. Helpful maps are included to specify movement noted within the poetry. The reader can follow Chief Joseph's flight through the Northwest to his final surrender in Montana. A map of Florida identifies where the Seminoles settled.

Author Turcotte, an Ojibway, warns the reader the stories he shares will be happy and sad. Because of the history of early America, half of the book focuses on oppression of Native Americans. Encouraging stories are included of the Sequoyah, Ishi, and the code talkers of W.W. II.

Turcotte's perspective is obvious. He writes, "Some say that the U.S. Constitution was based

upon the Great Law of Peace," and, "This is one more story of greed and shame, one more injustice caused by hate and fear." No positive interaction between ethnic groups is recorded.

The Native American religion is referenced sparsely. The Lakota share a mystic vision. Wovoka, a Paiute holy man, teaches new prayers and chants while telling the people to "reject the ways of the whites." The people gather to perform the Ghost Dance.

*Songs of Our Ancestors* provides a glimpse at an expanse of history. Some of the poetic structure tends to make the weighty information sound trite. This volume represents one man's rendition of the lives of Native Americans since the arrival of Europeans.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 3

Lorie Ann Grover  
Freelance Writer  
Kent, Washington

**812. Bush, Max. *Plays for Young Audiences*. Edited by Roger Ellis. ISBN 1566080118. Meriwether, 1995. Paper, \$14.95. Gr. 4 - Adult.**

*Plays for Young Audiences* is an anthology of one act plays written to be read, performed, and enjoyed by children. Max Bush has adapted several classics, such as "Puss in Boots" and "Rapunzel." Also contained in the collection are several original works, including "The Boy Who Left Home to Find Out About the Shivers," which tells the story of a boy who has no fear, and "The Ghost of the River House," about a girl who suffers due to rejection by her father.

Each play has a youthful protagonist with which an audience of children will identify immediately. The dialog is sharp and humorous, each play has a point, and they all have been successfully performed in a theater.

Now for the problems. This book cannot be photocopied, and the plays are not copyright free. Teachers and producers must get written permission and/or pay a royalty. Many of the plays contain questionable elements, such as ghosts, spirits, and witches. The message of each work is positive.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 2

Sandra Hosking  
Teacher, Falls Christian Academy  
Post Falls, Idaho

**910.4. Stanley, Diane. *The True Adventure of Daniel Hall*. ISBN 0803714696. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1995. Hardbound, \$15.89. Gr. 3 - 6.**

Daniel Hall sets sail on a whaling ship in the summer of 1856. Eager for adventure, the fourteen-year-old boy travels from Massachusetts all the way around Cape Horn to

the Siberian coast, enduring hardship and the cruelty of a crude and violent captain. After deserting the ship, Daniel survives in the Siberian wilderness with the help of the Yakut people, eventually being rescued and working his way back home on whaling ships.

As stated in the author's postscript, the story is based on a book that Daniel Hall wrote in 1861 called *Arctic Rovings: or, The Adventures of a New Bedford Boy on Sea and Land*. The author treats the subject of whaling historically and sensitively, explaining that killing animals seems "perfectly natural" to Daniel because he lives during a time period when people butcher their own animals for food instead of purchasing meat from a store. Diane Stanley details the uses of whale products and includes many details of hunting and processing baleen whales, information rarely covered in nonfiction for this age group.

Although the book's large format and full-page illustrations make it appear to be for a younger audience, the dramatic pastel illustrations add drama and visual authenticity. A two-page world map follows the title page, and smaller maps are interspersed throughout the book with lines tracing Daniel's travels.

*The True Adventure of Daniel Hall* may supplement units on geography, whaling and pre-Civil War history units, bringing a young adult's perspective and authenticity.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Cathy Bittner  
Librarian, Cascade Christian School  
Tacoma, Washington

**932. Harris, Geraldine. *Ancient Egypt*. ISBN 0816019711**

**---938. Powell, Anton. *Ancient Greece*. ISBN 081601972X.**

**(Cultural Atlas for Young People.) Facts on File, 1989-1990. Hardbound, \$17.95. Gr. 4 - Adult.**

### Ancient Egypt

This volume on ancient Egypt is the perfect text book supplement for young scholars. Divided into two sections, it begins with the history of the pharaohs. This section covers the chronological panorama of Egypt from 2920 BC when Upper and Lower Egypt first united, to the coming of the Romans, a time period of about 3000 years. It opens with a table of dates that shows a brief synopsis of the land from 4500 BC and the predynastic period, through 300 BC and the final Graeco-Roman period. This first half of the book discusses such topics as the two kingdoms, the rise of the pharaohs, the gods and religion of the land, their writing, customs, architecture, and everyday life. It covers the old kingdom, the middle kingdom, the new kingdom, as well as Egypt divided and Egypt under the Greeks and the Romans.

The second half of the book is a journey down the Nile, a geographical tour through Egypt from Lower Nubia where Egypt borders Sudan, through Nubia, Southern Upper Egypt, Thebes, Northern Upper Egypt, Middle Egypt, Memphis, and Lower Egypt where the delta of the Nile comes into the Mediterranean Sea. This section of the book offers more detailed maps of each region, as well as information concerning the sites, cities, and temples of each area as you travel down the Nile River.

Each page in this thin volume is rich in photographs, maps, and illustrations of Egypt, its people, and its treasures. It is well written and organized, concise and easy to understand. It includes date charts, glossary, gazetteer, and an index.

### Ancient Greece

More than just an atlas, this book paints a delightfully rich and colorful picture of the culture, times, and people of ancient Greece. The Greeks contributed so much to our western civilization, and this book very briefly, yet very concisely, captures in a nutshell much of the richness and wonder of that significant culture.

The first half of the book is a history of ancient Greece, covering the periods from the late Bronze Age around 1600 BC to the Roman conquest. This part of the volume talks about how Greece gradually developed into an important world power, and how, even in conquest, it had a profound influence on the nation that was the victor, as well as many western cultures even today. This resource goes back to the ancient Minoans and Mycenaens when the foundation of what would become Greece was just beginning to emerge, and travels through the Dark Age of Homer, into Greece's period of colonization, the rise of Macedon, and the campaigns of Alexander the Great.

Greece seems to be a country of great paradox. This ancient civilization that gave birth to democracy, as well as contributed great treasures of art, architecture, and literature, is a land peppered with wars and conflict, from the siege of Troy, through the Spartans, famous for their hard, disciplined soldiers, the Persian wars, the Peloponnesian wars, the siege of Plataia, and finally the conquests of Alexander the Great that brought Greece to its pinnacle over 300 years before the birth of Christ.

The second half of the book covers Greece's rich culture and society. It begins with a travelogue through the different sections of the country, and then focuses in on more specific aspects of the culture: early Crete and the wealth of Knossos and Santorini, the mainland palaces of Mycenae and Pylos, Delphi and the Oracle of Apollo, Olympia, the birthplace of the athletic games we still hold today, and Athens with all its splendor. The art, architecture, entertainment, religion, and everyday life of the people are all briefly, but carefully, included.

This volume is beautifully illustrated with photographs, maps and drawings that in picture alone make a wonderfully entertaining, as well as educational, tool. It will make a great supplementary resource reference for young student. The atlas closes with a helpful glossary, further reading ideas, gazetteer, and index.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Gayle Chessman Haberman*  
Teacher  
West Hills Christian School  
Portland, Oregon

**973.7. Damon, Duane. *When This Cruel War Is Over : The Civil War Home Front.* ISBN 0822517310. Lerner Publications, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.21. Gr. 4 - 8.**

The impact of the American Civil War has been referred to in many history books. But the utter devastation to our country, our economy, and most of all, to our countrymen is still appalling.

The statistics shock: more than 10,000 battles! 420,000 men from both sides returned home crippled or wounded! 620,000 others never came back at all! "All those young men, taken from us," lamented Walt Whitman.

Author Duane Damon has covered many aspects of the war: the economics, the events leading up to the first battle, the soldiers, the slaves and how it affected their lives, the annihilation of property in the South, the women's support groups of nurses, knitters, or launderers.

Astonishing photographs, paintings, and cartoon lampoons are an excellent accessory to the text. Included is a comprehensive index.

This book makes learning about a crucial part of our American heritage effortless and fascinating. No matter how much we have read about this terrible war, here it is outlined in a concise, educational, yet interesting way. This book would be excellent for classroom use and discussion. The book size and length of text is appealing and would encourage students to read.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Barbara Goy Taenzler*  
Freelance Writer  
Glenwood, Iowa

**974.5. Fradin, Dennis Brindell. *Rhode Island.* ISBN 0516038397.**

---978.1. *Kansas.* ISBN 0516038168.

**Illustrated by Judith Bloom Fradin. (From *Sea to Shining Sea.*) Children's Press, 1995. Hardbound, \$24.00. Gr. 1 - 6.**

The series "From Sea to Shining Sea" presents excellent overviews of each of the fifty states. Each book in the series is devoted to one state

and provides information on topography, wildlife, climate, state history, jobs, tours to the state's largest cities, famous state citizens, trivia and statistics, a historical timeline, and a map. These are the kind of books you want in your reference library. The presentations contain colorful photographs, interesting text, and give a variety of information that entices you to read more. There are many ways this series could be used to do research on states, or if one needed a text for studying the history of a particular state, multiple copies of that book in the series would meet that need nicely. The "From Sea to Shining Sea" series of fifty books would be useful across many grade levels, but would be most useful in grades three through six.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Salty Kuhns*  
Second Grade Teacher  
Bremerton, Washington

**★ 975. McKissack, Patricia C. and Fredrick. *Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters.* Illustrated by John Thompson. ISBN 0590430270. Scholastic, 1994. Hardbound, \$15.95. Gr. 3 - Adult.**

It's December in Virginia, and the year is 1859. From the Big House to the Quarters, the whole plantation is stirring with the excitement of the coming Christmas season. Thus is the stage set for Patricia and Fredrick McKissack's story, *Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters.* The chapters proceed chronologically from the preparations in November to the beginning of the New Year on January 1st, with contrasting descriptions of what is happening with the owners and with the slaves.

It is a joyful time for both groups, but for different reasons. The Big House is filled with people and gifts and parties and talk. Old traditions are carried on even as new ones are created, and the good life is celebrated with all its finery. In the Quarters, the pleasures are simpler: enough food and time to enjoy it, annual visits from far-away family, and dancing late into the night. The contrast of the two cultures is felt most strongly amongst the slaves, whose week of celebration is overshadowed by the knowledge that it is so temporary. Yet there is change and uncertainty in the air for everyone.

Mingled with the Big House frivolity is talk of secession and slave revolts, while in the Quarters there is an unspoken hope that freedom is just around the corner.

Patricia and Fredrick McKissack have written a story based on extensive research of what life was actually like that Christmas of 1859. Gathering information about several Southern plantations, they have re-created people and events that might actually have existed. The

prose is fluid and descriptive, with boxes inserted into the text containing recipes, poems, and games. The dialog is authentic, but easily understood.

*Judy Belcher*  
*Sylvan Way Christian School*  
*Bremerton, Washington*

John Thompson illustrates the story in colorful acrylic paintings that beautifully capture the intensified emotions of the Christmas season. His effective use of light and darkness accentuates the contrasts found in the story itself. The realism of the faces adds to the feeling that the people in the story are real, not fictional.

Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, *Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters* is masterfully written historical fiction. It is bright and cheerful at the same time that it is realistic, a portrait of life that was about to change forever.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Catherine W. Ockey*  
*Freelance Writer*  
*Camano Island, Washington*

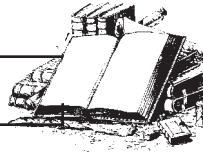
**984. Hermes, Jules. *The Children of Bolivia. (The World's Children.)* ISBN 0876149352. Carolrhoda Books, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.96. Gr. 3 - 6.**

The diverse lifestyles and rich cultural heritage of the people of Bolivia are presented through the eyes of children of different ages in *The Children of Bolivia*. The book reads like a textbook, as it jumps right into details of the geography and tribal groupings. The author, Jules Hermes, then teaches about Bolivia and gives examples from many different areas, city and country, and many different peoples. The large, wonderful photographs clarify the text and punctuate the colors of the culture. Some sort of graphics, charts or maps, would have made the storyline easier to follow. The reader could easily be frustrated and have difficulty following the jumps around the country to the various children's homes and lives. A simpler vocabulary and message might have served the child-like theme a little better.

The author states that the people chew the leaves of the coca plant just like we drink coffee, and then goes into a discussion of how when it is refined it becomes cocaine and is served to rest of the world illegally because of the immense profit. The role of the Catholic Church and the marriage of its beliefs to the historic Indian superstitions is explained clearly and honestly, with several examples given. The people of Bolivia honor the feast days of their saints with much celebration and dancing. The beauty and culture are described well. A pronunciation guide and index help to make this a book that a student could easily use for research.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 4





**F. Albrecht, Peggy. *The House Beyond Congo Cross*. (Debby Newton Series; 3.) ISBN 0875086519. Christian Literature Crusade, 1982. Paper, \$3.95. Gr. 6 - 9.**

Debby, a fourteen-year-old, and her parents are back in Africa, but not in the village of Nydihun that Debby loves so well. They have moved into a scary home within a compound. Debby's description is "a walled prison designed by the Devil himself."

In Congo Cross, whites must be within a compound for safety. Even then the Newtons are not safe from the natives who break in and terrorize Debby while her mother lies sick with malaria and her father is in the up-country with his bookmobile.

Some of the events in this story might be too frightening for younger readers.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Helen Hunter*  
Author/Freelance Writer  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**F. Albrecht, Peggy. *The Ainesworth Prowler*. ISBN 0875086586. (Debby Newton Series; 4.) Christian Literature Crusade, 1984. Paper, \$3.95. Gr. 6 - 9.**

When fifteen-year-old Debby Newton and her family move back to the U.S. from the African mission field, she soon learns that not all outsiders are welcome in Ainesworth. The young people accept Debby easily enough, since her Aunt Darnella is well known in the community and controls much of what goes on in Ainesworth. But Sue San and her family of Chinese descent are shunned by the community, largely due to the influence of domineering Aunt Darnella, whose goal is to preserve the true "American" heritage of her family and the community. When Debby becomes good friends with Sue San, Debby finds that she too is shunned by her "friends," neighbors, and even her cousin Gil.

To make matters worse, numerous pranks have been pulled in the community by a mysterious night-time prowler. The blame is cast upon Sue's gentle, but autistic brother Thomas, who likes to wander the Indian burial grounds and watch the stars at night. All the pranks are marked by his "signature"--strips of yellow crepe paper that Thomas is fond of playing with. One evening after visiting the Sans, Debby is attacked on her

way home. She is rescued by Gil, who quickly blames the incident on Thomas. Knowing full well that Thomas did not have the size and strength to deliver the blow she received, Debby suspects that Gil is the culprit. And later, when a brief but insightful conversation with the introverted Thomas gives Debby a little glimpse of the wonders that await us in heaven, she becomes determined to prove that Thomas is not the prowler.

Matters come to a head when Aunt Darnella calls a town meeting to stir up the community and put pressure on the Sans to leave Ainesworth. That same night, the Sans come to Debby's family and frantically tell them that Thomas is missing. As Debby helps search for Thomas, she and a friend catch the prowler, who is a good friend of Gil's. He is brought before the town meeting to confess his wrong-doings, and it is discovered that he, along with Gil, was acting under the orders of Aunt Darnella. Gil confesses to having locked Thomas up in Aunt Darnella's old carriage house. The story has a bittersweet ending when Thomas is found in convulsions, having been bitten several times by a black widow spider.

When Thomas dies, Debby and the Sans are joyful that he is released from his autistic prison and is at home with the Lord he loves, but Debby is angry with Aunt Darnella and the grief she has caused. But the Lord reminds Debby that Aunt Darnella is in need of his love--love that Debby must demonstrate. When Debby whispers "I love you" to her aunt in church, the Lord softens Darnella's heart, and she vows to make things right with the Sans.

*The Ainesworth Prowler* is book four in the "Debby Newton" series, and can stand on its own. Readers unfamiliar with the cause and form of autism may find Thomas' character puzzling. And although the characters are unique, sketchy character development results in lack of significance and emotional weight surrounding Thomas' death and Aunt Darnella's conversion. The book clearly emphasizes the importance of overcoming prejudices and learning to love those who are difficult to love. It also teaches the importance of standing strong in the face of opposition, regardless of what the majority says or does.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Sherri Beeler*  
Teacher, Cascade Christian High School  
Medford, Oregon

**F. Baer, Judy. *Silent Thief*. (Cedar River Daydreams; 23.) ISBN 1556615884. Bethany House Publishers, c1995. Paper, \$4.99. Gr. 6 - 12.**

Lexi Leighton watches her mother from afar as she finishes the final painting for her first exhibit. As she leans on the doorway, Lexi notices her mother swaying slightly, then take her paint brushes and strike out wildly at the canvas. What is going on? Lexi wonders with anxiety. As she calls out to her mother, Mrs. Leighton turns and is strangely wearing sun glasses...indoors.

The mystery of Lexi's mom's illness soon reveals itself to be multiple sclerosis. As the family receives the devastating news, everyone takes their own unique way in dealing with the disease. Lexi observes her mother battling depression and anger. Her dad attempts to hold the family together, and Lexi's younger brother, Ben, a Downs syndrome child, has his own set of fears and frustrations.

Teenager Lexi finds herself struggling to hold her own emotions in check as she watches MS take over her mother's personality at sporadic times. Not until the Leightons reach a point of turning their trials over to the Lord, do they begin to heal and then deal with the life changes facing them all. Lexi gets a new friend, someone in the know about MS. Mrs. Leighton discovers life can go on and receives support from other MS sufferers. Together, we enter into this family's struggles, mourn as they must, and eventually applaud them as they courageously begin to put the pieces of their lives back together.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Michele Howe*  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan



**F. Bryson, Jamie S. *The War Canoe*. ISBN 0882403680. Alaska Northwest Books, 1990. Paper, \$9.95. Gr. 5 - 9.**

Mickey Church is not what you might call a model student, or a reliable citizen. He feels torn between the heroic idealism of the past and the yearning for acceptance by his peers. History seems so boring from inside the schoolroom and when the aging Tlingit Indians of his Alaskan village befriend him and relate folklore and history, he just isn't interested. But when Dr. Bernet fills in the gaps and spins exciting tales of daring and intrigue mixed with the details of "Natives and ships and furs and the tough Russians, who came to barter, or to fight if they had to," Mickey sees it all in his mind's eye. He yearns to keep those stories from being lost, but it all seems so long ago and so far removed from his life in the village. His good friend Blackie listens carefully as Mickey dreams aloud about the ancient war canoes. And then they decide that their secret dream will become a reality. The war canoe is reborn.

Together they hide the huge log from the townfolk. Mickey explores the history of the Alaskan Tlingit natives and Blackie fills in the details with personal memories and stories that have been passed down to him. When Mickey stumbles across a ruined Native burial ground, he is more determined than ever to bring back the truth about the history of his people.

*The War Canoe* is a fictional account interwoven with Native folklore and reliable historical facts. It reads as though an aging Tlingit grandfather were in an old rocking chair in the room with the reader, telling the stories--sometimes disjointed, sometimes filled with memories and unrelated incidents. However, the reader is held spellbound, wondering if the war canoe actually ever gets into the water for the Fourth of July celebration.

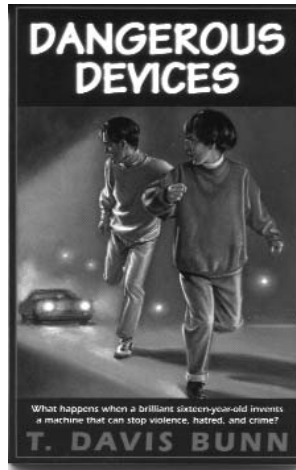
The transformation of Mickey from a confused, surly teenager to a proud, Tlingit historian, progresses as the log changes from a newly fallen tree to the sleek, strong, canoe. There are pitfalls

and errors, but both become the strong symbols they were meant to be.

The story is often difficult to follow and seems a bit disjointed. There is some violence and a lot of Native beliefs and superstitions. However, the story is valuable reading for anyone interested in the history of native peoples and Alaska. Readers will be led to understanding of the beliefs of native peoples and the often negative influence of the invading white man.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 3

Sharon Ann Rau  
Librarian  
Valley Christian Schools  
Abbotsford, British Columbia



**F. Bunn, T. Davis. *Dangerous Devices*. ISBN 0781402328. Chariot Family Publishing, 1993. Paper, \$9.99. Gr. 9 - 12.**

Tom is Clarice's best friend. There is something about Clarice that intrigues him. She is the only daughter of parents that are immersed in their work. Clarice gets what ever she wants and plays both of her parents against each other. Seeking to be accepted and loved, Clarice does all kinds of things that her fertile mind can conjure up to get attention. Tom tries to be the steadying force in Clarice's life, but often gets swept up in the middle of her experiments. Such is the case when Clarice invents a machine that she can use to control people. Only until she is willing to surrender her life to Christ can Clarice accept herself.

*Dangerous Devices* is a captivating story that builds suspense from the first chapter on. Written in the third person, T. Davis Bunn skillfully draws you into the story with a chain of events that has you guessing what will happen next. The picture on the cover is an attention getter that will attract teens. Teens will be able to identify with Clarice's struggle for self worth. Unobtrusively, T. Davis Bunn weaves into *Dangerous Devices* Christian values and how to get saved.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Dorcas Walker  
Freelance Writer  
Jamestown, Tennessee

**F. Card, Orson Scott. *Pastwatch: The Redemption of Christopher Columbus*. Tor, 1996. Hardbound, \$23.95. Gr. 7 - 12.**

In the distant future, humans discover the ability to look back in time. Thus, Pastwatch is formed, an organization dedicated to preserving the history and stories of people and places long extinct. One person whose life begins to obsess the Yuba branch of Pastwatch is Christopher Columbus. Tagiri and her family become convinced that Columbus' discovery of America, the consequent destruction of its indigenous peoples, and the dominance of European civilization that America's wealth brought its discoverers were the reason for the wars, famines, and disasters that would soon bring their world to an end.

It is Diko, Tagiri's daughter, who discovers that it is possible to not only see but alter the past, and she becomes determined to do so. The Pastwatch team proposes to so unite and strengthen the natives that the relationship between the New and Old World will be mutually beneficial. While not themselves Christian, they will plant the seeds of that faith in America as part of their plan to have Columbus treat the Americans as human beings with rights, not beasts of burden.

Diko and two others will enter the past. At that moment, the future will, of course, change. Her family, friends, and culture will all disappear. They are willing to make that sacrifice, because otherwise all humanity will disappear from starvation and disease. Her success depends on her ability to teach the natives of Haiti to end their tribal quarrels. Her friend Hunahpu must do the same for the South American natives, plus end the practice of human sacrifice. The ultimate key to success, however, is the character of Christopher Columbus. Is he a great man tainted by the prejudices of his time, or an insensitive bigot incapable of growing intellectually or spiritually?

Card answers that question in a series of alternating chapters tracing Columbus' long effort to persuade the Spanish monarchy to fund his voyage and the equally long effort of the Pastwatch team to decide whether and how to change the past. In the process, Card teaches the reader considerable American and European history and thoroughly explores the central conundrum of time travel: If you change the past, don't you also change the future, including the time in which the decision to change the past occurs?

Card treats Columbus far more kindly than recent biographers. He honors Columbus' religious faith while deploring his willingness to enslave the very people he intends to baptize. His novel advocates religious and racial tolerance without belittling the moral depth of Christianity, while

being tolerant of faiths not Christian. Discussions of moral issues dominate his story, yet the suspense remains taut and the reader involved. This is Card's best effort since the award-winning *Ender's Game*.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Kathleen T. Choi  
Retired Teacher  
Hilo, Hawaii

**F. Christy Volume 3 : A Closer Walk; and Both Your Houses.** (Christy Family Classics Series.) SPCN 8513526215. Broadman & Holman, 1996. Videocassette, \$19.99. Family.

Nestled in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee is the very poor community of Cutter Gap, and around the turn of the century, a new and young Reverend David hopes to draw the people closer to each other and closer to God. But years of blood feuding between families and relying on moonshine to provide them with a living makes his task difficult indeed. David's run-in with one of the fathers and his efforts to try and rectify the hard feelings that have developed between them is met with resistance at gunpoint. David becomes further discouraged when he seems unable to comfort Aunt Polly, an old woman on the verge of death who seeks reassurance. Feeling like a coward and a fool, David makes known his desire to step down from the pulpit. Not until the school children show him their hard efforts to try and make enough money from a school project to buy him a new family Bible to replace the one lost in a fire does David realize that success and failure do not depend on him but upon his faith and trust in God.

During the second episode, Opal, one of the neighboring mothers becomes despondent when she overhears Miss Christy, the young schoolmarm of Cutter Gap, telling a student that Opal has killed her own baby by treating its colic with an old superstition. Then Opal's husband is wounded and everyone suspects Birdseye Taylor who is part of a rival clan. Opal tries to convince Birdseye, who is seeking revenge, that anyone can tear down but it takes a man to build up and fix a situation.

Birdseye is brought before a hanging jury and everyone is surprised when Opal arrives on the scene having come out of her deep depression. She testifies on Birdseye's behalf that she saw someone escape after her husband was wounded and she knows that it was not Birdseye. Opal's desire is to help teach the children how to grow up and not hate.

This is another wholesome video from the Christy family classic series. Spiritual values are developed and shown to be the best way for people of all types to live together in a community. There is some mild violence and the doctrine of what happens to a person's spirit at the time of death is discussed giving the

impression that it leaves the body to join loved ones in heaven.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Debbie Lindsay  
Homeschool Parent  
Eatonville, Washington

**★ F. Creech, Sharon. Walk Two Moons.** ISBN 0060233346. HarperCollins Publishers, 1994. Hardbound, \$16.00. Gr. 6 - 12.

*Walk Two Moons* tells the story of Salamanca Tree Hiddle as she struggles into adolescence. Related from Sal's point of view, the book is divided into three distinct story lines that all converge at the end of the novel. In one line, Sal travels to Idaho with her grandparents in search of her mother. On the way, she tells her grandparents the mystery of Phoebe and the lunatic, the second story line. The third reveals how her parents' marriage breaks up, moving Sal and her father to Ohio from the family farm in Kentucky.

*Walk Two Moons* is an achingly good book, excellently written by Sharon Creech. Through Sal's eyes, the reader encounters first love, death, loss, change, and finally acceptance. Sal is a deep, complex, and satisfying character, full of common sense, independence, and questions. The supporting cast of characters is equally satisfying, ringing true at every turn. Lovers of *Harriet the Spy* will enjoy this Newbery Award-winning book.

There is a very brief brush with fortune-telling in one of the middle chapters. But it is a slight reference used to make a plot point and does not detract from the overall beauty and excellence of *Walk Two Moons*.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Georgia Beaverson  
Freelance Writer  
Madison, Wisconsin

**F. Dick, Lois Hoadley. False Coin, True Coin.** ISBN 0890846642. Bob Jones University Press, c1993. Paper, \$3.97. Gr. 9 - Adult.

Under the reign of Charles I, seventeenth century Christians are forbidden to worship unless they participate in the rituals of the state-regulated church services. When Dissenter John Bunyan is thrown into prison, Cissy, the jailkeeper's daughter, is intrigued by this man who speaks so confidently and openly of a personal relationship with God at the risk of imprisonment.

Forced to help her father and brothers in their unlawful practice of creating and circulating false coins, Cissy becomes more and more uncomfortable with her duplicity. She yearns to hear and follow the call of the Lord, and to live a righteous life, but how can she endure the wrath

of her father, and give up her love for the infamous highwayman, Gil Turpin? Cissy purchases a Bible and begins reading it, secretly. She is overcome with guilt from her sins, and fears for the eternal wellbeing of her soul, but her fear of facing persecution like John Bunyan did is even greater.

When Cissy learns that her sweetheart is captured, she falls into complete despair. Out of desperation, she attends a Dissenter's worship meeting to get her mind off her troubles. Just as Bunyan so often told her, the preacher assures Cissy that the Lord will put her sins "behind his back" and will help her deal with her fears. With great joy, Cissy commits her life to the Lord, and decides that her new life as a Christian demands that she flee her home, her involvement in distributing counterfeit coins, and her relationship with Gil.

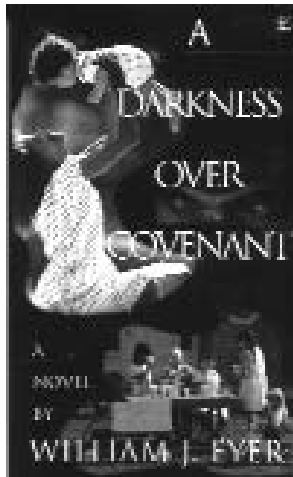
Cissy stays with her Aunt Peg in London, and helps her run the Black Pot diner. But Cissy still has questions about her new-found faith. Does God remember her sins and hold them against her? And what about her strong love for Gil, who is not a Christian? Cissy finds the answers to her questions as she continues to attend Dissenter's meetings and to search the Scriptures. Cissy's faith is tested when she endures great loss in two catastrophes--the plague, and the Great Fire of London. And as if that isn't enough, thanks to an old enemy, Cissy is imprisoned and sentenced to be whipped for her previous involvement in counterfeiting. Cissy endures these trials with the strength of God and the encouragement of John Bunyan. Ultimately, Cissy's prayers are answered, and she is reunited with Gil, who has also become a Christian.

*False Coin, True Coin*, by Lois Hoadley Dick, vividly portrays the life and times of seventeenth century England through colorful descriptions of the lively activity in London's streets, the harshness of the plague conditions, the opulence of the wealthy, and the extreme poverty of the common populace. Although the story is somewhat contrived at times, scriptural truths permeate this book, emphasizing the faithfulness and forgiveness of God, the importance of righting wrongs, and the need to take a stand for the Lord in the face of persecution. Readers will identify with the doubts and spiritual growth of Cissy, and will appreciate this story about John Bunyan, a hero of the faith.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sherri Beeler  
Teacher, Cascade Christian High School  
Medford, Oregon





**F. Eyer, William J.** *A Darkness over Covenant*. ISBN 0882707221. Bridge Publishing, 1995. Paper, \$9.95. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Having managed, through much prayer and peaceful demonstrating, to block the opening of an abortion clinic, the citizens of Covenant are encouraged and emboldened in their faith. Their town boasts a display of the Ten Commandments in its downtown square, and prayer is still allowed in the public schools. However, evil now threatens to overtake the town because it's citizens took a stand for God.

The witches' coven and Satanic Temple become the center of activity as plans are made for the total destruction of all the Christians in Covenant. The one glitch in Satan's plan is that the saints are not content to be idle. They are ready and willing to be active, especially in prayer and intercession as they seek help from the Lord.

In the same vein as Frank Peretti's *This Present Darkness*, the reader is treated to a glimpse into the spiritual realm of angels and demons as prayers and intercession become the wielded sword of Truth that strikes down the enemy's scheme.

*A Darkness over Covenant* could represent any place where Christians choose to stand for righteousness. Victory is assured, though hard coming, and the reader is made to realize that, "Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world." For those who enjoy "the battle," this novel reveals the great power of prayer and its necessity in our lives. William Eyer uses his novel as a tool to reach the unsaved, as well as expose some of the snares of the enemy. It's a bit preachy in places, yet the message of the gospel is presented accurately and fully for the searching heart.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Mary McKinley  
Freelance Writer  
Port Orchard, Washington

**F. Halford, Celia Childress.** *The Treasure of Pawley's Island : Pawley's in the Spring, 1893*. ISBN 0878440682. Sandlapper Publishing, 1987. Paper, \$7.95. Gr. 5 - 8 (also for reluctant older readers.)

Pawley's Island in the late 1800's is a favorite retreat for plantation owners in the low country of South Carolina. Come April each year, whole households--complete with servants and livestock--pack up and head for their beach houses on the small, coastal sea island. They stay six months.

Bessie Duvall is twelve going on thirteen in the spring of 1893 when she and her family push off from their rice plantation dock for Pawley's. Seated on deck with her mother, who is expecting a new baby in July, her cousin Jane Anne, and Aunt Alberta, Bessie's young heart beats with happiness. Despite the fact that Jane Anne, her compatriot last year on Pawley's, has outgrown her younger cousin during a year away at boarding school, Bessie is prepared to make her own fun and to "find her own mysteries" exploring the woods and the marshes on Pawley's.

This she does with the help of Louie, fifteen, who lives with his uncle in a neighboring house. The two meet when Bessie is out fishing with her grandpa and his friend and manservant Uncle Zeke. Her braids tucked up under a hat and outfitted in pants and an old jacket, she is mistaken for a boy by Louie. As the story progresses, the reader has fun waiting for Louie to discover the truth. Their adventure begins as they hunt for a treasure Louie believes is buried on the island. But dangers lurk in the woods and Louie nearly loses his life.

*The Treasure of Pawley's Island* is more than an adventure. It is about growing up, from tomboy to teenager; about friendship and courage, stubbornness and forgiveness, trust in God, and kindness in unexpected places.

Author Celia Childress Halford, a native of Columbia, South Carolina, illustrates her story with often amateurish looking drawings, but she paints her real pictures with words. For example, the Duvall's large old cottage "sat plumped behind the dunes like a fat gray bird in a full skirt of well-worn feathers"...and its "dormer windows crouched on the roof above the southern piazza."

Although the reader's sensibilities will struggle with Mrs. Halford's heavy use of the Negro dialect of the day, she creates a memorable story, rich in insight and well researched detail, of post-Reconstruction South in the lovely coastal region of South Carolina.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Nancy B.  
Freelance  
Sun City,



**F. Hanes, Mari Dunagan.** *Pocahontas : True Princess*. ISBN 0880708565. Multnomah Books, 1995. Paper, \$5.99. Gr. 5 - 9.

She is the apple of her father's eye. The mighty Chief Powhatan protects and cares for his precious princess daughter, Pocahontas. But she has her father's character, his leadership skills, and pioneer spirit. When her brothers are sent on a secret mission, she contrives a plan to secretly accompany them. However, the secret is soon uncovered and she is returned to her father.

Fear and respect for Powhatan the mighty king came flooding into her heart. ... He spoke slowly, "I have loved you for your beauty. I have loved you for your courage and your spirit. But your spirit must never again cross mine. ... You must remember who you are, you are Princess Pocahontas. One day you'll be a Spirit Woman, and you will rule over your own village."

For the rest of her life, Pocahontas will remember the words of her father.

Change is coming to the land of the Chesapeake, the land the English called Virginia. People from far across the sea were facing persecution for their beliefs and began arriving on the shores near the Algonquin homeland. Their coming would bring eternal changes to the tribes living on the shores of the new-found Americas. For Pocahontas, the changes began with the stories she overheard in the village. Then one day as she played in the field, she was startled to see a strange white-skinned man observing her as she turned cartwheels in the grass. The yellow-haired John Smith stepped forward and offered a sign of friendship.

Later, stories of the sickness which killed many of the newcomers spread through the village. Everyone was curious about these men whose clothes, habits, and villages were all so different from the Algonquin's. Trading began and before long, Chief Powhatan tried to make a deal to get some of the powerful thunder-sticks that the white men used to kill animals for meat and to guard themselves from their enemies. Trouble

erupted and before long, John Smith reappears in Pocahontas' life, but as a prisoner because three Indians had been killed. Pocahontas watches as a trial is held with all the warriors present. In horror, she listens as the death penalty is pronounced and the warriors push forward to carry out justice. As the Spirit Man whirls and the drums thunder, Pocahontas rushes forward. The warriors push John Smith's head to the rock and raise their clubs, but Pocahontas lays her head on his and brings instant, astonished silence to the madness. Without realizing what she had done, she had invoked the privilege of a princess to claim deliverance for someone sentenced to die. Her father could not understand why she would use this privilege for someone she did not know, but he honors her wish and John Smith does not die.

Later, in a strange twist, Pocahontas is taken prisoner to convince her people to make the desired dealings with the white men and here she learns about the Creator God and his Son Jesus, who came to earth to take the death sentence for mankind. Her relationship with her family and the traditional way of life change forever as she learns more and more about this new way of life.

Mari Hanes has carefully studied the traditions and lives of the Algonquin peoples to give an accurate account of the lifestyle of Pocahontas' people in the 1600's. She has used letters and journals to fill in details though this is a fictional rendering of the story. It is a fast-moving story filled with details and history and the passion of a woman who has had a great influence on our history. Children now inundated with the Walt Disney version of the story of Pocahontas will appreciate an accurate historical version. It is tastefully written and the fast-paced action will hold the attention of any reader to the end.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sharon Ann Rau  
Librarian  
Valley Christian Schools  
Abbotsford, British Columbia

**F. Hill, Grace Livingston. *Brentwood*. ISBN 0842303642. Tyndale House Publishers, 1991 c1937. Paper, \$5.99. Gr. 9 - Adult.**

Marjorie Wetherill ventures forth to search for her real parents that she has suddenly discovered exist. She is shocked and yet drawn into the family's plight of near starvation. Marjorie gladly claims her new-found family and tries to help. Pride and distrust immediately becomes an obstacle that Marjorie must overcome. She shows her sincerity in sharing her wealth with her needy family. Even, from her former life, isn't pleased with Marjorie's decision and tries to persuade her against spending her money on her family. When Marjorie insists, he steps into the picture to hinder her efforts. Through it all, Marjorie learns how to become a Christian and live a Christian life. She is drawn to her brother's

pastor, Gideon, who helps to answer the many questions Marjorie has. Marjorie has to make a final decision of which life she will choose.

In this book, Grace Livingston Hill weaves into the story the very different lifestyles of twins that were separated at birth. She skillfully shows how each must learn to forgive the things of the past in order to fully live.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Dorcas Walker  
Freelance Writer  
Jamestown, Tennessee

**F. Hill, Grace Livingston. *White Orchids*. (Grace Livingston Hill; 28). ISBN 0842381503. Tyndale House Publishers, 1989 c1935. Paper, \$4.99. Gr. 9 - Adult.**

Camilla Crystie's life is falling apart. She has an accident on her way to get her mother's life-saving medicine. Jeffrey enters the picture and is drawn to Camilla and her mother's poverty lifestyle. He begins to realize how other people struggle to live, while he has always taken his wealthy lifestyle for granted. Amid the attraction that Camilla and Jeffrey feel for each other come other forces to pull and separate their friendship from the very beginning. Jeffrey is fascinated by Camille and she in turn tries to witness to Jeffrey. Their paths separate suddenly. During this time the gospel is shared with Jeffrey and he dedicates his life to God. He goes back to find Camilla, only to find every trace of her missing.

Once again Grace Livingston Hill skillfully tells a heart warming love story with a happy ending that is so characteristic of her books. It is also a delightful insight into the way of life in the early 1900's. Grace Livingston Hill portrays accurate insight into each of her characters.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Dorcas Walker  
Freelance Writer  
Jamestown, Tennessee

**F. Johnson, Grace. *The Rebel*. ISBN 0842353011. Tyndale House Publishers, 1996. Paper, \$10.99. Gr. 9 - Adult.**

Crucifixion was the cruelest of Rome's methods of execution, yet twelve-year-old Joshua is forced to watch this horror while his father fills him with hatred for the Romans and their domination over the Jews. "Watch, Joshua, watch. And begin to hate!"

As Joshua enters young manhood, he finds himself torn between the heritage of fanaticism his father dedicated him to, and the deep love he feels for beautiful, tender-hearted Martha. With great turmoil and inner struggle, Joshua finally yields to the call to become The Rebel. He joins the band of zealots and thieves in the hills, and his first act is to change his name to Barabbas--son of a father. He determines to put his other

life behind him, for all the old ways must die to give way to the new. Slowly he becomes the dreaded leader of the insurrectionists, lying, robbing, and killing as he and his band plot to rescue Jerusalem from Roman rule.

All seems to be going well until unsettling rumors of a great Prophet arise and Barabbas sees some of his best men defect to become this Jesus' followers. After Joshua is betrayed and thrown in prison, he is amazed to find that this very same Jesus is chosen in his place for crucifixion. The compassion yet sadness Barabbas sees in Jesus' eyes that day seems to haunt him. He finally turns this uncomfortable memory into hate and ridicule for all who follow the Prophet's teachings.

Yet the tormenting reality remains that Martha, the one person Barabbas truly loves, is also a follower of Jesus, even though he is dead! Can the Spirit's call on Barabbas' life release him from years of rage and rebellion that are so familiar to his heart?

With great skill and an intriguing, unpredictable story line, Grace Johnson takes you on an historically accurate journey through Jesus' ministry, resurrection, the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., and all the way to John's exile and release on the Island of Patmos. *The Rebel*, a compelling story of hope, reveals the heart's deepest secrets and struggles and shares the key to true happiness and peace.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Mary McKinney  
Freelance Writer  
Port Orchard, Washington

**F. Johnson, Lissa Halls. *Comedy of Errors*. (The China Tate Series; 5.) Focus on the Family Publishers, 1995. Paperback, \$5.99. Gr. 6 - 9.**

China Tate and her best friend Deedee let their imaginations get away from them. What starts out as a game to take some of the drudgery out of working at the main kitchen at Camp Crazy Bear, soon turns into a not so funny, *Comedy of Errors*.

Author Lissa Halls Johnson has come up with another zany story peopled with teenage girls and "testosterone-driven" guys. The girls ignore the rules and break into the camp's files. Breaking rules doesn't bother the girls, since they are never called to account for their actions. They snoop, spy, and eavesdrop because they believe someone is plotting a murder. Despite the seriousness of the suspected crime, they never take time to clearly explain to an adult what they believe is going to happen.

The whole plot of *Comedy of Errors* hinges on mistaking the word "riders" for "writers" over and over again. Other half-heard conversations are misinterpreted to add several muddled subplots. You will need to be acquainted with the

previous books in the series to really understand who's who.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Myrtlemay Pittman Crane  
*Freelance Writer, Editor, Speaker*  
*Alderwood Manor, Washington*



F. Kelly, Clint. *The Landing Place*. ISBN 0840734638.

---*The Lost Kingdom*. ISBN 0840778228.

---*The Aryan*. ISBN 0785279601.

(Reg Danson Adventure Series.) Thomas Nelson, 1993-1995. Paper, \$10.99-11.99. Gr. 10 - Adult.

The final resting place of Noah's Ark; the existence of dinosaurs; the true nature of the Holy Lance of Longinus, reputed to be the spear which pierced Christ's side...these are among the mysteries which have fired our imaginations and inspired innumerable quests. By weaving his novels around these fascinating enigmas, Clint Kelly has virtually guaranteed himself a receptive audience. At the same time, however, he runs the risk of not living up to readers' high expectations.

As the first novel, *The Landing Place*, opens, we find ourselves driving along a windswept cliff in the company of Reg Danson, Christian cryptoanalyst and plumber of mysteries. Employed by a private foundation with deep pockets, Danson leads a life of adventure and discovery. The recent death of his beloved wife and estrangement of his teenaged son have stolen much of the joy from his latest ventures, but his new assignment promises to renew the spark, for he is to find Noah's Ark and bring it back to the United States for permanent display and preservation.

Having set the scene, Kelly manages to keep the reader guessing--and glued to the edge of his seat--right up to the last page. Unfortunately, the telling of the tale is often lost in a welter of plot twists and frenetic action.

Characterization also falls victim to the relentless plot line. Kelly is at his best when breathing life into the customs and practices of other cultures, but in general, interactions between characters seem stilted. Danson promises to be a fairly complex character, striving to differentiate between God's will and his own, but instead of struggling honestly with this difficult issue, he vacillates wildly from one extreme to the other. In the end, there is little real growth in his character.

In the *Lost Kingdom*, Kelly's second novel, Reg Danson is on his way to the Congo, to investigate rumors of a dinosaur-like beast which has been terrorizing the superstitious inhabitants of the area. Once again, the author provides a striking backdrop and a rapid-fire plot, but leaves the reader dissatisfied with characters that never quite take on a life beyond the printed page.

While the concept of evolution is not specifically discussed, it does undergird the entire novel.

The third book in the series, *The Aryan*, revolves around Kaspar, a vicious racist convinced that the sacred spear of Longinus will lend supernatural power to his cause. Danson, charged with investigating the theft of this and other religious artifacts, quickly finds himself entangled in a global web of racial hatred and violence. Although the violence in all three novels is generally integral to the plot, it can be quite disturbing at times, along with the racist language.

Kelly's work will be enjoyed by readers in search of an entertaining, action-packed adventure. Although there are passing references in the later books to Danson's earlier adventures, these books do not have to be read as a series.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Sylvia Stopforth  
*Librarian, Trinity Western University*  
*Langley, British Columbia*

F. Klein, Robin. *The Sky in Silver Lace*. ISBN 067086692X. Viking, 1995. Hardbound, \$13.99. Gr. 7 - 9.

Leaving behind all that is dear and familiar to move to another place is sometimes an unbearable task, but for the Melling sisters, the move from small-town Wilgawa to the city is especially difficult. Money is extremely tight, Dad is away indefinitely while he looks for a job, and the girls eventually learn that he is probably never coming back. The Mellings are forced to live in "borrowed" homes or temporary housing to save money until they are finally able to settle into a Housing Commission flat.

The youngest Melling, Vivienne, is always embarrassing her sisters Cathy and Heather with her romantic imagination, her backwards "country ways," and her lack of sophistication. Finding a true soulmate is a challenge for Vivienne, and it always seems that just about the

time she finds a friend in her neighborhood, the Mellings have to move to yet another part of the city. Even when Vivienne's best friend Isobel comes to visit from Wilgawa, nothing seems to work out right. Isobel acts terribly sophisticated and knowledgeable about "city ways" and mocks Vivienne for still acting like a country girl. Not until Cathy and Heather's snobbishly superior attitudes give Isobel a dose of her own medicine does she become more like the old friend Vivienne remembers.

Conflict is ever-present in the family. Each girl reacts to the difficulties in her own unique way. Grace, the oldest, who quit school to work and help support the family, simply withdraws into an artificial life of art and culture and bizarrely fashionable clothes. She remains cool and aloof and appears unruffled by all the turmoil, burying her pain in a shroud of indifference. Heather throws herself into her acting, and Cathy plays on the hockey team--the only things that give the girls prestige and an "in" at the elite girls school they were invited to attend. Not until the last few chapters when the girls and their mother move into permanent housing does a fragile peace begin to manifest itself.

The Mellings move several times during their stay in the city--from Lacey's Bay, to Woodend, and finally to Captain Fuller's house. Mrs. Melling serves as his temporary housekeeper in exchange for a place to stay in the servant quarters. When his regular housekeeper returns, the Mellings are forced to cast themselves at the mercy of their crotchety Aunt Elsie for a couple of weeks until their Housing Commission flat is ready for occupation. Aunt Elsie is extremely demanding and difficult to get along with. When she becomes upset at an accidentally broken tea cup, Mrs. Melling and the girls lash out furiously at the treatment they receive from Aunt Elsie. It is a great relief to all of them when they are finally able to move into their new home and to look forward to the coming of spring after the long winter.

*The Sky in Silver Lace*, by Robin Klein, uses wonderfully descriptive expressions such as "the wind came galloping off the lake to ambush her," or "draughts nipped at bare legs and turned them grape-coloured." However, although the first book in this series won the 1992 NSW Premier's Award for Literature, this book has little to commend. The artwork on the cover is evocative of an Anne of Green Gables-type story, but nothing could be further from the truth. The plot is thin and choppy in places, the slang or regional speech is obscure (jammy, skiting, cacky, diddled, posy, skerrick, dink, nick off), and the overall tone of the book is extremely pessimistic. One keeps waiting for the circumstances and attitudes of the Mellings to turn around and improve, but they never do. The girls whine and complain endlessly about their state of affairs, they are snobbish and conceited around each other and their friends, they argue constantly, are bitter and ungrateful, and are disrespectful to



adults--behavior that even their mother participates in and justifies in their dealings with Aunt Elsie. Swear or near-swear words are used periodically.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 3

Sherri Beeler  
Teacher, Cascade Christian High School  
Medford, Oregon

**F. Lawhead, Stephen.** *The Paradise War.* (Song of Albion; 1.) ISBN 0732405734. Lion Publishing, 1991. Paper, \$13.99. Gr. 10 - Adult.

A seemingly innocent trip to check out a newspaper story of the sighting of an aurochs, an ice-age creature that has been extinct for two thousand years, turns the world of Lewis Gillies upside down as *The Paradise War*, the first in the "Song of Albion" trilogy begins. At the insistence of Simon, his rich, spoiled college roommate, they travel to Scotland and in the time-between-times, Simon enters the Celtic Otherworld.

After days of waiting and wondering, Lewis meets the eccentric Professor Nettleton who instructs him on ancient mythology and tells him the importance of getting Simon, since the Otherworld leaking through to our world could be catastrophic. He returns with Lewis to the cairn where Simon disappeared. Lewis makes it past the excavation crew and enters the Otherworld only to find himself in the middle of battling barbarians.

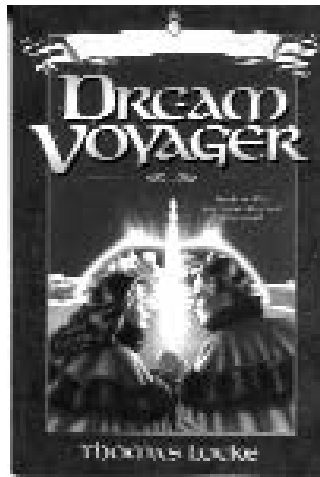
Lewis is rescued by a changed Simon who has become the warrior, Siawn, and is then sent by the king of Sycharth to an island for training as a warrior, where he learns to love the Otherworld and tries to forget his mission and the thought of returning to England.

When evil threatens to destroy the country, Lewis, now Llew, tries to force Simon to return to the modern world. Failing, he turns back to Albion.

Stephen Lawhead does a masterful job of bringing the ancient world alive in this series. The struggle of good against evil is seen in a totally alien setting. Readers should be warned that a handful of swear words are used in the first chapters of the book. The entire trilogy must be read before the strong Christian message is felt.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 3

Esther Knaupp, Librarian  
Santiam Christian School  
Corvallis, Oregon



**F. Locke, Thomas.** *Light Weaver.* ISBN 1556614322.

---*Dream Voyager.* ISBN 1556614330.

(The Spectrum Chronicles; 2.) Bethany House, c1994-95. Paper, \$5.99. Gr. 6 - 12.

Trying to make a few bucks over Christmas vacation, Dan Simmons drives the old express delivery van through the blinding snowstorm. He sees the truck careening toward him, too late. He is rushed to the hospital. Dan wakes up in another land (shades of rabbit holes and rainbows.)

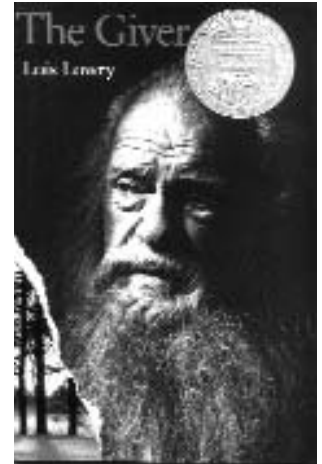
The Kingdom of Shadows has a fair-damsel in distress, and an aging master weaver who can no longer defend the country and protect the *Book of Light*. So Dan, who has been mistaken for a knight since he seems to have arrived on a magnificent white stallion, must save the damsel and come to the rescue of the master weaver. He is helped in his adventure by Napoleon, a talking bunny with an attitude. The story jumps back and forth from the fantasy world to the real one. The fantasy characters share names and faces with those Dan meets while in the hospital. When the *Book of Light* is stolen, Dan must face the unknown in The Kingdom of Shadows. He discovers the *Book* contains the light and love necessary to complete his task. Meanwhile back at the hospital, the doctors can't figure out why Dan doesn't wake up. And to add to the puzzle, a second patient is admitted with--the same symptoms. Consuela and Dan meet in the fantasy world and Dan has to figure how to help her in the real world.

Thomas Locke's second book in the series is *Dream Voyager*. Consuela is a teenager now and struggles to hide her poverty and alcoholic mother from the kids at school. She has lost the ability to enter the fantasy world, until one day she takes a ride on a roller coaster and disappears. This second story is of high-tech space travel and makes no mention of spiritual values. The books can be understood without reading them in order. But as with all series there is some mention of

what has gone before. The cover illustration by Joe Nordstrom makes them very attractive.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Myrtlema Crane  
Freelance Writer, Editor, Speaker  
Alderwood Manor, Washington



**F. Lowry, Lois.** *The Giver.* ISBN 0395645662. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. Hardbound, \$14.95. Gr. 6 - 9.

Lois Lowry weaves a powerful, but eerie tale in her science fiction Newbery Award winning novel. Set in a "perfect" environment, each person plays a specific role and communicates succinctly. Some organize recreation while others take charge of caring for the aged. The value of life in this society of sameness is based on performance and obedience. Unacceptable babies and adults are "released" from the community. The Elders choose husbands and wives who may apply for a baby after three years of marriage. Perfect homes consist of a mom, dad, and two children.

Jonas, soon to be twelve, embarks on a life changing journey. He is given his life assignment, and it is the highest honor in their emotionless, strictly monitored community, that of Receiver. Assignments are based on performance and volunteering, one life component which begins at eight years of age.

Because of his assignment, Jonas is given more rules to follow. His training begins daily after school. He may not discuss training with anyone, including his parents. He may not apply for medication and may not apply for release. However, he may lie.

Jonas is stunned from the impact of his role as Receiver of Memories. Training requires him to accept past memories transmitted by the laying on of the Giver's hands. Since some memories elicit joy and pleasure, while others bring pain and sorrow, Jonas wonders why he can't share some with others to lessen his load. The Giver seems so overloaded and weary, too. The elders,

in making the decision for sameness, felt memories to be burdensome. Only one person should have to bear the load. That is his job.

Jonas learns his father is instrumental in releasing less-than-perfect babies by injecting a lethal drug, all the while believing him to care deeply for children.

Because the Giver and Jonas have memory of warmth, family, love and honesty, it's decided Jonas should escape the community. This will force everyone to share memories and be able to "break out" from the community.

Included are descriptions of child volunteers bathing naked older adults of the opposite sex and graphic descriptions of injury and warfare. Feelings for the opposite sex are repressed by taking a pill. These "stirrings" must be reported and treatment must begin.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Carolyn Hearing  
Freelance writer  
Raytown, Missouri

**F. Massi, Jeri. *A Dangerous Game*. Illustrated by Del Thompson. (Peabody Adventure Series; 2.) ISBN 0890843473. Bob Jones University Press, 1986. Paper, \$6.49. Gr. 6 - 9.**

Scruggs Grady is a new believer in *A Dangerous Game*, the second book of the "Peabody" series. He is struggling with his prominent remaining sin, anger, and trying desperately to stop lashing out and breaking windows. Just when it seems Mrs. Bennett from church is going to offer to be his foster parent, Scruggs is flown to San Francisco. His unknown aunt has been granted legal guardianship. During Scruggs' stay in California, he's surrounded by gunfire, solves a mystery, locates a stolen laser chip, escapes two kidnappings, rescues a friend aboard a boat, and helps capture a ring of smugglers. But all Scruggs ever wanted was to be at home with his new mother.

Jeri Massi's *A Dangerous Game* for middle grade readers moves quickly. Scruggs has a strong voice, and the reader will identify with his struggles. His aunt tests his Christianity, and Scruggs withstands her ridicule and holds fast to his faith.

Scruggs constantly refers to himself as dumb, which he learns is not a good testimony. His belief in his stupidity is so hammered throughout the book, the quick turn at the end doesn't erase all the negative example given. Certain convenient links are supplied by the author for plot flow. A nonsmoking Scruggs happens to have matches when he needs to blow up a can of gasoline in the night. The police don't stop and investigate the smugglers' home after an explosion, and gunshots are fired. They drive past without stopping. Scruggs is not protected by the police after escaping and is therefore

caught again. Story credibility is lost in these holes.

Massi seems to be supporting further revelation outside of the Bible; Mrs. Bennett believes Scruggs will return to her. She says, "William, God has promised me that you are a gift from him to me." The book does contain violence: fights, gunfire, and Scruggs throwing himself through a glass window.

*A Dangerous Game* may be fun for a middle grader. The reader might enjoy another adventure from the town of Peabody and skim quickly over the above problems in pursuit of what happens next.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Lorie Ann Grover  
Freelance Writer  
Kent, Washington

**F. Metzler, Jack. *Call Me Graywolf*. (The Story of Skipping Fawn; 3.) ISBN 156043659X. Destiny Image, 1994. Paper, \$8.99. Gr. 7 - Adult.**

Graywolf is confused. His Indian heritage struggles with the white culture passed from his white father. His Sioux mother and step father have trained him well in the ways of the Indian but have guided him carefully in the faith in the Creator God. He determines to follow the true God and not to be held in fear and superstition of the spirit world of the Indians. But then, on a mission of mercy to his uncle Little Bear he discovers the massacre in Rapid City. His anger at the injustice of the white man leave him more despondent than ever.

His dying grandfather's last request is to be buried in the tradition of the Sioux, outside the reservation and against the laws of the the white government. In loyalty, Graywolf takes on his white name, Caleb Cooper, and carries his grandfather to the hills and his final resting place. A vision quest seems to be the only way he knows to find out what he should believe. Far away from home, he encounters horse thieves and a long lost friend of his mother, Tachechana, from the days when she was married to and then widowed from Graywolf's father, Nathan Cooper. Timothy O'Connell offers him a job on his ranch. Graywolf accepts after getting entangled in a love triangle with two beautiful girls.

This story completes the trilogy of the life of Tachechana. The first book, *Tachechana*, sees Tachechana find peace in her confusion of religion and cultural clashes. The second book, *River of Joy*, follows Tachechana's family as they move from the plains to the reservation after her white husband's death. In this third book, Graywolf finds his peace with the God of his parents.

Jack Metzler has a gift of making the story come alive. There is no predictable outcome and the

unexpected turns of events make the story so real that the reader is left wondering if this is perhaps someone's biography. The characters have realistic emotions and reactions. I was drawn to them as they laughed, cried, doubted, and searched for truth. When they talked about their faith, it was with questioning, conviction, and sometimes with fear. They worked through their circumstances and reacted in many ways, as real people do. I could not put these three books down from beginning to end and I know that others will be drawn into this story of love, heartache, and faith.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sharon Ann Rau  
Librarian, Valley Christian Schools  
Abbotsford, British Columbia

**F. Morpurgo, Michael. *The Wreck of the Zanzibar*. Illustrated by François Place. ISBN 0670863602. Viking, 1995. Hardbound, \$14.99. Gr. 7 - Adult.**

How did Zanzibar, the great, green, wooden sea-turtle, end up on the Scilly island of Bryher? Michael used to ask his Great Aunt Laura this question when he was a little boy. But it always remained unanswered--until she died, and left Michael her diary containing the wonderful, mysterious story.

Growing up on the Island of Bryher with her twin brother Billy, Laura always longed to do what the men did--row out in a gig to help lead the ships to shore so they wouldn't wreck on the rocky coast. Girls weren't allowed to do such things, but Laura was determined to change that. After all, she could row just as well as her brother did!

Making a living is difficult on the harsh, stormy island, and unlike Laura, who is relatively content with her life, Billy feels increasingly trapped by the farming responsibilities he believes are unfairly thrust upon him by his father. In frustration, he decides to leave home to "see the world" on a schooner. Laura feels like she has lost her family and a part of herself, as her mother and father become strangers to each other and to her, in their anguish over the loss of Billy. Even the cows become sickly and stop producing milk when Billy leaves.

A fierce storm devastates the island, ripping the roof off the house of Laura's Granny May, sweeping away the cowshed and the hen house, drowning the cows, and collapsing numerous other homes on the island. The family is ruined and done for, and Father decides that they must leave the island with the other villagers in order to survive. But more storms prevent them from venturing into the water to make the trip to the mainland.

As living conditions get worse and worse, the family begins to starve, and their despair and hopelessness over Billy's absence increases. One day, Laura finds a great sea turtle stranded on the beach from the storm. It is weak and dying, but

Laura cares for it and tells no one, fearing that her father would insist on making turtle soup with it. Granny May learns of Laura's secret when, in desperation, Laura tries to get the turtle to crawl into the sea before it dies. The turtle is too weak to walk, and Granny May wisely suggests that Laura try feeding it jellyfish. When the turtle is full and satisfied, they send him back to the sea. Laura doesn't want him to leave, but Granny May says he must.

Shortly thereafter, a ship, the *Zanzibar*, wrecks on the rocks, and when Father sprains his ankle carrying the gig to the ocean, Laura replaces him and gets her wish to row out and rescue the men. The wreck is a blessing to the island. Not only men, corn, and timber are taken off the ship, but also cows! But best of all is the return of Billy, who had served as a cabinboy on the *Zanzibar*. A few days later, a great, green, wooden turtle washes up on the shore, looking very much like the turtle Laura had rescued. It was the figurehead off Billy's ship.

"We saved the turtle" says Granny May, "so the turtle saved us."

*The Wreck of the Zanzibar*, by Michael Morpurgo, is worth reading for the illustrations of Francois Place, if nothing else. The watercolor pictures, some realistic, and some childlike, add much to the narrative, providing the watery effect suitable for depicting the island's windblown landscapes, the sea and its creatures, and the stormy skies. This is a story of hope renewed, and of families restored and relationships repaired. It is not an overtly Christian story in that it does not emphasize reliance on God or his word. Indeed, one gets the impression that Laura and her family would have simply sunk deeper and deeper into a despair more killing than starvation, were it not for the wreck and Billy's return. However, Laura does acknowledge the Lord's hand in their deliverance: "We had prayed for a wreck and a wreck had come...That a miracle had happened, no one had doubts." On the other hand, Granny May does not kneel to thank God as the others do, but insists that the turtle is responsible for Billy's return. It's the simple law of nature that "you get what you deserve in this world" is her philosophy. Laura is not sure Granny May is right about this. There is one use of profanity during the rescue, and also reference to alcohol. Despite this, *The Wreck of the Zanzibar* is a delightful "made to read aloud" story that will tug at the hearts of young and old alike.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Sherri Beeler  
Teacher, Cascade Christian High School  
Medford, Oregon

**F. Morris, Gilbert. *A Time to Weep.* (The American Odyssey Series; 4.) ISBN 0800755766. Fleming H. Revell, 1996. Paper, \$9.99. Gr. 7 - Adult.**

The continuing story of the Stuart family in Gilbert Morris's *A Time to Weep*, the fourth in "The American Odyssey" series, covers the years 1930-1940. Drawing from his own memories of the Depression, Morris pens a very realistic picture of how people survived during this grim time of our country's history.

The story begins with the hitch-hiking adventures of Violet Logan as she journeys from the Ozarks to help her brother in Illinois. The action then moves to movie land in Hollywood, where Jerry Stuart joins his Aunt Lylah, an established movie star, and gets a part as a stunt flyer in one of her movies. The third and final plot surrounds Pete Stuart's struggle to survive on his Oklahoma land as the big oil tycoon Kingman tries to force him to sell out.

The story moves from one plot to the next until all of the characters finally converge at one location and all of the conflicts are resolved. The book is made even more interesting and realistic as historical figures including Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Herbert Hoover, Mae West, and William Randolph Hearst are woven into the fabric of the story.

Although this book could be read alone, it is much more interesting if the earlier books in the series are read first. Each of the books in the series covers a decade, beginning with *A Time to Be Born* which covers the Spanish-American War and the Boxer Rebellion in China (1900-1910.) *A Time to Die* (1910-1920) includes the Presidency of Woodrow Wilson and World War I. *A Time to Laugh* includes Lindbergh's Atlantic flight and the Stock Market crash.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Esther Knaupp, Librarian  
Santiam Christian School  
Corvallis, Oregon



**F. Morris, Gilbert. *Vanishing Clues.* (Time Navigators ; 2.) ISBN 1556613962. Bethany House Publishers, 1996. Paper, \$5.99. Gr. 5 - 8.**

Dixie and Danny's dad is lost somewhere in time. When the twins agree to use a time travel machine (the chrono-shuttle) to locate their dad, they find themselves in the middle of the French and Indian War, rubbing shoulders with the likes of George Washington.

This time Dixie and Danny's eccentric uncles, creators of the chronoshuttle, send the twins to Mohawk Valley in search of their father, whose recall mechanism has failed to return him to the present after he took a trip back in time. When they first arrive in the valley, the twins are saved from a vicious bear attack by a passing hunter, Joe Latimer. The twins gratefully fall in with the Latimer family, and help them rebuild their home, which has been burned down by Indians. When Indians attack again, the Latimers, along with the twins and many other settlers in the area, retire to a nearby stockade for protection.

Danny is captured and taken to an Indian camp where he is told he will be executed the following morning. He is rescued by Little Horse, an Indian friend of the settlers who had warned them about the attack. Earlier, Danny has mentally ridiculed Little Horse when he hears the Indian's enthusiastic "amens!" during a church service at the stockade. "Anyone who is that noisy in church is just trying to get attention. How pathetic!" Danny thinks. When Little Horse gives his life to save Danny, he realizes how wrong he has been to judge Little Horse, just because Little Horse looks, smells, and acts differently than he does.

Unsuccessful at finding their father in Mohawk Valley, Dixie and Danny return to the present and try again, this time heading for the time of the French and Indian War. Their father is obsessed with proving that George Washington really was as honorable as the history books portray him, so the twins hope to find him with Washington. They even hear rumors of a man named Fortune working among the civilian force that is assisting General Braddock and his men. Danny becomes Washington's aide during the war, and Dixie helps serve the officers. As they watch Washington work with Braddock, the arrogant general, the twins realize that Washington's character is indeed above reproach, and they respect his belief in God.

When he is not aiding Washington, Danny befriends Chad, a young drummer boy, and leads him to the Lord. When Chad and half of Washington's men are killed in a devastating massacre due to the inept guidance of General Braddock, the twins comfort themselves with the knowledge that Chad will be waiting for them in heaven. Disappointment hits them again when they find that the man rumored to be Fortune is not their father. Danny and Dixie return home to try again another day, when they will aim for the



time of the Revolution, leaving room for a third book in this series of time-traveling adventures.

Morris' book lacks depth of plot and detail surrounding the historical events portrayed. No sooner does Gilbert place the twins in one location, than he whisks them off to another without allowing the story to flesh out the characters and circumstances. References are made to various events which readers may have never heard of, yet they are not fully explained, such as the mention of Washington's service at Fort Necessity. Younger readers may also find the last half of the book less exciting than the first half, as it provides less adventure and explains the politics surrounding the war and various military strategies--things that may be confusing to younger readers. The book does emphasize spiritual truths, however, including relying on God, observing how he answers prayer, and learning to see people as God sees them not in the light of our own prejudices. Gilbert is to be commended for the book's respect for godly, great men, such as Washington, who had a huge impact on the formation of America as a Christian nation. Although the book is part of a series, *Vanishing Clues* may be read on its own.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sherri Beeler  
Teacher, Cascade Christian High School  
Medford, Oregon

**F. Myers, Walter Dean. *Shadow of the Red Moon*. Illustrated by Christopher Myers. Scholastic, Inc., 1995. Hardbound, \$14.95. Gr. 5 - 7.**

The father-and-son team of Walter Dean Myers and Christopher Myers presents a science fiction story reminiscent of *Pilgrim's Progress*, the struggles of young Okalians progressing from Crystal City back to the Ancient Lands. Much lies on the shoulders of Jon. He must follow the writings of the *Book of Orenllag* and the directions of his parents to return to their fatherland. There, he will join the other young people saved from the attack of Crystal City, saved to renew their race. He is joined by a brave girl, Lin, and her troubled younger brother, Kyra. They trace the course outlined by Jon's parents, always keeping the twin Shan stars to the east. They travel under the Red Moon. The loathsome Fens, a primitive tribe, criss-cross their path. Then the Soo, Fire-Seller; a fearsome pack of blind wild dogs; the noble unicorn, Shadow; the partakers of the hallucinogenic, Sorpos. As the group approaches their goal, the daily struggle for survival lessens, and other issues are introduced. The practicality of companionship is blushed with the first tinges of young love. The avowed enemies are now seen as people with faces, with needs. Jon and his comrades confront the responsibility of forming their own community. What choices will they make?

The story line tracks the developing from dependence on adults to autonomy, the situations

that demand resolution or end in death. Jon is well-prepared to face his journey, but is unaware of his inner strength. Walter Dean Myers places his characters in predicaments that show their personalities, their traits. And the people in the book *Shadow of the Red Moon* live well with the complexity he gives them. Just when the reader thinks that perhaps stereotyping is at play, a weakness or resilience will emerge in the playing-out of the plot, adding dimension and vitality to his characterization.

Christopher Myers does this ensemble piece with his father, faithfully illustrating the book with stark drawings as primitive as the time setting. They are powerful depictions of the characters, solid as wood-cuttings.

*Shadow of the Red Moon* reads well. The invented words are explained contextually. A good read, particularly for the sci-fi buff.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Su Hagerty  
Freelance Writer  
Issaquah, Washington

**F. O'Dell, Tommy. *The Search for the King. (The Adventures of Zor)*. ISBN 1560436506. Destiny Image Publishers, c1992. Paper, \$9.99. Gr. 7 - Adult.**

A long time ago, the dwarves were forced to flee their mountain home of Paran when a powerful wizard and his army of fierce trolls invaded the land. The dwarves settled comfortably into their new lives in Hopeland as farmers miners, builders, and merchants. They followed the law of the land: do what is good for the dwarves. But Zor is different. He is a dreamer and a writer and a seeker of the High King. He thinks the way his people do nothing about the terrible ogres wreaking havoc in neighboring lands and the way they take advantage of the gnomes in trade and labour is disgraceful. And Zor doesn't particularly care about the good of the dwarves--especially if it means compromising his personal beliefs. Shunned by his own people for his "undwarvish" views, Zor leaves home to begin a quest to see if he is "truly sheban [an idler, and friend of the elves], or gnome friend, or troll-bane."

Reminiscent of Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, Tommy O'Dell's *The Search for the King* creates a world filled with the evil of trolls, ogres, goblins, necromancers, and dragons--a land where dwarves who did not escape the troll invasion of Paran are now imprisoned in work camps, a land where elves are in dungeons for proclaiming their faith in the High King, creator and ruler of the world. In his quest for self-identity Zor commits his life to the work of the High King, and when Zor is chosen as the one who will release those still enslaved in Paran, he learns that those who are most unworthy become great in the High King's service.

Zor begins his long trek to the mountains of Paran in the company of Niyarzon the elf, and they are soon joined by Mian, Zor's sweetheart. The two are married there in the woods by an old dwarvish tradition, and, leaving Niyarzon behind, Zor and his warrior bride continue their journey with the winged horse Quan, who gets them to their destination more quickly. Zor must make a difficult decision when they finally arrive at the mountains of Paran. He must surrender to the will of the High King, leave his new bride behind, and continue the quest on his own. Zor knows the High King has provided for him thus far, and he trusts him to protect Mian during their separation.

Zor makes contact with the underground resistance in Paran, and from those dwarves he learns much about the High King and the role he plays in the deliverance of the High King's people. In a climatic moment, Zor, imbued with the power of the High King and his sword, faces thousands of foul trolls, degenerate dwarves, and the evil wizard who possessed their wills--the wizard who was himself consumed by the endless hunger of the Wicked One. The wizard awakens a sleeping dragon, a vile, flame-breathing monster that strikes fear into the hearts of the trolls, and leaves chaos and destruction in its wake. In the ensuing melee, Zor and the followers of the High King release the slaves and offer freedom to all who will follow their escape through a tunnel to safety. The underground chambers of the wizard collapse, killing the dragon, the trolls, and all who remain behind. Zor is near-fatally wounded by a poisoned dart from the wizard, but through the skill of his elf-friend Niyarzon, and the earnest prayers of the followers of the High King, Zor recovers and is blissfully reunited with his beloved Mian.

O'Dell's tale is told in the delightfully intimate fashion of a storyteller, with numerous asides, footnotes, and explanations for the reader not familiar with the lore and peoples of his magical world. Songs and poems of joy, prophecy, and legend are interspersed throughout the book. In this spiritual allegory, the classic struggle of good and evil is clearly evidenced, as is the calling to serve the One High King and to forsake all else no matter how difficult the task may be. Although they are presented within the context of courting and marriage and are not explicit, the brief romantic moments shared by Zor and Mian are somewhat sensuously portrayed.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Sherri Beeler  
Teacher, Cascade Christian High School  
Medford, Oregon

**F. Rao, Linda Rae. *Of Eagles and Ravens. (Eagle Wings; 3)*. ISBN 0800755804. Fleming H. Revell, 1996. Paper, \$8.99. Gr. 9 - Adult.**

The year is 1813 and the young United States of America is caught up in the middle of the War of

1812. Seventeen-year-old Christiana Macklin is suspicious of Stephan Page the moment he first knocks at the front door to hire on as another apprentice in her father's silversmith shop. The family has been warned to be wary of strangers after the assassination attempt on her father, who also is serving as a district representative in Congress. Mr. Macklin is part of an inspection party sent to investigate suspicious activities at Fort Stanford, the selling of army supplies to the Indians and Canadians.

Stephan's quiet ways and discreet meetings with Christiana's father seem to confirm her suspicions that he may be a British spy out to do her father harm. Christiana finds herself being strangely attracted to this quiet young man in spite of what she sees as inconsistencies between his characteristics and actions. Even her dog Copper, who is very protective of her, has taken an immediate liking to Stephan.

Gradually the mysteries unfold as they are caught up together in the events that take place during the struggle of this young country in gaining respect as a nation.

*Of Eagles and Ravens* is the third book in the "Eagle Wings" series by Linda Rae Rao. This book has a plot of its own that focuses on the youngest member of the Macklin family and gives a brief history of the main characters of the previous books. The story is a romance novel placed within events of the War of 1812, and at times it reads more like a narrative rather than blending with the actions of the characters. There are several instances of mild violence, and though moral values are upheld, spiritual references are not developed.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Debbie Lindsay  
Homeschool Parent  
Eatonville, Washington

**F. Rushford, Patricia. *Betrayed*. (Jennie McCradie; 7.) ISBN 1556615604. Bethany House, 1996. Paper, \$. Gr. 6 - 9.**

Patricia Rushford has, once again, written a mystery that will keep Jenny McCradie fans captivated. In *Betrayed*, Jennie lands in Missoula, Montana, to spend a few weeks at her aunt's home, Dancing Water Dude Ranch. Aunt Maggie needs extra help at the ranch because her husband, a full-blooded Indian, is in the hospital recuperating from a bomb explosion meant to kill him. It doesn't take Jennie long before she determines to get to the bottom of the mysterious bombing and find out who is terrorizing her aunt's family and livestock.

During the weeks Jennie is at Dancing Water, she becomes better acquainted with Marty Danielson, a young man she met on the plane. Marty's true identity is clouded, however as Jennie discovers that his family's racist attitudes may somehow be connected to the attacks on the

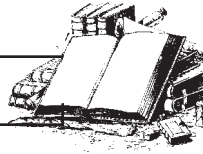
ranch. Is Marty who he seems to be, or is he hiding his true feelings about her aunt's family?

Jennie also becomes reacquainted with her beautiful cousin, Heather White Cloud, and Heather's less than noble boyfriend, Eric. Jennie is stymied, however, by not only Heather's cold reception of her, but also why Heather sneaks out every night when her parents think she is sleeping. It doesn't take Jennie long to find out where she's going, and exactly why she is behaving so strangely!

The book's characters are diverse and fascinating, and Rushford's plot twists will keep readers trying to guess who the real culprits are. This episode, while never preachy, implicitly teaches Christian values throughout the sensitive territory of racism.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Karen Orfitelli  
Freelance Writer, Teacher  
Manchester, Connecticut



**F. Bender, Carrie.** *A Treasured Friendship.* (Miriam's Journal; 4.) ISBN 0836190335. Herald Press, c1996. Paper, \$7.95. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Unpretentious and refreshingly honest, the Amish people strive to be kind and helpful towards others. But when Miriam angers a friend by refusing to try her special diet powder, she begins to feel like a failure. She regrets her friend's arguing and anger, yet nothing seems to soften the unreasonableness of Gloria's outrage. Miriam is reminded of a special memo she read that truly bares her heart concerning this unsettled dispute: "It isn't worthwhile, we have such a little way to go together."

Putting aside her hurt feelings, she tries to concentrate on being a good hostess to Franie, the new school teacher who is living with them. Franie seems irritable and moody, and to top it off, has become terrified of an unknown intruder who keeps breaking into Miriam and Nate's modest home. But despite the stress of less-than-perfect friendships and unsettling situations, Miriam manages to find joy and encouragement in her life as she believes, "Love has to be tended and watered and cared for like a fragile plant, or it will wither and die." With perseverance and prayer, Miriam's genteel spirit and sincere heart finally manages to win over those who were disgruntled and troubled.

This fourth "journal" in the series, *A Treasured Friendship*, presents a freshness in its message of hope as one learns to trust each circumstance to Christ's care. The author, Carrie Bender, stays true to her style of drawing the reader into gentle daily encouragement and thankfulness for all with which God has richly blessed mankind. What it lacks in adventure and great thrills is made up for in camaraderie and rapport with the main character, Miriam, as she discovers, along with the reader, that true strength and comfort comes from one source, God!

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Mary McKinney  
Freelance Writer  
Port Orchard, Washington

**F. Blackwell, Lawana.** *Measures of Grace.* (Victorian Serenade; 2.) ISBN 0842379568. Tyndale House Publishers, 1995. Paper, \$10.99. Gr. 9 - Adult.

Corrine Hammond remembers her ugly past of extortion and the long list of "lovers" with a cringe. She knows that God has forgiven her, but people tend to be less merciful and more revengeful. Now she is the prisoner of Joseph Price, private detective. Without being given an opportunity to seek reconciliation with her young daughter and husband, Corrine must now face an angry and vengeful "victim" of her past crimes.

Little does she realize that justice is far from his mind as he works out a plan to torture and eventually kill Corrine. Mr. Price, ignoring her pleas that she is a changed person, begins the journey toward her demise. Unforeseen, however, is his succumbing to scarlet fever. Despite Corrine's awkward position as captive, she chooses to nurse her captor back to health just as she knows her Lord and Savior would do. Surely, trusting him with every situation is the best choice she can make in this new found faith of hers.

This finely crafted Victorian novel endears the reader to each character, be it the determined detective, Mr. Price, the vulnerable ten-year-old daughter Jenny, or the repentant Corrine Hammond herself. The story offers intrigue with charming and unexpected twists that peak one's interest as well as satisfy the longings of the soul. Lawana Blackwell brings a fascinating story to life in her second novel, *Measures of Grace*.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Mary McKinney  
Freelance Writer  
Port Orchard, Washington

**F. Bly, Stephen A.** *The Final Chapter of Chance McCall.* (The Austin Stoner Files; 2.) ISBN 0891079033. Crossway Books, c1995. Paper, \$11.99. Gr. 9 - Adult.

When the manuscript of the final chapter of Chance McCall's fiction book about buried Confederate gold arrives at the publishing house, a string of strange events is set in motion. When the Fed-Ex package disappears, editor Lynda Austin decides to travel to Montana to personally look for the missing manuscript which contains the treasure map.

Lynda flies to Wyoming to meet her cowboy friend Brady Stoner in this second book in Stephen Bly's "Austin Stoner Files", *The Final Chapter of Chance McCall*. From the beginning, their trail is dogged with mishaps and disasters. Not only do individuals from Lynda's publishing house continue to pop up, but a former acquaintance of Brady's is seeking revenge on Brady. Things heat up even more when Lynda hears that McCall has died in a diving "accident" in the Bahamas. As the story draws to a conclusion, all of the characters converge on the Montana lake and the dishonest treasure-seekers are caught and dealt with.

Although the development of the characters is weak and the dialogue rather shallow, the story is packed with action. Through all of their adventures, Brady and Lynda come to the realization that God is at work even in circumstances that seem out of control.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Esther Knaupp, Librarian  
Santiam Christian School  
Corvallis, Oregon

**F. Caught.** ISBN 1564080161. Broadman & Holman, 1987. Videocassette, \$19.99. Gr. 10 - Adult.

Tim Devon's life is changed forever when he discovers a dark secret from his past. His search for answers takes him to the City of Amsterdam, where his quest is soon buried by danger and death. Friendless, penniless, Tim soon becomes a slave to the drug dealer he pushes for...and to the drugs themselves. His life is taking a downward spiral. Then he meets a single caring person whose unexpected kindness begins to melt Tim's hardened heart. Rajam Prasad, an evangelist from India, is totally committed to serving God and helping others. With Rajam at his side, Tim overcomes his many obstacles and finally finds true peace...while leaning against a garbage dumpster.

Tim came to Holland seeking his earthly father, but ignoring his Heavenly Father. He leaves Holland having found both...and a special friend whom he would never forget.

Although Tim Devon is an interesting character, John Shepherd's acting is mediocre: Tim's personality is never really developed. Amerjit Deu, on the other hand, plays the lovable Rajam Prasad to perfection. Deu fully portrays Rajam's



amazing patience, growing faith, and eagerness to share the Gospel. Without Rajam Prasad--and, very likely, Amerjit Deu's expert acting--*Caught* just wouldn't work. After an exciting introduction, the pace is rather slow until Rajam comes on the scene.

James F. Collier has directed a touching movie that explores the darkness of human spirit, and the glorious light of God's love. The beautiful theme song, "Let Your Love Lift Me Up Again," is an excellent finishing touch. Although *Caught* contains some graphic drug use, PG-13 is probably too strong a rating.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Tara A. Sigler  
Walker, Iowa

**F. Davis, W. E. *Black Dragon*. (A Gil Beckman Mystery; 3.) ISBN 0891078703. Crossway Books, 1995. Paper, \$8.99. Gr. 8 - Adult.**

Gil Beckman is a character who appears in two previous books, *Suspended Animation* and *Victim of Circumstance*. He is a former cop working as a security guard. W.E. Davis writes with authority as a nineteen-year police department veteran and current Washington state deputy sheriff.

In *Black Dragon*, Beckman is on a temporary assignment in a management position, overseeing the construction of a California high-tech theme park. Opening day is drawing near, and only a couple of rides are left to be tested. Moonraiders, with its semi-virtual reality, checks out. All that remains is a test run of the *Dragon*, a roller coaster with enough twists and turns to convince riders that they are flying. An apparent malfunction results in tense moments as the coaster stops abruptly at its apex, and riders must be evacuated by rope. Beckman sees evidence of sabotage, however, and investigates who might be responsible.

The situation is complicated by the presence of Kumi Hiromoto, a wealthy Japanese businessman who wants to build a similar park outside Nagasaki. With millions of dollars at stake, a roller coaster derailment takes on wider significance. As Beckman searches to find a connection between Hiromoto and the park's misfortune, he follows a lead to the site of Manzanar, a Japanese internment camp in California.

Although the third book in the Gil Beckman Mystery series, this story is self-contained, and one does not have to have read the first two books to enjoy *Black Dragon*. The story is told in first person and is definitely a "Christian" mystery in every sense of the word.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judy Waggoner  
Freelance Writer  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**F. Davis, W. E. *The Gathering Storm*. ISBN 0891078878**

---*The Proving Ground*. ISBN 0891078843.

(Valley of the Peacemaker.) Crossway Books, 1996. Paper, \$10.99. Gr. 11 - Adult.

W.E. Davis' *The Gathering Storm* was great fun to read! The story is full of interesting characters and non-stop adventure in the Old West.

The book opens with Matt Page, a greenhorn farmer, making his way west. He's finally feeling ready to settle down as he approaches California's Sierra Nevada mountain range. He has sold his boyhood farm after his mother's death and is ready to begin a new life, although he has no idea at this point what that life will be.

On the trail, Matt comes across a man who has been beaten and left for dead and takes him to the next town, Bodie. Bodie is a small town and Matt leaves the beaten man at a boarding house run by a big, gentle black man called Uncle Billy and then continues on to the next town, Bridgeport.

In those few miles between Bodie and Bridgeport, Matt meets an old prospector and asks to share his campfire for the night. The next morning Matt's horse, his money from selling the farm, and the prospector are long gone. So Matt arrives in Bridgeport penniless and walking on his own two feet.

There his adventures really begin! After foiling two attempted robberies, Sheriff Taylor of Bridgeport makes Matt his deputy and assigns him to Bodie. Here Matt learns some amazing things about that old prospector, and Uncle Billy helps him find his way back to God and teaches him some hard lessons on forgiveness. Along the way, an Indian named Crazy Jack shows him some tricks of surviving on the trail of bad guys, and Matt finds himself falling in love with Sheriff Taylor's daughter, Sarah.

W.E. Davis combines wit and tenderness in his characters and the relationships they have with God are real and believable. They also point the reader toward an affinity with God as well.

Davis has written a sequel to *The Gathering Storm*, *The Proving Ground*, which continues Matt's adventures in Bodie and Bridgeport and his growing dependence on God. It is wonderful as a sequel but could easily be read on its own. Both books are highly entertaining as well as being rich in Old West history and abound with character profiles worth learning from, both good and bad!

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sherri Taplett  
Mom and Book Lover  
East Wenatchee, Washington

**F. Edwards, Gene. *The Return*. (The Chronicles of the Door; 5.) ISBN 0842356010. Tyndale House Publishers, 1996. Paper, \$8.99. HS - Adult.**

Edwards sets the stage of *The Return* with modern scientists noticing a "tear" in space visible on a screen generated from the Hubble Seven telescope. An extremely bright light screams toward earth at an alarming rate. Behind the brightest light are others that seem to form a formation. Tracking stations around the earth give their view and opinions, yet all wonder if their eyes are playing tricks on them.

One scientist calls out the name of the custodian, asking his opinion. He's baffled, too. But when a gigantic sound wave emanates from the tear, they brace themselves for a sound-quake and the custodian confirms, "It's The Return!"

The scene changes to Patmos where men from seven Asia Minor churches visit John, hoping for more detail on Christ's return, and for encouragement for struggling Christians. John goes up on his hill to pray on the Lord's Day, asking God for wisdom concerning their request. God "opens Heaven" to him. John is moved to dictate the *Revelation of Jesus Christ*, while Tertius (one of the seven) writes what John saw. John feels it's important to make several copies and a warning against changing anything.

Scene three shifts to Heaven and the Lord announcing to Michael and Gabriel to "get ready." The time for his return is at hand. Graves are broken open from seas to mountains and valleys. Flesh changes to glory as Christians' hopes on earth turn to reality!

The dead come up first. Adam, Eve, Abraham, and Moses and give their sacrifice of praise to God. The resurrected ones came next. All the while angels marvel at the joy.

Gene Edward's canopy of "pictures in words" captures a heaven of swirling light and beauty. The earth is burned up and the pit is revealed: "Its depths, unfindable! Its end, as broad as eternity."

The fallen angels are driven to the pit and dissolve in disarray, while Lucifer declares "God has come in the flesh."

The angels are seeing beyond and yet seeing the past. A new heaven and new earth begins pulsating with life. John is shown the throne of God and the New Jerusalem.

Edward's ability to place us in the midst of the angel's conversations and final elimination of Satan remind us of the awesome power of God. We're left with the thought, "Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly!"

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Carolyn Hearing  
Freelance Writer  
Raytown, Missouri

**F. Hall, Donald.** *String Too Short to be Saved.* Illustrated by Mimi Korach. ISBN 087923282X. Nonpareil, 1979. Paper, \$13.99. Gr. 9 - Adult.

"To be without a history is like being forgotten," writes Donald Hall. In his book *String too Short to be Saved*, Hall preserves the memories of his own family, and the experiences of growing up on his grandparents' New Hampshire farm in the early to mid-nineteen hundreds. He wanders easily from story to story, like a country road with no particular hurry or destination.

Hall's grandfather is a wonderful story-teller, and Hall gleans all he can from him as they work and live together in the summers. His grandfather tells Hall tales of his family, and of the friends and neighbors that live in the surrounding countryside. Hall mingles these stories with his own memories of farm life: working with Anson, the simple-minded farm hand whose greatest pleasure in life is eating cases of candybars; long days of haying in the field, with Hall's grandfather teaching him the art of pitching, loading, and raking; chasing run-away cows, and caring for two-hundred chickens; climbing miles to the top of Ragged Mountain for a bounty of blueberries; sleeping under piles of quilts and waking in the cold mornings to dress by the warmth of the fire; learning to appreciate the rhythm and cycles of farm life and nature, and eventually coming to terms with his grandfather's mortality.

Hall's reminiscing lags at times, and is abrupt and disjointed in places. He moves freely back and forth in time, describing, for example, his life on the farm as a seventeen-year-old, and then reminiscing about an experience he had when he was five. This can be disconcerting, when in one chapter he describes the life and death of a man, only to describe him later on in the book as if he were still alive. Despite these weaknesses, the book reveals a great appreciation for family history, respect for elders, and the importance of hard work. The book also includes a number of photographs of Hall's family members and the farm, which add a sense of place and reality to the reading.

Although morality and church-going are mentioned, it is only in terms of something that people do out of tradition or good citizenship than out of a desire to serve the Lord. Hall himself seems to place little importance on such things, even referring to a pastor's "stupid sermon" in his epilogue. He also suggests that dying is "something becoming nothing," rejecting any acknowledgement of life after death. There is stereotyping of gypsies as thieves; reference to "parking" for hours with his girlfriend; profanity; reference to the earth being billions of years old.

Aside from these problems, the book is one that adults will probably enjoy more than younger readers--particularly those adults who grew up during that time period or had experiences similar to Hall's.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 3

Sherri Beeler  
Teacher, Cascade Christian High School  
Medford, Oregon

**F. Hawkins, Kathy.** *The Heart of a Stranger. (Heart of Zion.)* ISBN 082542867X. Kregel Publications, 1995. Paper, \$10.99. Gr. 11 - Adult.

Ailea is a beautiful daughter of an Aramean general who is fighting King David's army. When her city is defeated by surprise, Ailea is determined not to grovel before the army who invades her home. Even being captured and taken back to Jerusalem by Jonathan, who is captivated by Ailea, Ailea is determined to escape. She knows that somehow her brother will find her and take her back home.

Jonathan takes Ailea back to his home town to be taught the ways of Jehovah. His sister, Ruth, is shocked and somewhat outraged by Ailea, who refuses to act submissive or a prisoner of war. Ailea makes plans to escape and yet is drawn to Rezon, the village elder who tells her about Jehovah, the one true God.

Meanwhile Joab, behind Jonathan's back, makes plans and helps Ailea to escape to her brother. There Ailea finds out that her heart is back with her newly wed husband and home is only where the heart is.

Told in the third person, this Christian historical romance is set back in biblical times during King David's reign. There is conflict and suspense that keeps the reader moving along until the final climax.

This book is written in three parts with a map in each one as a helpful guide to the reader. An appropriate portion of scripture is at the beginning of each section.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Dorcas Walker  
Freelance Writer  
Jamestown, Tennessee

**F. Hoff, B. J.** *Winds of Graystone Manor. (The St. Clare Trilogy; 1.)* ISBN 1556614357. Bethany House Publishers, 1995. Paper, \$9.99. Gr. 9 - Adult.

B. J. Hoff has woven a tale of suspense and passion in the first book of her St. Clare Trilogy. Well-developed characters and attention to detail in setting make for a well-crafted story and a scary tale. Famous Civil War photographer, Roman St. Clare, sets out on a terrible quest to find his wife and unborn child's killer. A trail of

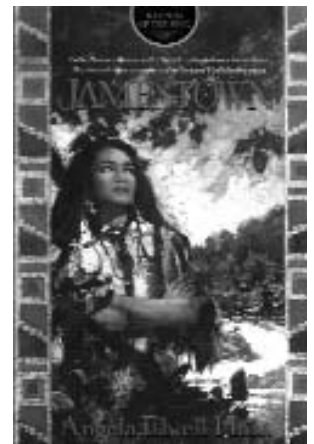
similar murders leads him to Staten Island, New York, in the year 1867.

Accompanied by his giant wolfhound, Roman takes a room at the slightly rundown Graystone Manor. Here the gothic tale begins, fired by a trace of insanity. The occupants of Graystone are a strange lot. Amanda Fairchild runs Graystone with the help of her housekeeper and elderly Uncle Magnus. Two spinster women rent rooms. Staten Island is having its own mysterious happenings. There are missing and murdered children, graveyards are being desecrated, and rumors of vengeful spirits and ghosts circulate on the Island. Because of the unsolved crime wave, strangers are not welcome. Roman finds himself mistrusted by everyone except Amanda. Even Amanda has misgivings. And Dr. Niles Rutherford, Amanda's lifelong friend is openly hostile.

Coping with a flu epidemic that attacks the spinsters strains Amanda's strength to the limit and she collapses. Under the administering hand of Dr. Niles, Amanda takes a drastic turn for the worse and Niles declares she must be hospitalized despite a fierce winter storm. But when Roman braves the storm to check on Amanda's condition, she has vanished. Finding Amanda and solving the island mystery brings Roman and Amanda together. But like any good trilogy, Roman's quest is not complete, and we will have to read the rest of the series to find out who murdered his wife. A very thin line of spiritual concern is introduced but has little effect on the story.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 4

Myrtlema Crane  
Freelance Writer, Editor, Speaker  
Alderwood Manor, Washington



**F. Hunt, Angela Elwell.** *Roanoke : The Lost Colony.* ISBN 0842320121

---*Jamestown.* ISBN 084232013X.

**(Keepers of the Ring).** Tyndale House, 1996. Paper, \$11.99. Adult.

Thomas, a troubled minister fleeing his past; Jocelyn, his confused young wife desperately seeking fulfillment from their loveless marriage; stouthearted John White, leader of the expedition to the New World--these are the characters that fill the pages of *Roanoke*, Book I in the "Keepers of the Ring" series, by Angela Elwell Hunt.

In 1587, a colony was established in Virginia on Roanoke Island. Noone knows for sure what became of the Roanoke colonists, but in *Roanoke: The Lost Colony*, Hunt weaves a powerful historical narrative around the existing facts. Jocelyn and Thomas are rather hastily married while enroute to the New World. Jocelyn loves Thomas, and believes he loves her too, but as time passes and they throw themselves into the work of establishing homes, a church, and other necessities for the colony, she becomes uncertain. Only once has he shared her bed. He holds himself aloof from her, and insists that as a minister and a Puritan, he must set a good example of self-control for the other colonists. Jocelyn is hurt, and confused, and when Thomas even refuses to have anything to do with Regina, their firstborn, she becomes convinced that if only she can reach his heart by "stooping" in love, he will once again become the tender, affectionate man she knew before they married.

Thomas, struggling with sins he has committed in the past, is convinced that God has given Jocelyn to him to test his faith and self-control. For fear of hurting her, or for fear of God punishing him by taking her away from him, he imposes on himself, and others in the colony, an unreasonably rigid way of living so as to maintain his purity before God. It is not until Thomas almost loses his wife, his health, and eventually his daughter that he comes to grips with the meaning of grace, and the freedom God gives through this gift that is "not of works." After waiting for over fifteen years, Jocelyn's prayers are answered, and joy and love are restored to her marriage.

The story not only chronicles the lives of Thomas and Jocelyn, but those of her relatives, her handmaid Audrey, and well-known historical figures such as governor John White, Indian chief Powhatan, and his brother Opechancanough. Hunt does not glorify the harsh life of the colonists, nor does she minimize the trials and the joys of their relationships with the various Indian tribes. Eventually, the colonists live in an open community with the Christian Ohanoak Indians, freely marrying and blending the best of the English Christian world with the Indian traditions and way of life. However, when Powhatan's tribe attacks the colony, Jocelyn and Audrey's families make the difficult decision to help three young children

escape, fearing that all will be slaughtered, otherwise.

Book II, *Jamestown*, picks up the story right where Book I leaves off, and describes the lives of the three children, Fallon, Gilda, and Noshi. At age thirteen, Fallon is the oldest, and he is entrusted with the care of the two younger children--a task he takes very seriously. When the three of them become separated for over ten years and great distance, Fallon vows that he will return to find and reunite them, and continue serving the One True God.

Both books are geared toward more mature audiences. Although the brutal acts of the English and the Indians are not graphically portrayed, the ugly truth still horrifies the reader with the thought that men could be so greedy, so power-hungry, and so cruel to each other. The harsh realities of establishing a colony, the severity of the Puritan beliefs, the depth of Thomas's spiritual struggle, and the seriousness of marriage issues and rape suggest that students would benefit from this book if they read it under the guidance of an adult who would provide an opportunity for discussion about these heavy issues. While the books can be read independently without confusion, the reader will likely derive more pleasure from reading them in order.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Sherri Beeler*  
Teacher, Cascade Christian High School  
Medford, Oregon

**F. Laity, Sally and Dianna Crawford.** *The Gathering Dawn.* ISBN 0842313036

---*The Kindled Flame.* ISBN 0842313362.

---*The Tempering Blaze.* ISBN 0842369023.

**(Freedom's Holy Light.)** Tyndale House Publishers, 1994-95. Paper, \$10.99. Gr. 10 - Adult.

The dynamic setting of Sally Laity and Dianna Crawford's joint venture, *The Gathering Dawn*, is pre-revolutionary America. We first meet the newly orphaned Susannah Harrington in the Spring of 1770 as she steps off the ship that has carried her from her home in England to the bustling port of Philadelphia.

One of the first people she encounters in this exhilarating new land is Daniel Hayes. Although Dan acts the part of a perfect gentleman, Susannah's suspicions are aroused when she observes him engaged in some kind of smuggling operation involving two boisterous sailors dressed as women.

Within days of her arrival on American soil, Susannah finds herself truly alone. The childhood friend she was to have stayed with has died in childbirth, and her family has not received word of Susannah's voyage.

Initially, Susannah despairs, but soon her independent spirit and her faith in God provide her with the strength to plot a creative, if controversial, course. In order to support herself, she becomes indentured to a kind couple who run a roadside inn. Word of her indenture causes her brother, who has left England unexpectedly to pursue a career as an army officer in the Colonies, to disown her, and becomes a stumbling block to her blossoming romance with Dan.

Historical figures and events are introduced smoothly in the context of this well-paced story. It is through the inspirational preaching of Reverend Whitfield that Susannah realizes it is possible to experience a personal relationship with Christ. She comes to understand that salvation is a gift, freely bestowed, and not something to be earned, as her Anglican father taught her. There is a pronounced anti-Anglican bias throughout the novel, which is directly tied to the anti-British sentiment held by the colonists as they struggle to wrest their freedom from the redcoats.

The authors' well-balanced combination of adventure and romance is highly engaging, but there are few real surprises in the plot. Character development relies heavily on stereotypes and even the most difficult issues are happily resolved by the end of the novel.

This series continues with *The Kindled Flame* and *The Tempering Blaze*. In the second book, the writers seem to hit their stride. Characterization is more complex, and the circumstances that drive the plot are organic to the characters, rather than being externally imposed. Dan's two sisters take center stage as they each find happiness in love and in their Christian faith.

The third book in the series picks up the storyline where the second ends, and although there are some notable additions to the familiar cast of characters, this series is best taken in sequence.

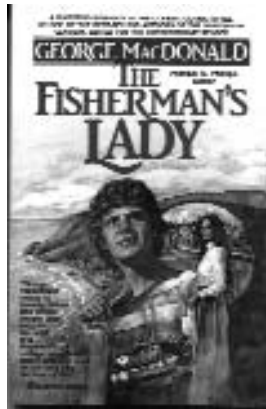
◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Sylvia Stopforth*  
Librarian, Trinity Western University  
Langley, British Columbia





F. MacDonald, George. *The Marquis' Secret*. ISBN 087123324X.



---*The Fisherman's Lady*. ISBN 0871231972.

Edited by Michael R. Phillips. Bethany House Publishers, 1982. Paper, \$13.99. Adult.

George MacDonald, master storyteller of the nineteenth century, traces the story of a young orphaned fisherman from his first contact with a corpse, who he later finds out is his mother, up until the time he takes his rightful position as The Marquis of Lossie. The enjoyment of MacDonald's novels stem from his ability to write on two levels. The reader can find himself deeply involved in the plot and then be led away to think deeper about the spiritual depth of the characters. As in real life, there are those evil characters that one immediately takes a dislike to and the truly good ones who manifest a wholesome character that is refreshing. MacDonald has a love for the Scotland of his past and has succeeded in bringing to the reader the sights, sounds, and smells of a Scotland of years gone by.

In *The Fisherman's Lady* Malcolm MacPhail meets the young daughter of the Marquis. He is drawn to her, not knowing of their true relationship. It isn't until the time of the selfish Marquis' final submission to God's claims on his

life and his death that Malcolm learns that he is the firstborn son of the Marquis and the true heir.

*The Marquis' Secret* begins with the reader knowing of Malcolm's true position, but only several others being aware of it. Malcolm keeps this secret, desiring not to hurt his sister with the revelation. Her willfulness has taken her to high society London being prepared for marriage to an evil lord. She finds a poor artist more to her liking but feels herself too far above him in society. Malcolm poses as her groom in order to watch over her and, only when forced to, finally reveals to her their relationship. George MacDonald ends the story happily with evil being punished and good rewarded.

Although these two stories are published separately, anyone who reads *The Fisherman's Lady* will not be able to stop there but will need to read the rest of the story in *The Marquis' Secret*. Michael Phillips, editor, recommends on the first pages of the second book that a reader not start there but go back to the beginning to enjoy the full story.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Patricia Perry  
Librarian, Northside Christian School,  
Westerville, Ohio

F. McReynolds, Mary. *Wells of Glory*. (Legacy of the Land; 1.) ISBN 0891078894. Crossway Books, 1996. Paper, \$9.99. Adult.

*Wells of Glory* begins with Lillian Maude Jenness Reuben birthing her seventh baby. She and the infant do not survive. Benjamin Franklin Reuben, her widower, and his four living children seek help from Aunt Addie and Rose, Lillian's older sister. Later Aunt Hannah comes when Rose leaves.

The Oklahoma Territory in the late 1800's makes life hard for farmers such as Ben, and also for his shiftless neighbors, the Roy Dean family. When Isaac Samuel, a well-to-do Jewish man, builds his mansion nearby, everyone gets a picture of another way of life. Ben acquaints himself with Isaac, and eventually persuades the rich man to hire young May Dean as house help.

Ben and Isaac discuss their beliefs, and in a scene which has little to do with the story, Ben declares he has figured out by applying Roman numerals to the Latin statement on the pope's crown that the pope will be the beast of Revelation 13. He speaks despairingly of business men, referring to the Antichrist.

When the new school teacher, Miss Truden, arrives, she moves into Isaac's spacious home. May Dean continues to slyly keep company with Jasper, Isaac's farm hand and her childhood friend. Isaac falls in love with the beautiful May Dean, and though she offers herself to him, he refuses until such a time he can marry her.

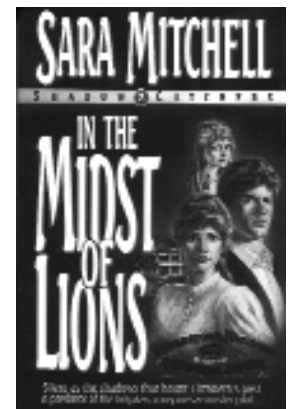
A measure of excitement finally appears when May Dean announces her pregnancy as a result

of her friendship with Jasper. Roy Dean threatens to cause trouble because his daughter won't come back home to live. Aunt Addie pricks her finger on the wash tub and gets lockjaw. God heals her about the same time Roy Dean goes on a drunken rampage, and Jasper dies in a fire, leaving May to face the future as an unwed mother. By the last page the reader knows May Dean will not need to live as an unwed mother and Ben Franklin will find happiness with the schoolteacher.

The thin plot moves slowly, though McReynolds has good characterizations. Included via dialogue, long theological explanations as well as descriptions of some Jewish traditions interfere with the story line. Readers who want a book with a thorough explanation of salvation will appreciate *Wells of Glory*. Those who prefer stories with such messages included more subtly will look elsewhere for good reading.

◆ Quality - 2      ♥ Acceptability - 3

Betty M. Hockett  
Freelance Writer  
Newberg, Oregon



F. Mitchell, Sara. *In the Midst of Lions*. (Shadowcatchers; 2.) ISBN 1556614985. Bethany House Publishers, 1996. Paper, \$9.99. Gr. 11 - Adult.

Christians often seem to be 'helpless lambs' in the midst of lions in this world. Unscrupulous people don't care who they hurt in their quest to satisfy their selfish ambitions, desires, or thirst for revenge. Yet we who belong to the Good Shepherd can trust him to protect us, not always from pain but from ultimate destruction. We can depend on God. This is the message gleaned from Sara Mitchell's intriguing novel, *In the Midst of Lions*.

Elizabeth Granger is paid companion to the five young Crump children, who love her dearly. Because of her father's legacy of shame, she assumed a false surname. She hopes to recover the gold he stole to return it to the families of his former partners, one of whom was grandfather of the children in her charge.

Meanwhile the Crump family is under investigation by Simon Kincaid, undercover operative for the Pinkerton Agency. Horatio Crump hired him as horse trainer shortly after Simon rescued Elizabeth and two of the children from a tragic train wreck. His admiration for this valiant young woman, who kept her cool in spite of her own danger, grows into deep love for her. But because of their backgrounds and the situation, they have difficulty trusting each other.

The plot is interesting with plenty of action, but this book's main strength is character development. Simon believes God turned his back on him twenty years earlier, while Elizabeth has learned not to trust anybody except God. As Simon rescues her from the plots of evil people, including a violent whipping, God's love gets through to each of them. Simon starts talking with God again. He grows and changes, accepting God's love and forgiveness. Elizabeth learns to trust Simon, whose love becomes healing proof of God's love, God's gift to her. This response brings Simon a joy he's never known.

Delectable descriptions of scenery and people, combined with the attractive cover illustration by Wes Lowe, give one the feeling of personal acquaintance. A pencil sketch map of Georgia, with the mentioned towns and estates marked, further enhances identification. Sara Mitchell's beautiful way with words will inspire teenager or adult readers, giving them the desire also to read other Shadow Catchers books.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judith M. Gonzales  
Freelance Writer  
Moses Lake, Washington

**F. Morris, Gilbert. *The Fields of Glory*. (The Wakefield Dynasty; 4.) ISBN 0842362290. Tyndale House Publishers, 1996. Paper, \$11.99. HS - Adult.**

*The Fields of Glory* is the fourth in Gilbert Morris's series, "The Wakefield Dynasty." Due to Morris's style and wonderfully comprehensive research, the reader will gain a tremendous amount of knowledge and insight into English history without feeling bored or lectured. Each book is filled with adventure, romance, and a balance of humor and sorrow that is beautifully and soundly saturated with godly principles and the Gospel message.

Book One, *The Sword of Truth*, begins in Wales about the time of King Henry VIII. Margred Morgan and her young son, Myles (who is, unbeknownst to himself, the son and only heir of Sir Robert Wakefield), leave Wales in search of a better life. Following God's leading, they find themselves working for the estate of Sir Geoffrey Bourneville in England. At the time of his mother's death when he is fifteen, Myles learns who his father is and amazingly moves from the position of serf and servant to that of son and

heir. Sir Robert Wakefield and his wife, Lady Jane, like Margred, are godly people, and Myles grows with a rich spiritual, as well as material, heritage.

Book Two, *The Winds of God*, and Book Three, *The Shield of Honor*, travel down through the generations of the Wakefield dynasty as England passes through the turbulent time of the Inquisition, into the more secure era of Queen Elizabeth I, the civil strife of the Crown against Parliament and Oliver Cromwell, and the unrest that follows his demise.

*The Fields of Glory* takes up the story with Amos Wakefield, the great-great grandson of Myles Wakefield, and Evan Morgan, the great-great grandson of John Morgan, Margred's brother. As these two distant cousins come of age in the restless and unsettled post-Cromwellian period of England's history, their friendship is nearly destroyed over the affections of a girl. It takes the work of the Spirit through the ministry of contemporary John Bunyan to restore the two young men and bring purpose and direction to their lives.

The books are all rich in English history, as well as church history. They are all well researched and extremely well written. Gilbert Morris is a master of bringing history and fiction together. He weaves real-life people and events, such as William Tyndale and John Bunyan, together with fictional characters that have depth and substance. It's difficult to discern where truth leaves off and fiction takes over.

Throughout the books, God is the central force and figure, and his Gospel is clearly written into every volume. These books are wonderfully accurate and educational, as well as entertaining. They could easily supplement a study of Western Civilization, but mostly they are just plain good reading.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Gayle Chessman Haberman  
Teacher, West Hills Christian School  
Portland, Oregon

**F. Morris, Gilbert. *Wall of Fire*. (The Appomattox Saga; 7.) ISBN 0842381260. Tyndale House Publishers, 1995. Paper, \$10.99. Gr. 9 - Adult.**

The Civil War and its high drama set the background for this *Gone with the Wind* style novel. At eighteen, beautiful yet bitter Allyn (Aylene) Griffith can't seem to reconcile herself to the reality of finally discovering who her father is. At one moment she wants to nurture and love the ailing man, a wealthy Southern plantation owner, and the next, her anger over his having deserted her mother in New Orleans rises like bile in her throat.

As Allyn slowly learns to enjoy her life on the plantation and trust the caring, gentle Rocklins, she is able to release a little of the hurts and fears

from her past. But now she faces the biggest challenge of her life, to find a husband or lose her inheritance of Twelve Oaks, the small plantation her father purchased for her. With the rogue, Jason Larimore, coming to mind, Allyn figures he might be willing to agree to a convenience marriage to gain revenue for a new boat to use in his blockade running.

They discover, however, that although a person can submit outwardly to demands and certain roles, Allyn and Jason alike finally realize that only God can tame the inner workings of the heart and allow compassion and love to rule.

Gilbert Morris presents a knowledgeable picture of life during the Civil War in this seventh of the "Appomattox" series, *Wall of Fire*. Unfortunately, the protagonists, Jason and Allyn, mirror the famous Rhett Butler and Scarlet O'Hara in their character and actions. Morris even uses the disapproving "Mammie" image whom Jason hopes to soften with the promise of the famous red petticoat. Their plantation, Twelve Oaks, also has that familiar ring to it. Another disappointment is an inaccurate reference on the last page as we see the two walking hand-in-hand toward their beloved plantation, Seven Pines. What ever happened to Twelve Oaks? (Perhaps it was left to Ashley after all?)

◆ Quality - 2     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Mary McKinney  
Freelance Writer  
Port Orchard, Washington

**F. Morris, Gilbert. *Stars in Their Courses*. (The Appomattox Saga; 8.) ISBN 0842316744. Tyndale House, 1995. Paper, \$10.99. Adult.**

*Stars in Their Courses* by Gilbert Morris is the eighth in "The Appomattox Saga." Morris writes with such a smooth style that the reader is drawn into the mid-1800's, seeing, touching, feeling that important era in the lives of the Americans.

The Civil War is seen through the eyes of Frank Rocklin, youngest son of the Gideon Rocklins of Washington, D.C. The men in the family are soldiers; it is a surprise, then, that Frank expresses a desire to become an actor instead. He does serve a ninety-day stint in the Army in which he puts his acting skills to good use. He is later approached by Allan Pinkerton, head of a detective agency, and asked to be a spy for the North in such Southern cities as New Orleans and Richmond. Frank gathers together a troupe, and they set off. There is the sultry Carmen Montaigne. And the beautiful British actress, Lorna Gray. Roland Middleton is stuck in his search for stability. Troupers J. Harold and Elizabeth Hardcastle represent the "wealth of experience," and Albert Deckerman, a teen-ager with more enthusiasm than talent, rounds out the group. Their adventures are chronicled in this Christian historical romance.



Gilbert Morris has done his homework, setting his novel against the backdrop of the War Between the States, including the names and personalities of some well-known Americans such as Louisa May Alcott and John Wilkes Booth. The story divides naturally into four sections; the chapter titles are descriptive of the content, but are redundant. Some of the references to God and Christianity seem contrived, even gratuitous. The vocabulary presents no challenge and the story moves along at a comfortable pace.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Su Hagerty*  
Freelance Writer  
Issaquah, Washington

**F. Rao, Linda Rae. *Ordeal at Iron Mountain*. (Eagle Wings; 2.) ISBN 0800755685. Fleming H. Revell, 1995. Paper, \$9.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.**

*Ordeal at Iron Mountain* is the second in a new series of historical fiction novels by Linda Rae Rao. This story, set against the backdrop of wild, colonial America, reintroduces the main characters of *Eagles Flying High*, Rae's first novel.

When an upsetting letter arrives at the home of newlyweds Mac and Jess Macklin, Mac becomes angry and non-communicative with his new bride. Before Jess knows what is happening, Mac is preparing to head back to the Indian mission settlement where he spent most of his childhood. Jess insists on coming along, despite Mac's protests, and the young couple is on their way via horseback.

When they arrive at the mission, Jess learns from Mac's grandmother the reason for Mac's anger: a group of white settlers has purchased the Indians' land illegitimately and is threatening to run the Indians out by force. As Mac and Jess work together to uncover the details of the plot, and to stop an all out war between the Indians and settlers, their relationship is restored and deepened.

While Rae's novel is entertaining as a quick read, it lacks any real depth. Not only are the characterizations and plot line weak and stereotypical, the story is sorely lacking in the kind of vivid and mature detailing which one expects in the historical fiction genre.

Readers fail to get any true sense of time and place as they travel with the Macklin's, and Rae often uses such vague words as "lovely" in place of more accurate description. This work actually resembles a romance novel, and would probably fit into that genre, but to its favor, uses strong marriages as the source of its romantic material. Even so, there is no comparison to this type of work, and that of authors such as Laura Ingalls Wilder, whose accurate portrayals of frontier life in America are unequalled for their detail and historical value.

The subject matter of *Ordeal at Iron Mountain* is decidedly adult in nature, and includes accounts of kidnapping, killing, and the use of guns, but it is actually written at about a fourth grade reading level. The plot is complete enough for this novel to stand alone, although much of the underlying reasons for *The Ordeal* actually center on what took place in the first novel, which makes the constant referrals to the previous plot frustrating to the uninitiated reader.

While the story is not overtly Christian, the Macklins' faith is implied through short conversations and quick prayers shot up in times of crisis. However the author also mixes some Indian lore and legend into the story, which almost makes it seem as though the main characters believe the Indian legends are as true as Christianity. This makes the novel's treatment of Indian legends and traditions seem more politically than biblically correct.

◆ Quality - 2     ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Virginia Schnabel*  
Freelance Writer  
Shelton, Washington

**F. Riols, Noreen. *To Live Again*. ISBN 0891078444.**

---*Where Hope Shines Through*. ISBN 0891077901.

(House of Annabrael.) Crossway Books, c1994-95. Paper, \$10.99. Adult.

Book 1 of the "House of Annabrael" series focuses on Europe during World War II. The main character is Katherine de Montval, a young woman who has just lost her mother in a bombing raid on London and whose father disappeared several years before.

Katherine joins Britain's Special Operations Division to aid in the war effort and is trained as an undercover agent. But even as she builds a new life and new relationships, these are also threatened by the war.

Through her losses Katherine's faith in God, nominal at first, grows as she begins to release the hurt and accept his healing work.

Book 1 is well-written and has good character development, with a strong sense of historical accuracy. Although there are many war-time jargon and abbreviations, asterisks beside each term refer the reader to a glossary for definitions.

In *To Live Again*, the story continues with Katherine's life after the end of the war. Embittered over her husband's death at the hands of the Nazis, she is filled with anger, yet desires to let go of the past and move on.

Falling in love with a German officer complicates her life and forces her to confront the anger and bitterness she feels toward her former enemies.

I found the second book of the series more readable than the first. There are fewer glossary terms and the asterisks which previously interrupted the flow of the story have been removed. Book 1 primarily follows the effects of war on the European people and one woman in particular. Book 2 continues to follow Katherine's emotional and spiritual progress as she struggles to overcome the past and find peace.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Donna Brown*  
Church Librarian  
Portland, Oregon

**F. Rivers, Francine. *The Scarlet Thread*. ISBN 0842335684. Tyndale House Publishers, 1996. Paper, \$12.99. Adult.**

*The Scarlet Thread* traces the lives of two women: a modern woman named Sierra, and Mary Katherine, a pioneer woman and Sierra's great-plus grandmother. The book focuses on the courtship and first dozen years of Sierra's marriage to the driven Alejandro Madrid. Although Alex has a good job in their hometown, he decides to move his family to Los Angeles for a new, more exciting professional challenge. As outside pressures bear down, the couple loses touch with each other and eventually separate. The reader gains insight into Sierra's life through glimpses of Mary Katherine's. Diary excerpts attached to the end of each chapter unfold Mary Katherine's experiences from girlhood through middle age.

Author Francine Rivers deftly spins her yarn, using the diary excerpts to add drama and depth to the modern-day story. She deals with difficult issues like death, divorce, adultery, and incest in an honest and straightforward manner, using them to bring realism to situations and highlight the redemption possible through Christ's intervention. Both heroines struggle with doubt and separation from God, ultimately coming to receive Jesus into both their hearts and families.

This romance is well-written and organized, using dramatic situations to illustrate the need people have for Christ. The character development is fairly typical of romance novels: every man is devastatingly male and the women are a little one-dimensional. But it is a good, fun read.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Georgia Beaverson*  
Free-lance Writer  
Madison, Wisconsin

**F. Simon, Frank. *Veiled Threats*. ISBN 0891078800. Crossway Books, 1996. Paper, \$12.99. Gr. 10 - Adult.**

Having its setting in the explosive land of Israel, *Veiled Threats* almost reads like the background to a current news story. Author Frank Simon



weaves together several plots which all merge as the story comes to a climax.

The action opens with an attempted bombing at the Dome of the Rock which is stopped by Ya'acov Isaacson of the Military Intelligence and his men. The story then moves to an excavation site in Jerusalem that is being done by Moshe Stein of the Hebrew University, Dr. Anne McAdams, and student assistant Mars Enderly. They make a stunning discovery as they unearth a room filled with discarded treasures from the temple, the most exciting being the temple veil which had been ripped in half from the top to the bottom.

As the story progresses, the Palestinian Revolutionary Force (PRF) and other Arab groups begin working together in an effort to crush the Jews. The unsuspecting Anne McAdams becomes their pawn as she is kidnapped by the leaders of the PRF. In the meantime, Anne's and Mars Enderly's relationship has gone beyond that of a professor and her student. While Mars frantically seeks to find Anne, she is reading the Bible that had been given to her by a Christian Jew.

This suspense-filled plot includes Mars Enderly's struggle in his relationship with his father and his developing friendship with Anne. For Anne, the conflict is between the evidence that they are uncovering in their dig and her doubts about the truth of the Bible. This inner conflict is intensified when Anne is abducted by terrorists. Her decision to follow Christ and still marry Mars, an unbeliever, may be a problem to some readers, although this is not the end of the story. The author's final words are "to be continued in an upcoming sequel."

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Esther Knaupp, Librarian  
Santiam Christian School  
Corvallis, Oregon*

**F. Stewart, Ed. *Doomsday Flight*. ISBN 1564764826. Victor Books, 1995. Paper, \$12.99. Adult.**

"Ladies and gentlemen, fasten your seat belts!"

Master storyteller Ed Stewart carefully weaves a tale of adventure and calls it *Doomsday Flight*. Set for the most part in the Pacific Northwest, the storyline meticulously gathers a collection of characters that board this flight. Will the outcome be reunion with Jesus-Brother or the sacrifice of 134 men, women, and children at the hand of a deranged lunatic? The twists in the plot sometimes seem as astounding as the Alaskan windshear that was suffered and survived in the early part of the narrative, but the shuttle flying through the warp and weave of *Doomsday Flight* is only adding another color, another personality joining the New Jesus family.

Cooper Sams, veteran airline pilot for Northstar, is the pivotal character. Stewart incorporates him

into the design of the story early, portraying him as a disciplined, efficient professional with no tolerance for slipshod work. He meets Lila Ruth Atkinson, charismatic leader of the New Jesus family, and they plot, together with the instruction of the spiritual guide Pathfinder, to meet Jesus-Brother in the sky for the final reunion, the Second Coming of Christ. Other characters such as Raul Barrigan play supporting roles. Barrigan is a quadriplegic who welcomes the challenge of Doomsday flight, joining the list of passengers so he can give them one last chance to hear the claims of the true Gospel. And there are many others, living lives of quiet desperation, looking for hope beyond the tragic circumstances of their present existence.

The author is so meticulous with the detail of persons, places, and things that reader has the sense of being immersed in the action.

The narrative in third person seems to come from one of the crowd, perhaps even Beth Cole, freelance writer. The situations are carefully defined, enticing the empathic reader to question their own personal reaction to similar circumstances. How would WE respond if we knew the exact moment of the Second Coming of Christ? Although the story is long, some 469 pages, the book remains on the bedside table until it is finished. The actual wrap-up of the story seems anti-climatic, perhaps not even living up to the promise of the preceding pages.

*Doomsday Flight* deals with current social issues, and Stewart pulls no punches. He uses language appropriate to the situation, although the reader may have to look more than once to see the hand of God in the dealings at the outset of the story. The volume ends with a strong call for a spiritual decision.

The cover art adds to the suspense of the story, keys the viewer into wondering why the people are willingly boarding a plane designated "Doomsday."

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Su Hagerty  
Freelance Writer  
Issaquah, Washington*



**F. Wood, Helen. *Jacob of Canaan*. ISBN 1887065008. Selah House Publishing, 1995. Paper, \$9.95. Adult.**

Wood has retold the life of Jacob from when his sons come home with Joseph's coat of many colors and tell him that Joseph is dead all the way to the point where his sons come back from Egypt and tell him they have found Joseph. When Jacob moves back to Hebron where his father Isaac lives, Jacob's children are told by their grandfather his story of near-sacrifice. They learn of their great-grandfather Abraham's faith—that God would either provide a way, or resurrect Isaac because of God's promises.

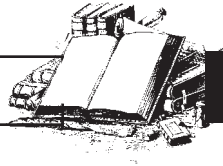
The author has done a good job of using all the familiar stories from the Bible about Jacob and his family: his move to Shechem; the sexual indiscretion of Dinah with Shechem; Jacob's move back to Hebron and his life there with his father, Isaac; Reuben and Judah's thoughts about being the son who receives the birthright; his sons marrying and moving their wives and families into Jacob's home; Jacob's sin with Tamar; and the birth of the twin boys, one of whom is the human ancestor of the Messiah.

Jacob's character is "full". On the one hand he is a very emotional man regarding his beloved son, Joseph. We can see the truth of that in the biblical account. On the other hand, Wood has made him a tender man with his daughter Dinah and with his wife Leah—perhaps more tender than is believable considering that women were chattel in that culture.

The main problem is the switch of viewpoint from one paragraph to another, sometimes even within the same paragraph. Chapters by viewpoint, or even chapter breaks, would make smoother reading.

The chapter entitled "The Bargain" details the story of Simeon's and Levi's killing of all the men in Shechem. It is a very brutal story. This chapter alone makes it a book for adults or older teens only.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 3



**220.9. Vander Laan, Raynard. *That the World May Know*. ISBN 1561793841. Focus on the Family, 1995. KIT containing leader's guide and two videocassettes, \$53.00. Gr. 9 - Adult.**

*That the World May Know* is a holistic Bible study using history, geography and archaeology to provide context and illumination to the biblical text and, through better understanding of the text, application to the modern lives of the students. The leader's guide uses a guided discussion method and is adaptable to study periods of varying length and depth. The videocassettes provide illustrative teaching by Raynard Vander Laan filmed with actual students on location in Israel. Specific points of geography and archaeology which illustrate Bible passages are discussed and viewed. For example, the structure and function of the city gate and the social importance of being one who sat in the city gates impacts understanding the stories of Lot, Boaz, Absalom and others. Seeing large standing stones erected as memorials of pivotal events and as testimonies to the surrounding nations of God's provision for Israel leads to a discussion of the Christian's responsibility to be God's representative to others.

Although designed for groups, this study can easily be used by individuals as well. This study includes excellent adaptability, visual aids and detailed leader preparation instructions. Used effectively this study can bring biblical history to life and impact the lives of students.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Karla Kessell  
Academic Librarian  
Kirkland, Washington

**225.9. Ball, Charles Ferguson. *The Life and Times of the Apostle Paul*. ISBN 0842335005. Tyndale House Publishers, 1996. Paper, \$9.99. HS - Adult.**

Saul has been brought up in the epitome of Jewish tradition. He studied scripture and obeyed it to the fullest extent of the law. As a man, he is expected to be a model of right living and good character. And then, he attends the stoning of a man called Stephen, one who has been attracted to the Man claiming to be the Son of God. What heresy! What blasphemy! He deserves to die! What does Stephen say as the rocks are hurled? "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Saul turns away and tries to forget the peaceful look on Stephen's face as he dies while forgiving his murderers. "Stephen deserves to die! The stoning of this man will discourage others and perhaps end the Nazarene sect for good." And yet, the events of that day are burned so deeply into Saul's memory that they never leave him. He begins to persecute the Christian church with venom. It becomes a consuming passion and he soon is one of the most feared of defenders of Judaism.

The road to Damascus is hot and dry. His companions would rather stop for a rest, but Saul is determined to press on and reach their destination ahead of schedule. Then the blinding light forever changes his course. Saul meets the God he has been persecuting face to face and is forced to listen and choose his future.

After his sight is restored, Saul becomes acquainted with some of the Christians he has persecuted. They are afraid to meet him, but in obedience they reach out to him and he is drawn to their Lord by their hospitality. He is overwhelmed by the love poured out on him. He decides to go away to reflect on his new direction.

"Out in the desert, shut off from the noise and confusion of life, with the burning rocks and sands by day and the silent stars by night, Saul unwound the false bindings of a lifetime and freed himself from the prison of Jewish tradition. In the quiet of Arabia he walked with God, God revealed himself to Saul, and the great truths which were to be the anchors of his preaching for the rest of his life dawned upon him in those solitary days. This is where he restudied the Scriptures and meditated upon the great doctrines....This is where he learned the blessedness of communion with God, and this is where he became sensitive to the will of the Lord."

Lacing the narrative with Paul's writings from the scriptures, Charles Ball tells the story of Paul's life. Paul falls in love with his Savior. With even more zeal than before, he becomes a part of the Christian church. In all that he says and does, he shares his new-found faith with everyone he meets. When they listen, he counsels and guides. When they scorn him and persecute him he moves on to another place. When his fellow Jews try to kill him for abandoning them, he hears from the Lord and

turns in love to the Gentiles and guides them to faith in Christ.

This book is unique in that it is not simply the story of Paul's life and ministry. Interspersed in every aspect of the story are historical facts, Jewish traditions, and insights into the first century world. It pulls together the chronology of Paul's life and the beginnings of the Christian church. In one sense, it is a story and in another it is a historical narrative. It may be difficult for some to read, but for those in search of the whole picture of the details of Paul's life as well as historical accuracy, this book is worth persevering to the end.

◆ Quality - 3      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Sharon Ann Rau  
Librarian  
Valley Christian Schools  
Abbotsford, British Columbia

**228. Lawson, Steven J. *Heaven Help Us! : Truths About Eternity That Will Help You Live Today*. ISBN 0891099123. NavPress, 1995. Hardbound, \$16.00. Gr. 11 - Adult.**

"A mind set on heavenly realities must govern our earthly pursuits." (Colossians 3:2)

Author Steven Lawson helps us do this in a practical and inspiring study of four chapters in the Book of Revelation that center on heaven.

In a virtual guided tour, he walks the reader through Chapters four and five, which he characterizes as "heaven the person." Here we look at the glories of God the Father and Jesus Christ, his Son. Then Dr. Lawson, who is senior pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, fast forwards to Chapters twenty-one and twenty-two, "heaven the place."

When we finish, thoughts of heaven begin to move into our daily thinking. Can the impact on our Christian walk be far behind?

In his book, Dr. Lawson explains symbols and enlightens us on the roles of heavenly personnel. He confirms and clarifies Scripture verses and puzzling truths. He defines terms such as "the new Jerusalem", the "new heaven" and the "new earth." And on some subjects, he stops to teach.

Worship, one of the ongoing occupations in heaven, is one such topic. As we watch the elders around the throne cast off their crowns and prostrate themselves before God the Father and his Son, we see that in the Lord's presence we

can do nothing else. Drawing on this biblical picture given us by the Apostle John, the author instructs us on the six elements of worship and says that worship should be a way of life. He reminds us that in Romans 12:1, Paul urges us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices “which is your spiritual worship.”

*Heaven Help Us!* also takes much of the mystery out of heaven the place and what we’ll be doing there. As we read, a longing sets in.

The author provides an enjoyable epilogue, titled “When We All Get To Heaven,” in which he pulls together scriptural answers to frequently asked questions about eternity.

A very basic service the book renders is to open the door to Revelation, popularly avoided by many as too difficult to understand.

Dr. Lawson brings a nice blend of information and inspiration to his 197-page study. His intriguing subject matter draws us in and he does not disappoint us. *Heaven Help Us!* is well organized and often stirringly written. But it offers just a sprinkling of anecdotes and is not for the casual reader. You’ll want a pen handy for taking notes.

Steven Lawson sets out to help us see our lives from a heavenly perspective. He gives us generous start.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 5

Nancy B. Clarke  
Freelance Writer  
Sun City, Arizona

**243. Kuhne, Roberta. *Seize The Moment, Share the Message : And God Will Change Lives*. ISBN 0880706619. Multnomah Books, 1995. Paper, \$8.99. Adult.**

Roberta Kuhne met the Lord when she invited herself to her friend’s Bible study. Her heart aching for lost souls, she writes a volume of encouragement to timid Christians, urging them to take seriously their responsibility for the Lord’s command, “Be my witnesses.”

Kuhne shows the person who always wanted to talk and share her faith more openly without embarrassment or fear of rejection how to approach and love others so that they will fall in love with the Savior.

Chapter one challenges the reader to make a “three most-wanted list,” to begin praying for those friends, acquaintances, or relatives. Succeeding chapters detail specific helps for working with these three people.

Believing that everyone has one or more spiritual gifts, the author describes them at length, explaining how each person’s gifts determine the kind of witnessing he does effectively. One who knows his gifts, knows God’s purpose for his life.

Kuhne’s review of human temperaments helps one understand how individuals respond

differently to the gospel. She provides verses which appeal to the needs of each temperament. A melancholy, for example, responds well to the logic of the word.

Along with her zeal for reaching the lost, Kuhne radiates a zest for living. She meets people where they are, as Jesus did, and shows the reader how to mix with the world without

sacrificing the Christian walk. Her creative advice emphasizes hospitality: giving a party for someone who needs encouragement or who is carrying a heavy burden, giving a blessing at a baby shower, and having dinner at home or a barbecue for non-believers.

Using analogies from fishing and gardening, she exhorts the reader to go where the fish are and

touching, funny,  
& genuine

PostScriptPicture

Carter CLJ ad



sow the word at every opportunity. She raises and gives answers to many questions asked by the unsaved.

An excellent choice for a small home study group, women's programs, a Sunday School class, or for individual growth in evangelism, this book presents discussion-provoking questions at each chapter's end.

Kuhne's strong convictions and loving heart will bless the reader. She stresses the importance of abiding in Christ, memorizing scripture, and forming a three-minute personal testimony to give at a moment's notice. Time is critical, she says, especially for the sick and dying. Kuhne challenges the reader to prepare a "life mission statement," which helps him choose activities that fulfill the Great Commission. Her heart-cry is "to know God and make him known."

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Rhonda Marie Lackey  
Freelance Writer, Retired Teacher/Librarian  
Seattle, Washington

**248.2 . A Garden of Virtues : A Bouquet of Stories About Timeless Virtues.** ISBN 068701736X. Dimensions for Living, 1996. Hardbound, \$15.00. Gr. 11 - Adult.

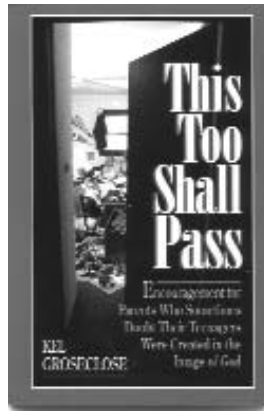
A smaller version of William Bennett's *Book of Virtues*, this compilation of quotations, stories, poetry, and scripture passages is organized into seven sections under the headings of seven virtues: Faith, Hope, Love and Charity, Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude.

By way of introduction the first entry is an essay on the difference between virtues and values by Joseph Stowell, current president of Moody Bible Institute. Values seems to be the "politically correct" term that relates to a personal set of standards by which one lives. Virtue, on the other hand, is more inflexible moral code established by a common authority. "If we his people lose our sense of absolute virtue, we will lose not only our character, but also our opportunity to bring a healing voice to a hurting world," says Stowell. "May we instead be people who unashamedly cling to the absolutes of God's character and who by our own lives call others to virtue again."

No index is included, but none is needed because the book is so clearly organized. All selections are credited to their source, either immediately at the end or on the copyright page, which is continued to the back of the book. Scripture quotations are from various translations, including the King James Version, New International Version, New Revised Standard Version, and the Revised Standard Version.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judy Waggoner  
Freelance Writer  
Grand Rapids, Michigan



**248.8. Groseclose, Ken. *This Too Shall Pass : Encouragement for Parents Who Sometimes Doubt Their Teens Were Created in the Image of God.*** ISBN 0687006104. Dimensions for Living, 1995. Paper, \$9.00. Adult.

*This Too Shall Pass* is a book whose down-to-earth tone and warm style will make readers feel as if they are conversing with an old friend who has "been there, done that," in the world of bringing children through the teen years. From the opening chapter, the reader has a sense of looking in on Groseclose's reflections during the years he was raising his own six children.

The author has many accurate and comforting insights for parents who are in turmoil over their teenagers' slovenly habits, surly attitudes, and lack of motivation. He counsels them not only from the way his father taught him, but also from his wide berth of experiences in his own family. Anecdotes from the Groseclose's life abound, allowing the reader to feel as he's getting an insider's view of how the principles he speaks of are actually used.

Chapter titles such as "Touchlove," "Getting Upset for the Right Reasons," "From Night Lights to Porch Lights," and "A Tender Topic: Discussing Their Sexuality," are but a few of the subjects Groseclose's touches on. Throughout the book, he skillfully integrates scriptural principles and extracts examples of biblical responses to modern-day problems. He finishes the book with "The Teen commandments for Parents," a basic list of guidelines for parents to follow.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Karen Orfitelli  
Freelance Writer  
Manchester, Connecticut

**249. Dobson, James C., and others. *Christ in Christmas : A Family Advent Celebration.*** ISBN 0891096051.

---Colson, Charles, and others. *Christ in Easter : A Family Celebration of Holy Week.*

ISBN 0891093095.

NavPress, 1989-90. Paper, \$8.00. PS - Adult.

Weaving the expertise of several sources, Christ in Christmas offers a rich storehouse of ideas to plan our celebration of Jesus' birth. Each week's events begin with a scripture and Christmas song followed by a personal devotional reading, including thought provoking questions for discussion. An object lesson, prayer and another song conclude each Sunday's events.

The themes range from expecting Jesus, to his birth, the shepherds, Magi and the of Christ himself. Hands on family activities include emptying jars for object lessons to making puppets. Christmas Eve's celebration culminates with thoughts of what Jesus gives his children! James Dobson and James Boice's devotionals are most "child friendly." The other author's vocabulary will need to be clarified for younger children.

Guiding families to a better understanding of the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is the focus of *Christ in Easter: A Family Celebration of Holy Week*. Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Good Friday, and the Resurrection are highlighted. Age appropriate activities are planned. Pre-preparation is helpful.

Max Lucado's introductory story fits Jr. High and up, while discussion questions cause adults as well as kids to think. Poetic renderings are included, plus additional readings for older children.

Both of these paperbacks follow the same format: Scripture readings, songs, devotional reading or story, discussion time and family activities. Each book's design is a work of art in itself. Scripture, often highlighted in decorative borders, is set off as special. Readers confirm Scripture's role in the season's celebration. Bible readings for each day (for the one week plan of Christ in Easter and the month-long Christ in Christmas) are taken from the New International Version or the New King James. They center around each week's theme. Printed at the bottom each page is one step in the program.

A variety of questions pulls the studies together. Aimed at differing age levels, some are cognitive and others more reflective and thought provoking. Most family activities require action by thinking of ways to display what is learned. Some plan for writing out prayers to God to feelings, to inviting neighbors over to share what the Lord has done in the family. Activities span five to thirty minutes, depending on the interest level of children.

Some hymns included will be new to small children.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Carolyn Hearing  
Retired Teacher  
Raytown, Missouri

**266. Davis, Rebecca Henry. *With Daring Faith : A Biography of Amy Carmichael*. ISBN 0890844143. Bob Jones University Press, 1987. Paper, \$3.97. Gr. 4 - 10.**

*With Daring Faith* is a detailed biography of Amy Carmichael, a woman who devoted her life to the children of India. This inspiring story takes the reader from an Amy at three, who is sure that prayer can change her brown eyes to blue, to a bedridden woman of eighty-three who understands why her brown eyes are just one part of God's perfect plan.

Determined to live a holy life, young Amy works to share Jesus with children in Ireland and England. Though burdened by a desire to be a foreign missionary, Amy is sure that it is impossible because of her bad health. When God continues to prompt, Amy leaves first for Japan and then India where she spends her remaining fifty-five years.

Davis shares an exciting narrative of a woman with an astonishing devotion to God and her adopted people, while allowing the reader to enjoy Carmichael's sense of humor and mischievous personality. The author presents information about Hinduism in a straightforward, understandable manner, and handles with sensitivity the practice of giving children to the temple.

Black and white drawings and the colorful cover add appeal. The book is well written, fast paced, and interesting and reveals the joy that is found in serving Him.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Cathy Bittner  
Librarian, Cascade Christian School  
Tacoma, Washington

**266. Zamperini : *Still Carrying the Torch*. ISBN 1564081605. Broadman & Holman, 1992. Videocassette, \$19.99. Grade 5 - Adult.**

As a rebellious teenager, Louis Zamperini never dreamed what lay in store for his life. His coaches recommended he begin running for the high school track team, and as a result he was an Olympic runner in the 1933 Berlin games.

The adventure in his life was only beginning. Soon Zamperini was to have his plane bombed in W.W. II over Japan, and he succeeded in landing the plane and saving his crew. Another mission found him stranded in the middle of the Pacific with two other men on a life boat, eventually to be "rescued" by the Japanese and spend years as a prisoner of war.

Miraculously surviving the tragedies, he returned home safely only to find lack of meaning and

purpose which led him to drinking and despair. Finally, he met Jesus Christ at a Billy Graham Crusade and committed his life to him. Experience the metamorphosis, as Louis transforms his life by serving disadvantaged youth, returning to Japan as a missionary, and helping the elderly.

Worldwide Pictures gives a strong testimony for the power of God through the life of Zamperini. This film is most appropriate for an educational audience, as the historical pictures and events are academic in nature. Zamperini's captivating testimony makes this film very suitable for evangelical purposes as well. Ideally, the audience would consist of both believers and skeptics who share an interest in history and personal life adventures.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Mary Jo Krzyminski, M. Ed.  
Christian Middle Level Language Arts Teacher  
Norfolk, Nebraska

**272.092. Francis, Julia. *The Orphans and the Ravens. Living Sacrifice Books, 1989. Paper, \$5.00. Gr. 11 - Adult.***

*The Orphans and the Ravens* by Julia Francis derives its name from the Old Testament story. The prophet Elijah was hiding by the brook Cherith, and only the ravens brought the provision of God (I Kings 17:4.) The family of account is also away from their home, persecuted by the godless, quite literally provided their daily bread by the kindness of strangers. Few names are given. We are told that the name given the adopted daughter is Miriam. This irony is not lost on the Christian reader: Miriam was the name, also, of Moses' sister who helped the Egyptian princess raise the Hebrew deliverer.

The father, a junior priest in a church in Romania, is accused of crimes against the state and sentenced to 18-22 years in prison. He leaves his wife, five young children, and Miriam to fend for themselves. Then come the soldiers in the middle of the night, displacing them to the equivalent of an interment camp. The mother tells of day-to-day struggles under bleak circumstances, of her spiritual journey. Not all is in a straight line, for this material is drawn from her journal. The drama is not the fruit of the narrator's story-telling skills; it is from the valor of the Christian heart.

The book is a slender paperback with a torn snapshot featured on the cover; two more are on the back. Poignant. The story between the endsheets is meager, telling us some details, but never quite enough. The translation from Romanian to proper English suffers. The courage, though, shines through, and the growing dependence on God. "He will never fail us for He is a righteous and just God, who knows the perfect path for our lives to follow to make us into vessels of honor before Him."

*The Orphans and the Ravens* is for those who are particularly interested in the effect of the Communist regime on the every-day Christian.

◆ Quality - 2     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Su Hagerty  
Freelance Writer  
Issaquah, Washington

**305.5. McKissack, Patricia C. and Fredrick. *Sojourner Truth : Ain't I a Woman*. ISBN 0590446908. Scholastic, 1992. Hardbound, \$13.95. Gr. 4 - 12.**

Over the years, the scars from the terrible whippings had healed, but they were forever fresh in their minds and hearts.

Slavery scars, emotional and physical, motivate Isabella (Belle) Van to action. Watching her mother and father, owned by a Dutch immigrant, Belle feels the torment as she witnesses slave's children ripped from family and home. Even when New York votes to gradually free slaves, Belle stands by helplessly as her aged parents flounder for a direction in their lives. Later, lacking food and shelter, they die of starvation.

Belle is sold twice. While in the possession of John Dumont, Belle falls in love with Robert, another slave. Because his master arranges Robert's marriage to another, Belle and Robert meet secretly. Their alliance is discovered and Robert's beating leaves him severely injured. Dumont arranges a marriage between Belle and Tom. Their similar backgrounds bind them together out of respect. Tom's first wife was sold years earlier.

By the time Belle has four children, she discovers the Underground Railroad and meets sympathetic Quakers. She desperately wants to make wrong right and needs to channel her deep beliefs more constructively. Being criticized by fellow slaves, she doesn't realize her desire to give blind obedience to her master hurts the slave's cause, in their opinion. So she revolts against the injustices paying out against her and leaves home and children and works for a Quaker family who aid her later in rescuing her son, Peter. The next year Tom is freed and since their marriage is one of respect, they agree to separate. Tom dies soon.

Over the years, Belle, renaming herself Sojourner Truth, actively participates in abolitionist speaking engagements nationwide. Her six-foot frame and quiet, deliberate manner coupled with soul searching speeches, demands respect from listeners.

Heads of state (Abe Lincoln), abolitionists (Harriet Beecher Stowe, Susan B. Anthony) and politicians (Frederick Douglass) seek her out to aid the cause. At eighty-six Sojourner dies and leaves a rich heritage by speaking out against injustice, oppression and for women's suffrage.

The black and white photos gathered from many historical societies, reveal the seriousness of the



times on the subject's faces. The bibliography and detailed index provide more direction for those wanting additional information. There is a reference to Sojourner unbuttoning her blouse. Some said her voice was not that of a woman and they wanted her to prove it. So she did.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Carolyn Hearing  
Retired Teacher  
Raytown, Missouri

**306.87. Yates, Susan Alexander. *A House Full of Friends : How to Like the Ones You Love*. ISBN 1561794090. Focus on the Family Publishing, 1995. Paper, \$10.99. Adult.**

Love with commitment. Discipline and respect. Laughter and fun. Honor and forgiveness. Susan Alexander Yates weaves them all into a beautiful family tapestry and hangs it in splendor against the backdrop of a bleak and friendless world.

A fun-loving author who shares her high spirits and deep spiritual perspective, Yates speaks from experience, sharing humorous personal anecdotes from her own family. Writing a how-to manual for building friendships among all family members, she delves into discussions of marital relations, parent-child interactions, sibling rivalry, and inter-generational concerns.

Yates holds out hope for rebuilding weary or broken marriages. With examples and encouragement she elaborates on traps to avoid--the habit of being picky, critical, and hard to please, for example. Wise counsel abounds on how parents can play with children when they are young to ensure good communication and friendship with them during the teenage years.

Always referring to her trust and faith in God and emphasizing the importance of prayer, Yates tackles the nature of conflicts in sibling rivalry in the early, middle, and teenage years, offering practical helps for parents.

The author gives tips for teaching children to respect the elderly and for taking care of elderly parents. Grandparents will find an extensive list of activities to do with grandchildren. Yates shows how to build bridges between in-laws and adult children.

Stories and suggestions from the experiences of single parent and blended families offer hope that anyone can break a pattern of broken families. Listening and acceptance. Encouragement and support. Prayer and more prayer. Traditions. Celebrations. Memories. These are more beautiful threads in Yates' family friendship tapestry--a work of art for every home.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Rhonda Marie Lackey  
Freelance Writer, Retired Teacher/Librarian  
Seattle, Washington

**306.874. Schaller, James L. *The Search for Lost Fathering : Rebuilding Your Father Relationship*. ISBN 0800755529. Fleming H. Revell, 1995. Paper, \$9.99. Adult.**

Emotionally, you may resemble an orphan--whatever your age--particularly if your father was aloof, absent or overly strict. James L. Schaller, a rare combination of theologian and psychiatrist, brings years of counseling wisdom to his discussions of deficient fathering and orphan psychology.

According to Schaller, the father-child relationship critically influences one's identity, masculinity or femininity, career and marriage choices, job performance, and personal interactions. An unhealthy "anti-father" relationship produces an emotional orphan, crippling his psycho-social development.

Within a thorough and compassionate analysis of character traits and behavior patterns of the "father-hungry orphan," the author introduces a loving Heavenly Father who seeks to adopt such orphans and make them his ambassadors.

Describing orphans as fearful, defenseless, and vulnerable, Schaller summarizes events from the lives of biblical heroes such as Noah, Abraham, and Jacob, portraying God's faithfulness in caring and providing for the fatherless.

Acknowledging that the orphan's difficulty in relating to an earthly father may predispose her to difficulty in relating to a heavenly father, the author provides sample prayers, teaching her how to pray to God with an emotional, feeling vocabulary.

In addition to carefully outlining steps necessary for understanding and healing hurts in earthly father relationships, Schaller encourages orphans with suggestions for strengthening relationships with their heavenly father. Emphasizing the Atonement, he reminds them that they cannot earn God's love and blessings.

The author includes an insightful examination of deficient fathering among renowned atheists and cites case and research studies showing relational alternatives, such as homosexuality, resulting from father alienation.

Pastors, parents, teachers, counselors, and individuals will appreciate the depth of Schaller's understanding and his ability to communicate to the lay person. As the father-hungry orphan discovers himself in the pages of this book, he will learn to change self-deprecating behaviors and heal past hurts, and in that healing find the joy of knowing that God the Father cherishes him as his child.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Rhonda Marie Lackey  
Freelance Writer, Retired Teacher/Librarian  
Seattle, Washington

**323.4. Schloredt, Valerie. *Martin Luther King, Jr. (People Who Have Helped the World)*. ISBN 0819215244. Morehouse Publishing, 1988. Paper, \$7.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.**

Martin Luther King, Jr. hated the injustice of segregation, but he insisted the fight against this injustice must be nonviolent. From 1955 until he was assassinated in 1968, he led a struggle for human rights. He called the Negro population to unite, with Christian love guiding their actions, even though many were jailed, beaten, hosed down, and persecuted in other ways for their protests. Their marches and sit-ins were nonviolent and dramatic, attracting the attention of the world. After his exciting "I Have a Dream" speech, newspapers called him the "President of Black America." In 1964 he won the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in civil rights.

This sixty-eight page biography is one of the "People Who Have Helped the World" series. It tells also of King's early years and family background, and it vividly depicts the conditions of the black people before and after slavery. Language is simple enough (with a helpful glossary) for intelligent fifth and sixth graders. Content is pertinent and interesting even for adults. Useful appendices enhance its usefulness as a history text for junior or senior high students.

Excellent quality photographs, color as well as black and white, are scattered generously throughout the book. Most of these were taken by Flip Schulke, King's friend and photographer. These greatly enhance the text, either making the evil truths about prejudice and segregation more believable or inspiring the reader to admire this beautiful family man. For those who want more information, five addresses of organizations, titles of many books, and two magazines are listed after the biography. A chronology, with many interesting facts which took place between 1861 to 1987, plus an index bring the book to a close.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Judith M. Gonzales  
Freelance Writer  
Moses Lake, Washington

**370. Pollard, Michael. *Maria Montessori. (People Who Have Helped the World)*. ISBN 0819215392. Morehouse Publishing, 1990. Paper, \$7.95. Gr. 7 - 12.**

From the series "People Who Have Helped the World," *Maria Montessori* is a biographical as well as an educational book that is both interesting and thought-provoking. In this attractive paperback book every double-page spread contains at least one black and white or color photograph and/or painting. In addition to this, captions, and quotes are arranged in the sidebars of every page.



The story of Maria Montessori is fascinating and informative. It tells of the hopeless lives of the poor in Italy, those for whom Maria had compassion. It gives specific details to show how she used her unconventional educational methods with great success.

Michael Pollard's book is a wonderful source to explain the philosophy behind the Montessori movement. Ideas included are that education begins with the child, not the teacher; children prefer work to play; and teachers should not interfere with a child's freedom of choice.

Other books in this series of "People Who Have Helped the World" include subjects such as Marie Curie, John Muir, Mother Teresa, Sojourner Truth, Desmond Tutu, Raoul Wallenberg, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

Esther Knaupp, Librarian  
Santiam Christian School  
Corvallis, Oregon

**371.91. Martin, Grant. *Help! My Child Isn't Learning : Turning Frustration into Understanding and Hope.* ISBN 1561794023. Focus on the Family Publishers, 1995. Hardbound, \$17.99. Adult.**

Dr. Martin divides this easily read handbook on learning problems into two distinct sections. Part one identifies the learning problems of children and exposes some of our pre-conceived ideas about what learning problems actually are and are not. He illustrates these with cases from his practice, while protecting names.

Screening and testing children is discussed in easy bulleted format. A section is devoted to consequences and symptoms of abuse, sexual and domestic.

The recipe-type fashion of describing emotional, cognitive, behavioral, social, and physical effects of abuse is very usable for identifying these problems in children.

Part Two covers various learning disabilities and their treatments. Readers will find ADHD, emotional barriers, and underachievement treatments described. Of particular interest are options such as drug therapy versus educational intervention and a school for ADHD students, and how to choose it. His discussion on grade retention gives good insight.

Parents and teachers will benefit from Dr. Martin's step-by-step helps for dealing with this often misunderstood area of learning problems. He includes much documentation behind his research and offers sections for additional resource organizations, in addition to books and video tapes. Ultimately, his message of hope makes this an important tool for the shelves of parents and teachers.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Carolyn Hearing  
Freelance Writer  
Raytown, Missouri

**509. Graves, Dan. *Scientists of Faith : Forty-eight Biographies of Historic Scientists and Their Christian Faith.* ISBN 082542724X. Kregel Publications, 1996. Paper, \$9.99. Gr. 9 - Adult.**

True science, like true faith, complement rather than contradict each other. Some of the most outstanding scientists throughout history have found their inspiration and basis for work through the study of the scriptures and God's creation. Realizing that God set forth an orderly universe often became the impetus to making an accurate hypothesis that later proved correct. It is exciting to realize that the Christian faith aided the advancement of science and other similar fields of study.

Forty-eight different scientists are represented within the text, each being given a brief background history and the contribution they made to their specific field of study. Many notable scientists are portrayed, such as Kepler, Pascal, and George Washington Carver. The bibliography is thorough and the glossary of scientific terms an excellent tool which is not only useful to the text but as a study reference in itself.

*Scientists of Faith* is a noteworthy guide for the student of science as well as for those who enjoy knowing what is behind some of the great discoveries of man. The author, Dan Graves, is careful to give each scientist an honest appraisal, showing their faults as well as their brilliant and inspired contributions. All in all, this book is a very useful tool in gaining better understanding of many notable scientists throughout history.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Mary McKinney  
Freelance Writer  
Port Orchard, Washington

**★ 551.2. Walker, Sally M. *Earthquakes.* ISBN 0876148887. Carolrhoda Books, 1996. Hardbound, \$14.96. Gr. 6 - Adult.**

*Earthquakes* interest everyone, young and old alike. Sally Walker must have had this in mind while putting *Earthquakes* together because of its appeal and interesting content. It is written from a research perspective and includes fascinating historical background as well as present scientific data. Throughout the book, the author mixes the past and the present to tie together the relevancy of learning about earthquakes.

The author concisely conveys information concerning earthquakes in a manner that is easy to both read and understand. Illustrations range from diagrams to photos in color and black and white. These enhance the overall impact of the book because they explain what is written in

further detail. Visual learners will be in their element! Additionally, what relief for those who crave variety. A glossary is composed of earthquake related words that were highlighted throughout the book. The author reveals in detail the instruments used to investigate earthquakes, and the results of past and present earthquakes. What a great supplement to any science curriculum, for research purposes, or just to read for fun! Most importantly, it does not compromise the Judeo-Christian belief system in its explanations.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

Nikkoly Stanley  
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School  
Bremerton, Washington



**649. Ballmann, Ray E. *The How and Why of Home Schooling.* ISBN 0891078592. Crossway Books, c1995. Paper, \$9.99. Adult.**

For the Christian parent struggling with the issue of whether or not to homeschool, *The How and Why of Home Schooling* is a most comprehensive book. Author Ray Ballmann makes no excuses for his strong biblically-based reasons for backing the homeschooling movement. Nor does he shy away from the day to day realities of what real homeschooling families must prepare for and commit to carrying out as they take on educating their children.

Concerned parents who are simply interested in the whole issue of schooling at home will also find this book helpful, as it explains in detail the reasons behind this decision, legal considerations, curriculum and testing, socialization, family character growth, as well as spiritual goal setting. Ballmann also lists many addresses and contacts within the homeschooling arena.

Each chapter gives many examples from scripture which challenge and encourage the reader to re-evaluate one's own beliefs and standards. Peppared with interesting ideas and anecdotes, *The How and Why of Home Schooling* contains a treasury of solid information from which to draw needed perspective and greater insights into the whole picture of educating children.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Michele Howe*  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan

**649. Jones, Stanton L. and Brenna B. *How and When to Tell Your Kids About Sex : A Lifelong Approach to Shaping Your Child's Sexual Character.* ISBN 0801097511. NavPress, 1993. Hardbound, \$8.00. Adult.**

The goal of *How and When...* is to help parents shape their children's character to glorify God in the sexual area of their lives. The book is based around twelve principles, starting with character shaping and ending with how God can heal and redeem anyone.

From a Christian perspective, the authors begin with a parental self-assessment that makes us dig into some of our most inglorious moments. They go on to look at the five building blocks of character: needs, values, beliefs, skills, and supports, applying them to sexual character formation. Using illustrative conversations and examples from life, they teach us how to form our child's character from infancy through adolescence so that he or she will be able to cope triumphantly with topics as sexual molestation, gender identification, masturbation, and destructive moral messages.

This book contains very plain language and discusses intimate topics. The authors empathize with parents, stressing the positive in all training. Each chapter and section grows out of the previous one and leads into the next one; yet many of the topics discussed can be read separately. The contents page is comprehensive enough to lead you to the topics you need right now. All quotations and borrowed information (ranging from the Bible to Planned Parenthood) are well annotated, making the Notes section a very usable bibliography.

*How & When...* talks directly to parents. It will also be useful to those who work with children of all ages. It's step by step setup makes it a good candidate for group study. Older adolescents who are still fighting to retain their Christian standards and are beginning to feel called to teach will be doubly helped by reading this book. A companion children's study series, reviewed in an earlier issue of CLJ, is entitled "God's Design for Sex."

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Donna Eggett*  
Pioneer Guide and Sunday School Teacher  
Maiden, North Carolina

**649. Weinberg, Pamela. *Your Home Is a Learning Place.* ISBN 088336641X. New Readers Press, c1993. Paper, \$6.95. Adult.**

*Your Home Is a Learning Place* inspires and lifts the reader to a place where learning is fun, fresh, and exciting. Pamela Weinberg begins her book

with a chapter on observing and remembering. She provides the reader with many fun ideas to use at home, like playing the match the socks game, which encourages young children to differentiate between all kinds of socks. Or try the memory game with a deck of playing cards, spend a half hour discovering the textures of items in the home, or enjoy a game of guess what it is as each person describes a particular object he sees.

Does your child need some lessons in learning to take better telephone messages? There's a game for you to enjoy. Could your children use a little help in improving their listening skills? Take a few minutes to play the question game. Or maybe you'd like your children to better understand the meaning of a dollar? Try out the catalog project and watch your children as they pretend to select, purchase, and then pay for their items.

*Your Home is a Learning Place* incorporates other imaginative ideas for developing better memory, reading, writing, listening, speaking, and math. You can spark your children's interest in academics without their even realizing it. Try some of Weinburg's suggestions for cooking, planting a garden, making a puzzle, shopping with coupons, and discussing the prices, acting out simple dramas, and developing art skills.

Perhaps the best part of this book is that each idea is simple to execute, does not require a large time commitment, and learning still takes place. Items for the games and projects are those found in most homes, and ideas are open enough that flexibility is welcomed.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Michele Howe*  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan

**658. Partow, Donna. *Homemade Business.* ISBN 1561790435. Focus on the Family Publishing, 1992. Paper, \$10.99. Adult.**

Donna Partow has lived this book. She has gone from a successful career woman to a wife and mother operating her own business...from home. *Homemade Business* gives readers not only practical ideas for starting their own business, but the inspiration is there too.

Ms. Partow opens by posing the common questions mothers have regarding the logistics of handling both family and career. She enters into the biblical models of working from the home and leaves the reader feeling better about the whole idea. Somehow, from the author's perspective, it is feasible to dream our dreams and still continue to fulfill our God-given roles as wife and mother.

Other interesting chapters include those on the advantages of working in the home. From the financial to the personal aspects, Donna Partow seems to cover all the bases. She discusses sound

practical ways to manage time more productively, how to handle young children's interruptions and special needs during working hours, and keys to succeeding in your chosen profession.

On the strictly business side, this author provides many charts, graphs, and forms to aid in making a home business well-organized and functional. She gives tips as to marketing your product or service, outfitting the home office, deciding to purchase a computer, and the legal issues and finances to consider. Also included are hundreds of business ideas, business forms to use in your own business, and a national resource directory available to readers.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Michele Howe*  
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother  
LaSalle, Michigan

**658.3. Tobias, Cynthia Ulrich. *The Way We Work : A Practical Approach for Dealing with People on the Job.* ISBN 1561794074. Focus on the Family Publishing, 1995. Hardbound, \$19.99. Adult.**

*The Way We Work* is an enlightening as well as entertaining resource for communicating and getting along better with people on the job. Tobias, an educator and former classroom teacher, snatches Anthony F. Gregory's model of learning styles from the classroom and effectively applies his model to the employee/employer setting.

Humorous anecdotes abound in this highly readable, information packed volume that takes the reader through the steps of determining his own learning style and exactly what that means to the people he works with. The four learning styles, Concrete Sequential, Abstract Sequential, Abstract Random, and Concrete Random, and their corresponding characteristics are detailed to enhance further understanding of others. Tobias then offers many practical suggestions for working harmoniously with those who problem-solve and approach their work in different ways. She gives her readers strategies for breaking through the barriers that may cause miscommunication and frustration with associates at work.

This book is highly readable, informative, and could hold the key to success for on-the-job relationships. It is an eye-opener to find out exactly how many ways there are to reach the same conclusion to a problem. This book will help increase understanding of people in the workplace.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Karen Orfitelli*  
Freelance Writer  
English Teacher  
Manchester, Connecticut



**796.323. Shinn, George. *You Gotta Believe!* ISBN 0842385843. Tyndale House Publishers, 1996. Hardbound, \$19.99. Gr. 11 - Adult.**

George Shinn's sports motivational book *You Gotta Believe!* is an inspiring success story for young people and adults. Revolving around Shinn's successful bid to start an NBA sports franchise in North Carolina, the purpose of the book is to inspire the reader to follow his dreams and not give up even when people all around say that the dream is impossible.

The author tells of his unpromising start as the last in his high school graduating class and then goes on to tell how he became the owner of several private business schools and eventually various other businesses. Throughout the book, he gives gems of wisdom that made a difference in his life.

Although the majority of the book surrounds the difficulties Shinn faced in realizing his dream of owning an NBA team and then talks about the challenges he faced after the dream became a reality, he is seeking to motivate and encourage the reader to never give up by numerous examples from his life.

This book would be excellent for high school students and adults, and would especially be of interest to individuals interested in sports. The book is very attractive, with the colorful book jacket picturing Shinn with four of his players from the Charlotte Hornets. Color pictures in the center of the book, and enlarged pull-quotes throughout the book give extra interest.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Esther Knaupp, Librarian  
Santiam Christian School  
Corvallis, Oregon*

**909. Dunn, John. *The Spread of Islam.* (World History Series.) ISBN 1560062851. Lucent Books, 1996. Hardbound, \$16.95. Gr. 5 - Adult.**

Using primary and secondary source materials, Dunn gives readers a chronological history of Islam from its origins to the present. The time line at the beginning of the book clearly shows the effect of Islam on the Middle East, later on Europe, and on our own century.

To help readers understand Islam and its roots, tribal life in Saudi Arabia before Mohammed is discussed. According to Dunn, in earliest times religion here was polytheistic with sun, moon, stars, and stones being worshipped. This is what we are told in both Old and New Testaments. Into this setting Mohammed was born in 570 A.D.

From humble beginnings Mohammed rose to be the father of the religion which bears his name. Though he could not read, he is said to have heard Gabriel's voice, telling him to read a silk scroll as it appeared to him. He then read for the

first time in his life. After telling only his wife what had happened, Mohammed waited two years before acting on the command.

At first his preaching was not very successful, but slowly he began to gather followers. Opposition arose because of Mohammed's denial of many gods and his criticism of the wealthy ruling class, who he charged had stopped helping the poor. His enemies reasoned preaching monotheism would harm the economy as worshippers and pilgrims dwindled. Though in danger, Mohammed was protected by his uncle Abu Talib's influence. More and more people became followers and the Islamic religion grew.

This book provides information for the student of history, comparative religion, and current events by explaining the differences between Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. The information provided helps with understanding the Crusades, the fear in Europe when the Ottoman Turks were at the gates of Vienna in 1527, and what is happening in the Middle East and southeastern Europe today.

The culture of Islam is not neglected either, as Dunn discusses the contributions of the people in mathematics, the idea of zero, literature, the Rubaiyat, decorative arts, farming advancements, science and astronomy, and other fields. Nor does Dunn neglect the factions or the offshoots of the Islam religion in this readable overview of Islam. The lingering thought remains: almost a billion people believe that Allah is god.

This book includes a timeline, black and white maps, excerpts from well-known historians, both primary and secondary sources, an index, and suggested reading list. The author also lists those works he used in writing. The artwork reproduced would be more attractive if color reproductions could have been used, but teachers who want to find those examples should have no difficulty.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Leslie Greaves Radloff  
Teacher/Librarian  
Emanuel Lutheran School  
W. St. Paul, Minnesota*

**921. Cole, Michael D. *John F. Kennedy : President of the New Frontier.* (People to Know.) ISBN 0894906933. Enslow Publishers, 1996. Hardbound, \$18.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.**

This library bound edition from the "People to Know" series has many things going for it. It includes a good outline of John F. Kennedy's private and public life for students. The drawbacks are that there are no color photographs, contains a for "further reading" list which does not include either of Kennedy's books, and has no bibliography of the titles cited in the chapter notes. Such a list would be useful for the student who wants to read more.

The book does give a clear index and chronology of events in Kennedy's life. It is short, 116 pages, not including the chronology, chapter notes, suggested reading list, and index; so for those students wanting a quick read for a book report on a famous person, this should do nicely.

One concern, in a book this length and for this age reader, is that issues are only touched upon briefly and some not at all. While Kennedy is said to have grown into his role as husband and father, no mention is made of the other women in his life. One does see the guiding hand of his father, Joseph Kennedy, Sr., throughout his son's career and John's reliance on it until the senior Kennedy's stroke. Robert Kennedy's influence and the dislike of that influence is also touched on.

So much has been written about the Kennedy years and so much discussion about the events of the assassination on November 22, 1963, that interested readers will have no trouble finding other books to answer the questions raised in this. What about Cuba and American foreign policy? Robert Kennedy's lasting impact on the White House, and FBI and CIA investigations? Were the goals set by Kennedy realized? Is the present President, who met Kennedy, carrying on in the Kennedy tradition? What were the family dynamics as John grew up, that when he was so very ill, his own mother didn't come to see him?

All in all not as satisfying a biography as it might be and thus not a necessary purchase.

◆ Quality - 3     ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Leslie Greaves Radloff  
Teacher/Librarian  
Emanuel Lutheran School(WELS)  
W. St. Paul, Minnesota*

**938. Stewart, Gail B. *Life in Ancient Greece.* ISBN 1560063270.**

---943.8. *Life in the Warsaw Ghetto.* ISBN 1560060751.

---944.04. *Life During the French Revolution.* ISBN 1560060786

---949.7. *Life in War-torn Bosnia.* ISBN 1560063262.

---978. *Cowboys in the Old West.* ISBN 1560060778.

---307.77. Altman, Linda Jacobs. *Life on an Israeli Kibbutz.* ISBN 1560063289.

---973. Stewart, Gail. *Life in an Eskimo Village.* ISBN 156006076X.

---248.4. Nardo, Don. *Life on a Medieval Pilgrimage.* ISBN 1560063254.

(The Way People Live.) Lucent Books, 1995-1996. Hardbound, \$16.95. Gr. 7 - 12.

Life in Ancient Greece

Readable and concise description of the customs, society, government, housing, commerce,



religion, and physical ideals of the ancient Greek world. Excellent black and white drawings and photographs of actual sculptures compliment the text on almost every opening within the book. Some male frontal nudity in illustrations, but not emphasized.

Notes, a glossary, works cited, books for further reading, and an index complete the work.

◆ Quality - 5      Acceptability - 4

#### Life in the Warsaw Ghetto

How could this happen, and how sad to let it happen. Background, society, humor, living conditions, and the underground life in the ghetto are described and illustrated. Photographs and quotations bring to life the expressions and feelings of an oppressed people. The feelings of hopelessness and the final revolt are described with feeling. A section on the legacy of the ghetto, notes, bibliography, and section for further reading are very useful and current.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

#### Life During the French Revolution

Revolution and social unrest seem to occur from similar basic conditions. This account of the background, the turmoil, and the aftermath of revolution bring to focus one of the major events in western civilization. Illustrations and quotations from original sources bring alive the spirit of the times and the spirit of change in an entire culture.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

#### Life in War-torn Bosnia.

The only phrase that rings true after reading this account of the death of a country is, "Deep sorrow!" The regional background, the Tito years of forced unity, and the current turmoil are described with clarity. The desperate nature and sadness of a civil war is portrayed. Illustrations and photographs are used throughout. The outcome of the conflict is still uncertain, but options for Bosnia's survival are outlined. Extensive notes, bibliography, and index complete the volume.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 5

#### Cowboys in the Old West

Romanticism and reality mix in the telling of the saga of the cowboy. From his origins through his death, his life, his equipment, his daily routine, his facing of danger, his recreation and his decline are chronicled in this balanced treatment of cowboy life. What cowboy life was, and for those who survive, what it still is, comes alive in a poignant way.

Black and white illustrations and photographs illustrate the entire work. Profanity is used once as an example of the language used by the common cowpoke.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 4

#### Life in an Eskimo Village

The death of a community of people is summarized in seven chapters. A background and cultural section, the traditions of the people and culture, the introduction of outside influences from traders (tobacco and alcohol) and whale hunters, the damage done by the missionaries (abandonment of native spiritual beliefs), and a last chance to return to traditional ways of life are included in this rather critical look at Eskimo life and culture. Insights into culture are excellent. Criticisms of missionary efforts and the influence of outsiders is quite strong. Other sources and notes are extensive.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 3

#### Life on a Medieval Pilgrimage

Why take a pilgrimage? How was it done? Where to go? All these questions are answered in detail as one examines the devotion, the practical considerations, and the destinations involved in a medieval trek to a sacred locale.

The role of faith, the role of devotion, and the role of wealth play a part in the successful pilgrimage. Illustrations and quotations make the account come alive and build a sense of understanding of why such trips were undertaken in the first place. The power of the medieval Roman church also comes alive in its promotion of shrines and relics to potential pilgrims. A concluding chapter draws parallels to modern pilgrims and what still draws them to make "journeys of devotion."

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 4

#### Life on an Israeli Kibbutz

The history, organization, and practical functioning of the Israeli kibbutzim way of life. Origins and organization are detailed. The success and recent threats to the socialist communal life are detailed as the ideal of the kibbutz adapts to the modern Jewish way of life in the middle 1990's.

The conflict between Arab and Jewish communities is mentioned with some analysis given. A brief outlook on the future of the kibbutzim social and religious model is presented. Bibliography and notes are detailed.

◆ Quality - 5      ♥ Acceptability - 4

"The Way People Live" series focuses on pockets of human culture in order to give a true image of the life and culture of certain time periods or groups of people. It attempts to strip away the stereotypes, whether positive or negative, and present a balanced and personal presentation of the culture and people being discussed. To this end they have succeeded for the most part.

Each of the eight volumes in the series are diverse in their subject matter and their historical setting. All are western European in general subject; no African or Asian subjects have been addressed to date.

The subjects are very different, ranging from the Bosnian conflict to the Middle Ages. Each attempts a personal and yet detailed treatment of selected subjects that enhance our understanding of history and our understanding of the various peoples in general.

Each volume is well made and has extensive black-and-white illustrations, many pages of notes, lists of additional readings, and bibliographies of works cited. Several have a glossary. Language, quotations, and illustrations are used effectively in each volume. Some (very rare) quotations and illustrations may be offensive to some audiences. (See specific reviews above.)

*Henry Terrill*  
Serials/Government Documents Librarian  
Harding University  
Searcy, Arkansas

**940.54. Nicholson, Michael and David Winner. *Raoul Wallenberg. (People Who Have Helped the World.)* ISBN 0819215252. Morehouse Publishing, 1989. Paper, \$7.95. Gr. 7-12.**

The biographical account of Raoul Wallenberg is set during the time of World War II. While traveling, Raoul Wallenberg saw for himself the conditions of the Jews that Hitler was trying to exterminate. It bothered him until an opportunity came up in which he could do something to save the Jews in Hungary. Sent by the Swedish government, Raoul made plans to save as many Jews as possible, knowing that the time for them was running out.

First Raoul made thousands of fake passports to give to the Jews to claim Sweden as their country. He placed safety houses in the city of Budapest and supported them with food, medical supplies, and safety. Not content to stay underground himself, Raoul often went after prisoners who were being taken out of the country, even stopping train loads of Jews headed for certain death, and giving them another chance for life. Raoul was shot at several times, putting his own life at risk to save every Jew he possibly could.

This book, *Raoul Wallenberg*, is captivating as the drama unfolds between Hitler's top man, Adolf Eichmann, and German soldiers, who were all against one man who would not back down. There are pictures throughout the book which bring the past alive. *Raoul Wallenberg* would be a great book to study along with World War II history. It is full of details and facts well put together. There is a glossary and a chronology, an excellent resource for outlines and term papers.

◆ Quality - 4      ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Dorcas Walker*  
Freelance Writer  
Jamestown Tennessee

**970.01. John Eidsmoe. *Columbus & Cortez, Conquerors for Christ.* New Leaf Press, 1992. ISBN 0892212233. Paper, \$9.95. Adult.**

In his usual precise and thorough style, John Eidsmoe has brought forth the truth about two historical figures, Christopher Columbus and Hernando Cortez. Throughout this scholarly, yet extremely readable work, Eidsmoe presents a true picture of the two men's incredible exploits and the motives behind them. While the author never once glosses over the mistakes these two explorers made during their fascinating lives, he takes a close look at the overtly Christian motives for their explorations.

Eidsmoe leaves no stone unturned in this journey through the past and demonstrates how far Western culture has strayed from the ideals and goals of Columbus and Cortez. He shows, without question, that America has been secularized and paganized by completely ignoring the ideals and goals of its earliest founders.

The sources Eidsmoe cites for this work are staggering in number. Each chapter contains end notes that reflect the true depth of his scholarship. And, while the author himself holds advanced degrees, his real feat is not only in the presentation of the facts themselves, but also making it a comfortable read for anyone interested in history.

The forward is an endorsement and commendation from Peter Marshall, author of the similar volume, *The Light and the Glory*. In Mr. Marshall's words, he feels that, "Eidsmoe has recovered an important piece in the mosaic of our past American heroes."

And all the people said, "Amen."

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Karen Orfitelli*  
Freelance Writer, Teacher  
Manchester, Connecticut

**973. Cooper, Michael L. *Bound for the Promised Land : The Great Black Migration.* ISBN 0525674764. Lodestar Books, 1995. Hardbound, \$15.99. Gr. 12 - Adult.**

The average American today knows some Black history from the pre-Civil War and Civil War periods, and perhaps a little more about the post 50's Civil Rights Movement, but little is known of African American history in the intervening years. Michael L. Cooper has chronicled in both word and photograph a relatively unknown period in American history, the Great Black Migration of 1915-1930. Brought about by a labor shortage in industrial areas of the North because of World War I, thousands of Black Americans began moving out of the poverty-stricken South into the cities of the North, most notably Chicago and New York City. Over the fifteen year period from 1915-1930 one million

Blacks would move North. In their wake would be a transformation of the Black communities of the North.

Cooper centers most of his material on the cities of Chicago and Harlem in New York City, exploring the changes brought about in education, politics, business, and the arts due to the Black influence, and setting the stage for the Civil Rights Movement of the sixties. The language isn't always pretty, but then life wasn't always pretty in that community either, and Michael Cooper has done a good job of describing the era without sensationalizing it. Cooper has included endnotes, bibliography for further reading, and an index to round out his work. This volume of eighty-five pages would make an excellent addition to any library's Black History collection.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Judy Driscoll*  
Christ the King Academy  
Poulsbo, Washington

**973. Millard, Catherine. *Great American Statesmen and Heroes.* Illustrated by Maxwell Edgar. ISBN 0889651205. Horizon Books, 1995. Paper, \$13.99. Gr. 9 - Adult.**

Although the title doesn't give the reader a clue, this history book has a particular focus. Author Catherine Millard believes that students in the United States are given a sanitized version of American history with most religious and Christian references removed. Her previous book, *The Rewriting of America's History*, gives her documentation of that premise. In *Great American Statesmen and Heroes*, Millard attempts to correct this deficit by singling out those historical figures who displayed their faith by word or deed.

Homeschoolers and Christian schools should find this book a valuable resource as a complementary textbook on American history. Well-known figures are covered, such as Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Lincoln, as well as lesser known Americans, such as Frances Willard, founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and innovative retailer John Wanamaker.

Illustrated with Maxwell Edgar's line drawings of paintings, sculptures, and historical sites. Millard quotes from personal writings and published documents, those sections that give evidence to the Christian faith of these thirty-nine "statesmen and heroes from the discovery of America to the Development Period, from numerous states in the union."

It is doubtful that students in public school American history class would learn about Henry Opukahaia, Hawaii's first Christian. Henry was orphaned as a child when his parents were "killed in a tribal contest to see which should be the greatest." Befriended by an whaler captain,

Opukahaia returned to Connecticut with him where he embraced Christianity. Before he could fulfill his dream of returning to the islands to share his faith with those trapped in a "heathen and superstitious society," twenty-six-year-old Opukahaia died of typhoid fever in 1819. He had inspired missionaries, however, who arrived in Hawaii in 1820 and subsequently revolutionized Hawaii's history. "It is little wonder then, that the official seal of the state of Hawaii bears an imprint to this truth: 'The Life of the Land is Preserved in Righteousness.'"

Extensive footnotes are included, as well as reprints of proclamations from those states who have established Christian Heritage Week.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Judy Waggoner*  
Freelance Writer  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**★ 973.9 Rubel, David. *The United States in the 20th Century.* ISBN 0590271342. Scholastic, 1995. Hardbound, \$16.95. Gr. 7 - Adult.**

Christian libraries around the country will welcome this summary of 20th century United States history. David Rubel has divided the century into the major divisions recognized by historians, such as the Progressive Era, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and up unto the present decade. Each chapter is subdivided into four categories: politics, life, arts and entertainment, and science and technology. These subdivisions are color-coded and read in strip fashion across a two-page spread. Each chapter includes feature sections located on every right-hand page, highlighting people, events, or trends significant to that historical era. Lively photographs and drawings with eye-catching descriptions accompany each main chapter. The text is interesting, succinct, and accurate, with main, indexed topics printed in color-coded bold print.

Young people will enjoy reading this book for the fun of it as well as for a jump-start into a larger reference search in American history. Adults as well as young people will find *The United States in the 20th Century* interesting and informative. The only disadvantage may be the lack of library binding. However, the cost is low, and librarians may find it relatively inexpensive to replace the book if it wears out too quickly. Index, glossary, time lines, and photos enhance the text.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Sister Mary Veronica, CHS*  
Librarian, Xavier High School  
New York City

**973.917. Freedman, Russell. *Eleanor Roosevelt : A Life of Discovery*. ISBN 0899198627. Clarion Books, 1993. Hardbound, \$17.95. Gr. 8 - Adult.**

Eleanor Roosevelt has been called both "Ugly Duckling" and "First Lady of the World." By her own description, she was "a solemn child, without beauty and painfully shy." Yet she overcame these negative roots to blossom into arguably one of this century's most outstanding citizens. Newbery Medalist Russell Freedman gives readers an intimate look at Eleanor Roosevelt, who as a child lost her twenty-nine-year-old mother, Anna, to diphtheria. Before she turned ten, Eleanor was orphaned when her father failed to recover from a coma, the result of a drunken fall.

With black-and-white photographs on every other page and well-researched commentary, including Roosevelt's own words gleaned from her journals, Russell presents an insightful and detailed portrait of the woman who was U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's wife. When he was sidelined by illness during his twelve years in office, Eleanor became his eyes and ears, traveling the world to gather information. After Franklin's death in 1945, sixty-year-old Eleanor continued as an influential political figure in the world, serving as a delegate to the United Nations, which she believed to be FDR's "most important legacy."

Although Gallup polls of the day consistently showed Eleanor to be the "most admired woman in the world," she felt "that those closest to her," her family (including six children) and intimate friends, were far more important than any of her activities as an influential world figure.

Freedman provides an index and extensive bibliography for those who want to read more about Eleanor Roosevelt, but one wonders what more could be learned beyond the contents of this biography. His tenacious gathering of material provides interesting and revealing nuggets, such as the following scene at Eleanor Roosevelt's funeral in the rose garden at the Hyde Park (New York) estate. After the service, David Gurewitsch (doctor and family friend) went up to General Eisenhower and asked, "How could it happen that you did not make use of this lady? We had no better ambassador." Eisenhower shrugged and moved away. "I made use of her," said Truman, who had overheard. "I told her she was the First Lady of the World."

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5

*Judy Waggoner*  
Freelance Writer  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**973.927. Morris Jeffrey. *The Reagan Way*. (Great Presidential Decisions.) ISBN 0822529319. Lerner Publications, 1996. Hardbound, \$22.95. Gr. 5 - 12.**

*The Reagan Way* by Jeffrey Morris is an attractive, easy to understand book. The shiny, colorful book jacket is identical to the cover of the book, which is only 124 pages of very readable print with numerous photographs and colorful charts and graphs that help explain the text. With a sturdy reinforced binding, this book will hold up well in a library.

While the majority of the book concentrates on the Reagan presidency, an introduction on the beginning of the United States and a chapter on Reagan's background open the book.

Significant events during President Reagan's term are included: Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars), meetings with Gorbachev, the Iran Contra Affair, and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The reading level of this book makes it attractive to the reluctant reader, but at the same time it is interesting reading for any age. As with all books about politics, readers need to be discerning as to the facts presented and the author's bias.

Other books in this series of Great Presidential Decisions are about Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR, and Truman.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Esther Knaupp, Librarian*  
Santiam Christian School  
Corvallis, Oregon

**973.928. Bredeson, Carmen. *Ross Perot : Billionaire Politician*. (People to Know.) ISBN 0894905457. Enslow Publishers, c1995. Hardbound, \$18.95. Gr. 8 - Adult.**

"He (Ross Perot) is an honest[,] moral man who believes in creating economic growth, jobs, and opportunity for average Americans." So said Edward Rollings of 1992 Presidential Candidate H. Ross Perot. In her fast-read, *Ross Perot: Billionaire Politician*, Carmen Bredeson proves the compliment a fact. Perot: "The waiting-in-line concept (of the military) was just sort of incompatible with my desire to be measured and judged by what I could produce." And a third statement. "The EDS (Electronic Data System, Perot's brainchild)...company motto was 'Eagles don't flock; you have to find them one at a time.'"

These truths lie at the heart of this amazing Texan who has the integrity and energy to make life goals happen. As a young boy, Perot attained Eagle Scout after spending a brief eighteen months in the Boy Scouts. In 1962, he founded EDS, a company dedicated to operating and maintaining computers and designing software tailored to an individual company's needs. Six short years later, EDS hit the New York Stock Exchange, and Perot was now a billionaire.

On Larry King Live, Perot said he might be willing to run as an independent presidential candidate if volunteers were willing to circulate petitions and get his name on the ballot in all the states by filing time. This was accomplished. Seasoned campaigners joined the team as co-chairs. Morton Myerson stepped in as head of Perot Systems so Perot was free to campaign. He won an amazing nineteen percent of the votes. Bredeson takes the reader on this swiftly moving adventure, open-ended, because Mr. Perot is still achieving!

The format of the "People to Know" series is established: Table of Contents, Text, Chronology, Chapter Notes, Further Reading, Index. Bredeson uses language to match the energy level of her topic. The author is thorough in her coverage without becoming bogged down with incidental detail. The moderate level of vocabulary plus high interest makes this book suitable for the challenged reader.

◆ Quality - 4     ♥ Acceptability - 4

*Su Hagerty*  
Freelance Writer  
Issaquah, Washington

**975.8. Branch, Muriel Miller. *The Water Brought Us : The Story of Gullah-speaking People*. Illustrated by Gabriel Kuperminc. ISBN 0525651853. Cobblehill Books/Dutton, 1995. Hardbound, \$16.99. Gr. 12 - Adult.**

*The Story of the Gullah-Speaking People* is told by Muriel Miller Branch, who describes herself as "distant kin" to the Gullah-speaking people. "Stretching along the Atlantic Coast of South Carolina and Georgia in a long line are about thirty-five Sea Islands...there live a people who call themselves Gullah and who speak a language with the same name. They are the descendants of slaves who toiled in the island fields and who stayed after Emancipation to become land owners, farmers, teachers, nurses, blacksmiths, doctors, and fishermen." Thus begins the exploration of the Gullah-speaking people who in spite of the move into modern technologies have managed to preserve the traditions, religious customs, and beliefs of their ancestors.

With the help of several prominent Gullah citizens, Branch paints for us a landscape of the history, traditions, and customs of the Gullah. Her easily read text is punctuated with informative black and white photographs as she describes such events as the Stono Rebellion of 1732 in South Carolina and the uprising in 1822 led by Denmark Vesey in an effort to free the slaves in Charleston and the nearby sea islands. Included are some of the native folk tales, songs, and vocabulary of Gullah. An extensive bibliography for further reading and an index complete the 106 pages of this delightful work.

◆ Quality - 5     ♥ Acceptability - 5



- Addy's Surprise.....30  
 Adventures of Taxi Dog .....14  
 Ainesworth Prowler .....53  
 Amazing Story of Creation.....33  
 American Inventors of the 20th... ..45  
 Ancient Egypt.....50  
 Ancient Greece.....50  
 Aryan .....58  
 Behind the Scenes at the Ballet .....49  
 Believing Sophie .....26  
 Betrayed .....63  
 Black Dragon .....65  
 Blown Away .....17  
 Bound for the Promised Land .....81  
 Brentwood .....57  
 Bridesmaid Blues for Becky .....31  
 Bumper and Noah.....16  
 Call me Graywolf .....60  
 Caught.....64  
 Changing Times .....27  
 Children of Bolivia.....52  
 Children of the King.....29  
 Chinook Christmas .....32  
 Christ in Christmas.....74  
 Christ in Easter .....74  
 Christmas in the Big House... ..51  
 Christmas Menorahs.....36  
 Christy : A Closer Walk.....55  
 City of Dragons .....22  
 Colors of Christmas .....19  
 Columbus & Cortez.....81  
 Comedy of Errors.....57  
 Coming to America .....36  
 Connie Came to Play .....22  
 Cougar Cove.....28  
 Courage by Darkness .....29  
 Courage Seed .....30  
 Cowboy.....45  
 Cowboys in the Old West.....79  
 Cranky Blue Crab.....22  
 Danger at Echo Cliffs.....25  
 Dangerous Devices.....54  
 Dangerous Game .....60  
 Darkness over Covenant.....56  
 David Livingstone .....34  
 Doomsday Flight .....71  
 Dorothea Lange .....47  
 Double Trouble for Jess McColl .....31  
 Dream Voyager.....59  
 Earthquake Terror .....27  
 Earthquakes .....77  
 Eleanor Roosevelt.....82  
 Empress and the Silkworm .....16  
 Experiments with Balloons .....39  
 Experiments with Bubbles .....39  
 Experiments with Light and Mirrors .....39  
 Experiments with Motion.....39  
 Eye on the Wild .....48  
 Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen ....37  
 False Coin, True Coin .....55  
 Farmyard Animals .....16  
 Felicity's Surprise .....30  
 Fields of Glory .....69  
 Final Chapter of Chance McCall .....64  
 Fisherman's Lady .....68  
 Flicka, Ricka, Dicka...Big Red Hen.....18  
 Flicka, Ricka, Dicka...Their New Friend....18  
 Flying Pie and Other Stories .....24  
 Frog Power .....29  
 Garden of Virtues .....74  
 Gathering Dawn .....67  
 Gathering Storm .....65  
 Giver .....59  
 Going to the Fair .....29  
 Grandma Stepped on Fred .....15  
 Great American Statesmen and Heroes .....81  
 Happy Birthday, Kirsten! .....30  
 Heart of a Stranger .....66  
 Heart of a Tiger .....14  
 Heat and Cold.....39  
 Heaven Help Us! .....72  
 Help! My Child Isn't Learning .....77  
 Homemade Business .....78  
 Hope .....26  
 House Beyond Congo Cross .....53  
 House Full of Friends.....76  
 How and When to Tell Your Kids.....78  
 How and Why of Home Schooling .....77  
 How Sweet the Sound .....48  
 Hudson Taylor .....34  
 I Can Make a Rainbow.....46  
 I Hate English! .....18  
 If I Had Lived in Jesus' Time.....16  
 If You Should Hear a Honey Guide.....45  
 In the Midst of Lions .....68  
 Inside-out Grandma .....20  
 Jacob of Canaan .....71  
 Jamestown .....67  
 John F. Kennedy .....79  
 Journey of Choices.....27  
 Just in Case You Ever Wonder.....18  
 Kansas.....51  
 Kashanka .....25  
 Kermit and Robin's Scary Story.....19  
 Kindled Flame .....67  
 Landing Place .....58  
 Leonard Berstein .....48  
 Life and Times of the Apostle Paul .....72  
 Life During the French Revolution .....79  
 Life in an Eskimo Village .....79  
 Life in the Ancient Greece .....79  
 Life in the Warsaw Ghetto .....79  
 Life in War-torn Bosnia .....79  
 Life on a Medieval Pilgrimage .....79  
 Life on an Israeli Kibbutz .....79  
 Light and Sound .....39  
 Light Weaver .....59  
 Lion Storyteller Bible.....33  
 Looking Through the Window .....34  
 Lost Kingdom.....58  
 Lullaby Babes.....15  
 Machines.....39  
 Madam C. J. Walker.....37  
 Mandie and her Missing Kin .....28  
 Mandie and Joe's Christmas Surprise .....28  
 Maria Montessori .....76  
 Mario's Big Question .....30  
 Marquis' Secret.....68  
 Martin Luther .....34  
 Martin Luther King, Jr. ....76  
 Mary and Martha .....33  
 Mary Cassatt.....47  
 Mary Marony and the Chocolate... ..27  
 Matter and Materials .....39  
 Measures of Grace .....64  
 Melanie and the Modeling Mess .....31  
 Memory Box.....14  
 Mice of the Herring Bone .....25  
 Mike's Lonely Summer .....30  
 Mimi's Tutu.....21  
 Miss Piggy's Night Out .....17  
 Monet .....48  
 Mother Teresa.....34  
 Mouse Bride .....15  
 Mouse in Solomon's House .....21  
 Mthunzi's Reed Mats .....35  
 My Brother, Ant .....15  
 My Dad's a Wizard! .....19  
 My Mom Is Magic! .....19  
 My Very Own Birthday .....46  
 My Very Own Mother's Day .....46  
 Mystery of Case D. Luc.....29  
 New England Whaler .....45  
 Nicole's Story .....37  
 Night Sky .....39  
 No Grown-ups Allowed .....29  
 Nursery Bedtime Book.....20  
 Nursery Quiet & Noisy Book .....19  
 Nutcracker Ballet .....21  
 O Is for Orca.....38  
 Of Eagles and Ravens .....62  
 Ollie Knows Everything.....17  
 Ordeal at Iron Mountain .....70  
 Orphans and the Ravens.....75  
 Outside Doctor on Call.....34  
 OUTside INside Poems .....49  
 Papa Gatto .....38  
 Paradise War .....59  
 Pastwatch .....54  
 Peanut Butter Cookbook for Kids .....46  
 Pilgrim Village Mystery .....32  
 Plays for Young Audiences .....50  
 Pocahontas .....56  
 Polar Express .....21  
 Portrait of a Farm Family.....37  
 Proving Ground .....65  
 Pueblo Indian .....45  
 Pulling Together .....32  
 Quilt-block History of Pioneer Days.....47  
 Raoul Wallenberg .....80  
 Reagan Way .....82  
 Rebel.....57  
 Red Wolf Country.....18  
 Rescued From the River.....15  
 Return .....65  
 Rhode Island.....51  
 Roanoke .....67  
 Ross Perot.....82  
 Safari Animals .....16  
 Safe at Home .....24  
 Sailaway Home.....15  
 Saint Francis.....36  
 Scarlet Thread.....70  
 Scientists of Faith .....77  
 Sea Lion Called Salena .....26  
 Search for Lost Fathering.....76  
 Search for the King .....62  
 Seasons .....39  
 Secret of Telfair Inn .....24  
 Secret of the Old House .....24  
 Seize The Moment, Share the Message.....73  
 Seven Blind Mice.....38  
 Shadow of the Red Moon .....62  
 She's Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head! ..28  
 Shelter Folks.....28  
 Sheriff at Waterstop .....31  
 Silent Thief .....53  
 Sky in Silver Lace .....58  
 Snap!.....22  
 Sodbuster .....45  
 Sojourner Truth.....75  
 Some Summer!.....32  
 Songs from the Loom.....47  
 Songs of Our Ancestors .....50  
 Spread of Islam.....79  
 Stars in Their Courses .....69  
 String Too Short to be Saved.....66  
 Sweet, Sweet Basket .....25  
 Tanya's Reunion .....25  
 Tempering Blaze.....67  
 That the World May Know .....72  
 The Music Box Test .....26  
 They Didn't Use Their Heads.....21  
 This Too Shall Pass .....74  
 Time to Weep .....61  
 To Live Again .....70  
 Toby the Tabby Kitten .....46  
 Toby's Big Truck Adventure .....31  
 Tommy's Mommy's Fish .....22  
 Treasure of Pawley's Island .....56  
 Treasured Friendship .....64  
 True Adventure of Daniel Hall.....50  
 Turnabout Paul Storybook .....35  
 Turnip .....23  
 Uncle Jed's Barbershop .....19  
 United States in the 20th Century .....81  
 Vanishing Clues .....61  
 Veiled Threats .....70  
 Walk Two Moons .....55  
 Wall of Fire .....69  
 Walt Disney's Alice in Wonderland .....20  
 War Canoe .....54  
 Water Brought Us.....82  
 Way We Work.....78  
 Wee Sing More Bible Songs .....34  
 Welcome to the Sea of Sand .....39  
 Wells of Glory .....68  
 Whales .....20  
 When I Grow Up I Can Go.....35  
 When I Left My Village.....31  
 When the Frost is on the Punkin .....50  
 When This Cruel War Is Over .....51  
 Where Hope Shines Through.....70  
 White Orchids.....57  
 Who Comes?.....49  
 Winds of Graystone Manor .....66  
 Wish You Were Here!.....27  
 With Daring Faith.....75  
 Wonderful Alexander and the Catwings ....17  
 Wreck of the Zanzibar .....60  
 Year of the Ranch.....18  
 You Can Change the World .....35  
 You Gotta Believe!.....79  
 Young Author's Do-it-yourself Book .....33  
 Your Home Is a Learning Place .....78  
 Zamperini .....75

Ackerman, Susan Yoder .....	24	Fisher, Chris .....	19	Leigh, Tom .....	17, 19	Rosales, Melodye .....	30
Adoff, Arnold .....	49	Flournoy, Valerie .....	25	Leppard, Lois Gladys .....	28	Rothenberg, Joan .....	20
Albrecht, Peggy .....	24, 53	Fradin, Dennis Brindell .....	51	Levine, Abby .....	17	Rubel, David .....	81
Aldape, Virginia Totorica .....	37	Fradin, Judith Bloom .....	51	Levine, Ellen .....	18	Rumford, Mary .....	15
Alex, Ben .....	34	Francis, Julia .....	75	Lewis, Beverly .....	29	Rushford, Patricia H. ....	63
Altman, Linda Jacobs .....	79	Frank, Marjorie .....	46	Lindman, Maj .....	18	Ryan, Susannah .....	36
Andersen, Hans Christian .....	37	Freedman, Russell .....	82	Locke, Thomas .....	59	Rylant, Cynthia .....	20
Anderson, Peggy King .....	24	Fryer, George .....	39	London, Jonathan .....	18	Sanderson, Ruth .....	38
Andreasen, Dan .....	30	Gaeddert, Louann .....	26	Lott, Sheena .....	29	Sattgast, L. J. ....	20
Arnold, Marsha Diane .....	14	Gaetz, Dayle .....	26	Lowry, Lois .....	59	Sayre, April Pulley .....	45
Baer, Judy .....	53	Gardner, Robert .....	39	Lucado, Max .....	18, 29	Schaller, James L. ....	76
Bahr, Mary .....	14	Gilchrist, Jan Spivey .....	21	MacDonald, George .....	68	Schindler, S. D. ....	17, 45
Baldwin, Robert F. ....	45	Gish, Duane T. ....	33	MacKinnon, Debbie .....	39	Schloredt, Valerie .....	76
Ball, Charles Ferguson .....	72	Goffe, Toni .....	29	Maestro, Betsy .....	36	Schulte, Elaine L. ....	31
Ballmann, Ray E. ....	77	Gompf, Ray .....	46	Maguire, Kerry .....	48	Schur, Maxine Rose .....	31
Bare, Colleen Stanley .....	46	Graef, Renée .....	30	Martin, Grant .....	77	Seaberg, Gayle .....	46
Barracca, Debra .....	14	Graves, Dan .....	77	Mason, Antony .....	48	Shaw, Janet .....	30
Barracca, Sal .....	14	Graystone, Peter .....	16	Massi, Jeri .....	29, 60	Shinn, George .....	79
Baum, Ann .....	30	Green, Jen .....	48	Mateu, Franc .....	20	Sieveking, Anthea .....	39
Beall, Pamela Conn .....	34	Groseclose, Kel .....	74	Mauterer, Erin .....	32	Simon, Frank .....	70
Bender, Carrie .....	64	Guthrie, Donna .....	33	McFarlane, Sheryl .....	29	Simont, Marc .....	15
Bial, Raymond .....	37	Halford, Celia Childress .....	56	McKissack, Fredrick .....	75	Sims, Blanche .....	27
Bjorkman, Steve .....	18	Hall, Donald .....	66	McKissack, Fredrick .....	51	Slater, Teddy .....	20
Blackwell, Lawana .....	64	Hanes, Mari Dunagan .....	56	McKissack, Patricia C. ....	51	Smith, Cat Bowman .....	33
Bly, Stephen A. ....	64	Hannon, Holly .....	20	McKissack, Patricia C. ....	75	Souci, Daniel San .....	18
Bodie, Idella .....	24	Harris, Geraldine .....	50	McLerran, Alice .....	18	Spatt, Leslie E. ....	49
Boelts, Maribeth .....	15	Hartman, Bob .....	33	McReynolds, Mary .....	68	Spears-Stewart, Reta .....	31
Branch, Muriel Miller .....	82	Hartman, Marty .....	32	Mendenhall, Cheryl .....	35	Spirin, Gennadi .....	25
Bray, Marian .....	25	Hawkins, Kathy .....	66	Metzler, Jack .....	60	Stanley, Diane .....	50
Bredeson, Carmen .....	82	Henterly, Jamichael .....	14	Meyer, Susan .....	35	Steptoe, John .....	49
Brent, Isabelle .....	37	Hermes, Jules .....	52	Millard, Catherine .....	81	Stewart, Ed .....	71
Brown, Dennis L. ....	25	Hess, Paul .....	16	Mitchell, Margaree King .....	19	Stewart, Gail B. ....	79
Bryson, Jamie S. ....	54	Higgins, Caroline .....	34	Mitchell, Sara .....	68	Stover, Jo Ann .....	21
Bunn, T. Davis .....	54	Hill, Grace Livingston .....	57	More, David .....	32	Sullivan, Don .....	15
Bush, Max .....	50	Hockett, Betty M. ....	34	Morpurgo, Michael .....	60	Tang, Charles .....	32
Byars, Betsy .....	15	Hoehne, Marcia .....	26	Morris Jeffrey .....	82	Tenud, Tish .....	19, 20
Card, Orson Scott .....	54	Hoff, B. J. ....	66	Morris, Gilbert .....	61, 69	Thomas, Jacqui .....	16
Carlyle, Linda Porter .....	15	Hollingsworth, Mary .....	16	Munsinger, Lynn .....	17	Thomas, Mack .....	21
Catrow, David .....	28	Holman, Andrea .....	38	Muntean, Michaela .....	19	Thomassie, Tynia .....	21
Chandra, Deborah .....	49	Hong, Lily Toy .....	16	Myers, Christopher .....	62	Thompson, John .....	51
Chartier, Normand .....	21	House, Jamie .....	35	Myers, Walter Dean .....	62	Thomson, Andy .....	31
Chekhov, Anton Pavlovich .....	25	Hudson, Cheryl .....	48	Nardo, Don .....	79	Tobias, Cynthia Ulrich .....	78
Christiana, David .....	15	Hudson, Wade .....	48	Naylor, Kathryn .....	17	Toby, Marlene .....	37, 48
Clary, Margie Willis .....	25	Hughes, Andrew .....	48	Nicholson, Michael .....	80	Toht, David W. ....	45
Cobb, Mary .....	47	Hunt, Angela Elwell .....	67	Nipp, Susan Hagen .....	34	Tripp, Valerie .....	30
Cohn, Janice .....	36	Hunter, Sara Hoagland .....	17	Nystrom, Carolyn .....	30	Tseng, Jean .....	22
Cole, Michael D. ....	79	Hutchins, Hazel .....	26	O'Dell, Tommy .....	62	Tseng, Mou-sien .....	22
Colson, Charles .....	74	Hutchinson, Sascha .....	22	Partow, Donna .....	78	Turcotte, Mark .....	50
Cooper, Floyd .....	48	Jeffrey, Laura S. ....	45	Paul, Diane .....	26	Turner, Robyn Montana .....	47
Cooper, Michael L. ....	81	Johnson, Grace .....	57	Peterson, Nancy Garnett .....	30	Urbanovic, Jackie .....	46
Cory, Steven .....	45	Johnson, Lissa Halls .....	57	Pflug, Kathy .....	32	Vagin, Vladimir .....	21
Cowley, Joy .....	15	Johnstone, Jill .....	35	Phifer, Martha Nelson .....	19	Van Allsburg, Chris .....	21
Crawford, Dianna .....	67	Jones, Brenna B. ....	78	Phillip, Neil .....	37	Vander Laan, Raynard .....	72
Creech, Sharon .....	55	Jones, Jan Naimo .....	28	Phillips, Michael R. ....	68	Vandevenne, Jean .....	32
Cunningham, David .....	14	Jones, Stanton L. ....	78	Pinkney, Brian .....	31	Vaughan, Marcia .....	22
Daly, Kimberly Austin .....	39	Kehret, Peg .....	27	Pinkney, Jerry .....	25	Walker, Sally M. ....	77
Damon, Duane .....	51	Kelly, Clint .....	58	Place, François .....	60	Walsh, Jill Paton .....	22
Davis, Rebecca Henry .....	75	Kerrod, Robin .....	39	Pollard, Michael .....	76	Warner, Gertrude Chandler .....	32
Davis, Tim .....	25	Klausmeier, Robert .....	45	Poole, Susie .....	33	Watkins, Dawn L. ....	22, 32
Davis, Timothy N. ....	22, 31	Klein, Nancy Spence .....	34	Porter, Connie .....	30	Watson, Nancy Dingman .....	22
Davis, W. E. ....	65	Klein, Robin .....	58	Powell, Anton .....	50	Watson, Thomas Aldren Dingman .....	22
Degen, Bruce .....	15	Kline, Suzy .....	27	Powell, David .....	28	Weinberg, Pamela .....	78
Dick, Lois Hoadley .....	55	Korach, Mimi .....	66	Presnell, Kathleen S. ....	50	West, Robin .....	46
Dobson, James C. ....	74	Kossacoff, Lillian S. ....	37	Rader, Laura .....	23	Whalin, Terry .....	35
Donohue, Dorothy .....	26	Kroll, Virginia .....	28	Ralph, Judy .....	46	Wiebe, Rudy .....	32
Dunlap, Julie .....	48	Kuhne, Roberta .....	73	Ransome, James .....	19	Wildsmith, Brian .....	36
Dunn, John .....	79	Kuperminc, Gabriel .....	82	Rao, Linda Rae .....	62, 70	Williams, Michael E. ....	35
Edgar, Maxwell .....	81	Lafferty, Peter .....	39	Rava, Giuseppe .....	34	Winner, David .....	80
Edwards, Gene .....	65	Laity, Sally .....	67	Regan, Laura .....	39	Wolfe, Art .....	38
Eidsmoe, John .....	81	Lambert, Stephen .....	22	Rich, Scharlotte .....	19	Wood, Helen .....	71
Ellis, Jan Davey .....	47	Lang, Glenna .....	50	Richardson, Jean .....	30	Yancey, Louise .....	24
Ellis, Roger .....	50	Lasky, Kathryn .....	28	Riley, James Whitcomb .....	50	Yates, Susan Alexander .....	76
Engel, Jim .....	35	Lawhead, Stephen .....	59	Riols, Noreen .....	70	Yep, Laurence .....	22
Erickson, Richard .....	45	Lawson, Julie .....	17, 28	Rivers, Francine .....	70	Yolen, Jane .....	39
Eyer, William J. ....	56	Lawson, Steven J. ....	72	Roberts, Judy I. ....	19	Young, Ed .....	38
Farnsworth, Bill .....	36	Le Guin, Ursula K. ....	17	Roche, Hannah .....	19	Ziefert, Harriet .....	23
Figley, Marty Rhodes .....	33	Lee, Katie .....	49	Roessel, Marty .....	47		

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