

Christian Library

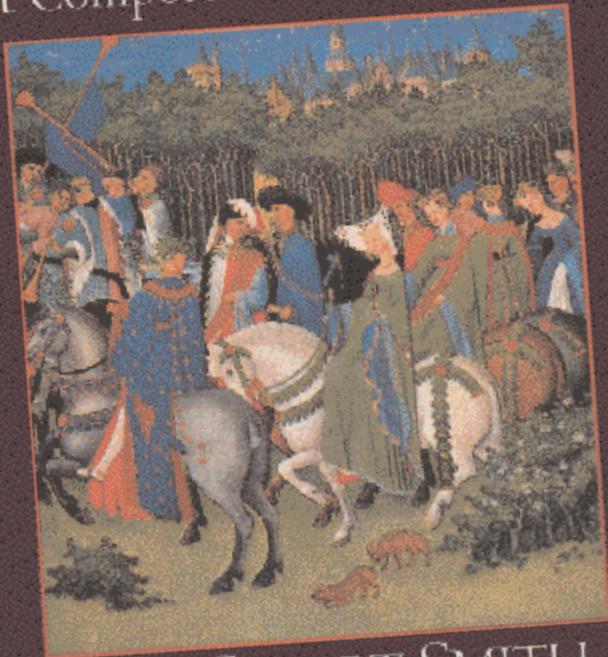
J O U R N A L

EXPANDED & REVISED

THIRD
EDITION

THE Gift OF Music

Great Composers and Their Influence



JANE STUART SMITH
BETTY CARLSON

THIS ISSUE FEATURES:

- n **The Gift of Music**
- n Show, Don't Tell: Growing an Advanced Storyteller
- n **Practical, Inexpensive Resources for Small Libraries, from CSLA**
- n **Music... Wings... Flight... Charm**
- n **Regional Books for Children: Book Nook**
- n Your Response Needed; see page 3
- n **Introducing Kids to Christian Heroes: Dave & Neta Jackson**
- n **Introducing School Librarian's Corner**



A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

This issue of CLJ is full of references to music; enjoy them as you consider expanding your library's music section.

This issue we welcome a new columnist, Debra Stombres, who has contributed work to CLJ in the past. Debra will be writing School Librarians' Corner, a newsy column with award announcements, interviews, bibliographies, question and answers, and whatever else she decides to share with us. We hope you find the column useful; please participate with your questions, comments, and suggestions.

My family and the journal have moved...not to the Oregon coast...but to Oklahoma. We are glad to be here with old friends, Mary and Mike Jarvis, and it is a delight to have Mary's help once again on CLJ. The greatest catastrophe of the move was a delay in the mailing of the November issue of CLJ. Communication was confused, and the journal sat at the mailers for over a month, but we trust you have received it by now, and have enjoyed the contents. Please note our new address and phone numbers on the next page. We like to keep in touch.

On page three of this issue, I would like to share with you some ideas we have for the future. Your interest and input are appreciated.

In Christ's love,

Nancy L. Hesch

Editor and Publisher

Columns/Article Editor:

Andrew M. Seddon



"A thing of beauty is a joy forever," wrote Keats.

Its loveliness increases,

it will never pass into nothingness..."

But as I look around the world, I wonder what has happened to beauty. Architecture has crumbled under the weight of concrete-slab cities; the pounding babble of foul-mouthed rappers has banished Mozart to specialty music shops; it is only necessary to read a few pages of contemporary bestsellers to realize that what sells books is not literary merit; junk fills museums in the name of 'art,' and pornography and blasphemy rage unchecked on film. Our culture has embraced ugliness; we have lost our sense of taste.

Where has the beauty gone?

Really, it hasn't gone anywhere. The works of great writers and composers still exist. Museums contain the works of great artists and sculptors. The world itself possesses areas of incomparable beauty.

But in many ways we have become blind to beauty. Our eyes and ears have become dull. We read poor books, listen to bad music, soak up passive entertainment. Why? Perhaps we've become lazy. Perhaps we don't know better. Perhaps our society has so trampled beauty that we have a hard time recognizing it. If a society's music reflects its spirituality—as I'm inclined to think—then what are we to make of the agonized, empty music, both popular and classical, that pours from this rapidly-ending 20th Century?

I find it interesting that scientists, who might be presumed to be the most disinterested in beauty, are, in fact, quite the opposite. Especially in mathematics and physics, scientific theories are held and explored because of their elegance and beauty. If a theory or equation lacks beauty, chances are that it is false. The universe is modeled on beauty.

Granted, standards of beauty change; granted too, mathematical beauty is available only to the select few able to appreciate it. But what needs to happen for us is that we open our senses to the rich heritage of beauty available to us—to the nuggets of gold in mountains of dross—to seek out those works that proclaim that humanity is emulating its Creator by creating that which is 'good.' Seeking out beauty in today's cheap-and-easy, use-and-dispose-of, plastic-synthesized-mass-produced world requires effort; but the effort is worthwhile.

Because, as we seek out beauty, we discover that we are drawn to the Source of beauty, as the Psalmist wrote, 'Behold the beauty of the Lord.'

This issue our 'mini-theme' is music. Music has been part of creation ever since 'the morning stars sang for joy.' Perhaps no other form of art—not even writing—possesses such a capacity to turn the human spirit towards God. Music, literature, and books are intimately connected.

Music is an integral part of my life; I doubt that I could write without it. And I think it telling that many great composers were Christians; even of those who didn't accept Christian doctrine, few were unaffected by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

In this issue we provide the opportunity to read about the spiritual lives of the great composers. Leslie Radloff provides an extensive bibliography of books about music, instruments, and composers. Appreciation of beauty is not always innate—it has to be taught, encouraged, nurtured.

'It is better to be beautiful than to be good, but it is better to be good than to be ugly,' wrote Oscar Wilde. (*The Picture of Dorian Gray*).

Let's make an effort to rediscover some of the beauty in life, to share that beauty with others, and allow it to bring us closer to God.

Christian Library



J O U R N A L

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Phone (918) 336-0813

Fax (918) 336-0877

Email nancyhclj@aol.com

The purpose of the *Christian Library Journal* is to provide readers with reviews of both Christian and secular 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 staff of the *Christian Library Journal*.

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Sylvia Stopforth **Editor: YA Fiction**
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Kitty Lindstrom **Design and Layout**

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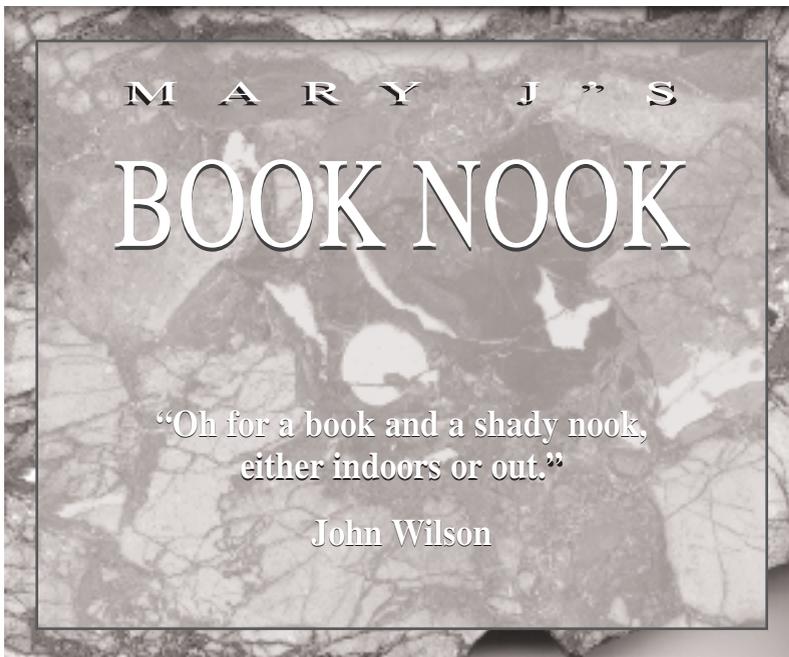
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By *Mary Jarvis*

A few months ago my husband and I moved to northeast Oklahoma to retire to the family ranch. Now instead of the mountains and tall evergreen firs of the Pacific Northwest, we wake up each morning to rolling plains of blue stem prairie grass and cattle gazing over our fence. The peace and quiet calls one to inner reflection and a slower pace of life. The people and lifestyle are different from that of the Northwest. There isn't the traffic and the rush to get things done. People have had to wrestle with the climate

and soil. They have learned you don't speed up mother nature. You live with the elements and accept them as part of life.

Perhaps this is why one sees such strength and resilience in these people. You relate to and help your neighbors. When the pump went out on our water well, every neighbor that drove by our place stopped to see if they could give us a hand as we labored to get it working again. It has been interesting adjusting to a different pace and different life view. When some new books for children about this section of the country came to my attention, I was intrigued and immediately pored over them. A vital part of the history of our nation has been played out in this Midwest region, and these books would help youngsters discover the roots that make this section of the country so vital to all of us. Each of these picture books would appeal to students in second to fifth grade. The subject matter comes alive both pictorially and in the text.

The New Land : A First Year on the Prairie by Marilyn Reynolds depicts the saga of an immigrant family who settle on the prairie. The hardships and the triumphs of these hardworking people are vividly portrayed. The books *Buffalo Thunder* by Patricia Wittmann, and *A Fourth of July on the Plains* by Jean Van Leeuwen each takes a day out of the life of a young boy journeying by covered wagon through the plains to a new home. A slice of life depicts the hardships and the joy of discovery for each of these boys. A more contemporary depiction of life, *The Dust Bowl* by David Booth, has a grandfather relating to his young grandson about how people struggled through drought and pestilence on the plains during the 1930's.

I think the strength of character and beauty I see in the people in this region today stems from these roots of struggling with nature and surviving despite the hardships. They have worked hard and sometimes seen their efforts and dreams dashed by drought, wind, or pests. Yet they have remained resilient and endured with faith and hope. Certainly these are qualities that we want to instill in our youth. Whether we live in the West or the East or in between, a study of this region and the stalwart people that have settled it would enhance the learning of our students.

Each region of our country has a unique history that is woven into the tapestry that makes us Americans. This is the exciting part of history as we relate it to who we are today and why. Many projects and opportunities can be used in the classroom to teach children why we are so special as Americans; teach them how people have lived and the adventures and struggles they endured; invite older people in the community to your

classroom to relate what it was like when they grew up in a particular area; take a day to eat and live and dress as much as possible the way people did a hundred years ago; experience life for a time with the electric lights off. What does one do to survive without this modern convenience, with no light at the flip of a switch, no TV or modern appliances?

I have gained much as I have moved to a different part of our country. I am learning much from new neighbors, new friends, and a different environment. I miss the beauty and life of the Pacific Northwest, but I am enthralled with a different kind of beauty and life out here on the plains of the Midwest. My horizons have been expanded. I am learning new things each day about living and relating to people. This process should go on for each of us all the days we have on this earth. Let's help our children in that task so they can appreciate and understand differences in this great land and the people that dwell in it.

CLJ

Christian Library Journal : The Present and the Future

Planning for the future of CLJ is challenging, if we are to continue to meet the needs of Christian librarians. The journal began as a privately owned enterprise, but, as a service to Christian librarians, it may best meet their needs by being the publication of a Christian library association of some sort.

To my knowledge, there are presently four associations for Christian librarians:

Assn. for Christian Libraries--university/Bible college librarians

Church & Synagogue Library Assn.--mainline church or synagogue libraries

Evangelical Church Library Assn.--evangelical church librarians

Nat'l. Christian School Assn.--member librarians of one of the smaller Christian school organizations

Each of these groups is meeting the needs for their particular group, but there is a much larger group of Christian librarians from all of the other Christian school associations, public schools, and public libraries, who are not specifically targeted in any one of these groups.

Would you be interested in joining either a new association, targeting any or all Christian librarians, or as a subgroup of one of the above, to provide ongoing education, inspiration, and fellowship? Would you eventually like to see CLJ become the publication of such a group? Your dues could cover your subscription, but non-members could continue to subscribe, as well.

Please let us know what you think! Respond by email or snail mail within a month or so of receiving this issue, giving us your name, your library name, address, email, and phone number.

When most people hear the phrase “I’m a writer,” they immediately think of one of two types of writing. They either assume the person in question writes for a newspaper, or they imagine someone writing the Great American novel. In fact, most of the children I’ve spoken with who want to be

writers couldn’t care less about newspapers. They want to write fiction.

What’s the attraction of writing fiction? High on most writer-wannabes’ lists is the ability to form a world of the writer’s own choosing. The writer creates the characters, assigns them tasks to perform, crafts obstacles for them to overcome, and draws everything to a satisfactory conclusion. Creativity seems unbounded, as does the power behind the creativity.

But five minutes alone with a blank sheet of paper and a pencil with a large eraser is enough to convince

many would-be fiction writers that there’s more to this creative process than meets the eye. Why don’t things read on paper the way they sound in my head? Why didn’t the main character do what I planned she would do? Why isn’t the plot as exciting as it seemed when I first thought of it?

These questions rumble through young writers’ heads, causing them to

doubt both their ability and calling as writers. What are the answers to these questions? The answers aren’t straightforward. A young writer discovers the answers only as she picks up and uses the more sophisticated tools of her craft: character, plot structure, and the descriptive use of words.

Characters can be the most difficult part of writing a story. How can a young writer communicate the kind of person his main character is? How can he do it quickly, without boring the reader? How can he make the character seem real?

Once upon a time, writers used the ploy of the omniscient narrator to explain the quirks of both character and plot. But that device no longer finds approval among writers or readers. Instead, the most basic instruction on character development today finds expression in the phrase, “show, don’t tell,” or SDT. Quite simply, it means show the character’s inner life through his or her outer actions—don’t just tell the reader what the character is like.

For example, which packs more punch while revealing the inner workings of the character:

“Alice began to cry because her father was leaving for the war.”

- or -

Alice stood at the window, looking down on the crown of her father’s army cap. He mounted the carriage step, then turned his face up to her window. With one last salute, he ducked into the carriage. As she watched the carriage turn the corner, Alice tasted salty tears on her lips.”

I hope you chose the second paragraph. It allows the reader a chance to imagine Alice’s interior feelings, while giving clues to her reaction to her father’s leave-taking. By comparison, the first paragraph seems cold and flat, communicating very little real emotion.

Show, Don’t Tell:

GROWING AN
ADVANCED
STORYTELLER

by

Georgia



Beaverson

A young writer does well to practice SDT technique instead of taking the omniscient shortcut. It will give her story depth and a realism that simply explaining things never can. If her character loves the ballet, a young writer should describe the dance shoes hanging on her character's door handle, the American Ballet posters on her walls and the edge of a tutu sticking out of her bottom drawer. If a character gets angry frequently and easily, show it in one or two situations with friends or parents. The reader will quickly clue in that this character trait is important to the plot of the story.

"Show, don't tell" can also be useful in moving the plot along. Don't place the character in an angry situation just to show his temper, but make that situation work to advance the plot. Use the anger as a catalyst to cause the character to run away and begin his adventures. Or maybe the argument occurs between the protagonist and his best friend, separating them and bringing a real problem into the story.

A young writer should think carefully about both plot and character. Creating a story plan and graphing it out can help keep a new writer a (and an experienced one!) on track. Many professional fiction writers use written character sketches to outline their characters' basic personalities. Both the plot outline and character sketches serve as reminders of the story's goals, and help keep the narrative focused on those goals. They also help keep track of the main plot and any

secondary plots woven into the story.

SDT also gives a neophyte fiction writer a chance to use words to wonderful effect. A flat explanation of events offers very little opportunity for descriptive words. But when the writer must show how a person feels through outward action or the character's own spoken words, the story can achieve a depth and texture that would otherwise never cross the writer's mind. Here's an example from my fantasy novel-in-progress:

"Domm's breath came in short, explosive puffs. He sounded like a bull Linn had seen in the market, spraying out his rage in angry snorts. Domm even resembled the bull physically. Although he was short, Domm's shoulders were broad and massive. Power radiated from those shoulders, like heat radiated from the hot sun overhead."

Do you get the idea that Linn is in conflict with Domm, and that he's angry with her, threatening her? But these things are never said straight out; you see them in Domm's breath, Linn's reminder of the bull, the hot sun overhead.

SDT can help your young writer's fiction move from amateur to amazing. Careful structuring, character outline, language and dialogue all flower with the use of "show, don't tell." It's the one tool no fiction writer—new or experienced—can do without.

POV

SDT and POV are the two fiction techniques that divide the writing sheep from the goats. An amateur is often tempted away from the hard work of showing and simply resorts to telling his readers an important point. The same goes for POV, or "point of view."

Okay, so what is point of view? POV means maintaining the same character's viewpoint throughout a story or section of a story. The writer must make the reader forget anything but what that character thinks, feels, perceives, see, reacts to. Forget the omniscient narrator with whom so many of us grew up. Point of view means setting our literary sights on the main character's knowledge, vision, or experience. It is the literary equivalent of walking a mile in another's shoes.

All fiction writers, amateur or professional, struggle with point of view. Sometimes, it seems like walking an extra-long way around when a convenient shortcut beckons enticingly, but POV lapses brand a story as amateur. Many editors cite POV mistakes as the single most glaring error they see in untried writers' manuscripts.

Maintaining point of view strengthens a fiction story. It helps the story become more believable because it maintains a consistent viewpoint. It also enables a writer to submerge the reader in the world of the protagonist. A reader takes on that character's viewpoint, and thus "becomes" the character. POV helps the writer manipulate the reader, too, making the exciting action that much more exciting, the sad parts sadder, and the surprising bits simply heart-stopping.

Meet the Author

Introducing Kids to Christian Heroes: Dave and Neta Jackson



by Lorinda K. F. Newton

Where can children find heroes? Some look to cartoon action figures, movie stars, or athletes. Others have no one to admire or to aspire to. Children need positive role models to give them hope and an example of good character. Where can they find such heroes?

Dave and Neta Jackson, award-winning authors and co-authors of over seventy-five books, seek to fill this void by writing books that children love to read and, through the Trailblazer Series, offer them heroes to admire and emulate.

Bread and butter

Growing up, both Dave and Neta enjoyed their families' tradition of reading books aloud, including classics such as *Black Beauty* and the works of C.S. Lewis and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Neta also pursued horse books, and Dave devoured the writings of Joseph Conrad and Jack London. These experiences instilled within them the love of children's literature, yet neither planned to be writers.

Neta enjoyed drawing horses. Then in junior high, she wrote stories to go with the pictures. As a high-school senior, she won first place in a Scholastic short story contest. This directed her to earn a degree in English.

Dave planned to be a chemistry teacher. Then someone talked him into joining the college newspaper staff, and his teacher inspired him to consider a writing career.

Dave and Neta met at Multnomah School of

the Bible and were married in October 1966. The following year, they moved to Elgin, Illinois, where they worked as editors for several Christian publishers and wrote numerous freelance articles.

By 1985, the Jacksons dreamed about writing books as full-time freelancers. They had already published a few books by this time. Their first book, *Living Together in a World Falling Apart: A Handbook on Christian Community* (now out of print), appeared in 1974. To launch their freelancing career, they first worked as co-authors with expert resource people. One such project became the 1994 Gold Medallion winner, *Breaking Down Walls: A Model for Reconciliation in an Age of Racial Strife*, written with Raleigh Washington and Glen Kehrein.

"Co-authoring was our bread and butter to get started in the writing business," explained Dave. "But we were really interested in writing for kids."

Birth of the Trailblazers Series

In the late 1980's, the Jacksons were asked to dramatize fifteen stories about the sixteenth-century Christian martyrs for a book titled *On Fire for Christ*. This research project opened the door to their true passion—writing children's fiction.

"We got so excited about bringing history to life by using historical fiction," explained Neta. This experience led them to think about other great Christians and how they could make their stories interesting to kids.

Telling children about church forefathers not only intrigued the Jacksons but also caused them to recognize some needs. Though they had both been raised in the church and gone to Christian colleges, they didn't know much about church history and recognized that many in the Christian community didn't either.

Past and present heroes are commonly degraded by our culture today; so many people have no heroes, noted Dave. Yet our society desperately needs the inspiration that good heroes can provide. "And there's just a wealth of examples of saints from the past who have forged the way and shown us how to live whom we've largely ignored or forgotten." From these reflections, the Trailblazer Series was born.

In writing these books, the Jacksons hope to make the great personalities of the church familiar to kids. They accomplish this by demonstrating, from the viewpoint of a child, how men and women of great faith contributed to the missionary movement or had an impact on society. The authors, however, refuse to place these historical figures on pedestals. They simply seek to show what happens when ordinary people say yes to God and are used by him. Sometimes this means including their mistakes and failures (*Attack in the Grass* is a good example).

"Honesty about the failures of great people—without tearing them down—helps inculcate children against disillusionment," explained Dave. "Even the Bible is honest about

human failings” (Dave Jackson, “Heroes and Imposters,” *Christian Parenting Today*, [November/December 1994]: 26-33).

To fit the Trailblazer pattern, in addition to having had contributed to society or church history, the topical characters must have had experience with children. This criterion is sometimes difficult to meet. Historical children are used as the point-of-view characters in most cases, but occasionally the Jacksons must create a child who would be typical for the story period. The authors then turn to research to find the information needed to develop the characters and the story line.

Research to Story

The Jacksons use several libraries and the Internet to locate primary and secondary resources on their subjects. For example, to find details about the Piper airplane that Nate Saint flew (*Fate of the Yellow Woodbee*), Dave searched the Internet and discovered a Piper Aircraft Club in Pennsylvania. He called the club curator for the information he

needed.

On occasion they also do on-site research for a story. Last summer, they visited Plymouth Plantation, a restoration of the original colony, to do research for their new book on William Bradford.

While researching, they seek a “window of opportunity,” which Neta described as “a year or two or three in a person’s life that may best illustrate in a dramatic way what that person’s life is about and what his or her contribution is.” Finding this, they build the story around that period.

Next, they examine historical factors and issues that a child may have faced to create the youngster whose life is changed by the principle character in some way. For the William Bradford story, they considered historic fact that many people died and that children often grew up with other families. They developed the story by pairing this information with the lack of sense of belonging that a child may have felt.

The research and writing of an individual book is the primary responsibility of one member of this couple team. Each works on a book separately, with each of them producing one book every six months. Neta and Dave also work together, helping each other brainstorm when one gets stuck, and they critique each other’s work.

Working full-time as freelance writers, 9:00 to 6:00 each workday, Dave and Neta have fulfilled their dream. They still continue to write their bread-and-butter nonfiction projects, but their passion continues to be writing children’s historical fiction.

“With the Trailblazers, we really feel like we’ve made a contribution to what’s available to children,” said Neta. “We get a great deal of satisfaction knowing that we’ve made available to kids real heroes in a way that is easily digestible and fun to read.”

Current Books by Dave and Neta Jackson

CHILDREN	<i>Trial by Poison: Mary Slessor</i> , 1994, ISBN 1556612745	<i>Snap: How to Act Like a Responsible Almost Adult</i> , 1994, ISBN 0805440054	with Steve Wilde, New Leaf Press, \$4.95
<u>Trailblazer Series</u>	<i>Shanghaied to China: Hudson Taylor</i> , 1993, ISBN 1556612710	<i>Smash: How to Survive Junior High by Really Trying</i> , 1994, ISBN 0805440062	<i>When Alcohol Abuses Our Marriage</i> , 1995, ISBN 0892212853
Bethany House, paper, \$5.99	<i>Listen for the Whipporwill: Harriet Tubman</i> , 1993, ISBN 1556612729	<i>Snag: I’m Dreaming of a Right Christmas</i> , 1994, ISBN 0805440070	<i>When the Odds Are Against Us</i> , 1995, ISBN 089221287X
<i>Fate of the Yellow Woodbee: Nate Saint</i> , August, 1997, ISBN 1556617437	<i>The Bandits of Ashley Downs: George Miller</i> , 1993, ISBN 1556612702	(See reviews on this series in <i>March</i> , 1996, p.45)	<i>When We Fight All the Time</i> , 1995, ISBN 0892212861
<i>Defeat of the Ghost Riders: Mary McLeod Bethune</i> , August 1997, ISBN 1556617429	<i>Imprisoned in the Golden City: Adonirum and Anna Judson</i> , 1993, ISBN 1556612699	<i>Other children’s books</i>	<i>When It’s Hard to Trust</i> , 1992, ISBN 084237955X, \$3.99
<i>The Drummer Boy’s Battle: Florence Nightingale</i> , 1996, ISBN 1556617402	<i>The Chimney Sweep’s Ransom: John Wesley</i> , 1992, ISBN 1556612680	<i>Hero Tales: A Family Treasury of True Stories from the Lives of Christian Heroes</i> , volume 2, June 1997, ISBN 1556617135, \$12.99	<i>When We Can’t Talk Anymore</i> , 1992, ISBN 0842379878
<i>Quest for the Lost Prince: Samuel Morris</i> , 1996, ISBN 1556614721	<i>Escape from the Slave Traders: David Livingstone</i> , 1992, ISBN 155661263X	<i>Hero Tales: A Family Treasury of True Stories from the Lives of Christian Heroes</i> , volume 1, 1996, ISBN 1556617127, \$12.99	<u>Other nonfiction</u>
<i>The Warrior’s Challenge: David Zeisberger</i> , 1996, ISBN 155661473X	<i>The Hidden Jewel: Amy Carmichael</i> , 1992, ISBN 1556612451	<i>Loving One Another</i> , 1993, ISBN 094556466X, Questar Publications, Inc., \$10.99	<i>Breaking Down Walls: A Model for Reconciliation in an Age of Racial Strife</i> , with Raleigh Washington and Glen Kehrein, 1993, ISBN 0802426425, Moody Press
<i>Traitor in the Tower: John Bunyon</i> , 1996, ISBN 1556617410	<i>Spy for the Night Riders: Martin Luther</i> , 1992, ISBN 1556612370		<i>Tinkering with People: What You Need to Know About the Medical Ethics Crisis</i> , with Kenneth E. Schemmer, M.D., 1992, ISBN 0896938417, Victor Books
<i>The Runaway’s Revenge: John Newton</i> , 1995, ISBN 1556614713	<i>Kidnapped by the River Rats: William and Catherine Booth</i> , 1991, ISBN 1556612206	ADULT	<i>The Gift of Presence</i> , with Beth Landis, 1991, ISBN 0836135660, Herald Press, \$8.99
<i>The Thieves of Tyburn Square: Elizabeth Fry</i> , 1995, ISBN 1556614705	<i>The Queen’s Smuggler: William Tyndale</i> , 1991, ISBN 1556612214	<u>Fiction</u>	<i>Cities of Lonesome Fear</i> , with Gordon McLean, 1991, ISBN 0802411363, Moody Press, \$8.99
<i>Abandoned on the Wild Frontier: Peter Cartwright</i> , 1995, ISBN 1556614683	(See reviews on this series in <i>January 1996</i> ; p.29, <i>January 1997</i> , p.52; and <i>March 1997</i> , p.50)	<i>Lost River Conspiracy</i> , 1995, ISBN 1561481831, Good Books, \$8.95	<i>Witness</i> , with A. Grace Wenger, 1989, ISBN 0836134826, Herald Press, \$9.99
<i>Danger on the Flying Trapeze: D.L. Moody</i> , 1995, ISBN 1556614691	<u>Secret Adventure Series</u>	<i>On Fire for Christ</i> , 1989, ISBN 0836134032, Herald Press, \$9.99 (historical fiction)	
<i>The Betrayer’s Fortune: Menno Simons</i> , 1994, ISBN 1556614675	Broadman & Holman Publishers, \$4.99.		
<i>Flight of the Fugitives: Gladys Alyward</i> , 1994, ISBN 1556614667	<i>Spin: Truth, Tubas, and George Washington</i> , 1994, ISBN 0805440046	<u>Recovering Hope in Your Marriage Series</u>	
<i>Attack in the Rye Grass: Marcus and Narcissa Whitman</i> , 1994, ISBN 1556612737			

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

by Debra Stombres

Welcome to the School Librarian's Corner of the *Christian Library Journal*! This is our place to discuss issues that face school librarians in particular. Often the school librarian has to wear many more hats than other librarians, covering collection development, acquisitions, reference, circulation, and library management with limited staff resources. Hopefully, this section of *CLJ* will be our place to help each other in many of these areas.

Beginning with this issue, we have the following categories, or areas of interest: Awards to Note, Technology in Schools, Interview Corner, Bibliography of the Month, and a Question and Answer Column. So pour a cup of coffee, pull up a comfortable chair, and let's chat!

AWARDS TO NOTE:

This month we are looking at the Gold Medallion Awards. These come out each July, just prior to the Christian Booksellers Association annual international convention. They are sponsored by the ECPA, Evangelical Christian Publishers Association which sends out packets to publishers who, in turn nominate their own books. (There is a fee involved in the nomination process.) Final decisions are made by a committee.

While not all titles are pertinent to school libraries, I am including the entire list. Those of you with high school students may be interested in the reference and non-fiction titles.

The 1997 winning titles are:

Christian Book of the Year: *In the Grip of*

Grace. Max Lucado, Word Publishing.

Bibles: *Word In Life Study Bible*. Thomas Nelson

Reference Works/Commentaries: *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Walter Elwell, Baker Books.

Fiction: *The Book of God*. Walter Wangerin Jr., Zondervan.

Biography/Autobiography: *C.S. Lewis Companion and Guide*. Walter Hooper, HarperSanFrancisco.

Theology/Doctrine: *The Gagging of God*. D.A. Carson, Zondervan.

Devotional: *Quiet Times for Parents*. H. Norman Wright, Harvest House.

Inspirational: *In the Grip of Grace*. Max Lucado, Word Publishing.

Christian Living: *Financially Confident Woman*. Mary Hunt, Broadman & Holman.

Christianity & Society: *Searching for God in America*. Hugh Hewitt, Word Publishing.

Missions/Evangelism: *Finding God at Harvard*. Kelly Monroe, ed., Zondervan.

Christian Ministry: *Handbook on Counseling Youth*. Josh McDowell & Bob Hostetler, Word Publishing.

Christian Education: *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Family Life Education*. Kenneth Gangel & James Wilhoh, Baker Books

Preschool Children: *Praise and Worship*, by Ken & Angela Abraham. Tommy Nelson.

Elementary Children: *The Children's Daily Devotional Bible*. Robert Morgan, ed.,

Thomas Nelson.

Youth: *Pure Excitement*. Joe White, Focus on the Family.

Marriage: *The Second Half of Marriage*. David & Claudia Arp, Zondervan.

Family & Parenting: *The Father Connection*. Josh McDowell, Broadman & Holman.

Gift Book/Poetry: *Tell Me the Promises*. Joni Eareckson Tada & Ron DiCianni, Crossway.

Bible Study: *The Vision of His Glory*. Anne Graham Lotz, Word Publishing.

Spanish: *Ayuda Lexica*. Roberto Hanna, Baptist Spanish Publishing House.

TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS :

This month's topic deals with the problems related in internet access to children and one possible solution to these problems.

Internet Access Through

The Library Channel

Providing access to the internet presents by far, one of the greatest challenges to librarians, particularly when it comes to the issues of censorship, freedom of information, etc. Many librarians have used censorship issues as an excuse to choose to not be responsible for the materials children and young adults come in contact with. Unfortunately, internet access can open doors librarians may never have had to deal with before. At the same time, World Wide Web sites can increase a library's worth a hundred

fold with all of the information and valuable resources that are available. I have been agonizing over this for some time now and have just been introduced to a tool that may be a real solution to the internet paradox.

My wish is to be able to provide access to reference material on the World Wide Web without the fear that my students may enter, whether on purpose or by accident, a pornographic web site. As will all new technology, or progress in general, the Web can be used for good or ill and, unfortunately, the Web has been exploited for a great deal of evil.

I recently attended a workshop at my local library system headquarters which introduced software entitled, "The Library Channel." Unlike internet filtering software, which was designed for home use and cannot adequately filter a public internet terminal, The Library Channel is software that incorporates designated web sites into a library's own collection. A local online catalog, networked with CDs such as the Britannica CD, and specific web sites can be pulled together onto "Cyber Shelves" with a web browser integrated right into the program.

My first questions were quickly answered during the demonstration I attended. The URL bar of a browser, where a web address is entered, can be disabled by the librarian and cannot be enabled by the patron. The software can also be set to disable the ability to link from within one web site to another, such a link to a Yahoo search engine. For example, a student may go to the NASA web site and move around pages within that site but not be able to link out to another site. With these two safeguards, thousands of "good" sites can be added to a library collection while the "bad" sites are virtually unreachable.

The Library Channel software was actually not designed to be a filter. It was designed by representatives from forty libraries in Ohio that desired a better way to add valuable World Wide Web sites to their

library collections. As a result, a list of 20,000 such sites already exists and comes free for the first year a library purchases the software. These sites are organized by subject categories on the "Cyber Shelves." A list of drop sites also exists as public libraries probably will include sites other libraries may not wish to add to their collections. I'll be the first to be suspicious of any list and I would still probably add sites one at a time. I would also keep the workstation in full view of the circulation desk as student "hackers" abound. You may have a student who can find a way around even this safeguard.

As mentioned above, this software can combine an existing Online Catalog, the World Wide Web, and other software into one user interface. This takes the patron away from the Windows environment. The patron has access to one main menu of library options. The Library Channel runs under Windows 95 and will work with NT and Novell networks.

The cost is calculated based on the number of workstations needing licenses and the price goes down per workstation as the total number of workstations goes up. The company, VImpact, that markets this product will work with several libraries or systems to put together a coordinated order and thus reduce the total cost per library. The annual maintenance fee is nominal.

For more information, contact:

Mark Weaver
VImpact
612 North Park St.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-224-6861
weaver@infinet.com
or visit their web site
<http://www.vimpact.net>

Look for more information on school library automation and related topics in this area each issue. Next issue: What's new at Master Library System?

INTERVIEW CORNER:

School libraries come in many shapes and sizes. Many of us are in smaller libraries and yet we are seeking to provide the same quality of library service as a large library. For this issue's interview candidate I have chose Jenni Pritchett, known for her development of Librarian's Helper and her connection to Logos Research Systems. Jenni began her career as a church librarian. Her pursuit of excellence in a smaller library inspired her to pursue automation which has in turn benefited us all.

I recently had the privilege of having lunch with Jenni at a library conference. She unselfishly shared her story with me, leaving her food to cool on her plate. With her permission, I would like to recount how Jenni entered the world of librarianship and how she came to make a significant contribution in the area of library automation.

Jenni has had a God-given passion for Bible reference material ever since she attended a Sunday School conference as a fourth grade child where a speaker told her that the Bible held the answers to all of life's questions. To quote her, "For years I studied the Bible and I learned to value it highly as a guide to my life but I constantly wondered how I was ever going to find all the answers in such a big book...it wasn't until I had graduated from a Christian college and was the mother of two boys that I really learned about the multitude of helpful resources for finding answers. I became so convinced of their value and the need for every Christian to have access to them that I started my first church, and school, library—with a strong emphasis on reference books."

Having no formal library education, Jenni studied Aker's *Simple Library Cataloging* to learn the rules of typing catalog cards. Seeing the need for computerized help in order to better organize her church and school libraries, she designed Librarian's Helper. This software is still available to print catalog cards. A programmer and member of her church did

the actual code writing for her design.

Librarian's Helper has been picked up by various library supply companies. Many of us have benefited from its ease of use. LHOnline is its catalog counterpart.

What I found incredibly interesting is that her story does not end here! Her son Bob, who began writing computer programs at age seven, shares her passion for Bible reference and has carried the dream to a new dimension. Before completing a programming degree from Drexel University in Philadelphia, he accepted a position at Microsoft and worked on Windows development. After a year, he and a co-worker left Microsoft to develop and market the first Logos Bible Software package.

In January, 1992, Bob Pritchett, along with Jenni's husband Dale Pritchett, and Bob's friend Kiernon Reiniger founded Logos Research Systems, Inc. The company, now a world-wide leader in multilingual electronic publishing, currently markets an overall electronic publishing system, entitled the Logos Library System. It has recently been chosen by the well-known publisher of library reference materials, Facts on File, as the electronic publishing platform for editions of historical reference works. Visit their web site at <http://www.logos.com>.

It would appear that few librarians can escape at least the indirect influence of Jenni Pritchett and her family. Special thanks to her and to God for filling her and her family with a passion for Bible reference material and a passion to make material available through excellent libraries!

QUESTION/ANSWER:

This section is for any questions having to do with school library work. You can email them to dstombres@aol.com. Put this in the "Re" field of your message. "School column question." You can also mail questions to CLJ.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE MONTH

Space Technology

by Michele Howe

- 1) West, Robin. *Far Out: How to create Your Own Star World*. Carolrhoda Books, 1987. Create landrovers, saucerettes, cosmic centipedes and much more with simple household item..
- 2) Barrett, Norman. *Space Machines: Visual Guides*. Franklin Watts, 1994. This book contains detailed visuals of the inside/outside of a wide variety of spacecraft.
- 3) Krasnoff, Barbara. *Robots: Reel to Reel*. Arco Publishing, 1982. Provides complete information on robots from conception to completion.
- 4) Lee, Wayne. *To Rise from Earth: An Easy to Understand Guide to Spaceflight*. Facts on File, Inc., 1995. Hefty volume of photos, diagrams, and explanations of spaceflight technology.
- 5) Hawkes, Nigel. *New Technology Space and Aircraft*. Twenty-first Century Books, 1994. Easy on the eyes edition, full of colorful photos and drawings of air and spacecraft.
- 6) Stine, Harry G. *Handbook of Model Rocketry*. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1994. Challenging book for older students with adult supervision.
- 7) Long, Kim. *The Astronaut Training Book for Kids*. Lodestar Books, 1990. Includes: computers, fitness, training vacation choices, interest groups etc., to bring together the entire training process.
- 8) Baker, David. *Factories in Space*. Rourke Enterprises, 1988. An introduction to skylabs, spacelabs, workspaces, and planet exploration.
- 9) DeSomma, Vincent V. *The Mission to Mars and Beyond*. Chelsea House, 1992. Answers in detail how, who, when, why, and what next in space exploration.
- 10) Maurer, Ernest W. *The Dream Is Alive*. Geosyna Publications, 1991. Advanced edition which provides the background theories and mathematical principles involved in aerodynamics.

The Gift of Music

by Andrew M. Seddon

“Music,” wrote English composer Peter Warlock in a paraphrase of the Church’s definition of sacrament, “is the outward and audible signification of inward and spiritual realities.” Warlock cannot be considered conversant with Christian sensibilities, but music has long played a role in the life of believers, both individually and corporately.

Music has, of course, its detractors as well as admirers, but only the most unmusical would deny the emotional and spiritual content that music carries. That spiritual content need not be Christian; but in the Western world a long tradition associates music with Christianity. Many of the great composers were Christian; those that weren’t at least had nodding acquaintance with the tenets and ideals of Christianity.

It is these associations that several recent books on music attempt to relate for the Christian reader.

The Gift of Music, by Jane Stuart Smith and Betty Carlson, is a survey of some forty-six of the world’s great composers, ranging in time from the early Baroque to the 20th Century. The authors lament the fact that many Christians lack knowledge of and appreciation for, classical music. “This robs individual Christians and their children of one of the very rich areas of joy in this life.”

While most people have at least been exposed to Handel’s *Messiah*, and the music of J.S. Bach, the connection with other composers is more tenuous. *The Gift of Music* does not limit itself to composers with Christian affirmations; rather, the authors survey the field of classical music, pointing out each composer’s spiritual inclinations, and how these inclinations affected his output (‘his,’ since Clara Schumann is the only woman represented).

Each composer’s spiritual aspect is related to the context of his life and times, and representative works are listed, with an emphasis on those spiritually inspired or related. The number of such works is impressive.

The Gift of Music is not a textbook, but contains a wealth of information. Stravinsky’s Christian faith came as a surprise to me. Antonin Dvorak’s simple faith stands in sharp contrast to Frederick Delius’ rabid anti-Christianity; Vaughan Williams’ “cheerful agnosticism” left me wondering why a man who wrote many scripture-inspired works couldn’t come to full belief.

The selection of composers and works is necessarily subjective, as the authors readily admit. (Being a confirmed Anglophile, I would have enjoyed reading about more English composers!) Biographical details, too, are subject to selection. While Tchaikovsky’s homosexuality is admitted, that of Benjamin Britten (who also wrote many works with Christian themes) receives no mention.

Knowledge of a composer’s life and beliefs serves to increase appreciation of his or her music. The opening movement of Gerald Finzi’s Cello Concerto,

for example, with its heart-rending anguish, is rendered more poignant by knowing that Finzi had recently been diagnosed with leukemia (which, in the 1950’s, amounted to a death sentence). The diagnosis makes the serene second movement, the joyful third movement, and the glowing brass conclusion, even more remarkable. Finzi was a Jewish agnostic who yet found inspiration in Christianity—witness his communion anthems, “Welcome sweet and sacred feast,” and “Lo, the full, final sacrifice.”

The Gift of Music is an affirmation of the spiritual treasure-trove awaiting in classical music.

A different approach is taken by Dr. Patrick Kavanaugh, Executive Director of the Christian Performing Artists Fellowship, in his 1992 book *Spiritual Lives of Great Composers*. Kavanaugh selected twelve composers for a more in-depth survey of their Christian beliefs. Despite the wide variety of backgrounds and beliefs held by the composers, Kavanaugh finds common agreement on basic Christian beliefs.

He writes, “I wish to highlight verifiable aspects of these men’s lives as they strove for good, sought to understand God, and found meaningful spiritual purpose in their lives.” There are, again, surprises; I doubt that Richard Wagner—self-centered pursuer of love affairs, friend of Nietzsche and anti-Semite—would jump to mind as possessing Christian ideals. Yet Nietzsche wrote, “Richard Wagner, apparently the most complete of victors, fell suddenly, helpless and broken, before the Christian cross.” Wagner, it must be admitted, was no more an orthodox Christian than Beethoven, and Kavanaugh points out the dichotomy between Wagner’s stated Christian ideals and some of his unsupportable—and at times repellent—beliefs.

Kavanaugh is on firmer ground with men such as Dvorak, Bach, and Haydn, whose Christianity was incontestable and whose lives bore witness to the solidity of their faith.

In his follow-up volume, *Spiritual Moments with the Great Composers*, Kavanaugh has created a devotional based on the lives of famous composers and hymn writers. He notes “how much we can learn from the life stories of these masters. As Christians we can grow as we emulate many of their virtues and as we heed the warnings evident in their mistakes.” Most, but not all, of the composers were Christian. Many are familiar, many are not.

“How can the love of music specifically help us become closer to Christ?” Kavanaugh asks. It is his aim to answer that question in these two books.

Unsure what to listen to? Kavanaugh has also written a guide, *A Taste for the Classics*. Need ideas on how to interest children in classical music? Kavanaugh replies with *Raising Musical Kids*.

A book of related interest is *My Life with the Great Pianists* by Franz Mohr with Edith Schaeffer (Baker Books, 1992). Mohr was the chief technician for the famous Steinway company, and as such worked with many great pianists, including Horowitz, Rubinstein, and Van Cliburn.

Mohr lost his faith in the ashes of the Second World War, but regained it and used his position as piano technician to share his Christianity with the many famous artists with whom he worked. His life is an example of how faithfulness in small things can lead to greater opportunities.

Lastly, Howard Reich’s biography *Van Cliburn* (Thomas Nelson, 1992) follows the life of the legendary American pianist. Less emphasis is placed on Cliburn’s faith than might be expected, but it is there, nonetheless.

“Music,” wrote Jean Paul, “is the moonlight in the floomy night of life.” But Bach said it even better. “An agreeable harmony for the honour of God and the permissible delights of the soul.” Or perhaps St. Thomas Aquinas was closer when he wrote of “things eternal bursting forth in sound.”



Music gives... wings... flight... charm... gaiety and life Plato

by Leslie Greaves Radloff

Plato said of music "Music gives...wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything." Giving children the gift of music allows them to communicate with others in yet one more way. School librarians searching for books with music as a theme will have no difficulty in finding a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction.

As more and more teachers include trade books in lesson plans, school librarians as part of the instructional design team will want as many titles as possible available to provide for a broad exposure to music. Of the titles available some discuss how music is made on instruments, how composers created music, the effect of music on people.

Trade books provide a way for students to learn content as they read or listen to a story. Using trade books in content areas also provides the added benefit of extending the library budgets more books are used throughout the curriculum, something both librarians and school administrators enjoy seeing.

Titles included here span a variety of grade levels, reading levels, and classes other than music. Some stories invite audience participation while others offer ideas for making a "joyful noise" on an instrument or with the voice.

Teachers and parents will find books to introduce musical genre, composers, instruments, orchestra, and band. Most of the titles have been used in my own third, fourth, and fifth grade classrooms, or in a library setting with preschool through fourth grade. Some titles also work well in upper grade classrooms as introduction to a topic. These titles all would be useful additions to the school library.

Because of the wealth of resources, for purposes of this article only titles focusing on the following three areas were included:

- 1) Instruments/Orchestra/Band;
- 2) Composers/Musical Style; and
- 3) Teacher/Parent Resources.

While a title appears in one grouping, it

certainly does not exclude it from use with another group. Readers are encouraged to supplement with personal favorite titles and to pick and choose, always keeping in mind that unless you are sold on the book or story the student/child won't be.

These books invite discussion of musical style, instruments themselves, importance of music in people's lives, music's effect on the musician himself, and the people around him. The saying, "Bach gave us God's Word; Mozart gave us God's Laughter; Beethoven gave us God's fire. God gave us music that we might pray without words" is certainly borne out when looking at these books. Most definitely "Music is a fair and glorious gift of God."

Teachers will find a link with the study of geography, history, cooking (if very brave, you could make "pages of music" from Marcella Hazan's cookbook *Marcella Cucina* (HarperCollins, 1997) after reading the story "Pages of Music."

Recordings, CD's, or cassettes of appropriate pieces of music from the school library can be paired with different titles. This would be suitable for the study of instruments, as would the playing of Benjamin Britten's "A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra." The music of John Philip Sousa makes a good introduction for books with a band theme. CD's and cassettes abound and many of the new music texts include CD's to be used with their books as is the case with *Beethoven Lives Upstairs*.

Instruments

Clement, Claude. *Voice of the Wood*. Dial, 1989. Fantasy about a cello lovingly crafted from special tree, and the beautiful music it makes. Middle.

Deverell, Catherine. *Stradivari's Singing Violin*. Carolrhoda, 1992. Biography of the childhood of the world famous violin maker. Middle.

Duncan, Alice Faye. *Walleye Jerome*. Willie wants to play jazz on the trumpet but his family interferes.

Eversole, Robyn. *The Flute Player*. Orchard, 1995. Bilingual (Spanish) story of a girl who lives on the first floor of an apartment building and a flute player who lives on the fifth. Primary.

Griffith, Helen V. *Georgia Music*. Mulberry, 1986. Grandfather pines for his Georgia cabin until his granddaughter brings a mouth organ to play the music they shared there. Primary.

Isadora, Rachel. *Ben's Trumpet*. Greenwillow, 1979. The story of Ben who listens to jazz while growing up during the twenties and wants to play the trumpet badly. All levels.

London, Jonathan. *Hip Cat*. Chronicle, 1993. This cat plays the saxophone in a club run by dogs. Text is jazzy and rhythmic. Video available from Reading Rainbow. Primary.

McMillan, Bruce. *The Alphabet Symphony*. Morrow, 1977. Unique pictures of instruments forming letters. Photographs of the Portland Symphony Orchestra. All.

Purdy, Carol. *Mrs. Merriwether's Musical Cat*. Piano teacher Mrs. Merriwether has unmotivated, uncaring, underachieving students until a stray cat helps them discover the secret to success. Primary.

Gustafson, Scott. *Animal Orchestra : A Counting Concerto in 10 Parts*. Contemporary Books, 1989. A group of insects and animals playing instruments, double bass, French horns, trombones, clarinets gives a concert. Good counting book and instrument identification. Primary.

Stevens, Bryna. *Ben Franklin's Glass Armonica*. Carolrhoda, 1983. General information about the instruments of the orchestra. All.

Diagram Group. *Scribner's Guide to Orchestral Instruments*. Scribner's, 1983. General information about the instruments of the orchestra. All.

McClellan, Margaret. *Make Your Own Musical Instruments*. Lerner, 1988. Detailed directions for making instruments with easy to understand directions. Upper elementary, middle school, and teacher resource.

Wiseman, Ann. *Making Musical Things : Improvised Instruments*. Scribner's, 1969. Directions for making over fifty basic innovative instruments from readily available materials. Simple illustrations.

Band

Baer, Gene. *Thump, Thump, Rat-a-Tat-Tat*. HarperCollins, 1991. Band members march across the page and then away. Good to use with Donald Crews' *Parade*. Primary.

Flowers, Arthur. *Cleveland Lee's Beale Street Band*. BridgeWater, 1996. Everyone laughs when Cleveland announces he wants to play in his sister's marching band, but when one of Beale Street's bluesman shows him how to play, all Memphis notices. Primary.

Williams, Vera. *Music, Music, Music for Everyone*. Greenwillow, 1984. Rosa joins her friends to make music on an accordion, flute, fiddle, and drum in the Oak Street Band.

Orchestra

Fleming, Candace. *Gabriella's Song*. Atheneum, 1997. Throughout Venice people young and old from the fishmonger to baker sing, hum, and play Gabriella's tune until it comes to the ears of a composer who turns it into a symphony. Primary.

Hayes, Ann. *Meet the Orchestra*. Gulliver, 1991. Unusual introduction to the players of the orchestra, who in this case are all animals, led by the king of beasts himself, the mighty lion. Also: Meet the Marching Smithereens. Primary.

Johnston, Tony. *Pages of Music*. Putnam, 1988. A Sardinian shepherd shares his bread, fogli di musica, with young Paola and his mother who offers to play him; instead

the shepherd plays sweet music on his pipes. Much later, Paola now a gifted composer/conductor, returns to Sardinia one Christmas to share the gift of pages of music. Primary.

Komaiko, Jean. *I Like Music*. Harper, 1987. Street music fills the life of a little girl who eventually winds up conducting a symphony orchestra in the park. Primary.

Kuskin, Karla. *The Philharmonic Gets Dressed*. Harper, 1982. No music bibliography would be complete without this view of how an orchestra prepares for a concert performance. All levels.

Martin, Bill, Jr. and Vladimir Radunsky. *The Maestro Plays*. Holt, 1994. Colorful maestro plays "proudly, loudly, slowly, and so on. Introduction to musical tempo and music. Bright, colorful pictures for young children. Video also available. Primary.

Moss, Lloyd. *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin*. Simon and Schuster, 1995. Instruments of the orchestra are introduced and added one by one from ONE trombone to A CHAMBER GROUP OF TEN. All.

Parish, Herman. *Bravo, Amelia Bedelia!* Morrow, 1997. Amelia makes her musical debut in the school orchestra concert and leaves the conductor quite surprised by her literal interpretations of his directions. Primary.

Posell, Elsa Z. *This Is an Orchestra*. Houghton, 1973. Besides describing and showing instruments, this book gives important information on choosing and buying instruments. Middle.

Rubin, Mark & Alan Daniel. *The Orchestra*. Greenwood, 1984. Explains the concept of music and orchestra to the young reader. Primary.

Storms, Laura. *Careers With an Orchestra*. Lerner, 1983. Photographs of Minnesota Orchestra players and staff show the various careers with an orchestra. Middle.

Van Kampen, Vlasta and Irene C. Eugen. *Orchestranimals*. Scholastic, 1989. Penguin conductor has difficulty getting his orchestra of animals together in time for the concert. Primary.

These titles are too good to miss and can be included anywhere.

Carle, Eric. *I See a Song*. Crowell, 1973. Wordless picture book gives a musician's interpretation of playing and invites the reader or listener to "see your own song." Also: *Today Is Monday*. Primary.

Cleary, Brain P. *Give Me Bach My Schubert*. Lerner, 1995. Bert and Ray's conversations and antics teach musical terms with entertaining puns. All.

Peles, Les Chats. *Long Live Music!* Harcourt, 1996. Musical terms notes, and symbols accompanied by cartoonish characters join boy and dog as they find out about music. Primary.

Lowery, Linda. *Twist With a Burger, Jitter With a Bug*. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. The world of dance comes alive on these pages with catchy, clever rhythms as the children are urged to polka, hola, boogie, and so on. Primary.

Biographies are a good way to introduce the life and times of composers. Fortunately biographies of famous composers abound, both as individual titles and in collections. Most recently minority composers and women composers have been the subjects of books written for young readers. Many biographies are short enough to allow a teacher to use them to introduce a composer and his/her work in middle and upper grade classrooms by reading them aloud at the beginning of class.

Teachers could incorporate the study of geography and history of the times in which the composer lived. It is interesting to note that while the American colonies struggled for independence, Mozart was writing some of his greatest music. Beethoven was writing at the time of Napoleon. These connections help children see the larger picture.

Allman, Barbara. *Her Piano Sang : A Story About Clara Schuman*. Carolrhoda, 1997. Tells the story of Clara Wieck

Schuman, German composer and pianist who made her debut at age nine. Middle.

Brighton, Catherine. *Mozart: Scenes from the Childhood of the Great Composer*. Doubleday, 1990. Episodes in the lives of Mozart and his sister. Primary.

Clark, Elizabeth. *Great Lives : Tchaikovsky*. Bookwright Press, 1988. The life of the nineteenth century composer for younger readers. Glossary and index. Also in the series: Beethoven, John Lennon, Mozart, and Elvis Presley. Primary

Ferris, Jeri. *What I Had Was Singing : The Story of Marian Anderson*. Carolrhoda, 1994. Biography of the contralto who broke down color barriers as an opera singer. Intermediate.

Ganfield, Linda. *Amazing Grace : The Story of the Hymn*. Tundra, 1997. Granfield tells the story of John Newton, composer of the hymn, who was a slave trader turned abolitionist. Primary

Goffstein, M. B. *A Little Schubert*. David R. Godine, 1984. A biography of Schubert for young readers which includes a simplified version of the "Valse nobles." All.

Hammond, Susan. *Hallelujah! Mr. Handel*. Classical Kids Dist. By the Children's Group, 1995. Joins *Mr. Bach Comes to Call*, *Beethoven Lives Upstairs*, *Tchaikovsky Discovers America*. Engaging fictional stories based on the composers lives. Available on cassette or CD. Intermediate.

Hughes, Langston. *Jazz*. Franklin Watts, 1982. Introduction to the history and some of the famous players in this musical genre. Upper.

Kamen, Gloria. *Hidden Music : The Life of Fanny Mendelssohn*. Simon and Schuster, 1996. Biography of this musician and composer for young readers. Intermediate.

Kendall, Catherine Wolf. *Stories of Composers for Young Musicians*. Toadwood, 1993. Biography, portraits, and birthdays of well-known composers. Also: *Stories of Women Composers* and *More Stories of Composers*. Middle up.

Krull, Kathleen. *Lives of Musicians : Good Times, Bad Times (And What the Neighbors Thought)*. Harcourt, 1993. Colorful caricatures of well-known composers and musicians set-off readable text describing the private and public lives of these people. Middle to upper.

Lasker, David. *The Boy Who Loved Music*. Viking, 1979. The story of how Haydn came to compose the Farewell Symphony while staying at Esterhaza. Middle.

Mitchell, Barbara. *America, I Hear You : A Story About George Gershwin*. Carolrhoda, 1987. Biography of the composer of popular musicals who brought jazz into respectability. Also: *Raggin' : A Story About Scott Joplin*. Middle.

Monceaux, Morgan. *Jazz : My Music, My People*. Knopf, 1994. A warm tribute to the people who played jazz: Louis Armstrong, Pearl Bailey, and others. Middle.

Montgomery, June. *Meet the Great Composers*. Lives, times, and music of famous musicians. Includes suggested assignments on CD. With illustrations and musical examples. Intermediate.

Mundy, Simon. *The Usborne Story of Music*. Usborne Publishing Ltd., 1980. Very basic illustrated music history in readable form. All.

Nichols, Janet. *Women Music Makers : An Introduction to Women Composers*. Ten women composers from the 1800's to present and their struggle to be heard. Intermediate.

Rachlin, Ann. Famous Children Series. Illustrated biographies of the great composers' childhoods. Includes: Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, and others.

Raschka, Chris. *Charlie Parker Played Be Bop*. Reading Rainbow, 1992. Introduction to the man and his music with

pictures and sounds that brings Be Bop to life. Primary.

Schroeder, Alan. *Satchmo's blues*. Doubleday, 1996. Introduces Louis Armstrong and his dream of making music. Primary.

Silverman, J. *Just Listen to This Song I'm Singing : African-American History Through Song*. Millbrook, 1996. Songs from ragtime to spirituals with a list of Recommended recordings. Volume is illustrated with photographs and engravings. All.

Simon, Chaman. *Midor : Brilliant Violinist*. Children's, 1993. Brief biography of the Japanese-born violinist. Part of a series which also includes *Wynton Marsalls : Gifted Trumpet Player*. Middle.

Spier, Peter. *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Doubleday, 1973. This story of our national anthem includes a reproduction of Francis Scott Key's original manuscript. Primary.

Streisguth, Tom. *Say It With Music : A Story About Irving Berlin*. Carolrhoda, 1994. Biography of the man who wrote "God Bless America," "A Pretty Girl Is Like a Melody," "Oh! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning," and others. Intermediate.

Thompson, Wendy. *Composer's World : Schubert*. Viking, 1991. Detailed biography using color illustrations, period pictures, and musical examples arranged for piano. Readable text. Also: Mozart, Haydn, Debussy, and Beethoven. Intermediate.

Weil, Lisl. *Wolferl: The First Six Years in the Life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1762*. Holiday House, 1991. Short biography for young readers. Primary.

BOOKS FOR TEACHERS

Whether they be orchestra, band, or homemade, instruments are fascinating to children. When musicians come to school to perform, one of the first questions young listeners have is "How do you play that?" Learning how to produce the sounds and making music requires diligence, practice, and desire. As students continue to study how sounds are made, books which focus on individual instruments and how they may be used will provide ideas. Readers become aware of the impact music has made in the lives of musicians and also the listeners.

Titles listed below provide background for music as well as giving ideas for incorporating the study of music into a classroom.

Bennet, Roy. *Enjoying Modern Music*. Longman, 1983. Music appreciation curriculum resources based on works by twentieth century composers. Also: *Enjoying Music*, Books I, II, and III; and *Musical Forms*, vols. I and II. Upper elementary and middle school.

Burnett, Michael. *Jazz*. Oxford, 1985. Jazz resource book with many photos for teachers.

DeBeer, Sara, ed. *Open Ears : Musical adventures for a New Generation*. Ellipsis Kids, 1995. An outgrowth of the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy method, this book includes a number of ideas that teachers and parents will be able to incorporate into music experiences for children. Excellent.

Diagram Group. *Musical Instruments of the World*. Illustrated encyclopedia. Paddington Press, 1976. Comprehensive illustrated reference book.

THE CSLA : A RESOURCE FOR LIBRARIES

by Pam Webb

Three years ago when my children began attending a small Christian school, I mentioned to the principal I used to be a library assistant, and was interested in helping out in their school library. I should have been warned by the twinkle in his eyes and his quick response of "Really?" I was led to a small room the size of a large walk-in closet which was filled with clutter and an assortment of boxes of books gathered from each classroom. The principal asked if I could turn it all into a school library. I had an inkling of how the miller's daughter must have felt when she was asked to turn straw into gold, and I knew no Rumpelstiltskin would deliver me from my dilemma.

If only I had known about the Church and Synagogue Library Association then. The CSLA provides guidance to those establishing or maintaining libraries within a religious context. Much of the information is beneficial to school-based libraries as well.

This nonprofit organization was founded in 1967 and has approximately 2,000 members, serving church/synagogue libraries within this country and abroad. CSLA publishes a bimonthly bulletin, sponsors an annual conference, provides counseling and guidance for individual libraries, and establishes local chapters. Scholarships are awarded to individuals contributing to the field of religious library work. Below is an annotated listing of CSLA publications available, followed by address and ordering information.

CSLA PUBLICATIONS

- *1. *Setting Up a Library: How to Begin or Begin Again*, by Ruth S. Smith. A thorough eleven-step guide on how to set up a church library.
- *2. *Promotion Planning Year 'Round*, by Claudia Hannaford and Ruth S. Smith. An inspirational assortment of ideas for promoting reading throughout the year. NOTE: Includes Halloween and astrology suggestions.
3. *Workshop Planning*, by Ruth S. Smith. A complete handbook for planning a librarian workshop which could also serve as a prototype for other large meetings.
4. *Selecting Library Materials*, by Arthur W. Swartout. A how to on selecting library materials. Has source list.
- *5. *Cataloging Made Easy*, by Ruth S. Smith. Cataloging is made easy with this thorough manual. Strongly suggested if unfamiliar with the cataloging process.
6. *Standards for Church and Synagogue Libraries : Guidelines for Measuring Effectiveness and Progress*. A valuable aid prior to constructing a library, which can also be used to assess overall effectiveness of an established library.
- *7. *Classifying Church or Synagogue Library Materials*, by Dorothy B. Kersten. An in-depth look at the Dewey Decimal classification system. Very helpful in cataloging hard to place entries.
- *8. *Subject Headings for Church and Synagogue Libraries*, by Dorothy B. Kersten. An extensive list of suggested subject headings which can be used for developing cross-referencing.
9. *A Policy and Procedure Manual for Church and Synagogue Libraries : A Do-it-yourself Guide*, by Martin Ruoss. How to set up library policies

including manual, rules, and physical space needs.

10. *Archives in the Church or Synagogue Library*, by Evelyn R. Ling. The importance and how to's of archiving.
- *11. *Planning Bulletin Boards for Church and Synagogue Libraries*, by Janelle A. Paris. If you need bulletin board ideas, then this publication is for you. Filled with sample displays, captions, and resource lists.
- *12. *Getting the Books off the Shelves : Making the Most of Your Congregation's Library*, by Ruth S. Smith. An abundance of suggestions for promoting the library.
- *13. *The ABC's of Financing Church and Synagogue Libraries : Acquiring Funds, Budgeting, Cash Accounting*, by Claudia Hannaford. What library doesn't need help in acquiring funds? This has over 140 fundraising ideas, complete fundraising ideas, complete with bookkeeping forms ready for duplication.
14. *Recruiting and Training Volunteers for Church and Synagogue Libraries*, by Lorraine E. Burson. The author lends her many years of experience on the subject of recruiting volunteers.
15. *Providing Reference Services in Church and Synagogue Libraries*, by Jennifer Pritchett. A focus on developing a strong reference section with particular emphasis on biblical materials. Contains several lists of recommended books.
16. *The Bible in Church and Synagogue Libraries*, by William H. Gentz. Discusses the various biblical editions available, and its place and use in the library. A handy supplement for devotional studies.

The CSLA has also prepared bibliographies:

"Church and Synagogue Library Resources," compiled by Dorothy Rodda. Annotated resource list of publications and aids available to libraries. Contains index.

"A Basic Book List for Church Libraries," by Bernard E. Deitrick. A helpful starting point when establishing a collection. Main emphasis is on religious books.

* "Helping Children Through Books : A Selected Booklist," by Patricia Pearl. Annotated with grade level, this booklist is a useful resource for selecting books on a wide variety of child concerns. Has author and title index.

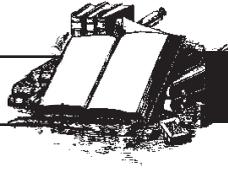
* "Religious Books for Children : An Annotated Bibliography," by Patricia Pearl. Trying to find religious books for children is made easier with this critically annotated booklist. Has author and title index.

* "Books for Teens, Stressing the Higher Values," by Edith S. Tyson. Annotated booklist of contemporary books available for readers of contemporary books available for readers in grades 7-12. Includes in-depth look at authors Lois McMaster Bujold, Madeleine L'Engle, Cynthia Voigt, and Walter Wangerin, Jr. Booklist is divided into biblical, contemporary, fantasy, and science fiction, historical fiction, short story collections, and nonfiction. Introduction provides insights on understanding the teen reader's needs.

While all the guides provide beneficial information, an * indicates the guide is of particular interest. For further information:

CSLA
PO Box 19357
Portland, OR 97280-0357
Phone: 503-244-6919 or 1-800-542-2752
FAX: 503-977-3734

Pam Webb writes in Priest River, Idaho



Armadillo at Riverside Road, by Laura Gates Galvin; illustrated by Katy Bratun. (Smithsonian's Backyard.) LCCN 96007325. Norwalk, Conn.: Soundprints, 1996. ISBN 1568993285, KIT, \$19.95.

E. Armadillos--Fiction. 1 vol., 31 p.; 1 audiocassette, 9 min.

K - Gr. 4.

A wonderful way for young children to learn about armadillos is *Armadillo at Riverside Road*. The text and nine minute audio tape describe a night in the life of a nine-banded armadillo. The reader follows Armadillo through the woods as he searches out insects and his favorite treat, ants, then flees the jaws of the wild coyote only to deal with the hard surface of asphalt and the fast advance of another strange moving object. Armadillo finally climbs into a soft burrow to rest just as the sun is rising.

While the book alone is a treat for the reader with interesting and dramatic text and beautifully detailed illustrations, the cherry of delight is added by listening to the cassette tape along with the book, for the tape adds the life-like sounds of the woods, streams, and the animal kingdom encountered by our friend Armadillo.

Included in the book and on the tape are end notes on the armadillo. A glossary completes the book, along with an index of Points of Interest which details the flowers, shrubs, animals, and insects so wonderfully illustrated by Katy Bratun. Tape narration is by Alexi Komisar and

contains turn the page signals to follow the story text. This is a perfect addition to a science class or a science learning center.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Judy Driscoll
Teacher, Christ the King Academy
Poulsbo, Washington

Beluga Passage, by Linda Lingemann; illustrated by Jon Weiman. (Smithsonian Oceanic Collection.) LCCN 96012642. Norwalk, Conn.: Soundprints, 1996. ISBN 1568993145, KIT, \$19.95.

E. White whale--Fiction; Whales--Fiction. 1 vol., 32 p.; 1 audiocassette, 9 min.

K - Gr. 3.

A beluga calf and her mother race with their pod to leave the iced over Arctic Ocean and enter the Bering Sea where they will winter. Along the way the young beluga learns how to herd smelt for dinner, how to watch out for the dangerous orca whales, and how to protect itself from predators like the polar bear.

The scientifically accurate illustrations by Jon Weiman depict with clarity the beluga as well as other life forms in the northern sea. As with others in this series, the nine minute audio cassette tape adds the interest of whale and bear sounds as well as turn the page signals to follow the story text. The book contains end notes on beluga whales, a glossary, and an index of points of

interest in the illustrations.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Judy Driscoll
Teacher, Christ the King Academy
Poulsbo, Washington

Bernard's Bath, by Joan Elizabeth Goodman; illustrated by Dominic Catalano. LCCN 95075748. Honesdale, Penn: Boyds Mills Press, 1996. ISBN 1563973235, HBB, \$14.95.

E. Baths--Fiction. unp.

PS - Gr. 2.

Bernard adamantly refuses to take a bath. His mother, father, grandfather, and grandmother all try to reason with him and convince him that bath time is fun. They add appealing toys, bubbles, and finally resort to diving in themselves. After he observes his parents and grandparents splashing, laughing, and playing, Bernard decides that he WOULD like to join in the bath.

Joan Elizabeth Goodman presents a story based on her own life experiences. Parents and children alike will thoroughly enjoy this story as many have endured the same bath time battles. Dominic Catalano has illustrated the elephant family in realistic detail which will intrigue readers. Most readers will be sympathetic to Bernard's plight, while others are likely to empathize with his parents' dilemma.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

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

Quality (Literary)

* Acceptability (Ethical/Moral Concerns)

5 Excellent - among the very best of this type

5 No questionable elements

4 Good - well written; strong recommendation

4 Slight concerns

3 Average -readers will enjoy

3 Moderate concerns

2 Fair - can recommend, but not as well written

2 Barely acceptable

1 Poor - cannot recommend

1 Too questionable to recommend

H Outstanding Book of its Genre

* Acceptability does not refer to doctrinal position, unless the doctrine is anti- or non-Christian.

Carol Jones
Children's Librarian
Champaign, Illinois

Big Brother Dustin, by Alden R. Carter; photographs by Dan Young with Carol Carter. LCCN 96027301. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 1997. ISBN 0807507156, HBB, \$14.95.

E. Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Babies--Fiction; Down syndrome--Fiction; Mentally handicapped--Fiction. unsp.

K - Gr. 1, with special use for children of all ages with Down Syndrome.

It's time to celebrate! Dustin, a happy little boy with Down Syndrome, will soon be big brother to a baby sister. Mom and Dad, Grandmas and Grandpas, nurses and teachers help Dustin to get ready for this wonderful event. Special joy comes as Dustin picks out his baby sister's name. When the wonderful day arrives baby sister smiles a special smile just for Dustin.

Big Brother Dustin relies equally on photos and words to tell the story. Dustin engagingly stars throughout this book. Love, anticipation, and acceptance shine from every photo. Author Alden Carter, winner of the 1995 American Bookseller Pick of The List Award, ably presents the joy of becoming a big brother, adding to it the joy of a family that sees each member as worthy and lovable. The award winning photographers, Young and Carter, capture the vivid personalities of each family member and the love they extend to each other. This delightful picture book closes with a family album that speaks to every brother and sister, no matter what age or condition.

The strong binding of this book will survive many readings. Finger prints will wipe off the tough, glossy paper. When opened it tends to stay flat. A multi-purpose book, the simple format of *Big Brother Dustin* introduces several important topics, including the special, irreplaceable worth of those with Down Syndrome.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Donna Eggett
CPC Volunteer Counselor
Maiden, North Carolina



Bone Button Borscht. Written by Aubrey Davis; illustrated by Dusan Petricic. Based on the folk tale, *Stone Soup*. Toronto, Ont.: Kids Can Press, 1995. ISBN 1550742248,

HBB, \$15.95.

E. Folktales; Sharing--Fiction; Team work--Fiction. unsp.

PS - Gr. 4.

Aubrey Davis retells the folktale *Stone Soup* in an engaging story that serves up a soul-filling story of sharing and working together for a goal. Mr. Beggar travels from town to town begging meals. "Such good it brings out in people. They share. They give," he says of his perfect life.

Until one dark and snowy night he comes across a town of people with hearts as bitter cold as the weather. At every house he is turned away. Finally he comes to the synagogue, but even the caretaker, the shamas, offers nothing but shelter from the cold. The shamas explains the people of the town are so poor they no longer share with each other.

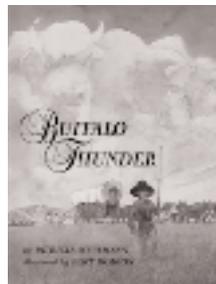
But Mr. Beggar knows a little something about people and, pulling the bone buttons from his coat says he will make a pot of borscht big enough to feed the whole town. The shamas gets all the supplies from his neighbors Mr. Beggar needs—a fifth bone button, a pot, a ladle. Soon the whole town is at the synagogue and every time Mr. Beggar tastes the borscht someone offers something else to make the soup even better.

Dusan Petricic's watercolor and pencil illustrations progress from sparsely detailed renderings to very detailed and colorful illustrations as the story progresses. When the beggar is out in the cold, the illustrations are in grays and browns. By the time the town feasts together the illustrations are full color and finely detailed.

The story has yet one more twist with the beggar rewarded for the gift he brings to the town. This story will work well for small storytime groups. The take-away message of sharing, community involvement, and team work opens up discussion for these topics between family members or in a classroom setting.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Lisa A. Wroble
Freelance Writer and Librarian
Plymouth, Michigan



Buffalo Thunder, by Patricia Wittmann; illustrated by Bert Dodson. LCCN 96054893. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 1997.

ISBN 0761450017, HBB, \$15.95.

E. American bison--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction. 145 p.

Gr. 2 - 4.

Karl Isaac begins a great adventure. He and his family are traveling west by covered wagon. Young Karl is looking for buffalo. As they travel across the prairie with the wagon train, they encounter many hardships. After seven weeks of hard, dogged travel, Karl one day can feel the vibrations of buffalo coming through the bottoms of his feet. The blue sky turns dark and a rumble like thunder fills the air. The buffalo are stampeding! More than could be counted, more than could be seen, the buffalo rush by like a raging brown river. Ma and Pa want to leave the prairie behind. But for young Karl it is the rip roarin'est time he has ever seen.

Author Patricia Wittman and artist Bert Dodson bring this adventure of a young pioneer boy to life. The text is full of emotion and action. The watercolor illustrations capture the spirit and struggle of these indomitable pioneers. This is a great introduction to the westward movement of the people of this land. Children will be caught up in the feelings of this young boy, while learning of the hardships encountered on the way.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Mary Jarvis
Freelance Writer
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

Bunny Cakes, by Rosemary Wells. LCCN 95052057. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0803721447, HBB, \$13.99.

E. Rabbits--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Baking--Fiction; Cake--Fiction. unsp.

Toddler - PS.

It's Grandma's birthday. Interrupting Max, who is making an earthworm birthday cake, Ruby informs him that they are going to make Grandma a real cake. Eager to help Ruby, but wanting to finish his own surprise, Max tries to write his own items on Ruby's shopping list. After several unsuccessful attempts, finally Max is able to communicate what he needs for his cake with the grocer. Max and Ruby both make their own unique cakes for Grandma.

Bunny Cakes is another delightful book in the Max and Ruby series by Rosemary Wells. Drawn in ink and colored with watercolors, each picture is warm and irresistibly cute. Siblings can learn how to deal constructively with different styles and temperaments in this gentle picture book. A sweet story illustrating how persistence and honest effort will be rewarded.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Elizabeth Coleman
Freelance Writer
Tumwater, Washington

Burnt Toast on Davenport Street. Written and illustrated by Tim Egan. LCCN 96013720. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997. ISBN 0395796180, HBB, \$14.95.

E. Dogs--Fiction; Wishes--Fiction; Humorous stories. unsp.

PS - Gr. 2.

The three wishes granted theme is presented with a twist in *Burnt Toast on Davenport Street* by Tim Egan. Arthur Crandall and his wife Stella are dogs who live a quiet life on Davenport Street. One morning Arthur encounters a magic fly who promises him three wishes in exchange for not getting whacked with the fly swatter. An unbelieving Arthur asks for three wishes, mainly to get rid of the fly. When the wishes come true (well, sort of), Arthur and Stella become enlightened to life's possibilities.

Egan's illustrations are warmer and more appealing than the text. The storyline of a down-to-earth character having an encounter with a magic fly could have been fun. The make-believe factor is missing. Even with the main characters being dogs, the story comes away as being too realistic. Instead of being light and satirical, the overall tone is cynical.

Some concerns include how young readers will respond to the intimidating threats of the crocodile gang, and Stella's response of calling them "jerks." One other concern is that the book's tongue in cheek humor is more suited to an adult's taste, rather than a child's. Even though we all know wishes don't often come true, it's fun to pretend they might. And we hope Arthur will take this in consideration next time the magic fly buzzes his breakfast.

Quality—2 Acceptability—3

Pam Webb
Librarian

Sandpoint Community Christian School
Sandpoint, Idaho

Cat's Colors, by Jane Cabrera. LCCN 96011765. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0803720904, HBB, \$13.99.

E. Color--Fiction; Cats--Fiction. unsp.

PS - Gr. 2.

Cat introduces himself and asks what is his favorite color. He proceeds to explain what he likes about or does in or around each color. For example, he walks in the green grass, or sleeps on the red rug. He goes through ten various colors and concludes with his favorite, orange, because it is the color of his mother. And Cat who looked so big throughout the story is seen snugly snoring in the secure clasp of his mother.

Many qualities make *Cat's Colors* appealing. Cabrera's vibrant illustrations are a foremost feature. Additionally, the clear type font and vocabulary make it a comforting choice for emergent readers. Also, children will enjoy the

element of surprise in guessing why Cat likes each color. Especially enjoyable is the concluding picture of Cat who in comparison to his mother is just a small kitten.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Carol M. Jones, MLIS
Children's Librarian
Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Daddy Longlegs at Birch Lane, by Beverley Brenna; illustrated by Sandra Blair. (Smithsonian's Backyard.) LCCN 96007324. Norwalk, Conn.: Soundprints, 1996. ISBN 1568993218, KIT, \$19.95.

E. Daddy longlegs--Fiction. 1 vol., 31 p.; 1 audiocassette, 9 min.

PS - Gr. 3.

Daddy Longlegs at Birch Lane follows the life and near perils of a young daddy longlegs through the summer. From her egg state, when she is nearly lunch for some hungry ants, to the autumn, where the female daddy longlegs can now defend herself.

The illustrations by Sandra Blair are precise and colorful. She maintains a picture book feel, as opposed to looking like a text book. Author Beverley Brenna has written an interesting non-fiction story that is educational. Very readable, even for preschoolers. Not bogged down with a lot of facts, the author has selected the data that will be the most appealing to young readers. Even adults will view their own backyard differently after reading this story. Makes brief mention that the female daddy longlegs will mate, but does not go into any further detail. The accompanying cassette tape of the text will also appeal to young readers and pre-readers.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Elizabeth Coleman
Freelance Writer
Tumwater, Washington



The Day Mama Played, by Ingrid Lawrenz; illustrated by Phyllis Pollema-Cahill. Colorado Springs: ChariotVictor, 1997. ISBN 1564765253, PAP, \$7.99.

E. Mothers and fathers--Fiction; Play--Fiction. unsp.

PS - Gr. 2.

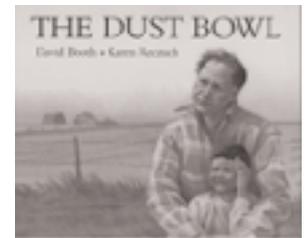
Leaving dishes in the sink and other work

undone, Mama takes the day off to play with her children. Later in the book, Daddy takes the day off to play. Then creation is likened to Jesus playing with clay and painting. Finally, *The Day Mama Played* ends with the reminder that we will one day all be "playing" in heaven.

Pleasantly illustrated by Phyllis Pollema-Cahill. Color drawings add nicely to the text based on the Gospel of John. Author Ingrid Lawrenz, has written a story that can be enjoyed by children, but will be more meaningful to adults. A gentle reminder for parents that dishes and work will always be there, but special times with your children are more fleeting.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Elizabeth Coleman
Freelance Writer
Tumwater, Washington



H

The Dust Bowl. Written by David Booth; illustrated by Karen Reczuch. Toronto, Ont.: Kids Can Press, 1996. ISBN 1550742957, HBB, \$16.95.

E. Depression--1929--Prairie Provinces (Canada)--Fiction. unsp.

Gr. 3 - 5.

Matthew wiped the dust from his cereal bowl. Dust was everywhere. It was almost as dusty inside the farmhouse as out. When his father and grandfather joined him at the table they were grim. Finally, he blurted out, "We aren't going to sell the farm are we?"

Grandpa takes Matthew to the window and tells of drought and dust and pestilence fifty years earlier during the dust bowl years. He and grandma had stayed on the land and hung on to what little soil was left. Matthew's father was born and the land came alive again. Once more they would "hang on" until the rain came again.

Karen Reczuch's subdued watercolors capture the bleakness of drought on the prairie while portraying the fortitude of these farmers. Her illustrations underscore the message of the strength of the human spirit in adversity. Both author and artist impart an important concept to young readers while recalling a bleak period in our country's history.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Mary Jarvis
Freelance Writer

Pawhuska, Oklahoma

Everybody Bakes Bread, by Norah Dooley; illustrations by Peter J. Thornton. LCCN 95006054. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 1996. ISBN 087614864X, HBB, \$19.93.

E. Bread--Fiction; Baking--Fiction. unsp.

Gr. 1 - 3.

Carrie's kickball game is cancelled because of rain. Her mom, tired of the sibling squabbles, sends Carrie off in search of a three handled rolling pin. Asking neighbor after neighbor, Carrie samples various breads in her multicultural neighborhood. Everything from coconut bread to challah is eaten. During her visits, Carrie recruits kids for a rainy day game of kickball. With the help of Mrs. Max, she realizes her mother's joke and returns home to the smells of Italian bread baking.

Everybody Bakes Bread is a fun introduction to the breads of various cultures. Author Norah Dooley includes the recipes at the book's conclusion. The recipes are a great addition because the reader will want to try the breads the characters have enjoyed.

Illustrator Peter J. Thornton has rendered the book in colored pencil. The layouts are clean with simplified shapes filling the compositions. While the heavier text appeals to an older child, Thornton engages that audience by portraying Carrie as about ten years old.

Early grades will enjoy the book's jokes of a three handled rolling pin and a three legged ladle possibly before Carrie realizes them. Carrie's quest for kids to play kickball adds another dimension to the story. The introduction of various breads could spark conversations of, "Who has tried cornbread?" or "Doesn't challah sound great?" And of course the best of all, "Let's make that one together."

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Lorie Ann Grover

Freelance Writer/Illustrator

Kent, Washington

The Fiddler of the Northern Lights, by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock; illustrated by Leslie W. Bowman. LCCN 92036703. New York: Cobblehill, 1996. ISBN 0525652159, HBB, \$14.99.

E. Fiddlers--Fiction; Auroras--Fiction; Grandfathers--Fiction. unsp.

K - Gr. 4.

The Fiddler of the Northern Lights, set in the arctic North woods along the St. Maurice River, is a simply told tale of eight-year-old Henry and Grandpa Pepin who both have free spirits with big imaginations. The story is not gripping; it pleasantly flows. However, the illustrations will captivate you.

Henry is frequently visited by his Grandpa Pepin

during the long winter months, and tales of the north woods keep both of them occupied. Henry especially is entranced by the legend of the mysterious fiddler "who lives where the Northern Lights are born." The fiddler was said to make the Northern Lights dance when he played his fiddle.

One winter night Grandpa takes Henry for a night skate up the St. Maurice to find the fiddler. After miles of skating, they find no one and return home disappointed. As they thaw out by the fire, a stranger comes calling. He has a fiddle under his arm and offers to play for them. The Northern Lights begin to glow and the neighbors gather to dance to the music of the fiddle and the lights. When they dance the last dance the fiddler hurries away and the Northern Lights go out. Henry and Grandpa laugh in amazement that one of the "wild stories" became true.

Leslie Bowman's illustrations actually overshadow the literary merit of this book. So beautifully does she capture the light, dark, cold, heat of the cabin, and wilderness scenes that they have a mesmerizing effect.

A little discussion of legend, superstition, and fantasy would suffice for using this book with young children. The reader is left to decide for himself whether the fiddler was the real fiddler or just an ordinary fiddler out playing for the folks on a cold night.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Arlene Neal

Teacher, Covenant School

Granite Falls, North Carolina

A Fourth of July on the Plains, by Jean Van Leeuwen; pictures by Henri Sorensen. LCCN 94033172. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0803717725, HBB, \$14.99.

E. Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Overland journeys to the Pacific--Fiction; Fourth of July--Fiction. unsp.

Gr. 2 - 4.

The wagon train had been traveling so long young Jesse could barely remember what it felt like to sleep in a real bed back home in Indiana. In eight weeks he had worn out his shoes, looked at Indians, and chased buffalo. Now it was the Fourth of July and the wagon train was stopped to rest the cattle and celebrate the holiday. Everyone had a job to do to prepare for the festivities. The older boys and men were hunting for wild game, women were baking and cooking, the girls were sewing a flag, and Jesse wanted to help. Suddenly he had a wonderful idea to add to the celebration.

Jean Van Leeuwen skillfully weaves together the yearnings of a young boy while depicting the hardships and bravery of pioneers moving across the plains. Henri Sorensen's soft watercolor illustrations vividly depict the setting and warmth of these people. This is an outstanding book to

introduce youngsters to this period of history.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Mary Jarvis

Freelance Writer

Pawhuska, Oklahoma

H

Froggy se Viste. (Froggy Gets Dressed). Spanish, by Jonathan London; illustrations by Frank Remkiewicz; translation by Osvaldo Blanco. LCCN 96042281. New York: Penguin Ediciones, 1997. ISBN 0670874140, HBB, \$14.99.

E. Frogs--Fiction; Clothing and dress--Fiction; Snow--Fiction; Spanish language materials. unsp.

PS - Gr. 1.

Froggy Se Viste begins as Froggy is convinced he must break with the tradition of hibernation and play! Froggy gets ready for his snowy adventures with his mother reminding him what he has forgotten on each attempt. Froggy returns each time to his room and dons the neglected article of clothing. In the usual Froggy semantics, he must remove his socks and shoes to put on his jeans, thus he must put them all on again. In the end, poor Froggy has so exhausted himself with the preparation for glorious snowy play that he decides he is simply TOO TIRED, and crawls back into his snug, cozy bed.

Froggy Se Viste en una historia muy buena como las otras de Jonathan London. Frank Rekiewicz illustrates this story as he has the others with vibrant color and wonderful expression. *Froggy Se Viste* provides the repetition that young children love as Froggy is forced to his gloves and scarf to put on his jacket and then must put it all back on again. The hilarity of the story of poor Froggy running back in and out as his mother reminds him to put on his pants, then his shirt, and his jacket will appeal to children. Then when he is seemingly completely dressed, she reminds him not too discreetly that he has also forgotten his long johns! The Spanish language translation is well done, and will be appreciated by children, parents, and educators who employ Spanish language materials.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Carol M. Jones, MLIS

Children's Librarian

Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Gruntle Piggle Takes Off, by Jean Little; illustrated by Johnny Wales. New York: Viking, 1996. ISBN 0670863408, HBB, \$19.99.

E. Pigs--Fiction. unsp.

PS - Gr. 2.

Be content with what you have. Be content with who you are. Reading is an important part of daily life. These life lessons are learned the hard way by many including Gruntle, the city pig, the

main character here. The hyphenated mom, Frances Bacon-Piggle, doorman Mr. Ham, dad Crispin Piggle who teaches Pig Latin, no less, and Gruntle live in Pigopolis. Ms Bacon-Piggle's family lives like "real pigs" on a farm and Gruntle can hardly wait to go live there. Once there she finds it isn't exactly what she expected or wants and is happy to come home.

The story is slight, the humor contrived. Not one of Jean Little's best efforts.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Leslie Greaves Radloff
Teacher/Librarian
Emanuel Lutheran School(WELS)
W. St. Paul, Minnesota

H

***I Can Pray with Jesus : The Lord's Prayer for Children.* Written by Debbie Trafton O'Neal; illustrated by Taia Morley. LCCN 97071855. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1997. ISBN 080663328X, PAP, \$6.99.**

E. Lord's Prayer; Prayer. unsp.
PS - K.

Debbie Trafton O'Neal offers another winner in this adaptation of The Lord's Prayer, beautifully illustrated by Taia Morley. Chock-full of fun, this book packs several bonuses in a slim but well-thought out format. In the main body of the book, Morley's bold watercolor illustrations stretch pleasantly across double-page spreads on almost glossy paper: a single line of the prayer appears in large type on the left page (for example, "Our Father in heaven"), and the accompanying child's prayer appears in smaller type on the right page ("Dear God, No matter where I am or what I am doing, I know you always hear my prayer"). The scene shows children swinging and in-line-skating at a park.

Extra bonuses include songs, finger-plays about prayer, The Lord's Prayer suitable for framing, an ABC poem about prayer, illustrated hand motions based on the American Sign Language, and brief tips for parents.

Trafton used a version of The Lord's Prayer approved by the English Language Liturgical Consultation; it's easy for children to understand while preserving the meaning in the traditional version. Attractive, spiritually significant, and just plain fun, this book will get lots of use by children and parents, and ought to be in every church nursery.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Kimm Swenson Gollnick
Writer, Speaker, Homeschool Teacher
Marysville, Washington

***I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie*, by Alison Jackson; pictures by Judith Byron Schachner. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997. ISBN 0525456457, HBB, \$14.99.**

E. Gluttony--Fiction; Humorous tales. unsp.

PS - Gr. 1.

You know that old lady who swallowed a fly? Here is her modern counterpart—*The Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie*. That pie was dry, so she swallowed some cider. And it goes on from there until she is swallowing a pot, a ten layer cake, and some bread. "I'm full," she said. Well, I would expect so!

Mother/Librarian/Author Alison Jackson and Cat Lover/Mother/Illustrator Judith Schachner must have found it hard to stop laughing while they collaborated on this book. As Jackson's words dance and swirl in varying print sizes, Schachner surrounds the rapidly expanding old lady with wonderfully enthralled children, a white cat of infinite facial expressions and several horrified adults. Would we could all have a Thanksgiving guest like this hungry old woman! Preschool children will love hearing the story while watching the pictures. Their parents will grow tired of having to read it so often. Older children will giggle as they read it for themselves. Don't be surprised when you hear Grandpa's guffaws as he reads it to himself in bed.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Donna Eggett
Volunteer Counselor, Crisis Pregnancy Center
Maiden, North Carolina

***I Live with Daddy*, by Judith Vigna. LCCN 96032825. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 1997. ISBN 0807535125, HBB, \$14.95.**

E. Divorce--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Fathers and daughters--Fiction. unsp.
Gr. 1 - 4.

"Daddy and I live by ourselves. Last fall, he and mom got a divorce and mom moved out. I'm supposed to visit her apartment two weekends a month, but my mom is a television reporter and she works a lot, so I don't always get to go. Mostly, I see her on TV."

So begins *I Live with Daddy* by Judith Vigna. Olivia lives with her father but idolizes her glamorous but mostly absent mother. Olivia has to make a book for Writer's Day at school, and writes about her famous mom. But when her mother fails to show up for Writer's Day as promised, Olivia begins to appreciate her non-famous, always-there-and-caring father.

Although written in a light carefree tone, I found *I Live with Daddy* a sad book. Vigna's goal for Olivia to learn to love her parents equally, to me, was overshadowed by the mother's role modeling a lack of involvement in her daughter's life.

None the less, this is a realistic dilemma for many kids and this would be a good book to stimulate discussion about dealing with disappointments, or the value of relationships, or what kind of parents the children themselves want to be

someday. One theme of *I Live with Daddy*, appreciating those who really invest themselves in us, is a timeless one.

Gentle water color illustrations by the author herself complements the text. Too wordy for short attention spans or early readers, middle readers may be a better target audience. Better yet, *I Live With Daddy* might best be read with parents willing to discuss the complexities of family life.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Tammy Perron
Freelance Writer
Snohomish, Washington

***I'll Go to School If..*, by Bo Flood; illustrated by Ronnie Walter Shipman. LCCN 96038691. Minneapolis: Fairview Press, 1997. ISBN 157749024X, HBB, \$14.95.**

E. School--Fiction. 30 p.
K - Gr. 1.

Going to school for the first time is often traumatic for everyone. For this particular little boy it is especially so. Mom simple states that it is a rule to go to school. But, that just doesn't cut it! "I'll go to school if . . ." and so continues the book through an array of excuses and made up adventures. In the end the real problem is that this little boy is scared. Mom admits that she is a little scared too. "It's okay, Mom," says the little boy, "I will hold your hand," and everything seems to be all right now.

Bo Flood has created a story that young children can identify with. The imagination of this little boy is comical, yet true to life. The text is easily read by youngsters and Ronnie Shipman has added to the charm with his simple pastel drawings. This is a sturdy hardback book that children will pick up again and again. An especially good book for those entering preschool or kindergarten.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Marcia Snyder, Librarian
Valley Christian School
Missoula, Montana

***The Long Wait*, by Budge Wilson; illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes. : Stoddart Kids, 1997. ISBN 0773730214, HBB, \$13.95.**

E. Cats--Fiction; Patience--Fiction. unsp.
K - Gr. 3.

Have you ever had to wait a long time? Do you ever get tired of waiting? Deidre, a black cat, got tired of waiting. Deidre is a cat that we can all relate to. She is a well loved family pet. The Wilsons took Deidre everywhere with them, but she hated to travel. On one such trip Deidre got tired of traveling and took off at her first opportunity. The Wilsons looked and looked but couldn't find Deidre. Deidre didn't want to be found. The Wilsons waited and waited to hear

about Deidre. Deidre waited and waited for someone to find her and in the end everyone was happy. Deidre learned to be content; she never wanted to be away from her family again.

This is a story that many children can relate to, especially anyone who has a cat like Deidre. Budge Wilson has taken this lovable pet and shows how we often learn contentment when we lose the things we have taken for granted. Deidre even learns this lesson in the end. The full page illustrations are delightful. The colors are bright and brilliant and the expressions on the faces of the people and Deidre can tell a story all their own. Eugenie Fernandes has found the perfect complement to this touching story. *The Long Wait* also is constructed to last with a sturdy binding and hardback cover. This would be a story to read to a child at a time when you are waiting, maybe for an appointment.

Quality—3 Acceptability—4

Marcia Snyder, Librarian
Valley Christian School
Missoula, Montana

A Mountain Alphabet. Text by Margriet Ruurs; art by Andrew Kiss. Toronto, Ont.: Tundra Books, 1996. ISBN 088776374X, HBB, \$19.95.

E. English language--Alphabet; Rocky Mountains, Canadian (B.C. and Alta.)--Pictorial works. unsp.
PS - Gr. 3.

A Mountain Alphabet with panoramic pictures and alliterative captions is similar to *A Prairie Alphabet* by the same publisher. Pictures bring the beauty of the Canadian Rockies to readers while the captions give short descriptions. The author talks about the "hundreds of millions of years" it's taken for the mountains to be formed in the introduction, but readers can easily edit that phrase to "at the creation of the world." Nothing of the book will be lost and it can still be enjoyed as an introduction to the splendors of the Rockies.

The introduction includes facts about the Rockies and their geology, make-up, and effects on weather systems. Then the fun begins with each page devoted to a letter of the alphabet. The paintings show a portion of the Rockies while alliterative sentences describe what the reader/viewer sees on the trip. The cover picture calls out "Lake Louise" while other paintings depict places along the Trans-Canadian Railroad or the Trans-Canadian Highway near Banff, Jasper, or Kootenay. This should not limit the use or keep non-Canadians from reading and enjoying the book. With the possible exception of the grizzly bear scenes, captions are universal to the mountain regions.

Sentences use both upper and lower case letters with examples of each letter. After reading the pages and looking at the pictures, the reader can turn to the last pages of the book and identify what he/she found in each picture. "H" and "P"

have the most things listed while "X" and "Z" have the fewest.

A delightful, beautiful book full of information about the area for those of us who live elsewhere. A good addition to the school library either singly or as a companion to *A Prairie Alphabet*.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

Leslie Greaves Radloff
Teacher/Librarian
Emanuel Lutheran School(WELS)
W. St. Paul, Minnesota

My Backpack, by Eve Bunting; illustrated by Maryann Cocca-Leffler. LCCN 96083934. Honesdale, Penn.: Boyds Mills Press, 1997. ISBN 1563974339, HBB, \$14.95.

E. Children--Fiction. unsp.
PS - Gr. 2.

What small child doesn't enjoy getting mail? And, that pleasure is doubled when the return address announces that Grandma sent it. *My Backpack* by Eve Bunting is crafted to delight the heart of the Read-to-Me child and the accommodating reader.

The unnamed child stuffs the blue backpack full of things from the house, to the dismay of his family. Where are Mother's shoes? Where are Dad's glasses? The remote control for the TV? The story line is set to the tune of a chuckle. Bunting rhymes the tale without it seeming contrived. She tosses in the element of mystery while allowing the world-at-large to know the solution from the very beginning.

Maryann Cocca-Leffler creates a charming hero in an almost super-cartoon setting, a party atmosphere bursting from every illustration. Great care is paid to detail.

The lesson of family community and forgiveness is inherent in *My Backpack*, a strong message spoken between the lines.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Su Hagerty
Director of Choral Music
Liberty High School
Issaquah, Washington

My Dog Never Says Please, by Suzanne Williams; pictures by Tedd Arnold. LCCN 96011950. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0803716818, HBB, \$14.99.

E. Behavior--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Family life--Fiction. 32 p.
K - Gr. 2.

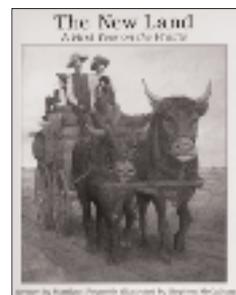
Ginny Mae Perkins is tired of manners. It seems life is just one round after another of "say the magic word," "chew with your mouth closed," and "use your napkin." Ginny wishes she could be a dog like her hound Ol' Red. Ol' Red can just eat and scratch and lie in the sun; nobody bosses

him around. And Ol' Red never has to clean his room or wear shoes outside. Yes, in Ginny's eyes, a dog's life is much better than hers. During a fit of temper, she loudly announces that she wants to be a dog. To her great delight, her parents' oblige. Ginny and Ol' Red romp through several watercolor pages fulfilling Ginny's dreams until the smell of pork chops has to compete with dry dog food, and a rain storm drives both pups into a leaky dog house. Then home and people food look like a wonderful alternative.

Ted Arnold's humorous illustrations combined with Suzanne Williams' text will tickle the reader's funny bone in this lively story with its almost repentant ending.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Judy Driscoll
Teacher, Christ the King Academy
Poulsbo, Washington



The New Land : A First Year on the Prairie. Written by Marilynn Reynolds; illustrated by Stephen McCallum. LCCN 96072452. Victoria, B.C.: Orca Book Publishers, 1997. ISBN 155143069X, HBB, \$14.95.

E. Frontier and pioneer life--Prairie Provinces (Canada)--Fiction. unsp.
Gr. 2 - 5.

Author Marilynn Reynolds takes the young reader through the first year of her grandparents saga of coming to this country and settling on their own land. They sail from Europe, then travel by train until the tracks run out in the middle of the great prairie. Father buys a team of oxen and supplies and they slowly proceed to their homestead.

The first night on their homestead they camp in a field of wildflowers. The tasks of finding water, erecting a sod house, and planting crops are vividly depicted by Stephen McCallum with gentle watercolors. Text and illustrations capture for youngsters the hope and perseverance of those who settled this land.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Mary Jarvis
Freelance Writer
Pawhuska, Oklahoma



No One Will Ever Know, by Carl Sommer; illustrated by Dick Westbrook. (Another Sommer-Time Story.) LCCN 96024344. Houston: Advance Publishing, 1997. ISBN 1575370522, HBB, \$14.95.

E. Squirrels--Fiction; Wolves--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Disobedience--Fiction. unip.

K - Gr. 3.

This is an enchanting tale of an age old problem—peer pressure. Squirrels, Johnny, Janie, Tommy, and Tammie have a great time playing together until they meet some older squirrels. They tell them about a place where they can find the biggest and the best acorns. “Just go across the meadow and over the fence on Mr. Smith’s farm,” the oldest squirrel answered. “But we can’t go there,” the squirrels answered, “Mom and Dad said it is dangerous and we should never go there.” “No one will ever know,” is the reply. Now the seed of disobedience has been planted in their minds and if they don’t go they will be scaredy cats. What should they do? Well, the squirrels decide to go late at night. Everything seems okay for a while, but then the wolf comes and Johnny is almost eaten. He only loses his tail. All the squirrels learn it is better to obey.

This is one book in the Another Sommer-Time Story series. Each book is a lively tale which communicates a special virtue. In this book Carl Sommer has created a delightful, easy-to-read story that will stay with a child for years to come. These are the types of decisions a child faces. We all want our children to stand up for what they know is right and be bold. This may be the tale that can help them to do that. Of course, this book would not be complete without the charming illustrations of Dick Westbrook. The squirrels and their expressions will remind you of the boy down the street or the girl next door. The illustrations are large, bright and colorful. All the qualities that children love and enjoy. If you are looking for a good book to teach obedience and the value of good choices—this is the one for you.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Marcia Snyder, Librarian
Valley Christian School
Missoula, Montana

Puddles, by Jonathan London; pictures by G. Brian Karas. LCCN 96052794. New York:

Viking, 1997. ISBN 0670872180, HBB, \$14.99.

E. Rain and rainfall--Fiction. unip.

PS - Gr. 1.

The storm during the night frightens and delights a brother and sister. Then, the next morning’s soaked, but sunny wonderland serves as an enchanting playground. They explore the depths of the puddles, the wriggling worms, the tall, wet grass, the suction power of mud, and encounter other sloppy adventures. When they return home, they take a hot bath, have some cocoa, get dressed, and go back out for more wet fun!!

Jonathan London’s appreciation for the wonder with which children see the world is evident in *Puddles*. The children in the story don’t even seem to notice that Mom reminds them to be careful and not get wet. This is foreshadowing in the simplest sense that young children will certainly enjoy, because, of course, they’re going to get wet! The illustrations by G. Brian Karas portray glistening raindrops, reflecting puddles, hopping frogs, slimy worms, and happy children. Karas uses color to represent the time and place, the scary storm at night is done in pencil drawings while the next morning is bright and cheery with vibrant color.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Carol M. Jones, MLIS
Children’s Librarian
Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Rainbow Bay, by Stephen Eaton Hume; illustrated by Pascal Milelli. Vancouver, B.C.: Raincoast Books, 1995. ISBN 1895714753, HBB, \$19.95.

E. Pacific Northwest (Canada)--Fiction; Islands--Fiction. unip.

K - Gr. 3.

It is a glorious day on Silver Spring Island. The only access is by boat, and everyone rides bicycles or horses. Written by Stephen Eaton Hume, the story is told in the first person about a young boy and his dog, Scout, who share many adventures. Children will enjoy the seashore life encountered in Rainbow Bay and the young boy’s sword fight with dragonflies that he pretends are ambushing pterodactyls. There are classic childhood moments in the book. One is sharing a peanut butter sandwich while visualizing different shapes in the clouds, and another is discovering constellations.

Pascal Milelli’s expressionistic oil full-page illustrations wonderfully depict the characters’ adventures. The descriptive words and vivid illustrations will captivate children and stimulate their interest in wanting to know more about islands and seashore life. This enchanting oversize book is an excellent choice for librarians, storytellers, teachers, and parents to read aloud.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Dianne Woodman

Freelance Writer and Homeschool Parent
Milpitas, California

Rugby & Rosie, by Nan Parson Rossiter. LCCN 96014688. New York: Dutton Children’s Books, 1997. ISBN 0525454845, HBB, \$14.99.

E. Dogs--Training--Fiction; Guide dogs--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. unip.

PS - Gr. 2

Rugby, a chocolate Labrador and his owner, a young boy, are best friends. Rosie comes to live with Rugby’s family for a year. After a year, she will go to school to become a seeing eye dog. At first, Rugby will have nothing to do with Rosie. Soon, however, Rosie’s playful personality wins Rugby over, and the three become inseparable. When Rosie leaves to go to school, everyone is sad, most of all Rugby.

A sensitive and touching story, *Rugby & Rosie* by Nan Parson Rossiter, is told by Rugby’s owner. Beautifully illustrated by the author, this gentle story will appeal children and adults, especially dog lovers. Provides some educational material about guide dogs and the life they lead. The afterward contains more detailed information about the subject.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Elizabeth Coleman
Freelance Writer
Tumwater, Washington

Rumble in the Jungle, by Britta Teckentrup. LCCN 96061352. New York: Viking, 1997. ISBN 0670874736, HBB, \$14.99.

E. Jungle animals--Fiction. unip.

PK - Gr. 2.

The age old story of perceived ownership is brought forth in *Rumble in the Jungle* by Britta Teckentrup. A quiet day in the jungle is interrupted by the squabble between monkey and giraffe who both claim a vine. A tug-of-war ensues with all the jungle animals soon joining in for reasons of their own. The tussle and bright collage illustrations, which are reminiscent of Eric Carter’s illustrative technique, will keep young readers turning the pages to the fold-out surprise ending. What the text lacks in stamina the rich color jungle scenes make up for.

Young readers will laugh at the animal antics as they perhaps see themselves, given how most preschoolers are in a constant state of “Mine! I had it first!” The surprise ending could lead to discussions of how to solve ownership battles without resorting to fighting.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Pam Webb
Librarian
Sandpoint Community Christian School
Sandpoint, Idaho

***Sody Sallyratus*, retold and illustrated by Teri Sloat. LCCN 96014686. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997. ISBN 0525456090, HBB, \$15.99.**

E. Squirrels--Fiction; Bears--Fiction; Humorous stories. unip.

PS - Gr. 3

While trying to make biscuits for the family's pet squirrel, it is discovered that the family is completely out of baking soda (or sody sallyratus). The little boy is sent to the store to get more and doesn't return. One by one family members leave their cabin to check on the person who last left. Finally, the squirrel saves the day. He discovers the entire family was eaten by a bear and tricks the bear into coughing up everyone. They are able to return to their cabin and finally make biscuits for all.

Retold and illustrated by Teri Sloat, *Sody Sallyratus* is based on an old Appalachian tale. Repetition and folksy dialogue are key elements in the story, along with colloquial English (i.e. takin') and regional grammar. Since the bear eats each member of the family, sensitive preschoolers may find the book a little scary. The detailed color drawings add greatly to the story, making each page a pleasure visually.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Elizabeth Coleman

Freelance Writer

Tumwater, Washington

***Spotty*, by Margret Rey; with pictures by H. A. Rey. LCCN 96026818. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997. ISBN 0395837367, HBB, \$14.95.**

E. Individuality--Fiction; Prejudices--Fiction; Rabbits--Fiction. unip.

PK - Gr. 2.

Fans of Margret and H. A. Rey will be pleased in seeing the reissue of *Spotty*. Spotty is different. All his other siblings, all eight of them, are snow-white with pink eyes. Spotty is brown spotted with blue eyes. Such a thing has never happened in the family. Fearing Grandpa Bunny will be offended, Spotty is left behind when the family goes to Grandpa's birthday party. Spotty's response is to run away after unsuccessfully trying to remove his spots. After staying with a family who has a similar problem with one of their rabbit children Spotty is able to show everyone the importance of looking beyond outside appearances when it comes to accepting someone.

Similar to the Rey's Curious George books, *Spotty* has a simple text accompanied by soft cheery illustrations. The book first appeared in 1945, with a reissue in 1973. Considering some aspects of the story are outdated, the story still reads well. Although the main theme is acceptance, there are several other themes

children will relate to: self-esteem, prejudice, favoritism, individualism, and how love overlooks any presumed defects. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder - something this plucky spotted bunny gently reminds readers.

Quality - 4 Acceptability - 5

Pam Webb

Librarian

Sandpoint Community Christian School

Sandpoint, Idaho

***The Story Dance*, by Barbara Satterfield; illustrated by Fran Gregory. LCCN 96038688. Minneapolis: Fairview Press, 1997. ISBN 1577490223, HBB, \$14.95.**

E. Grandmothers - Fiction; Great-aunts - Fiction; Heirlooms - Fiction. 32 p.

Gr. 1 - 4.

The family treasures at Grandma Nana's house are locked away, off-limits in a tall, glass front cabinet. But the young girl of this tale gradually talks her grandmother into letting her explore the cabinet and hearing the stories about her great aunt Emmadelle. The girl begins by receiving permission to hold her great aunt's silk shawl, then wears the shawl, then dances in it while her grandmother reminisces aloud about the sister who traveled to Spain and learned to dance the flamenco. Eventually the girl gains enough of her grandmother's trust to read the letters her aunt had sent. She discovers the shawl was a gift to her grandmother in celebration of the birth of the young girl's mother.

Fran Gregory's impressionistic illustrations enhance the story with a wistful, dreamlike quality. The text itself may be too languid for young listeners and too wordy for young readers. But for the sensitive, older picture book fan, *The Story Dance* does a nice job of connecting past to present, showing how the sharing of memories enrich family relationships. *The Story Dance* celebrates "the tie that binds," making it just a little stronger.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Tammy Perron

Freelance Writer

Snohomish, Washington

***The Summer of Stanley*, by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock; illustrated by Donald Gates. LCCN 94022685. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997. ISBN 0525651772, HBB, \$14.99.**

E. Goats--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction. 32 p.

Gr. 1 - 3.

Trouble comes in the form of a birthday goat named Stanley. It wasn't exactly the kind of present nine-year-old Molly had in mind for her birthday. But Grandpa insists, mama relents, and Molly? Well, you can't exactly look a gift goat in the mouth. But Stanley is a pain. "When he

was out, he wanted to be in. When he was in, he wanted to be out." And he eats everything in sight including Mrs. Kimball's new dress from the clothesline next door! That goat is as big a pain as Molly's little brother, Tyler. At least that's what Molly thinks until she is left to babysit. Tyler disappears and it takes the bravery of a goat named Stanley to rescue him and help Molly see how much she really does love both of the big pains in her life.

A Goat Named Stanley is beautifully and realistically illustrated with finely detailed colored pencil art by illustrator Donald Gates. He adeptly captures the feelings of the characters making this a heartwarming tale.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Judy Driscoll

Teacher, Christ the King Academy

Poulsbo, Washington

***Tangle Talk*, by W. Nikola-Lisa; illustrated by Jessica Clerk. LCCN 96024548. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997. ISBN 0525453997, HBB, \$14.99.**

E. Stories in rhyme; Humorous stories. unip.

PS - Gr. 3.

A mysterious tale is woven with words in *Tangle Talk*. It begins "in the month of Boston, in the wonderful city of May." The main character experiences strange happenings of flowers singing and birds blooming. Things continue awry through lunch, so he decides a walk will help, and goes to bed with his shoes on his head. On his stroll, more astonishing sights are beheld. Pigeons driving, squirrels parading, and policemen hiding acorns are all part of his day. At last, he heads home in hopes that tomorrow will untangle his talk.

Tangle Talk is a wonderful play of words and illustrations which will enchant children. Children will enjoy the nonsense of the words and story while the illustrations challenge their imagination. The pictures by Jessica Clerk complement the outrageous text, and will provide much entertainment for readers. Children will recognize the impossibility of the text while still being inspired by the tangle of events.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Carol M. Jones, MLIS

Children's Librarian

Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

***Tortoise Brings the Mail*, by Dee Lillegard; illustrated by Jillian Lund. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997. ISBN 0525451560, HBB, \$14.99.**

E. Tortoises--Fiction; Rabbits--Fiction; Steadfastness--Fiction. unip.

PS - Gr. 3.

Author Dee Lillegard narrates a sweet story

about Tortoise, who lives way out in the country. His job is delivering the mail. Tortoise loves his job and he is very careful. So careful that the animals on his mail route think he is too slow.

Some of the other animals try to take his place but they are not nearly as efficient as Tortoise. Crow drops letters and packages. Rabbit delivers mail to the wrong boxes. Fox keeps any packages that smell good. Tortoise tries to help all the animals by correcting their mistakes later in the day. Finally, everyone begs Tortoise to take back his job. Contains a good moral about doing our work well.

Illustrator Jillian Lund fills the pages with pictures of the forest animals wearing whimsical expressions, which would be fun for an adult to point out to a child. An attractive hardbound book, suitable for gifts or selection for children's classes.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Barbara Taenzler
Freelance Writer and Book Reviewer
Glenwood, Iowa

Touch the Sky Summer, by Jean Van Leeuwen; pictures by Dan Andreasen. LCCN 96002380. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0803718209, HBB, \$14.99.

E. Vacations--Fiction; Summer--Fiction; Grandparents--Fiction. unip.
PS - Gr. 5.

Traveling to Grandma's cabin in the woods is a tedious trip for Peter and Luke but oh, so exciting. Their parents are happy to be going on vacation and to have time to visit with Grandma and Grandpa.

There are all kinds of activities there. Fishing with Grandpa. Showing off new swimming skills. Taking walks with Dad. Playing games in front of the fireplace and eating popcorn on a rainy day. The highlight of the week is when Peter and Luke try to sleep outside in a tent one night, but a raccoon's noises make them afraid. So Dad joins them and they are safe.

What a happy vacation with strong family values portrayed by author, Jean Van Leeuwen. Lovely illustrations by Dan Andreasen enhance the beauty of the wooded and rustic retreat. An attractive, hard-cover book.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Barbara Taenzler
Freelance Writer and Book Reviewer
Glenwood, Iowa

Uh-oh! It's Mama's Birthday. Written by Naturi Thomas; illustrated by Keinyo White. LCCN 6010168. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 1997. ISBN 0807582689, HBB, \$12.95.

E. Mothers and sons--Fiction; Birthdays--Fiction;

Afro-Americans--Fiction. unip.
PS - Gr. 3.

Jason starts Saturday as usual with pizza while he watches cartoons with his dog, Sparky. Later, he ventures off to spend the dollar his Mama gave him. He meets the mailman on his way who tells him today is his Mama's birthday. Jason wonders what he can get for her. He only has a dollar, so he cannot buy her a dress as he initially plans. He has enough to buy her some gummy bears, but gets a little hungry. As he walks, he gets a little more hungry. And more, until eventually Mama's gummy bears have disappeared! Jason buys her a balloon with the money left, and starts home through the park. On his way, he meets friends who want to play with the balloon. In the tussle that ensues, the balloon is lost. Jason goes home empty-handed and dejected. His mother notices his distress, and questions him. He spills out his sad story. She wraps him in her arms, and explains that she will be happy with a hug from him.

Thomas relates a story with which children will empathize. Jason's quest will interest them, as most children have experienced a similar dilemma with no money to buy an expensive gift for someone they love. Jason comes up with good ideas, but things don't work out as he had hoped. Children will also be comforted by the idea that Jason's mother most wanted love from him.

Keinyo White has created oil paintings on canvas which illustrate the story of Jason's quest. The pictures are vivid in color, but their near realism is not as likely to hold the attention of children. The painting is well done, but may not allow children to read the story without the words.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Carol Jones
Children's Librarian
Champaign, Illinois

Wanted : Best Friend, by Am M. Monson; pictures by Lynn Munsinger. LCCN 95022828. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0803714858, HBB, \$14.99.

E. Cats--Fiction; Mice--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. unip.
PS - Gr. 2.

There's no doubt why this book is A Junior Library Guild Selection. Cat and Mouse are best friends who like to play checkers, but one day (after Cat wins three times in a row), Mouse decides he wants to play a card game called crazy eights. When Cat says no, Mouse leaves in a huff.

Cat decides he needs a "new" best friend. He runs an ad in the local newspaper. After an odd assortment of characters come to his house, he finds out that good friends are hard to find. Cat also learns a second lesson: what it is like to have your requests ignored. After wishing for Mouse

to come back, Cat takes action. The story ends with Mouse and Cat reconciled.

The moral, "treat your friends with respect," comes through beautifully. Lynn Munsinger's ink-and-watercolor illustrations are comical yet sensitive. A true delight.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Kimm Swenson Gollnick
Writer, Speaker, Homeschool Teacher
Marysville, Washington

What Shall I Dream? By Laura McGee Kvasnosky; illustrated by Judith Byron Schachner. LCCN 95030890. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1996. ISBN 0525452079, HBB, \$14.99.

E. Dreams--Fiction; Princes--Fiction. unip.
K - Gr. 4.

In this fairy tale, complete with a King and Queen and Prince Alexander, an important lesson is taught. The value of the individual person, the individual's own dreams and aspirations, is more important than trying to live someone else's dreams.

Prince Alexander poses the question "What shall I dream?" to his father the King, his mother, and various members of the royal household. They all try to help him as they enlist the aid of magical Dream Brewers, Dream Weavers, and Dream Sweepers. The resulting dreams are perfectly suited for the person trying to help him but not at all suited for Alexander himself. Finally his nursemaid Henrietta directs him to discover his dreams for himself. He drifts off to sleep at nap time and dreams a perfectly delightful dream just right for a little boy.

The illustrations by Judith Schachner are exquisitely detailed and add to the enchantment of the tale. She truly gives the book an "a long, long time ago" mood. While the book deals with the world of fantasy and make-believe, it contains a real life theme: Be yourself.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Arlene Neal
Teacher, Covenant School
Granite Falls, North Carolina



Where Are You, Little Zack? By Judith Ross Enderle and Stephanie Gordon Tessler; illustrated by Brian Floca. LCCN 96015381. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997. ISBN

0395730929, HBB, \$14.95.

E. Ducks--Fiction; Lost children--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction; City and town life--Fiction. unip.

PK - Gr. 2.

The Quack brothers—Brick, Brack, Thackery, and Little Zack—leave the confines of their country pond one day for an excursion to New York City. Authors Judith Ross Enderle and Stephanie Gordon Tessler move the duck brothers at a merry pace through the city, while Brian Floca provides the rollicking illustrations.

This is not your ordinary number sequence concept book. The book is a page turning delight. The most outstanding feature is the combined rhyme and alliteration, making the text a tongue tickler. The book has snap and crackle in both verse and pictures. Floca's contributions of his witty, colorful vignettes of the Big Apple are lively and entertaining.

Fans of *Where's Waldo* and similar detail hunt and find books will have a fun time as they search for Little Zack as his brothers search for him. Surprises, both visual and textual, abound until the very last page. Readers get a duck's eye view of New York as the Quack brothers go from one landmark site to another looking for one another. The punch line is one both young and old will outright guffaw at. *Where Are You, Little Zack?* definitely passes the test of "read it again, please?" Let's hope Zack and his brothers find themselves in future adventures together.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Pam Webb
 Librarian
 Sandpoint Community Christian School
 Sandpoint, Idaho



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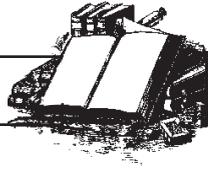
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Adventures in Willoughby : Familiar Faces & Faraway Places. Bridgestone Multimedia, 1995. ISBN 1563711737, VID, \$9.95.

F. Bats--Fiction; Carlsbad Caverns (N.M.)--Fiction; Hawaii--Fiction; Dinosaur National Monument (Ut.)--Fiction; Chichén Itza (Mex.)--Fiction. 1 videocassette; 30 min, color

Adventures in Willoughby : Trains, Planes, & Other Fun Things. Bridgestone Multimedia, 1995. ISBN 1563711729, VID, \$9.95.

F. Airplanes--Fiction; Colorado--Fiction; Devil's Tower (Wyo.)--Fiction; Cowboys--Fiction; Ballooning--Fiction. 1 videocassette; 30 min, color

Gr. 1 - 6.

Mark Breshner has produced a series of videos for children set around a fictitious town on a model train set. Stories are told by the stationary toy characters as the camera follows the train along the track. *Familiar Faces and Faraway Places* has four travelogue-type episodes that last about five minutes each. Carlsbad Caverns, Hawaii, the Dinosaur National Monument, and the Mayan Pyramids in Mexico are visited. Several references are made to the "millions of years" needed for these places to come into existence. The fourth episode on the video, The Great Halloween Train Wreck, (ten minutes long) is the story of how the old house came to be haunted. A train crash is shown that results in several explosions. Then the "spirits of the dead" float around the old house to the beat of disco music. *Trains, Planes & Other Fun Things* begins with a six-and-a-half minute episode of watching the model train go around the tracks while toy planes and hot air balloons float on strings above the Willoughby Valley.

Three of the eight episodes are travelogues with several references to evolutionary theories. One is the recitation of a poem, and another shows how a toy plane was helped to land in heavy fog in Willoughby with the help of a blinking light. The final episode is a trip to the local theatre to view a magic show. These videos remind me of home-videos with little or no plot.

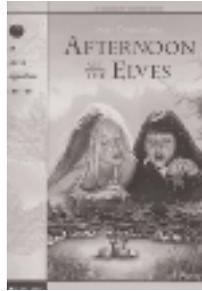
Quality—2 Acceptability—2

Patricia Perry
Retired Librarian
Westerville, Ohio

Afternoon of the Elves, by Janet Taylor Lisle. New York: Scholastic, 1989. ISBN 0590439448, PAP, \$3.99

F. Elves--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. 122 p.

Gr. 3 - 7.



Something magical has happened in Sara-Kate's backyard. A tiny village, made of twigs and brilliant fall leaves, has sprung up overnight, and she has confided to Hillary that it is the work of elves. But why would anyone, or anything, chose Sara-Kate's yard? After all, it's overgrown and full of junk, and Sara-Kate herself is skinny, friendless, and sometimes downright strange.

Janet Taylor Lisle quickly establishes the relationships between her characters, which are dictated to a great extent by schoolyard politics. Sara-Kate, who wears ugly clothes and has been held back a year in school, is a threat to the bright, beautiful people, just as her neglected yard is a threat to the neighbors' carefully groomed gardens.

Hillary is initially skeptical about the elf village, but soon she, and the reader with her, is drawn into the mystery and enchantment of it all. As Sara-Kate teaches her to view things from an elf's perspective, Hillary finds she is able to see things in a whole new light.

But she quickly realizes that her new way of seeing is still limited. It isn't until she compromises her own sense of right and wrong—by stealing from her mother to buy food for Sara-Kate—that she can see Sara-Kate's life for what it really is. Where she had seen only magic and mystery, there was actually poverty and desperation.

In *Afternoon of the Elves*, a Newbery Honor Book, the reader is shown the importance of setting aside preconceptions. The author's use of language is wonderful; she paints pictures for her reader, using words as her colors. Her effective control of pace keeps the reader entranced from the first page to the last.

The conclusion of this story unravels rather quickly, and leaves the reader with several

unanswered questions. But the story is lyrical and lovely, and serves as a reminder to preserve a small corner of our ordered lives for a little bit of magic.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Sylvia Stopforth
Librarian, Trinity Western University
Langley, British Columbia

Arby Jenkins, Mighty Mustang, by Sharon Hambrick; illustrated by Mike McDermott. LCCN 97004984. Greenville, S.C.: Bob Jones University Press, 1997. ISBN 0890849323, PAP, \$6.49.

F. Camps--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 132 p.

Gr. 4 - 6.

Arby Jenkins is an eleven-year-old boy at Victory Ranch, a Christian summer camp. He bunks in a wagon named Mustang Hollow, and one bunk mate, Stuart, teases him mercilessly. Arby leaves the campfire early one night and overhears Stuart talking to his mother on the telephone in one of the camp offices. When Arby asks Stuart to confess his misdeed, Stuart tells him no way.

One night Arby notices Stuart leaving the camp and follows him. The boys get lost, and Arby uses his flashlight to send SOS's while Stuart confides his problems. They are rescued, and the next day Arby, Stuart, and one of the camp counselors talk about God. By the end of the conversation, Stuart is unsure if he is ready to make an unconditional commitment to Jesus Christ, and Arby realizes that just saying you accept Christ does not save a person.

Sharon Hambrick writes the story in the first person and wonderfully expresses the dilemma of a young boy yearning to enjoy camp without any responsibilities but also valuing the importance of witnessing to a boy who is not saved.

Outstanding pointillist drawings by Mike McDermott sprinkled throughout enrich the story, and children will especially delight in the Morse code symbols at the end of the story. This book is a valuable resource for teaching about an unmitigated commitment to Christ.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Dianne Woodman
Freelance Writer, Homeschool Parent
Milpitas, California

Summer Surprise, by Shannon Mason Leppard. (The Adventures of Callie Ann; 1.) LCCN 96045833. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1556618131, PAPER, \$3.99.

F. Moving, Household--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 78 p.

The Ballet Class Mystery, by Shannon Mason Leppard. (The Adventures of Callie Ann; 2.) LCCN 96045834. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 155661814X, PAPER, \$3.99.

F. Christian life--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Family life--Fiction. 79 p.

The Hospital Caper, by Shannon Mason Leppard. (The Adventures of Callie Ann; 3.) LCCN 97021040. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 1556618158, PAPER, \$3.99.

F. Christian life--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction. 76 p.

The Miss Kitty Mystery, by Shannon Mason Leppard. (The Adventures of Callie Ann; 4.) LCCN 97021041. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 1556618166, PAPER, \$3.99.

F. Christian life--Fiction; Cats--Fiction. 77 p.
Gr. 2 - 5.

Eight-year-old Callie Ann Davies doesn't care much for her new home in Cornelius, North Carolina. She left her best friend, Meghan, behind in Greenville, as well as her Grandmama and Papa. She can't understand why God let her family move to this new place when she prayed so hard that they wouldn't.

Callie Ann's father helps her meet a new friend, their next door neighbor, Jason Alexander. Callie Ann has her doubts about making friends with a boy. She thinks boys are weird. But Jason is friendly and shows her some neat things around town. When they climb up into the bell tower of the church Callie finds that she can see the whole town and even her own house, below. Maybe this new town won't be so bad after all.

The Callie Ann series, by Shannon Mason Leppard, is written for seven-to-ten-year-olds as a "first chapter book". The books are well-written and enjoyable. Spiritual and moral values are woven into each story.

Every other chapter contains a black and white sketch illustrating the story. The cover art is simple and attractive. Borders above and below the cover picture mark each book as part of a series, making it easy for readers to identify further Callie Ann adventures.

In book 2, Callie Ann begins to enjoy her new town and friends but soon finds herself with a mystery on her hands. She sees a boy dancing all alone in the building where Callie has her ballet classes. Who is this boy and why does he dance

alone? Callie starts asking questions but no one seems to know what she's talking about. Finally, Callie finds the answers. Sean is a talented ballet student who is deaf. He dances by feeling the vibrations of the music through his feet.

In book 3, Callie Ann learns that her Grandmama is in the hospital. Callie is determined to see her even if it is against hospital rules. After Callie's mother leaves her at the nurse's station, Callie watches for an opportunity to sneak away and find her Grandmama's room. She moves down the long corridor, carefully avoiding the doctors and nurses. But just as she reaches her grandmother's room she hears a grown up voice behind her.

In book 4, Callie Ann's pet, Miss Kitty, disappears one early morning. Callie is frantic and soon has her friend Jason and the whole town watching for Miss Kitty. Finally, Callie and Jason find Miss Kitty in her favorite hiding place, the bell tower of the church. But Miss Kitty has a surprise of her own waiting for them.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Donna Brown
Church Librarian
Portland, Oregon

Boys in the Well, by Cecil Freeman. (Girl in the Well; 3.) Red Deer, Alb.: Red Deer College Press, 1996. ISBN 0889951365, PAPER, \$7.95.

F. Teenagers--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction; Canada--Fiction. 126 p.

Gr. 3 - 5.

Corinne lives on a farm with her baby brother, Peter, her Daddy, and her Mama. She has a good friend, April, and various farm animals, like her colt, Pettie. In this story Corinne is trying to get used to the idea that boys are people, too; and in fact, they might be all right to have as friends. One boy, Ken, comes to visit at the farm. He lives in a tent in the yard, because he is a boy scout on a safari. She introduces him to the various aspects of farm and country life. They go on a berry picking trip with a couple of other boys and Corinne breaks her leg. The boys feel bad, but she acknowledges that it wasn't all their fault. As she recuperates, she realizes that boys may be okay.

Boys in the Well was written in first person from the perspective of a girl whose age is not really clear. Her perspective is oddly tilted, as if the author were writing from memories of childhood. The vocabulary is too young and thoughts too introspective are not a match for the age the reader thinks this girl is.

The story line is not very realistic in many ways. This girl, who might be interested in boys, is not trusted to take care of her baby brother because she put him on her horse for a ride. Mama hands him over to be watched by a boy she hardly knows. The visiting boy sleeps in a tent in the yard. Mama's accent is indistinct and forced.

Some of the language is very stilted, like "spoke ever so happy," and "such a much" (several times in the last chapter). The action is basically show me around the farm with the time frame never presented in the text.

Quality—2 Acceptability—4

Judy Belcher
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey, by Susan Wojciechowski; illustrated by P.J. Lynch. Candlewick Press, 1995. ISBN 1564023206, HBB, \$12.95.

F. Christmas--Fiction.

Gr. 2 - 4.

Wojciechowski's award-winning book, *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* is one Christmas story that is sure to be enjoyed year after year. Jonathan Toomey is a woodcarver, the best in the whole valley, according to some. However, he always looks gloomy and unfriendly, though no one knows why.

One day, Widow McDowell and her seven-year-old son Thomas come to Toomey's door and ask him to carve them a nativity scene to replace a lost family treasure. He gruffly agrees and the widow and her son come back again and again to watch his progress. As they befriend him, he begins to let down his guard. Finally, as he tries to carve the figures of Mary and Jesus, he is forced to face up to and deal with the death of his own wife and son many years before.

Unlike the cardboard characters in so many picture books, the people in Wojciechowski's story have the ability to touch us deeply, as in the passage that tells how Toomey ended up settling in the valley:

"And, because those were the days before hospitals and medicines and skilled doctors, his wife and baby died, three days apart from each other. So Jonathan Toomey packed his belongings into a wagon and traveled till his tears stopped."

Lynch's rich, colorful watercolors are well done, with an almost photographic quality. They not only add to our knowledge of the people in the story and show us the progression of the carved figures, they also show us the beginning of Toomey's healing.

Not only does Wojciechowski's book seem destined to become a Christmas classic, but reading it may help a child understand sad grown-ups in his own life. Even a library with lots of Christmas stories won't want to miss *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

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



Close Your Eyes So You Can See : Stories of Children in the Life of Jesus, by Michael Card; illustrations by Stephen Marchesi. LCCN 96011616. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1565074254, HBB, \$14.99.

F. Jesus Christ--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Short stories. 48 p.

PS - Gr. 6.

Michael Card encourages children to close their eyes as they imagine what it might be like to have been a child during the time when Jesus lived on earth. He begins his book with a note to parents explaining how important children are in the Lord's ministry and encouraging all his readers to see with their eyes closed. Ten New Testament stories are retold from the child's point of view, using language that appeals to all the senses of the reader. However, there are a few times when the author goes a little too far with his imagination. Following each story are several questions to encourage children to think a little further and personalize the story.

The book includes ten beautiful full-page watercolor illustrations by Stephen Marchesi. Each page of the book is on a colored textured background which makes it look as though it is printed on fabric. This book is of a very high quality, with pages printed on paper that can withstand many readings by children of all ages. *Close Your Eyes So You Can See* could be used by parents or teachers as a springboard for studying the life and time of Christ. The book jacket states that there is a companion children's music cassette with ten original songs by Michael Card.

Quality—3 Acceptability—4

Patricia Perry
Retired Librarian
Westerville, Ohio

The Copper Lady, by Alice Ross and Kent Ross; illustrations by Leslie Bowman. (Carolrhoda on My Own Books.) LCCN 95007628. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 1997. ISBN 0876149344, HBB, \$13.13.

F. Statue of Liberty (New York, N.Y.)--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Stowaways--Fiction. 48 p.

Gr. 1 - 3.

Eleven-year-old Andre hurries to the shop where

the statue is in production. He thinks of the statue as "the Lady" and visits her frequently. When it is transported to the United States, Andre sneaks onto the ship. With his parents no longer alive and living with a heartless master, America appears promising. He remains hidden until a storm pounds the ship breaking loose some of the crates. Not wanting the statue damaged, Andre jeopardizes his freedom by enlisting the sailors' help in securing the crates. The captain plans on returning Andre to France and changes his mind when Andre reminds him of the freedom the statue embodies.

The Copper Lady by Alice Ross and Kent Ross is an engaging story of a young boy living in Paris, France in 1883 who learns the specific meaning of the Statue of Liberty. This knowledge helps him persevere and gain his freedom.

Leslie Bowman's earth-tone pencil illustrations provide a fitting background to the story, and the painting on the dust jacket and hard cover depicts the young boy and the statue. This book will stimulate children's interest into further study about the Statue of Liberty, and the "Authors Note" preceding the story and the "Afterward" provide historical facts.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Dianne Woodman
Freelance Writer, Homeschool Parent
Milpitas, California

Fighting Tackle, by Matt Christopher; illustrated by Karen Lidbeck. LCCN 94019680. Boston: Little, Brown, 1995. ISBN 0316137944, PAP, \$3.95.

F. Football--Fiction; Down syndrome--Fiction. 147 p.

Gr. 4 - 6.

Terry McFee loves playing the position of free safety on the Clippers football team, and he loves football. Because Terry has grown significantly in the previous year, Coach Butterfield decides to play him as nose tackle. Terry has a hard time letting go of the way he is used to seeing things, but he learns and grows and becomes a very decent tackle for the team. *Fighting Tackle* by Matt Christopher is a good book for those very interested in football.

The paperback format is a much more appealing venue for this type of sports book than earlier hardback books written by Matt Christopher. This story is very focused on football and its positions and plays. In the story, Terry's younger brother, Nick, has Down Syndrome. Woven throughout the action and games is a wonderful portrayal of a healthy growth and acceptance of the challenges of this condition. The climax is a bit contrived and some reasoning is a bit moralistic, but this is a very decent book for a sports fan or someone dealing with Down Syndrome.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Judy Belcher

Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington

A Golden Age. Written by Martha Wickham; illustrated by Dan Brown. (Odyssey.) LCCN 96015034. Norwalk, Conn.: Soundprints, 1996. ISBN 1568993714, KIT, \$19.95.

F. Radio--History--Fiction; Family life--History--Fiction. 1 vol., 32 p.; 1 audiocassette, 16 min.

Gr. 4 - 6.

To radio buffs who desire to pass on the "Theatre-of-the-Mind" to the next generation, *A Golden Age* by Martha Wickham is a gem. Emma and her friends Lucy, Tomar, and Kevin visit the National Museum of American History. Emma, with her ever-present Walkman, pauses to explore an exhibit of old radios. Her friends agree to meet her there later. Then, as if magically transported, Emma finds herself in her great-grandparents' home. It is there, on the day before VE Day (May 8, 1945) that she learns the importance of the radio to her family.

Wickham takes the fantasy one experiences while listening to the radio one step further. She uses the technique of a story within a story, pushing the boundaries of reality. Emma, a young Black girl, marvels at the contrasts between the 1990s and the 1940s, the clothing, the furniture, the attitudes about World War II in the upper middle-class. The essence of her family is translated faithfully by Dan Brown, artist. The illustrations, predominately in soft yellows and browns with a touch of blue or red, enhance the story line.

The vocabulary level of the text is lower than the subject matter addressed, historical events from 1930s and 1940s. *A Golden Age* is a boxed package with book and audio cassette. The tape, a reading of the book, lasts sixteen minutes, ideal for use in the classroom.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Su Hagerty
Director of Choral Music
Liberty High School
Issaquah, Washington

The Great Wonder. Written by Annabelle Howard; illustrated by Stephen Wells. (Odyssey.) LCCN 96011361. Norwalk, Conn.: Soundprints, 1996. ISBN 1568993501, KIT, \$19.95.

F. Pyramids--Egypt--Fiction; Egypt--Antiquities--Fiction. 1 vol., 32 p.; 1 audiocassette, 32 min.

Gr. 2 - 6.

It's a routine field trip to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History for Kevin, Lucy, Emma, and Tomas. But as they settle down for a movie on Egyptian pyramids, Kevin finds himself not in the cool, dark theater, but in the sarcophagus of King Khufu. So begins his adventure in the Great Pyramid where dressed in a short, white skirt he's sure would bring the

laughs of his friends, Kevin joins workers fashioning the casing blocks, helps hoist the capstone to its glorious perch, and gets a great view of the desert. He rubs his eyes to rid them of dust, sweat, and sun and discovers that he's back with his buddies, not quite sure whether he should share his trip or not.

The Great Wonder, a picture book for older children, does an excellent job of introducing terms relating to the pyramids in context. Written in an upbeat manner, the story moves along quickly, though at times the dialogue seems phony; the action as calculated as a Saturday morning cartoon. The color illustrations lack interest and break a general rule of illustration: most pictures should lead the reader on to the next page. Most of *The Great Wonder's* illustrations lead in the opposite direction. An audio-tape also accompanies the book. Its thirteen minutes of narration and dialogue, along with good sound effects and music, do lend some excitement to an otherwise mediocre book.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Ann M. Ponath
Teacher/Librarian
Christ Lutheran School
North St. Paul, Minnesota

***Horrible Harry and the Dungeon*, by Suzy Kline; pictures by Frank Remkiewicz. LCCN 95042525. New York: Viking, 1996. ISBN 0670868620, HBB, \$11.99.**

F. Schools--Fiction; Teachers--Fiction; Butterflies--Fiction. 58 p.

Gr. 2 - 4.

As part of the school administration's new policy to come down hard on bad behavior, they have established a suspension room, "the dungeon," supervised by a mysterious new teacher named Mr. Skooghammer. The combined intrigue of the dungeon and Mr. Skooghammer is more than Harry can resist, and he begins plotting ways to get a peek and find out more information.

Horrible Harry and the Dungeon is a well-paced story full of variety, fun and a hint of suspense. The pen and ink illustrations by Frank Remkiewicz every few pages add interest to this delightful chapter book.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Sally Kuhns
Teacher
Bremerton, Washington

***The Last Rail*. Written by Darice Bailer; illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. LCCN 96015036. Norwalk, Conn.: Soundprints, 1996. ISBN 1568993668, KIT, \$19.99.**

F. Pacific railroads--Fiction; Railroads--History--Fiction; School field trips--Fiction. 1 vol., 32 p.; 1 audio cassette, 10 min.

Gr. 2 - 5.

The Last Rail by Darice Bailer combines both

sight and sound in this fictional historical account of the transcontinental railroad's completion. Lucy and her friends are on a field trip to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. As she tries to get her uncooperative friends to stand still for a photograph she is transported back in time and discovers she is A.J. Russell, the photographer who recorded the placing of the last spike of the transcontinental railroad.

Through Lucy's adventure readers learn how the railroad was built. In this brief look at a history changing event an amazing amount of information is given. The text blends fact and fiction. Illustrator Bill Farnsworth lends an authentic touch by reflecting the story's content in brown and white tones with splashes of color giving an overall feeling of looking at an old photo album or historical display.

This event is given more impact by the inclusion of a cassette tape. Although the tape does not follow the text word for word, this is not a detriment, since the story is enhanced with sound effects and additional text. The tape and book can be enjoyed together or separately. Both are well done.

One would expect nothing less but a quality effort from the Smithsonian, and it is delivered.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Pam Webb
Librarian
Sandpoint Community Christian School
Sandpoint, Idaho

***The Little Swineherd and Other Tales*, by Paula Fox; illustrated by Robert Byrd. LCCN 94039227. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1996. ISBN 0525453989, HBB, \$16.99.**

F. Animals--Fiction; Short stories. 135 p.

Gr. 2 - 5.

The Little Swineherd and Other Tales, actually first published in 1976 but released with Robert Byrd's illustrations in 1996, is a rather unusual book of children's fables. Throughout all six fables included in the book is woven the story of a show business duck trying unsuccessfully to convince the goose, a splendid storyteller, to let him be her manager and put her on the stage. The stories are filled with human folk and animal kind, all remarkable characters that arouse our curiosity and interest and beckon us to follow them on as yet untraveled roads.

These are delightful stories, well-written and interesting. They make great read alouds and enjoyment in them will span a large age group from young children who cannot read to older boys and girls.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

Cecil Carey
Middle School Librarian

Plano, Illinois

***My Palace of Leaves in Sarajevo*, by Marybeth Lorbiecki; illustrated by Herbert Tauss. LCCN 96025933. New York: Dial Books for Young Children, 1997. ISBN 0803720343, HBB, \$14.99.**

F. Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)--History--Siege, 1992-1996--Fiction; Cousins--Fiction; Letters--Fiction. 53 p.

Gr. 4 - 7.

Dragi Nadja—Dear Hope. September 1991, Nadja sits in her favorite tree, her Palace of Leaves in Sarajevo, and writes her American cousin Alex. They have a lot in common, siblings, goldfish, trees, skiing, rock music. April 22, 1992, Nadja writes of the horrible war just starting in Sarajevo. Through letters between these cousins the reality of war beats down on the reader. Nadja writes of terrifying noise, lack of soap, death, hunger, fear, man's hatred for man, panic, joy in the midst of sorrow, humor in the midst of despair. Alex writes of desperate attempts to get letters through, senators who won't pay attention to his pleas, the ache of helplessness, the mood swings as good and bad news wash each other out.

Award winning American author, Marybeth Lorbiecki writes from the firsthand accounts of her Sarajevo relatives. An Introduction and Afterward wrap Alex and Nadja's letters with a brief account of the war in Sarajevo. The Bosnian words spring to life via the Glossary and Pronunciation Guide. *My Palace of Leaves in Sarajevo* impacts the reader with impelling, straightforward narrative. Alex and Nadja reveal their personalities through the individual styles of the letters. The action filled illustrations amplify the text. To add reality to his pictures, Herbert Tauss studied many photos from war-torn Bosnia. This book introduces several themes, not the least of which is the importance of letter writing. Lorbiecki closes with addresses for those who want to write to Pen Pals in Bosnia or other perilous places.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Donna Eggett
Volunteer Counselor, Crisis Pregnancy Center
Maiden, North Carolina

***No More Animals!* By Lucia Monfried and Betsy James. (Speedsters.) LCCN 94047572. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1995. ISBN 0525453903, HBB, \$13.99.**

F. Pets--Fiction; Skinks--Fiction. 64 p.

Gr. 3 - 5.

No More Animals! is designed especially for reluctant third through fifth grade readers. Betsy James' black and white illustrations break into the text with conversation balloons and action lines. The plot is fast paced and amusing, making the sixty-four pages easy to manage. The reader will be inspired by having mastered an

entire book.

Lucia Munfried first introduces Charlie's animals. His room is literally a zoo. Billy brings him a new pet, a stink lizard with an unusual blue tail. He must convince his mother of its scientific value. In his excitement he forgets to close his bedroom door and all of the animals escape. The mouse is chasing the cat. His little sister, Brenda, is wearing his garter snake as a necklace. But the skink proves most illusive, much to his mother's dismay. Charlie uses his knowledge of each animal's habits to catch them. The stink is allowed to spend the rest of the day, but then it must go back to the wild.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Melinda Torgerson
Freelance Writer
Newport, Washington

On Guard, by Donna Jo Napoli. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997. ISBN 0525457593, HBB, \$15.99.

F. Fencing--Fiction. 150 p.
Gr. 4 - 8.

Mikey, of the active imagination, wanted to win the Olympic medal that his teacher gave to the outstanding student of the week, to those with good study habits, well prepared, or presenting a good research project. When Mikey's fourth grade class visits the Franklin Institute to see the displays and maybe get some ideas for research projects, Mikey sees a fencing demonstration, which fascinates him. He pleads with his mother to let him try it, and there is a free three-week trial of lessons, before the student has to decide if he wants to continue.

Mikey's mom, although very busy, is a good listener, and she finally agrees to let Mikey take fencing lessons. It will mean her accompanying him on the train into the city on Saturdays and taking her two younger children along, but she is game and so Mikey's adventure begins. Mikey learns that the class members do not even use fencing weapons for the many weeks. First the class must run, forward and backward, skip rope, and do other exercises to prepare their bodies. Mikey also learns that there is much thought and planning of strategy involved.

The reader learns a lot about fencing, terms for equipment, and how much mental preparation is necessary. Author Donna Jo Napoli portrays a warm American family, whose parents listen to their children and consider their requests, whose siblings snipe and tease each other yet care about each other. The cover illustration, by Gregg Thorkelson, is priceless, showing Mikey's chagrin at seeing a classmate receive a jab with the foil.

The subject probably has a limited appeal to young readers, but the antics and adventures of Mikey are typical of kids, and entertaining.

Quality—3 Acceptability—4

Barbara Taenzler
Freelance Writer and Book Reviewer
Greenwood, Iowa

One Giant Leap. Written by Dana Meachen Rau; illustrated by Thomas Buchs. (Odyssey.) LCCN 96015035. Norwalk, Conn.: Soundprints, 1996. ISBN 1568993439, KIT, \$19.95.

F. Project Apollo (U.S.)--Fiction; Moon--Exploration--Fiction. 1 vol., 32 p.; 1 audiocassette, 12 min.
Gr. 2 - 5.

Thomas begins an historical adventure as he visits the Smithsonian Institute on a field trip and imagines himself in history. He becomes Neil Armstrong on the Apollo 11 Mission. Thomas' protests of only being a ten-year-old boy are to no avail as the hatch of Eagle closes and it begins its landing on the moon. Thomas, of course, gathers his wits and decides he can do the job just like Armstrong did. After all, he has had lots of practice with video games. As he steps onto the moon and explores its surface, the reader is transported on their own space mission.

The text of *One Giant Leap* includes end notes on the first moon landing and a glossary of terms. Unfortunately, the end notes are not included on the cassette tape as they are in the science series produced by Soundprints, and one hopes they will not be overlooked. Since the text of the book does not follow word for word the script of the tape in order to account for dialogue, the set may be easier for a more experienced reader to follow. However, an interested first grader would certainly enjoy listening to the tape and following the illustrations.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Judy Driscoll
Teacher, Christ the King Academy
Poulsbo, Washington

Pelts & Promises, by Nancy Lohr. LCCN 96043861. Greenville, S.C.: Bob Jones University Press, 1997. ISBN 0890848998, PAP, \$6.49.

F. Moneymaking projects--Fiction; Hunting--Fiction; Country life--Fiction. 103 p.
Gr. 2 - 4.

Willie B.'s eyes gleamed with mischief. Jamie hesitated. Then with a deep breath of autumn air they emptied the one room schoolhouse and rearranged it under the golden willows. The surprise pleased everyone—until the parson's leather-bound Bible is ruined. Willie B. and Jamie face the consequence and bear the responsibility of buying a new one before the Christmas pageant. This requires hard work, good hunting, and difficult sacrifices. After all, a promise is for keeping.

Nancy Lohr's realistic recreation of country life in 1903 is picturesque, but even stronger is her portrayal of the firm moral and spiritual

foundations on which that life was built. It is this determination to do what is right that drives the actions of the characters and tightens the tension of the plot. *Pelts and Promises* is a book intended to teach a moral. It does so without lectures. The adult figures guide and help but do not interfere with the main character's responsibilities.

The book is divided into twelve short chapters making the 103 pages easy to manage. Independent readers will find the vocabulary challenging but not difficult. Gabriela Delloso's pencil drawings are interspersed throughout the text, punctuating its high points. They add to the sense of time and place, but the weight of the story is carried in its writing.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Melinda Torgerson
Freelance Writer
Newport, Washington

Phantom Gardener, by Mary Carpenter Reid. (A Backpack Mystery; 3.) LCCN 97004649. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 1556617178, PAP, \$3.99.

F. Gardening--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mystery fiction. 80 p.
Gr. 2 - 4.

In *Phantom Gardener*, Steff Larson and her sister Paulie are staying with their uncle and grandmother, Mother Quigg, at Lily Pad Park, a retirement golf community. Steff plays detective, compelling Paulie to accompany her on nightly outings pursuing Mother Quigg. They discover she cultivates plants belonging to the park and is the Phantom Gardener. Cornelius, a young boy living in an unoccupied house, is an accomplice. His parents are on a trip and believe he is at boarding school.

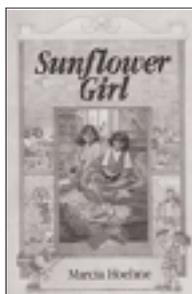
Steff learns plants are disappearing and fears Mother Quigg is responsible. She devises a plan to curb Mother Quigg's nighttime activities recruiting Paulie and Cornelius' help. Mother Quigg stays busy as president of the newly established Lily Pad Park Garden Club. The plan appears effective until the night Mother Quigg leaves the house. Fearing the private guard established by the Homeowners Group to apprehend the plant thief will spot Mother Quigg, Steff and Paulie follow her. What a surprise when Mother Quigg helps capture the thief!

Mary Carpenter Reid has written an entertaining mystery for young readers with black and white drawings and a colorful front cover illustration by Paul Turmbaugh. The story is centered around Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother." Steff and Paulie convince Cornelius to contact his parents and confess. Steff misses her parents but recognizes their sacrifice and love.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Dianne Woodman
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Parent

Milpitas, California



***Sunflower Girl*, by Marcia Hoehne. (The Adventures of Jenna V; 4.) LCCN 95032661. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1995. ISBN 0891078584, PAP, \$4.99.**

F. Schools--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. 160 p.

Gr. 5 - 6.

Who is cool, and who isn't? If you like an uncool person, do you lose whatever chance you may have of being cool? And how should a Christian respond to sixth grade social dynamics? Author Marcia Hoehne deals with peer issues in her book, *Sunflower Girl*. Main character Jenna struggles through the first months of jockeying for position in sixth grade. It appears she may have an "in" with the cool crowd, and a boy she is attracted to seems to like her, too. But when the cool people start acting mean, Jenna ends up participating with them. She nearly loses her dearest friend.

Aimed at the middle grade reader, issues such as external beauty, and boyfriend/girlfriend relationships are pervasive. Jenna does come to see even the most beautiful people struggle with their looks, and true beauty is a person's character. But this follows 159 pages of physical remarks regarding eyelashes, hair, and dimples.

Jenna prays throughout the novel. Female pastors are mentioned positively. Hoehne draws a parallel between the sacrifice of a teacher to Christ's sacrifice. Jenna sees poignantly the worship Christ deserves.

Jenna's growth in *Sunflower Girl* might help mature middle grade readers gain a bit more self confidence in their individuality.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

Lorie Ann Grover
Freelance Writer/Illustrator
Kent, Washington

***This Little Pig*, by Janette Oke; illustrated by Brenda Mann; edited by Grace Pettifor. (A Classic Children's Story.) Elkhart, Ind.: Bethel Publishing Co., 1993. ISBN 0934998434, PAP.**

F. Pigs--Fiction. 147 p.

***Pordy's Prickly Problem*, by Janette Oke;**

illustrated by Brenda Mann; edited by Grace Pettifor. (A Classic Children's Story.) Elkhart, Ind.: Bethel Publishing Co., 1993. ISBN 0934998507, PAP.

F. Porcupines--Fiction. 145 p.

***Who's New at the Zoo?* By Janette Oke; illustrated by Brenda Mann. (A Classic Children's Story.) Elkhart, Ind.: Bethel Publishing Co., 1994. ISBN 0934998558, PAP.**

Set of 3 books, \$14.99..

F. Gorillas--Fiction; Zoos--Fiction. 151 p.

K - Gr. 3.



This Little Pig, an autobiography of a piglet, starts a few moments after his birth, and tells the story of his life in the barnyard. Always on the lookout for food and always curious, Hiram finds ways to get in trouble, especially when he listens to his brother, Hawkins. After Hiram wins a blue ribbon at the Fair, he learns the importance of the love and kindness he shares with his family.

A timid baby porcupine named Pordy learns to climb trees, hunt for food, and avoid the dangers of her surroundings. Life is lonely for a porcupine, however, and Pordy longs for friendship with the other woodland animals. *Pordy's Prickly Problem* is solved when she finds a friend, a little mouse named Skippy.

What is it like to be the first baby gorilla born at the zoo? In *Who's New at the Zoo?* Barnaby tells his story, and the many lessons he learns growing up in the gorilla family. Most important, he learns that each member of the family is special.

These three paperbound books comprise Volume 4 of Janette Oke's Classic Collection. Each book is illustrated with approximately one charcoal drawing for each chapter, as well as an attractive colorful drawing on the back and front covers, by Brenda Mann. Each book in the series stands alone. All three stories are tender, sweet.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Cathleen Sovold Johnson
Freelance Writer
Des Moines, Washington

***Virtual Cody*, by Betsy Duffey; illustrated by Ellen Thompson. LCCN 96047356. New York: Viking, 1997. ISBN 0670874701, HBB, \$13.99.**

F. Names, Personal--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 85 p.

Gr. 2 - 3.

It's not easy to be in the third grade and have to contend with the destruction of your happy delusions about yourself. Coping with a girl who has managed to take your place as highest scorer in computer games is no picnic. As if that isn't enough, Mom decides to go to work, leaving Cody with a new baby sitter who looks like a mass murderer! Virtual Cody, as he signs his personal computer journal, is finding out about the problems of life. Will Cody with his friend Chip Ware (who has to cope with the nickname, Underwear) and that horrid girl P. J. (who may or may not be named after a famous Aunt) ever make the class stop laughing at them?

Mother of two sons and author of other books for this age group, Betsy Duffey knows from experience how third graders think. Her believable protagonist, Cody Michaels, tickles the reader's funny bone, engaging his brain and heart. Fast paced, using direct sentences and common words, *Virtual Cody* encourages sympathetic imagination. Both the young reader and the adult who helps him will identify with Cody's struggles with personal identity and friendship with difficult people. Computer journals and games, contemporary jargon, and modern personality types make this book relevant to today's children. Enlivening the text, Ellen Thompson's black and white drawings look at the world from Cody's perspective. Computer screens with extracts from Cody's personal journal pull the reader into Cody's mind.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Donna Eggett
CPC Volunteer Counselor
Maiden, North Carolina

***Who Took Henry and Mr. Z?* By Dave Glaze. Regina, Sask.: Coteau Books, 1996. ISBN 1550501070, PAP, \$5.95.**

F. Guinea pigs--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 137 p.

Gr. 3 - 8.

Henry and Mr. Z., two wonderful little guinea pigs, are missing, and everyone in Mrs. Whitestar's fifth grade class is afraid that they have been stolen. But who would steal them? And why? The mystery deepens and intensifies when it is discovered that the T-shirt money has been taken, also. Two of the students, Caroline and Winston, are worried about the class pets, and they take up the search on their own. Was it the class bully, Kevin, who took them? Or perhaps Melissa, who is suspected of smoking and is always asking questions about the silver cigarette lighter that was found at the scene the morning the animals were discovered missing. Even Mr. Koop, the Vice Principal, is acting suspicious. Just when the search becomes fruitful, and the pieces are beginning to come together, Winston finds himself the target of suspicion and facing serious trouble. Can he and Caroline discover the real thief and clear

Winston's name before it's too late to save the animals?

Dave Glaze, from *Who Took Henry and Mr. Z?* has woven a fun little mystery for young readers. It's not as challenging as, perhaps, a Hardy Boys or a Nancy Drew, but it moves quickly and holds the attention well. One interesting quality of the book is how it skips back and forth from the students, particularly Winston and Caroline, to what is happening with Henry and Mr. Z. You don't know where the mysterious "intruder" is, but you know he is close by all the time.

The story is very modern in that it weaves in a lot of little sub-issues that are common today. Student smoking, truancy, "latch-key" freedom, and some subtle lying and deception are all slightly disconcerting pieces of the action. The Vice Principal seems overly concerned with his own importance, and doesn't seem to have a real concern or love for kids.

All in all it is an enjoyable book, a good first mystery experience, and the conclusion comes together well.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Gayle Chessman Haberman

Teacher, West Hills Christian School
Portland, Oregon

***Young Cam Jansen and the Lost Tooth*, by David A. Adler; illustrated by Susanna Natti. (A Viking Easy-to-read.) LCCN 96047357. New York: Viking, 1997. ISBN 0670873543, HBB, \$11.99.**

F. Teeth--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Mystery fiction. 32 p.

***Young Cam Jansen and the Dinosaur Game*, by David A. Adler; illustrated by Susanna Natti. (A Viking Easy-to-read.) LCCN 95046463. New York: Viking, 1996. ISBN 0670863998, HBB, \$11.99.**

F. Mystery fiction; Memory--Fiction. 32 p.

***Young Cam Jansen and the Missing Cookie*, by David A. Adler; illustrated by Susanna Natti. (A Viking Easy-to-read.) LCCN 95046462. New York: Viking, 1996. ISBN 0670867721, HBB, \$11.99.**

F. Mystery fiction; Memory--Fiction. 32 p.

Gr. 1 - 3.

In *Young Cam Jansen and the Dinosaur Game*, Jennifer "the Camera" Jansen (Cam), who has a

photographic memory, solves the mystery of how one party goer guessed the exact number of dinosaurs in the jar. The book includes a lesson in sharing.

In *Young Cam Jansen and the Missing Cookie*, Cam discovers how a cookie disappeared out of a friend's lunchbox. This story shows the importance of avoiding false accusations.

In *Young Cam Jansen and the Lost Tooth*, Cam helps a friend find her missing tooth so she can put it under her pillow. The plot is one young elementary students can relate to—losing a tooth.

The Young Cam Jansen stories do not need to be read in sequence. David Adler obviously knows elementary students—the stories could take place in almost any elementary school. The series is just what students "too old" for easy readers demand. Susanna Natti's paintings complement the text well.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Jane Mouttet
Missionary Librarian
Hilltop Christian School
Window Rock, Arizona



River My Friend

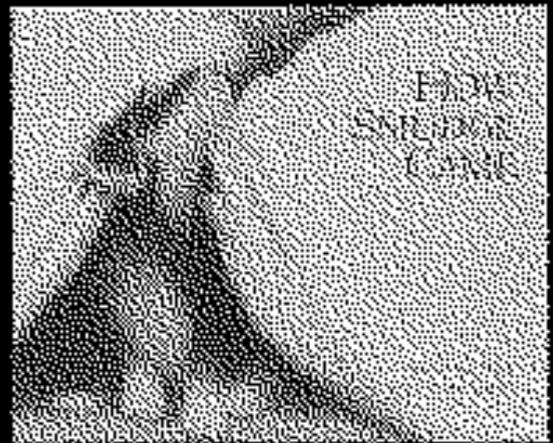
by William Still, illustrations by Kent Campbell

• 1997 Smith Press Book Awards Finalist

"... charming story ... a good moral reading . . ."

— Christian Library Journal

1-555-43-084-8, \$15.95 cloth



How Smudge Came

by Matt Gregory, illustrations by Ross Lightfoot

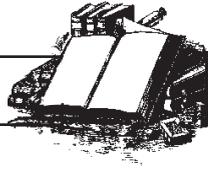
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***Through the Eyes of Jesus*, by Mack Thomas; illustrated by Hilber Nelson. Sisters, Ore.: Gold 'n Honey Books, 1995. ISBN 0880708034, HBB, \$14.99.**

232.9. Jesus Christ--Biography. 63 p.

Gr. 5 - Adult.

Through the Eyes of Jesus retells scriptural stories as told from Jesus' point of view. The stories are based on New Testament scriptures about the events of his life, embellished by the writer's imagination to convey the depth of Jesus' and commitment to us, and his humanity. Jesus is portrayed using scripture to build strength in a trial or to illuminate a situation. His prayers to His Father are on behalf of people or in thanksgiving and are a natural outpouring of that intimate relationship.

The stories make very interesting reading, particularly the one where Jesus is upon the cross, and serve to make Jesus seem more personal. However children should be cautioned not to accept the stories as the gospel, but as stories based upon scripture.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

Sally Kuhns

Teacher

Bremerton, Washington

***Arts and Crafts for Lent: From Mardi Gras to Passiontide with Prayers and Blessings for Family, School, and Church.* Written and illustrated by Jeanne Heiberg. LCCN 96029313. New York: Paulist Press, 1996. ISBN 080913683X, PAP, \$11.95.**

263. Lent--Prayer-books and devotions; Children--Prayer-books and devotions; Catholic Church--Prayer-books and devotions; Christian art and symbolism; Bible crafts. 122 p.

K - Adult.

Jeanne Heiberg's *Arts and Crafts for Lent* sets out with lofty goals. She seeks to walk in the footsteps of Maria Montessori and Sofia Cavalletti, producing a source book for Lenten activities that surrounds the senses and so increases learning. She calls Lent a "retreat," a time to go out to the desert that we may revel in the garden of the resurrection when its six weeks are up. The rather lengthy introduction gives a nice history of Lent and many practical suggestions for the crafts which follow, such as ways to paint with small children. She also lists the addresses and phone numbers of art product

distributors.

The book is broken into eight sections, beginning with Mardi Gras and ending with special ideas for baptism, the traditional end product of Lent in the early Christian church. Although Heiberg writes from a Catholic background, most of the book can be utilized in any denomination. Simple line drawings by the author provide patterns for Mardi Gras masks and cross designs, a spiritual menu placemat, and a blooming banner. An extensive explanation of making wormhouses sounds intriguing! (Renew the earth just as Lent renews our souls!) Each chapter closes with a blessing complete with prayers, litanies, readings, ritual actions, and songs. The projects are meant for use in a church, school, or family setting. A variety of ages are accommodated in the activities. Putting creative minds and hands to work may indeed add meaning to the Lenten season. Heiberg's book would at least provide some tangible memories.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Ann M. Ponath

Teacher/Librarian

Christ Lutheran School

North St. Paul, Minnesota



***Bush Station Boys.* Written by Judy Langley; illustrated by Wendy Kikugawa. (Land Far Away.) Birmingham, Ala.: New Hope, 1997. ISBN 1563092190, HBB, \$10.95.**

266. Africa; Missionary kids. unsp.

***Down African Roads.* Written by Judy Langley; illustrated by Wendy Kikugawa. (Land Far Away.) Birmingham, Ala.: New Hope, 1997. ISBN 1563092182, HBB, \$10.95.**

266. Africa; Missionary kids. unsp.

K - Gr. 2.

Oh my! Growing up in a missionary family is surely an exciting one! With the many missionaries all working together to help those around them, and at the same time sharing the Good News—there's just not a dull moment growing up in Africa. Through delightfully metered verse, the fifth book, *Bush Station Boys* in the Land Far Away series shows us there are many jobs that missionaries have to do. The little missionary boy enjoys being a part of the busy life of a mission compound in the far away land of Zimbabwe where his family makes their home. The little boy grows up learning to care for his fellow man through hospital work, church work, and school work. Even flying the plane is a ministry this little fellow knows is a very important job. And each of these fellow missionaries became a true hero to the boy.

Not only can the reader enjoy the story, but each book in the series comes complete with suggested activities. In *Bush Station Boys*, a recipe for Yellow Rice and a story game enhance the book's value.

Illustrator Wendy Kikugawa's artwork is wonderful and whimsical—a unique combination of collage, cut-and-paste, and crumple paper genres, causing the books to come alive with the loveliness all their own and making each one a valuable treasure to anyone with a "touch-of-the-artist" in them.

Simple travel is just not so simple in the African bushland. But our little missionary boy finds each trip a grand adventure in *Down African Roads*, the fifth book in the Land Far Away series. Though the truck is old and the roads are bumpy, traveling to church, to school, to shop in the big city, or to take a short vacation—each ride becomes a learning experience for this inquisitive little fellow. Growing up as a missionary kid, the little boy learns to share Jesus with everyone he meets and takes delight in living in Africa.

Involving the readers in the hand-on activity of writing to missionaries and making Docono, an African dessert, will be fun for any child. Kikugawa's illustrations, complete with a hidden chameleon on each page of the book, are simply delightful. The entire Land Far Away series should be counted on the top ten to buy list for any young child.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Susan Adderley

Freelance Writer and Former Teacher

ACSI, International Ministries
Colorado Springs, Colorado



Amazing Grace : The Story of the Hymn, by Linda Granfield; illustrated by Janet Wilson. Toronto: Tundra Books, 1997. ISBN 0887763898, HBB, \$15.95.

283. Newton, John, 1725-1807; Amazing Grace (Hymn); Church of England--Clergy--Biography; Hymn writers--England--Biography; Slave traders--England--Biography. unsp.

Gr. 3-Adult.

"Amazing Grace" is one of the best-loved hymns sung around the world today. The words of this hymn were penned by John Newton, who was a minister at the time of its publication in 1771. But before he became a clergyman, he spent many years as a slave trader, crossing the unpredictable waters between his native England and Africa, where he would purchase his human cargo. He would then set sail for the West Indies, where those who survived the horrific conditions of the over-crowded cargo hold were sold into a life of slavery.

Linda Granfield opens her book, *Amazing Grace: The Story of the Hymn*, with a brief biography of Newton, followed by a one-page summary of the history of the slave trade. The balance of the book is devoted to a detailed description of a typical slaving voyage, as well as a more in-depth examination of Newton's life. Some of the more significant historical events and people of the time are referred to.

The words and pictures are not intended to shock, but neither do they soften or mask a most ugly period in our history. As a result, they are sometimes disturbing, and always thought-provoking.

Janet Wilson uses color and light in ways that bring life to her illustrations. She somehow manages to capture the emotions of her subjects, and to create a sense of depth and texture that transcends the printed page.

Both author and illustrator have researched their topics well. The end result is a book that educates and saddens, as it renews our faith in the amazing grace and mercy of God.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Sylvia Stopforth
Librarian, Trinity Western University
Langley, British Columbia

All the Children of the World. Christian ed, by Karen Mezek Leimert. LCCN 95048811. Dallas: Word Kids!, 1996. ISBN 0849913098, HBB, \$12.99.

305.23. Manners and customs. 112 p.

Gr. 2 - 5.

Karen Mezek's book, *All the Children of the World*, focuses on the song "Jesus Loves the Little Children," using a section of the song to highlight thirteen different geographical areas and people groups. Colorful pictures depict the different groups which range from Iowans to Samoans. A map illustrates continents and groups. Each group has its own customs and traditions, but each is a part of God's creation and plan.

This book is an overview of many different areas of the world, not in depth. New words are introduced with textual definitions. Find out about a Samoan "fale," or a Russian "Krestyanin." Overall, this book is an excellent means of encouraging children to look beyond their own area of the world to learn about other children and places.

There is also a secular version of the book.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

Lots of Dads, by Shelley Rotner & Sheila M. Kelly; photographs by Shelley Rotner. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0803720866, HBB, \$12.99.

306.874. Fathers--Pictorial works. unsp.

PS - Gr. 1.

As individual as snowflakes, and as essential to life as water, fathers define life and flavor it with their personalities. They shape the life of their children by their presence and absence, by their work and play. They provide a shelter from the world, as well as a foundation in it. Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly celebrate this enormous responsibility of fatherhood with joyful, full-color photographs in *Lots of Dads*, a catalog of fathers.

The bold text of this twenty-one page book is brief enough to keep pace with developing attention spans and simple enough to accommodate beginning readers. It describes the role of the father as helper, provider, playmate, teacher, and encourager. The personalities portrayed are diverse in age and nationality. Love and admiration radiate in the eyes of the fathers and their children as they share the many different activities of life together. Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly also co-authored the counterpart for this book, *Lots of Moms*.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Melinda Torgerson
Freelance Writer

Newport, Washington

The Star-Spangled Banner, by Deborah Kent. (Cornerstones of Freedom.) LCCN 95000836. Chicago: Childrens Press, 1995. ISBN 0516066307, HBB, \$16.40.

349.73. Star-Spangled Banner (Song); Poets, American; United States--History--War of 1812; Key, Francis Scott, 1779-1843. 32 p.

Gr. 5 - 8.

The Star-Spangled Banner is an historical account of the events that inspired Francis Scott Key to write his stirring poem, and its slow adoption as our national anthem. Deborah Kent's narrative begins during the War of 1812. It was a time of social changes and political turmoil as the country defended itself once again from British interference. Washington, D.C. had been captured and burned. Now the British fleet aimed to attack Fort McHenry. Held captive on board one of the ships, Key watched the battle. During his anxious waiting, his thoughts took the form of a poem. The words so perfectly pictured the hopes and fears of the people that it became an immediate favorite. Controversy arose, however, because the tune was from a popular drinking song.

Kent's style is unembellished and straightforward. The book uses drawings, paintings, and photographs from historical societies and archives to illustrate the text. They lend the book a definite feel for the time. A map is included as well as a glossary, a timeline chart, and an index.

The Star-Spangled Banner is part of the Cornerstones of Freedom series that depicts American history for readers in grades five through eight.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Melinda Torgerson
Freelance Writer
Newport, Washington

Using Literature to Learn America's Story, by Judith Cochran. Nashville: Incentive Publications, 1996. ISBN 0865303355, PAP, \$9.95.

371. United States--History--Handbooks and manuals. 96 p.

Adult.

Quality picture books provide the springboard for this two-week interdisciplinary thematic unit designed for the primary grades. The daily topics for the unit relate the wide sweep of American history to the interests of children: "Native Americans and Pilgrims; Colonies and Independence; Opening the Frontier; Pioneers and Cowboys; Communication and Transportation; Civil War and Indian Wars; Immigrants; Discoveries, Inventions, and Famous Firsts; Civil Rights and Space in the Sixties; History is You and Me." Complete

detailed daily lesson plans include age-appropriate activities in every subject area: reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and art. Many of these varied activities are appealing, as well as instructional, and a number involve higher order thinking skills. Simple black and white drawings illustrate the teacher's guide section of the book, and the latter part of the book provides ready-to-use reproducible black line masters which may be used for many of the suggested student activities.

A strong proponent of literature-based instruction, Judith Cochran has written other books on thematic units before *Using Literature to Learn America's Story*. The ten picture books upon which these lessons were based are well-recommended, and include biographies and other non-fiction. A couple of the titles are currently out of print, and some may not be available in local libraries. However, these lessons are adaptable, and teachers can improvise using other available materials. This guide assumes teachers' access to additional reference sources, and addresses this need partially by including a list of several books "for further study."

Teachers who choose to spend more class time on the individual topics could take advantage of the suggested additional activities. Some teachers might prefer to substitute different activities in place of the suggested folk dances, or the composition of a class Declaration of Independence.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Donna W. Bowling
Library Media Specialist
Ambassadors for Christ Academy
Bentonville, Arkansas

Japanese Children's Day and the Obon Festival, by Dianne M. MacMillan. (Best Holiday Books.) LCCN 96039170. Hillside, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1997. ISBN 0894908189, HBB, \$17.95.

394.2. Children's Day (Japan); Ullambana; Japan--Social life and customs; Japanese Americans--Social life and customs. 48 p.

Mexican Independence Day and Cinco de Mayo, by Dianne M. MacMillan. (Best Holiday Books.) LCCN 96047244. Hillside, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1997. ISBN 0894908162, HBB, \$17.95.

394.2. Independence Day (Mexico); Cinco de Mayo (Mexican holiday); Holidays--Mexico; Mexican Americans--Social life and customs. 48 p.

President's Day, by Dianne M. MacMillan. (Best Holiday Books.) LCCN 96027290. Hillside, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1997. ISBN 0894908200, HBB, \$17.95.

394.2. President's Day; Washington, George, 1732-1799; Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865; Presidents. 48 p.

Thanksgiving Day, by Dianne M. MacMillan. (Best Holiday Books.) LCCN 96031395. Hillside, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1997. ISBN

0894908227, HBB, \$17.95.

394.2. Thanksgiving Day. 48 p.
Gr. 1 - 3.

The Holiday Books are a series of books that deal with special days that are celebrated in the United States. Each volume has the same general organization: they talk about current ways people observe the holidays, the food people eat and the things they do, and the history of the event. The chapters are organized a bit like a report: explaining what is going to be told, telling it, and then concluding with summarizing the information given. In other words, much of the information given is repeated. The text is written in short choppy sentences, in a style that makes the reader feel talked down to. For this reason, these may be best utilized by those working with younger kids wanting basic information. The photographs are very amateurish—many of them resembling snapshots from a photo album instead of professional work. Some are dark and a bit hard to see clearly. Each text includes a table of contents, a glossary, and an index.

The books about the celebrations in Japan and Mexico have a pronunciation guide following foreign words. The Spanish ones give a Spanish language pronunciation (which may not be the way that people in the United States would say the given words). Both of these books present information like these events are celebrated commonly in many places in this country. *Japanese Children's Day and the Obon Festival* covers a lot of information, almost too much for so small a book. *Mexican Independence Day and Cinco de Mayo* has some good information, but gives some very obvious descriptions of Mexican foods. Most of the pictures in this volume are from parades and of food and they don't always fit the text. A map would have been helpful, instead of a verbal description of where the wars commemorated took place. *President's Day* gives the basic stories of the lives and work of Presidents Washington and Lincoln. It also tries to compare these two great men. Thanksgiving Day gives basic information in a simplistic style, as for someone who has never heard of this event.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Judy Belcher
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington

Caterina, the Clever Farm Girl: A Tale from Italy, retold by Julienne Peterson; pictures by Enzo Giannini. LCCN 93015161. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1996. ISBN 0803711824, HBB, \$14.99.

398.2. Fairy tales; Folklore--Italy. unpub.
PS - Gr. 3.

Julienne Peterson's book, *Caterina, The Clever Farm Girl*, is a well-written retelling of an old tale from Italy. Caterina's cleverness in responding to the king's unique instructions so

impresses the king that he asks her to be his wife. As Queen, Caterina's continued cleverness brings disenchantment and finally banishment from the kingdom. Can the Queen use her wittiness to save the situation?

Artist, Enzo Giannini's careful, colorful renditions, add zest and reality to the Tuscan folktale, which dates to the fifteenth century. This is a positive story which relies on learning to work together to best resolve differences.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

The Freedom Riddle, retold by Angela Shelf Medearis; illustrated by John Ward. LCCN 93010713. New York: Lodestar, 1995. ISBN 0525674691, HBB, \$14.99.

398.2. Folklore, Afro-American. unpub.
Gr. 1 - 2.

The story of Jim, a slave who gains his freedom by using his intelligence, is based on a true story told to William J. Faulkner. Master Brown loves the challenge of a good riddle and Jim uses this fact to get his master to agree to free him, if Jim can devise a riddle the master cannot solve. Jim takes a whole year to complete his riddle and his diligence pays off.

Angela Shelf Medearis incorporates several facts about slave life and customs into the story, including Christmas celebrations and food. The story portrays Christmas as a tradition with no reference to religion. The celebrations described illustrate the incorporation of African tribal customs. The illustrations appear to be oil paintings with a warm, earthy feel. Emotions are clearly depicted, especially when Jim succeeds in stumping his master.

This book can be used effectively in history, holiday, and multicultural curriculum.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Karla Kessell
Librarian, Mount Vernon Nazarene College
Mount Vernon, Ohio

The Khan's Daughter: A Mongolian Folktale, by Laurence Yep; illustrated by Jean and Mou-Sien Tseng. LCCN 95025150. New York: Scholastic Press, 1997. ISBN 0590483897, HBB, \$16.95.

398.2. Folklore--Mongolia. unpub.
Gr. 1 - 3.

Mongke is a poor shepherd boy who believes his father's foretelling of becoming rich and marrying the Khan's daughter. Mongke has to pass three tests determined by the Khan's wife before marriage is permitted. First, Mongke must prove his strength by returning with the stolen goods of seven demons. Second, he must

prove his bravery by driving away the Khan's adversaries. Third, he must prove his prowess to Borte, the Khan's daughter, by defeating Bagatur. Mongke and Bagatur confront each other in battle, and Mongke capitulates without a struggle and discovers the real identity of his opponent. The Khan's daughter was Bagatur, and the young Mongols agree to never divulge the truth of the confrontation between them. They return to the city and marry with no challenges by any foes for the remainder of their lives.

The Khan's Daughter is a Mongolian folktale adapted by Laurence Yep from a translation by Bernard Julg originally published in 1868. The superb watercolor illustrations of Jean and Mou-Sien Tseng realistically portray the story but could scare young children on some pages. The painting of the demons might give young children nightmares. Each page is bordered with gold, and the book's dust jacket depicts a Mongolian princess and soldier illustrated in acrylic paint on gold-leaf.

Quality—3 Acceptability—4

Dianne Woodsman

Freelance Writer, Homeschool Parent
Milpitas, California

***The Knight's Handbook : How to Become a Champion in Shining Armor*, by Christopher Gravett. New York: Cobblehill Books, 1997. ISBN 0525652418, HBB, \$13.99.**

398.22. Knights and knighthood--Manuals and handbooks. 29 p.

Gr. 2 - 6.

Do you have what it takes to be a champion knight in shining armor? What is "chivalry" and "heraldry?" *The Knights Handbook*, by Christopher Gravett, gives intriguing facts and background information about medieval knights and their training. Full of colorful photographs and drawings, the book also includes simple instructions for making a helmet, sword, shield, castle, jousting knights, and a siege catapult. The Knightly Code of Honor—ten rules of deportment—includes putting God first! This is an impressive book, giving excellent historical insights about medieval times, the church, and crusades. Practical hands on projects involve as well as inform the reader. Teachers as well as homeschool parents will find this an asset for their students.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Paula Stewart Marks

Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

***Master Maid : A Tale of Norway*, retold by Aaron Shepard; pictures by Pauline Ellison LCCN 94037527. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0803718225, HBB, \$14.99.**

398.2. Fairy tales; Folklore--Norway. unip.

Gr. 1 - 3.

Handsome, stubborn Leif leaves home so that he won't have to obey anyone and can do whatever he wants. He ignores his father's parting advice and goes to the house of the troll, who gives him three impossible tasks: shoveling dung, fetching a stallion, and collecting a tunnel tax from the fairies. The troll repeatedly warns Leif not to enter his house if he values his life.

Leif disregards all threats and goes directly into the kitchen, where he meets Master Maid. On day one they hold hands, on day two his arm is around her, and on day three she kisses him when he expresses his love for her. Master Maid tells Leif the secrets for performing each task. He ignores her, tries to do it his own way, then finally succeeds by following her suggestions.

Surprised by each of Leif's accomplishments, the troll asks if he has talked to Master Maid. Leif offers no direct denial, but replies deceitfully. When the troll orders Leif cooked in a stew, Master Maid and Leif gallop away on horses. As the troll gives chase, he and the girl cast spells upon one another—she saying, "bless my soul," and he, "curse her soul."

The two escape by sailboat to a distant shore, where they marry. When the minister asks Master Maid if she'll love, honor, and obey her husband, Leif insists it's better that he obey her. This strong-willed main character faces no consequences for his disobedience and dishonesty, other than a little difficulty performing tasks.

Master Maid, a Norwegian fairy tale from a 19th century collection, is a well-written retelling by Aaron Shepard. All pages have a framed border; one half of the full pages boast Pauline Ellison's beautiful colored illustrations.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

Rhonda Marie Lackey

Freelance Writer/Retired Teacher Librarian
Tukwila, Washington

***One Grain of Rice : A Mathematical Folktale*, by Demi. LCCN 96007002. New York: Scholastic Press, 1997. ISBN 059093998X, HBB, \$19.95.**

398.2. Folklore--India; Mathematics--Folklore. unip.

PS - Gr. 4.

An Indian raja collects the rice harvested by the people of his province and stores it safely away on the premise of protecting his people from famine. When famine comes, however, the raja refuses to release the stored rice to the people. A clever girl named Rani notices rice leaking from a basket being transported to the raja's palace. She gathers the rice and instead of keeping it for herself, she returns it to the raja.

The raja offers her whatever reward she would name. Rani asks the raja to give her a single grain of rice and, each day for thirty days, to

double the amount of rice given her the day before. The raja agrees to this request thinking that it will not amount to much. However, by the thirtieth day the amount multiplies to 536,870,912 grains of rice. Rani has cleaned out the royal rice storehouses in just thirty days.

This folktale touches on moral and ethical principles while providing an example of multiplication. Demi tells a well written story and explains the mathematical elements clearly. A chart provided at the end shows the amount of rice received each day. The illustrations done in a traditional East Indian style are gilded and very colorful. Each day a different kind of animal delivers the rice to Rani, including a peacock, a tiger, a monkey, Brahma bulls and more. The numerous camels and elephants require fold out pages to hold them all.

This story will be of interest to a wide age range because it can be understood on more than one level.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Karla Kessell

Librarian, Mount Vernon Nazarene College
Mount Vernon, Ohio

***This for That : A Tonga Tale*, retold by Verna Aardema; pictures by Victoria Chess. LCCN 93032309. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0803715544, HBB, \$14.99.**

398.24. Folklore, Tonga. unip.

Gr. 2 - 6.

This for That is the retelling of an African folktale about Rabbit and her quest for drinking water and avoidance of the related work. Her attempts to get what she wants through devious means ensnares her in a tangle of lies that is her undoing. The moral? "A lie may travel far, but the truth will overtake it."

This well-told tale will entertain children and adults alike with its interesting word choices and suitability for oral storytelling. The author, Verna Aardema, has also written the well-known *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in Peoples Ears* and other African tales. The color illustrations by Victoria Chess are full of texture and expression.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Sally Kuhns

Teacher
Bermeron, Washington

***The Science Book for Girls and Other Intelligent Beings*, written by Valerie Wyatt; illustrated by Pat Cupples. Toronto, Ont.: Kids Can Press, 1993. ISBN 1550741136, PAP, \$8.95.**

500. Science; Women scientists--Biography; Science activities. 80 p.

Gr. 2 - 6.

The activities and experiments in *The Science Book for Girls and Other Intelligent Beings* demonstrate how science is at work in our everyday lives. Wyatt uses a loose "plot" to follow an unnamed main character from awaking and eating breakfast, through a day at school and home again. The text addresses capillary action in breakfast cereal, digestion, microorganisms, rain, ink chromatography, how televisions, soap and toothpaste work, and using math and data collection in science.

A fairy godmother called Nora, short for Natural Observation Research Activator, is supposed to update the fantasy fairy godmother into a "scientific" guide. Nora introduces the experiments that demonstrate science in everyday life, but occasionally uses magic to further the "plot." The book is filled with tidbits of interesting facts; for example, dust mites feed on the one pound of skin cells humans shed per year. Every spread has an easy-to-do exercise using objects found around the home. Cupples' illustrations are bright and cartoon-like adding an air of fun to the activities, and depicting the steps in many of the experiments.

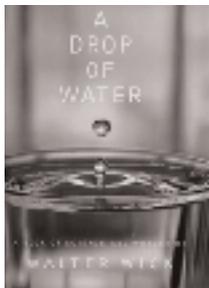
A second section of the book focuses on ten science careers open to females using activities to describe the profession. A brief biography of a woman in each field, except the chemist, provides a positive role model. The final section includes science and math brain teasers to "flex your science muscles."

The book includes answers to the puzzles found throughout the book, an index, tips on using the experiments to create a science fair project, and a note to parents, teachers and group leaders. A glossary is not included, but all new words, such as capillary action, are defined within the text.

Though targeted for girls, this book is a good introduction for both genders for careers and concepts in science.

Quality—3 Acceptability—4

Lisa A. Wroble
Freelance Writer and Librarian
Plymouth, Michigan



A Drop of Water : A Book of Science and Wonder, written and photographed by Walter Wick. LCCN 95030068. New York: Scholastic Press, 1996. ISBN 0590221973,

HBB, \$16.95.

546. Water; Science activities. 40 p.
K - Gr. 6.

Stunning close-up photography by Walter Wick complements his easy-to-understand text that explains about water and some of the scientific properties related to it. Taking the reader from a drop of water, with stop-action photos showing the splash a drop of water makes, to ice, snowflakes (magnified up to 60 times actual size), frost and dew, and concluding with how water bends light, Wick explains how incredible water is.

Terms such as surface tension, adhesion, capillary attraction, evaporation, condensation, refraction, and wavelength are indicated with italic type and explained within the straightforward text. Some spreads show experiments such as floating a pin on water, or why soap weakens surface tension forming bubbles. Other spreads show what happens when water meets air, when water freezes or evaporates, and how clouds form. The final pages of the book describe the experiments used to create the photos in the book with statements for young experimenters to think about and observe when they recreate the activities.

A Drop of Water is useful for teachers and home schoolers, as well as introducing science to a young reader. The experiments can be demonstrated in front of a class or used as hands-on learning. The photos and clear text make *A Drop of Water* an enticing choice for encouraging the reading of nonfiction. Librarians assisting children with school assignments may find the lack of glossary or index a drawback, but the narrow focus and artistic photography will certainly captivate young researchers.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Lisa A. Wroble
Freelance Writer and Librarian



Plymouth, Michigan

Hurricanes : Earth's Mightiest Storms, by Patricia Lauber. LCCN 95025788. New York: Scholastic Press, 1996. ISBN 0590474065, HBB, \$16.95.

551.55. Hurricanes. 64 p.
Gr. 5 - Adult.

With a doomed, unwarned audience gathered on the beach to watch the unusual weather, the 200 mile per hour hurricane bursts on the 1938 New Jersey shore. Forty feet high storm surges tear

the shoreline apart, leveling tall apartment buildings, tossing tankers around like straws. Not allowing the reader to catch his breath, enhancing word with eyewitness photos, Patricia Lauber continues teaching us about hurricanes, man's efforts to understand and foretell them, and their impact on nature. The stories of various hurricanes hurl through these pages. Hurricane Andrew tearing into forewarned Florida closes the saga.

Hurricanes is written for the student, but he will have a hard time getting it away from his adults! Recipient of several non-fiction writing awards, Lauber thoroughly researched her subject. Starting in 1938, moving in a direct line to today, using fascinating facts, Lauber lucidly and engrossingly presents the modern history of hurricanes. All new words are explained within the text. Written simply, yet with respect for the reader's ability, sentences reflect a storyteller's flair, a teacher's preciseness. Drawing from museums, private individuals, and newspaper files, Lauber uses relevant black and white and color photos to illustrate her subject. She includes several picture diagrams to enhance her explanations. Much can be learned by just reading the pictures and captions. A helpful index and list of further reading completes *Hurricanes*.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Donna Eggett
CPC Volunteer Counselor
Maiden, North Carolina

Watching Our Feathered Friends, by Dean T. Spaulding. (Birder's Bookshelf.) LCCN 96025128. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1,997.00. ISBN 0822531771, HBB, \$14.95.

598. Bird watching. 56 p.

Feeding Our Feathered Friends, by Dean T. Spaulding. (Birder's Bookshelf.) LCCN 96028585. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1,997.00. ISBN 0822531755, HBB, \$14.95.

598. Bird feeders. 56 p.
Gr. 2 - 4.

Explore the avocation of bird-watching with fascinating data and a handful of crafts illustrated with color drawings. Young readers will learn ornithologists' history, habitat varieties, gear and clothing essentials, field guide uses, and various birding approaches.

Construct and utilize a multitude of backyard bird feeders illustrated with color drawings using chiefly home miscellany. Projects require little to total adult supervision. Young readers will learn foodstuffs of birds, quantity of birdseed to use, importance of commitment after stocking feeders, and the value of a field guide.

Dean T. Spaulding, an environmental journalist, wildlife photographer, and member of the Audubon Society, provides an opportunity in both books for children to augment their

education of ornithology. Exceptional color photographs with captions synonymous to the text plus a glossary and index enhance the reading. These books are valuable learning tools for independent reading or adults sharing them with young readers.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Dianne Woodman

Freelance Writer and Homeschool Parent
Milpitas, California

***The Ice's Edge: The Story of a Harp Seal Pup*, by Karen Romano Young; illustrated by Brian Shaw. (Smithsonian Oceanic Collection.) LCCN 96007323. Norwalk, Conn.: Soundprints, 1996. ISBN 1568993072, KIT, \$19.95.**

599.74. Harp seal; Seals (Animals). 1 vol., 32 p.; 1 audiocassette, 9 min.

PS - Gr. 2.

Young children will delight in reading *The Ice's Edge: The Story of a Harp Seal Pup*, written by Karen Romano Young and illustrated by Brian Shaw. Produced by the Smithsonian Institution in association with Soundprints, the book comes attractively packaged with an audio cassette tape, narrated by Peter Thomas, and a stuffed toy seal.

Little Harp Seal begins life as a pup one cold March day on the pack ice near Labrador, where his mother nurses him. Because his white coat blends into the ice, he goes unnoticed by a polar bear hunting gray seals. One morning Little Harp Seal discovers that his mother is gone (to Greenland to repeat the mating and birthing process). After hungrily waiting and searching, he and his pals accidentally fall into their mothers' old breathing hole, where they learn to swim, breathe, and eat krill for the first time. Having grown a layer of blubber and a gray coat, he faces the dangerous polar bear a second time, barely escaping the giant swinging paws. Now Little Harp Seal is ready to follow his mother's route along the ice's edge.

With a two-foot horizontal spread, this book's text appears on solid illustration, giving the reader a beautiful panoramic painting in lavenders, blues, blue-greens, and whites with each turn of the page. Large, cuddly animals invite the child's touch. The seal's riveting eyes stare into the reader's.

The audio tape's lovely instrumental music (piano and others), authentic seal cries, and narration keep pace with the tension, emotion, and discovery in the story. A short scientific narrative at the tape's end discusses a seal's life cycle—from pup to beater to saddleback.

Give a child this excellent gift package any time of year; watch him drift into the wonderful world of ice.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Rhonda Marie Lackey

Freelance Writer/Retired Teacher/Librarian
Tukwila, Washington

***Going to the Doctor*, by T. Berry Brazelton, M.D.; drawings by Alfred Womack; photographs by Sam Ogden. LCCN 96009000. Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley, 1996. ISBN 0201406942, HBB, \$15.00.**

628.92. Medical care; Children's art. 48 p.

PS - Gr. 2.

Going to the Doctor by T. Berry Brazelton, M.D. is an honest attempt of a doctor to communicate with a child. Thinking preparation aids everyone involved, Brazelton relays each step of a visit to the doctor. Everything from getting undressed to having a shot is discussed in detail. The whys and what fors are explained clearly.

Illustrative photographs by Sam Ogden accompany the text. Brazelton's grandson's drawings are added to each spread. These give the reader insight into another child's reaction to the doctor. The pieces are clear and telling.

Brazelton has written clearly to communicate with even the youngest children. The words poop, pee, butt, and fart are used. He also empowers the child by stating he is their doctor, not the parents'. The child can request the parent to leave, and the doctor can become a confidant.

An afterword for parents is included to convey the profit of preparing children for doctor visits and surgeries. This involves talking about procedures, cleaning wax from ears, and practicing for a throat exam.

Going to the Doctor is a nice addition to children's books. Readers will appreciate being spoken to directly by a doctor. Fears may be put to rest by Brazelton's explanations of a doctor visit.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

Lorie Ann Grover

Freelance Writer/Illustrator
Kent, Washington

H

***Circuit Sense for Elementary Teachers and Students: Understanding and Building Simple Logic Circuits*, by Janaye Matteson Houghton and Robert S. Houghton. LCCN 93030270. Englewood, Colo.: Teacher Ideas Press, 1994. ISBN 1563081490, PAP, \$13.00.**

621.395. Logic circuits--Study and teaching (Elementary); Science projects--Design and construction; Educational toys--Design and construction. 65 p.

K - Gr. 6, Adult.

Aluminum foil, masking tape, cardboard, flashlight batteries, and small LEDs—even kindergarten children can safely use these simple materials to build and experiment with a variety of types of electrical circuits. Projects for kindergarten and first-grade children begin with a

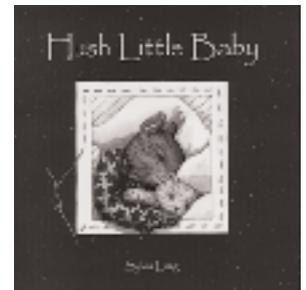
simple circuit to which they can then add a switch. Succeeding chapters suggest projects for older children that involve building progressively more complex circuits. To the several practical uses suggested for each type of circuit, children may add other creative projects of their own. Janaye and Bob Houghton clearly explain the electrical terms and symbols as they introduce them gradually throughout the book. Simple black-and-white drawings illustrate the various intriguing projects suggested. Many of the drawings, including those of the five circuits in Appendix C, may be copied for classroom use.

Written at the fifth-grade level, *Circuit Sense for Elementary Teachers and Students* is an imaginative and unique resource for introducing the principles of electrical circuits to young children. Classroom teachers, home schooling parents, or older children, perhaps looking for a science fair project, will find it stimulating and easy to use. A special bonus is the introduction of logic principles in this practical, concrete context. The AND, OR, and NOT Boolean logic terms woven throughout this slender, attractive book will be familiar; for example, if needed at some other time for advanced searching procedures in library computer databases. The introduction points out how the problem solving steps used in building and "debugging" logic circuits apply to other subject areas as well.* A few games for reinforcement and some useful trouble shooting hints provide finishing touches. This book was listed among Science Books & Film's Annual Best Children's Science Book List in January/February 1995.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Donna W. Bowling

Library Media Specialist
Ambassadors for Christ Academy



Bentonville, Arkansas

***Hush Little Baby*, by Sylvia Long. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1997. ISBN 0811814165, HBB, \$12.95.**

782. Lullabies; Folk songs. unsp.

PS - Gr. 1.

Sylvia Long's illustrations enhance her new variation of the book *Hush little Baby*. Her choice of phrases contrasts dramatically to the more material original version with its phrases like "buy a diamond ring," "buy a billy goat."

Long has transformed the song by drawing mother rabbit and her little baby closer together by "showing you the evening sky," "search for a shooting star," and "sing you a lullaby." On the left hand pages are the words with a small picture relating to the words. On the right, vivid and detailed page-size pictures further enhance the text which children can easily follow along and "read." Details like the carrot lamp cord and the carrot print on the curtains will entertain the most discerning readers and listeners.

The phrase "with new words" or perhaps "a variation" is missing from the title and jacket which makes it difficult for those who are searching for the original version of the words. Lacking is a musical arrangement.

The book is perfect for lapsit storytimes. Toddlers can do the actions as the story is read. A plush 8" baby rabbit wearing yellow pajamas with blue stars and/or 16 assorted notecards & envelopes can also be obtained from Chronicle Books to further your enjoyment of this lullaby.

On Mother's Lap by Ann Herbert Scott is a nice complement to the above title.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Carolyn Jo Ballard
Librarian

Z. J. Loussac Public Library
Anchorage, Alaska

***Olympics!* By B. G. Hennessy; pictures by Michael Chesworth. LCCN 95048127. New York: Viking, 1996. ISBN 0670865222, HBB, \$14.99.**

796.48. Olympics. unpub.
Gr. 2 - 6.

What a bustle of activity and preparation the word "Olympics" brings to mind. Athletes training extensively, towns preparing for the thousands of visitors and all the other preparations that it takes to get these events off the ground. In a design reminiscent of *The Philharmonic Gets Dressed* or *The Dallas Titans Get Dressed*, the author and illustrator show athletes getting ready for Olympic Events with all the equipment, medicines, and oils. Young readers will pore over the pages.

Aspects of the games are also touched upon as short sentences move the reader through the phases of the Olympics while giving the reader information about the history, organization and structure of both summer and winter games. A fine introduction to the Olympics for young readers.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Leslie Greaves Radloff
Teacher/Librarian

Emanuel Lutheran School(WELS)
W. St. Paul, Minnesota

Give a Dog a Bone : Stories, Poems, Jokes, and

***Riddles About Dogs.* Compiled by Joanna Cold and Stephanie Calmenson; with original illustrations by John Speirs. LCCN 93002536. New York: Scholastic, 1996. ISBN 0590463748, HBB, \$16.95.**



808.8. Dogs--Literary collections. 90 p.

PS - Gr. 3.

Joanna Cole and Stephanie Calmenson have compiled a delightful collection of stories, poems, jokes, and riddles about dogs. Dogs of all sizes and kinds are celebrated. Main characters of the stories include: Fido, a dog who goes to work in place of his master; Mudge, a dog who adopts kittens; the last puppy who longs to be first at something; Jennie's dog, who solves mysteries; and Barry, who saves people's lives.

The reading levels vary including read-alouds, easy reader, and a rebus story. A non-fiction section of facts about dogs is included. The illustrations done by at least three different illustrators provide action packed variety.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Karla Kessell
Librarian, Mount Vernon Nazarene College
Mount Vernon, Ohio

***The Book of Giving : Poems of Thanks, Praise and Celebration.* Collected and illustrated by Kay Chora. LCCN 95012796. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1995. ISBN 0525454098, HBB, \$16.99.**

808.81. Generosity--Poetry; Gratitude--Poetry; Poetry--Collection. 56 p.

Gr. 1 - 5.

Kay Chora's colorful, life-like, and whimsical illustrations of children and animals will delight and immediately capture any young person's attention. *The Book of Giving* is a collection of poems designed to focus the reader on the many facets of giving. These include presents, time, care, love, and advice. The book begins with a look at God's creation and continues with a multi-cultural presentation which includes Native American prayers, Algerian prayers, Christian hymns and poems, and Jewish and Black American Culture. Although the illustrations will rate a number ten by any child four or up, the collection seems to be aimed at a somewhat older audience. There is a richness of language and a focus on blessing, praise, and overcoming.

Quality—4 Acceptability—3

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

Beastly Banquet : Tasty Treats for Animal Appetites; animal poems by Peggy Munsterberg; pictures by Tracy Gallup. LCCN 94002951. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0803714823, HBB, \$14.99.

811. Animals--Food habits--Poetry; American poetry. unpub.

PS - Gr. 2.

If Animal Planet and Shel Silverstein ever write a book together, it will be similar to *Beastly Banquet*. Peggy Munsterberg's amusing poetry portrays the unusual dietary habits of nineteen different creatures ranging from the crocodile bird that picks its dinner from between the teeth of the crocodiles along the Nile to the common mosquito hunting for fresh blood.

Munsterberg's style is a blend of scientific fact and youthful imagination sprinkled generously with childlike humor. This lighthearted approach to science is also reflected in Tracy Gallup's fanciful illustrations of cockroaches in formal party dress, and frogs having tea on a lily pad. The short verses flow easily, drawing the reader into the appetites of these featured creatures, and leaving them with food for thought.

Beastly Banquet is the first children's book for Peggy Munsterberg and Tracy Gallup.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Melinda Torgerson
Freelance Writer
Newport, Washington

Down by the River : Afro-Caribbean Rhymes, Games, and Songs for Children, compiled by Grace Hallworth; illustrated by Caroline Binch. LCCN 96002043. New York: Scholastic, 1996. ISBN 0590693204, HBB, \$16.95.

811. Caribbean literature (English); Children's poetry; Children's songs; Nursery rhymes. unpub.

PS - Adult

"One potato, two potato, three potato, four..."

Do you remember those rhymes that we all did as children? When I opened *Down By the River*, compiled by Grace Hallworth, I was suddenly transported back in time to my childhood, back to Lewis and Clark School, back to that lofty gym and concrete play yard where I first clapped hands and twirled a jump rope to these same rhymes.

Grace Hallworth has collected, in this colorful volume, many of the Afro-Caribbean rhymes, games, and songs that have endured generations, and joined them with the delightful illustrations of Caroline Binch to make a wonderful addition

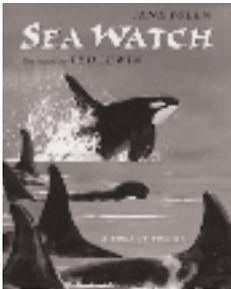
for any school library or children's bookshelf. This book brings yesterday's rhymes home to today's kids, especially those whose heritage is out of Africa or the Caribbean. Many of these rhymes have a cross cultural background springing from French, English, African and American roots, making this book very "diverse" and "correct."

Grace Hallworth grew up in Trinidad, close to the sea. To be Trinidadian was to be diverse because there were so many cultures that made up the island. With her background and Caroline Binch's illustrations, who is probably best known for her work in *Amazing Grace* and *Hue Boy*, the casual, fun-loving beauty of the Caribbean people and their setting come to life in the pages of this book. The children in these pictures feel real right down to the gleam in their shiny black hair, the untied shoelaces and the untucked uniform blouses and shirts. The pictures are sunny, vibrant and alive. Even if one didn't care for childhood poetry, the illustrations alone would make the book a valuable and treasured keepsake.

This fun book of poetry will enhance the child in any child or any age, from two to ninety-two.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

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



Sea Watch : A Book of Poetry, by Jane Yolen; illustrated by Ted Lewin. LCCN 94032533. New York: Philomel Books, 1996. ISBN 0399227342, HBB, \$15.95.

811. Marine animals--Poetry; American poetry. 31 p.
Gr. 1 - 6.

Sea Watch is an enchanting anthology of poems introducing fourteen extraordinary inhabitants of our oceans. From the flowerlike sea anemone, the milky white beluga whale, the deadly Portuguese man-of-war to the flexible octopus, Janet Yolen navigates the reader on a magical underwater journey.

The watercolor illustrations of Ted Lewin draw the reader into the depths of the sea. The luminous grunion and the radiant sea otter are just two of the captivating paintings sure to enthrall children and adults. The book's dust jacket has an eye-catching illustration of the

majestic killer whale.

The "Sea Watch Notes" preceding the story provide real life facts about each illustrated sea creature. Teachers and parents will find the book an invaluable educational tool. It would make an excellent addition to any children's collection.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Dianne Woodman
Freelance Writer, Homeschool Parent
Milpitas, California

H

The Tempest. William Shakespeare, retold by Ann Keay Beneduce; illustrated by Gennady Spirin. LCCN 94033357. New York: Philomel Books, 1996. ISBN 0399227644, HBB, \$16.95.

822.33. Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616--
Adaptations. unpub.
Gr. 4 - 8.

A tempest rages and a ship is tossed, but there is no danger, for the storm is the work of the magician Prospero. He lives alone with his lovely daughter Miranda on a small island, where they landed after being set adrift on the open sea twelve years earlier by Prospero's own brother. The only other inhabitants of the island are the monster Caliban and a magical sprite by the name of Ariel, who aids Prospero in his magic arts.

For twelve long years, Prospero has thought of nothing but revenge against his brother, and the King of Naples, who helped his brother steal Prospero's dukedom. The tempest tossed ship holds none other than these two villains, and the purpose of this magic storm is to lure them to the island.

When the passengers are safely on shore, it is discovered that the king's son, Ferdinand, is among them. He and Miranda meet and fall instantly in love. Prospero creates a test to determine if Ferdinand's love is true, and when he passes the test, Prospero decides that the best revenge he can exact is to forgive his brother and the king.

The Tempest is a retelling for children of Shakespeare's classic stage play by the same name. Beneduce's task of shortening such a complex work of literature into picture book form has been handled with flair and style. The only shortcoming seems to be in her inclusion of the character Caliban. While Caliban is central to the stage play, his mention in this version is so detached from the main story line, that it makes little sense to include him. However, the main threads of the narrative remain intact and entice readers to want to know the rest of the story.

Included throughout the book are pieces of speeches from the original play, which make the book even more valuable as a study tool.

As with many of Shakespeare's works, use of the

occult is the core component of this story. While this prevents a challenge for parents and educators teaching from a Christian perspective, it should not eliminate this book as an introduction to one of the greatest writers of all time. The story's downfall might possibly be compensated for by the concurrent theme that forgiveness is the best revenge, and that in the end, Prospero throws away his magic to return to the world of men.

Perhaps the greatest reason to own this book is its incredible watercolor images by Gennady Spirin. Spirin's illustrations are true classics and are reminiscent of medieval art. Their high quality should prove to be as much of an inspiration for the further study of fine art, as the story is for the reading of classical literature.

Quality—5 Acceptability—3

Virginia Schnabel
Copy Writer
Shelton, Washington

H

William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare, retold by Bruce Coville; pictures by Dennis Nolan. LCCN 94012600. New York: Dial Books, 1996. ISBN 0803717857, HBB, \$16.95.

822.33. Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616--
Adaptations. unpub.
Gr. 3 - 6.

Hermia and Lysander are in love, but Hermia's father objects and wants Hermia to marry Demetrius instead. Hermia refuses and plots with Lysander to run away and elope, but fair-haired Helena, who loves Demetrius, finds out about the plan and warns Demetrius. In the dark of the woods live the fairies and sprites. It is here that the young lovers decide to meet, and the trouble begins. The fairy queen Titania is in an argument with Oberon the fairy king, who has decided to use a magic potion which causes one to fall in love with the first thing he sees. His helper Puck misapplies the magic potion and soon Lysander is proclaiming love for Helena rather than Hermia.

Meanwhile, a group of actors has entered the woods to practice a play, and the mischievous Puck gives a donkey head to an actor by the name of Bottom. It is Bottom whom Titania first sees and falls in love with.

When Oberon again uses magic to make everyone sleep, the mistakes are corrected and the night's adventures are thought to be nothing more than a dream.

Colville encapsulates Shakespeare's classic tale *A Midsummer's Night Dream* into an easy to read, easy to understand format that will create an interest in Shakespeare for young readers. While the language Colville uses is simple, he also incorporates some of the actual Shakespearean flavor into his sentence structure, giving this

retelling an authentic feel. The subject matter is mature; however, Colville's style makes it seem no more challenging than *Cinderella* or *The Swan Princess*.

As in all fairy tales, magic is heavily relied upon to make things happen, but the magic does not involve incantations or occult practices.

The story is enhanced by the illustrations of Dennis Nolan. His images convey so much emotion and action that one almost gets a sense of motion from studying them. The colors are subdued in places, bright in others, but have a soft patina which matches the parchment look of the story's written pages.

One illustration to watch out for reveals a less than modest pose of Titania lying next to Bottom. Previously in the story, we find that Hermia and Lysander are sleeping some distance from each other because they are not yet married, but soon after, we see the image of Titania and Bottom, in which her dress has slipped from her shoulder and their arms are around each other. This image may create moral confusion for young readers.

Quality—5 Acceptability—3

Virginia Schnabel
Copy Writer
Shelton, Washington

***Catching Their Talk in a Box : The Life-Story of Joy Ridderhof*, by Betty M. Hockett. (A Life-Story from Missions.) LCCN 87081296. Newberg, Ore.: George Fox Press, 1987. ISBN 0943701139, PAP, \$4.95.**

921 (266). Peru; Ridderhof, Joy; Missions--Biography. 76 p.

Gr. 3 - 7

Joy Ridderhof learned a lesson in trust in God as a young woman. She was prone to worry until she heard a preacher say, "If you trust God, you don't worry. If you worry, you don't trust God."

This book in the missions series by Betty M. Hockett emphasizes prayer and faith. From the time Joy decides to attend a Bible school to become a missionary, she trusts God for day to day needs. It is a story with great examples of waiting on the Lord to provide. And as Joy says, "God is never late."

Joy was sure God wanted her to go to Africa. But when the door to Africa closed she accepted a call to Honduras. After six years on the field Joy became sick and needed a long rest. Back in the states she could not forget the people waiting to hear the Gospel and she began to daydream of making Gospel records in Spanish. From this dream the organization Gospel Recordings was born. And God continued to answer her prayers in wonderful and surprising ways.

A good introduction to the commitment and dedication needed to be a missionary.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Myrtemay Pittman Crane
Freelance Writer, Editor, Speaker
Alderwood Manor, Washington

***Marie Curie's Search for Radium*, by Beverley Birch; illustrated by Christian Birmingham. (Science Stories Series.) LCCN 96083309. Hauppauge, N.Y.: Barron's, 1996. ISBN 0812066219, HBB, \$10.95.**

921 (500.82). Curie, Marie Sklodowska, 1867-1934; Physicists; Scientists--Women; Women--Biography; Radium. unsp.

Gr. 1 - 4.

Marie Curie, the first European female Doctor of Science, discovered Radium in 1902. She utilized analysis and experiments to detect the new element, but then could not prove it existed because trace amounts could not be seen. She proceeded to painstakingly collect trace amounts for three years until she collected one tenth of an ounce. Her discovery was notable during her time and has earned her fame and recognition still deserved. Her perseverance and acknowledged intellectual contribution have inspired many young scientists.

Marie Curie's Search for Radium relates the story of Curie's scientific career. It addresses both her drive for success and her intellectual reasoning which proved itself. This title of the series, Science Selections, is well-written and easy to understand. The illustrations are well done and appealing. The type size will not prove daunting to emerging science and biography readers. The readability and intrigue of Birch and Birmingham's work in *Marie Curie's Search for Radium* make it a must for science and biographical collections.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Carol M. Jones, MLIS
Children's Librarian
Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

***George Washington Carver, What Do You See?* by Janet and Geoff Bengé; illustrated by Kennon James. (Another Great Achiever.) LCCN 96015489. Houston: Advance Publishing, 1997. ISBN 1575371022, HBB, \$14.95.**

921 (630). Carver, George Washington, 1864?-1943; Afro-Americans--Biography; Agriculturists. 48 p.

Gr. 3 - 6.

George Washington Carver, What Do You See? tells the fascinating story of a man born a slave who became a great scientist. Growing up in the South, Carver overcame incredible obstacles in his quest to become educated. After Carver had taught people to grow peanuts, there was a glut on the market, and farmers were angry. Carver discussed the problem with the Lord, concluding, "He gave me a handful of peanuts and went with me back to the laboratory and, together, we got down to work."

Janet and Geoff Bengé have written a biography that is truly inspirational. They deal with the tragedy of racism openly, but also include stories of white people who stood for equality. In addition to showing Carver's brilliant, inquiring mind, we also see a man of great faith in God. The illustrations by Kennon James are colorful and appealing.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Cathleen Sovold Johnson
Freelance Writer
Des Moines, Washington

***Young Mozart*, by Rachel Isadora. LCCN 96005948. New York: Viking, 1997. ISBN 0670871206, HBB, \$14.99.**

921 (780). Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, 1756-1791; Composers. unsp.

Gr. 1 - 5.

Rachel Isadora's attractive, colorful watercolor illustrations depict the lifestyle of the nobility during the mid-1700's. Her simple text briefly outlines Mozart's early life, from child prodigy to his death at age thirty-five. Beginning as a three-year-old reaching up to play the piano, Mozart at four is composing music and teaching himself to play the violin. Soon afterward he is touring Europe with his original compositions. By age twenty-one, he has composed three hundred works. The book, *Young Mozart*, continues with a short sketch of Mozart's marriage, family life, and centers on the musical opera, *The Magic Flute*, and his compositions of *Figaro*, and *Don Giovanni*. Young music students will gain a new perspective about this famous composer and the time in which he lived.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

***Wilma Unlimited : How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman*, by Kathleen Krull; illustrated by David Diaz. LCCN 95032105. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1996. ISBN 0152012672, HBB, \$16.00.**

921 (796.42). Rudolph, Wilma, 1940-1994; Track - and-field athletes; Afro-Americans--Biography; Women--Biography. unsp.

Gr. 3-5.

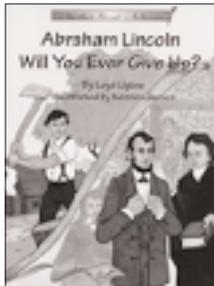
Wilma Rudolph must have inspired the term "against all odds." Born in 1940 into a family already burdened with nineteen children, she was small, not expected to live long. A sickly child, she became prone to double pneumonia. Wilma's mother cared for her with home remedies because, as Krull explains, "only one doctor in Clarksville would treat black people." When she was only five, Wilma contracted both scarlet fever and polio. She survived, but polio paralyzed one leg. Everyone doubted whether she'd ever walk again.

In spite of discouraging obstacles and racial prejudice that made getting medical help difficult, Wilma faced her challenges with courage. After years of pain and hard work, Wilma Rudolph eventually became the first American woman to win three gold medals at a single Olympics!

No direct reference to God appears in the book, but Krull alludes to Wilma's faith and describes a riveting incident when Wilma walked unassisted for the first time down the church aisle. This is a story of courage and inspiration, and provides an excellent backdrop for discussion about the cure for polio (discovered in 1955), racial prejudice, and Olympic athletes.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Kimm Swenson Gollnick
Writer, Speaker, Homeschool Teacher
Marysville, Washington



***Abraham Lincoln, Will You Ever Give Up?* by Loyd Uglow; illustrated by Kennon James. (Another Great Achiever.) LCCN 96018344. Houston: Advance Publishing, 1997. ISBN 1575371049, HBB, \$14.95.**

921 (973.7). Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865; Presidents. 48 p.

Gr. 3 - 6.

In *Abraham Lincoln, Will You Ever Give Up?* Loyd Uglow recounts the story of Lincoln's life, continually reminding the reader of the difficulties he overcame. Beginning with his birth in a tiny log cabin in Kentucky, this biography traces Lincoln's life up to his presidency, but stops short of his assassination.

The colorful illustrations by Kennon James on every page help sustain interest. With degrees in literature and history, the author is well qualified to write this book. He includes a great deal of factual information, and explains the historical and political events surrounding Lincoln's life. He shows the importance of the Bible in Abe's early education. The Author's Notes on the last page of the text add interesting information.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Cathleen Sovold Johnson
Freelance Writer
Des Moines, Washington

***Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers.* Written and illustrated by Karen Winnick. LCCN 95083973. Honesdale, Penn.: Boyds Mills Press, 1996. ISBN 1563974851, HBB, \$15.95.**

921 (973.7). Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865; Bedell, Grace. unp.

Gr. 2 - 4.

Young Grace Bedell is excited when her father brings her a poster of Abraham Lincoln who is running for president. She listens to her father and brothers discuss the election and wishes she could vote because she believes Mr. Lincoln has a kind face. She believes he is sad though, and thinks if he had a beard, he wouldn't appear so thin and sad. Grace writes to Abraham Lincoln suggesting he grow a beard. Later he comes through her town while campaigning, and stops to personally show her his beard.

Karen Winnick has taken a small moment in history and brought it alive with text and colorful oil paintings. She successfully draws the readers into the thoughts and feelings of a young girl and captures an actual event with which children will identify. Her illustrations depict the ambience of the time and portray the era vividly.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Mary Jarvis
Freelance Writer
Pawhuska, Oklahoma

***An Armenian Family,* by Keith Elliot Greenberg. (Journey Between Two Worlds.) LCCN 96017184. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1997. ISBN 0822534096, HBB, \$16.13.**

974.7. Refugees; Armenian Americans; Armenians--History. 56 p.

***A Bosnian Family,* by Robin Landew Silverman. (Journey Between Two Worlds.) LCCN 95046971. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1996. ISBN 0822534045, HBB, \$16.13.**

949.7. Refugees. 56 p.

***An Eritrean Family,* by Lois Anne Berg. (Journey Between Two Worlds.) LCCN 95046970. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1996. ISBN 0822534053, HBB, \$16.13.**

967.7. Refugees; Eritrean Americans. 56 p.

***A Hmong Family,* by Nora Murphy. (Journey Between Two Worlds.) LCCN 96013533. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1997. ISBN 0822534061, HBB, \$16.13.**

959.4. Refugees; Hmong Americans; Hmong (Asian people). 56 p.

***A Liberian Family,* by Stephen Chicoine. (Journey Between Two Worlds.) LCCN 96016739. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1997. ISBN 0822534118, HBB, \$16.13.**

976.4. Refugees; Liberian Americans; Liberia--History--Civil War, 1989-. 56 p.

***A Sudanese Family,* by Erika F. Archibald.**

(Journey Between Two Worlds.) LCCN 95039841. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1996. ISBN 0822534037, HBB, \$16.13.

975.8. Sudanese Americans; Refugees. 56 p.

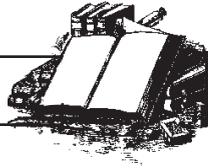
Gr. 4 - 7.

How does a close-knit family survive as their beloved country dives into an abyss of terrifying war? Is there a haven for them? What will it be like when they get to that haven? Most Americans can barely fathom the answers to these questions.

Using history, traditions, photos and interviews with a child of each family, the series *Journey Between Two Worlds* graphically presents a true picture of each immigrant family's journey through horror into the hope embodied by the United States. The refugee families represent a broad spectrum of countries, races, traditions and religions. Readers learn of these refugees' intelligence, faith, love, versatility, stability, yearnings, heartbreaks, joys and problems in their old and new countries. This series portrays the triumphant strength of faith and family bonds, the longing for education and a better life, the wealth of traditions. Readers see American ways through new eyes, and meet American helpers and hinderers. The colorful photos and illustrations vividly present the interviewee, his family, home country, and way of life. Within the text, explanations follow each unusual word or phrase. The closing Pronunciation Guide draws the reader into a closer relationship with the family. A Further Reading List and Index increase each book's usefulness.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Donna Eggett
Volunteer Counselor, Crisis Pregnancy Center
Maiden, North Carolina



Abandoned, by Jeri Massi. (Peabody Adventure Series.) Greenville, S.C.: Bob Jones University Press, 1989. ISBN 0890844674, PAP, \$6.49.

F. Mystery fiction; New England--Fiction. 136 p.
Gr. 4 - 7.

Jack, his sisters, and two others fly to New England to visit Uncle Bill but they meet some adventure along the way. Jack, in taking night pictures with his camera, photographs some men who don't want to be photographed. One quickly poses as the driver of the airport van and drives

the group to the middle of nowhere and abandons them.

During their long walk to civilization they must band together and cooperate, something that is hard for Annette who feels unloved due to her parents failing marriage. Scruggs is a foster kid who's had a difficult life, yet he overcomes his background (and Annette's hatred) to lead the group to safety.

Abandoned is high adventure, not predictable. The story is quick moving and will be enjoyed by upper elementary and junior high students.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Jane Mouttet
Missionary Librarian
Hilltop Christian School
Window Rock, Arizona

Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie : The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell, by Kristiana Gregory. (Dear America; 4.) LCCN 96025671. New York: Scholastic, 1997. ISBN 0590226517, HBB, \$9.95.

F. Oregon Trail--Fiction. 168 p.

A Word from the Editor: Sylvia Stopforth

Teen Advisory Councils

Young people are often in the news these days, and the stories are seldom positive. It seems that one of the hallmarks of youth is a profound intensity, coupled with boundless energy; if not properly channeled, this combination can become destructive.

At the same time, we have librarians bemoaning the fact that the resources and services provided for this user group are often unappreciated and under-utilized. Enter the teen advisory council.

According to Gisela Konopka, author of *The Adolescent Girl in Conflict*, a number of conditions are necessary for the "healthy development of young people ... they require the opportunity:

to participate ... as responsible members of society

to gain experience in decision-making

to interact with peers and acquire a sense of belonging

to discuss conflicting values and formulate their own value system . . ."

A well-organized teen council is an ideal setting for the presentation and realization of these opportunities.

Although the teen council is generally regarded as a public library concept, it can easily be adapted for the school or church library. The basic objective is to involve youth in planning (and

perhaps implementing) services, programs, and collection development geared to the needs and interests of their age group. The council should be granted as much autonomy as possible, but should also be furnished with the guidance and assistance of a youth services librarian, or other interested adults.

Teen councils run the gamut; some groups meet only a few times each year to publish a modest newsletter, set up displays, or provide input regarding the library's YA collection. Others are more active.

Barbara Williams, manager of the Youth Services Division at the Central Library of the Queens Borough Public Library, found that "young adults often do not use the library for its intended purpose."² Determined to provide opportunities for growth for this group, Williams devised the "Tapping Teen Talent" program, designed to teach young people to plan, implement, and evaluate programs for their peers and younger children. She hoped that this program would encourage teens to "explore the library as a life resource in building self-esteem, and the development of talents." The program was a great success. Williams found that participants had a genuine desire and ability - to make a valuable contribution.

The fact that libraries and youth are a winning combination is also evident on the internet. Several

teen councils post their newsletters and book reviews on their own Web sites.

The Young Adult Advisory Board of the Boulder Public Library can be found at <http://128.138.129.27/library/bpl/yaab/>. A healthy sense of humor is flourishing here, as is a generous application of youthful energy to the library's programs and services. One member puts it this way: "Our purposes are to promote usage and understanding of the library, to prove to adults and teens alike that teens are capable of changing the world, and to have fun while doing it."

An informative newsletter, published by the teen advisory council of the Sparta Free Library is posted at <http://host1p.centuryinter.net/spartalib/newsltr.htm>

This council sponsors a book group, previews new YA titles, and in December, got together to make Christmas gifts for a local nursing home.

A newsletter featuring book reviews and recipes from the teen advisory council of the St. Petersburg Public Library is available at <http://snoopy.tbic.lib.fl.us/spl/tac1195.html>

At the Chicago Public Library, a new Teen Study Center opened recently. Information about this, and about the resident teen advisory council, can be found at

<http://www.chipublib.org/003cpl/news/951106teenstudy.html>

The homepage of Richmond Public Library's teen

A Picture of Freedom : The Diary of Clotee, a Slave Girl, by Patricia C. McKissack. (Dear America; 5.) LCCN 96025673. New York: Scholastic, 1997. ISBN 0590259881, HBB, \$9.95.

F. Diaries--Fiction. 198 p.

Gr. 7 - Adult.

The Dear America Series, published by Scholastic Books and written by various authors, is an insightful, inspiring collection that gives first person accounts of significant times in the history of the United States.

Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie, by Kristiana Gregory, begins on Hattie's thirteenth birthday in "Booneville, Missouri." The short entries that cover a period of one year lead up to, and include, her family's trip to Oregon. Her writings include names of political figures and famous pioneers and trailblazers; this gives the diary an air of authenticity. The entries include both humorous and heart-wrenching true-to-life accounts of what life would have been like on the trail.

The epilogue at the end of the book helps to wrap up what happens to the characters. A final historical note gives an excellent historical review of the events referred to in the diary account. Pictures, illustrations, and maps further enhance the text.

Another volume in the series, *A Picture of Freedom*, by Patricia C. McKissack, presents a close-up picture of slavery. It is penned by a household slave who has learned to read while fanning the master's son as he is being tutored. Her joy of learning is clouded by her fear that someone may discover her secret—a secret which could cost her life. This inspiring account will cause any reader to appreciate in a new way the privilege of literacy.

These beautifully bound books include a satin bookmark and rough-cut edged pages which make them seem more like actual diaries.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Esther Knaupp, Librarian

*Santiam Christian School
Corvallis, Oregon*

Another Homecoming, by Janette Oke and T. David Bunn. LCCN 97004669. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 1556619340, PAP, \$8.99.

F. Christian life--Fiction. 251 p.

Gr. 9 - Adult.

Martha and Harry Grimes, a young couple, are torn apart by the events of World War II. Harry is sent to fight in North Africa in a battle so fierce that no survivors are expected. Martha is three weeks from delivering their first child when she receives a telegram from the War Department. The telegram informs her that Harry is "missing-in-action and presumed dead."

Finding herself suddenly alone and deep in grief, the young wife decides that she won't be able to give her child everything she needs and deserves. The only way to give her a good chance in life is to let another couple adopt her.

Little Katie, renamed Kyle by her new parents, grows up in a wealthy and privileged home. Her father and the servants dote on the little girl but her mother is strangely aloof. Kyle is never told that she was adopted.

When Kyle's father dies, he leaves his business and much of his fortune to Kyle, much to her mother's shock and anger. In the turmoil that follows Kyle discovers the long buried secret of her adoption. Somewhere she has another family with a mother, father, and brother she's never known.

Another Homecoming by Janette Oke and T. Davis Bunn combines the talents and writing styles of two popular authors in the field of Christian fiction. T. Davis Bunn adds depth to the historical detail within the story giving this well-written novel a slightly new twist. The storyline itself does not seem as gripping as the usual Janette Oke tales, but makes for interesting reading just the same.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

*Donna Brown
Church Librarian
Portland, Oregon*

Behind the Bedroom Wall, by Laura E. Williams; illustrated by A. Nancy Goldstein. LCCN 95052374. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 1996. ISBN 157131606X, PAP, \$6.95.

F. Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Germany--Fiction; Jews--Germany--Fiction; Righteous Gentiles in the Holocaust--Fiction; Germany--History--1933-1945--Fiction. 169 p.

Gr. 6 - 8.

Behind the Bedroom Wall will take its place among other popular World War II fiction for young people. One of its greatest attractions is the moral dilemma in which thirteen-year-old Korinna Rehme finds herself. Korinna is an enthusiastic member of the Hitler Youth, even to the point of keeping a diary of her suspicions regarding others' disloyalties to the Nazi regime. Imagine her feelings when she discovers her own family is housing a Jewish woman and her daughter. What ensues is her struggle with the brainwashing she has received through school and government and the obvious example of her parents, whom she loves and respects. This struggle is poignant and grips the reader who desperately hopes Korinna will make the correct choice.

Laura E. Williams has produced a well written book that will be loved by middle-schoolers. Both boys and girls will be taken with the suspense of this tale and will be caught up in Korinna's quandary, as if it were their own. Behind the bedroom wall would be an excellent choice for any school, church, or public library.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

*Ceil Carey
Middle School Librarian
Plano, Illinois*

Between the Dragon and the Eagle, by Mical Schneider. (Adventures in Time Books.)

council provides links to "teen resources" and information about this library's award-winning writing contest for young people.

<http://www.rpl.richmond.bc.ca/teen/voice/council/>

A teen council serves as a forum for an important user group, allows librarians to have a positive impact on tomorrow's leaders, and brings library resources to the attention of some who might not always see the great potential residing on our shelves. At the same time, it provides young people with opportunities to develop talents and skills that will serve them well into the future. And, as one teen council member noted, "It looks great on a resume!"

Works Cited

- 1 As quoted in: Amey, Larry and Stephen Elliott. "Serving the Cyberteen: Library Service for the 21st Century Adolescent." *VOYA*, vol. 20 (April 1997). p 14-20.
- 2 Williams, Barbara Osborne. "Tapping Teen Talent in Queens." *VOYA*, vol 19 (August 1996). p 143-147.

LCCN 95051826. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 1997. ISBN 1575050803, HBB, \$21.27.

F. Time travel--Fiction. 151 p.

Gr. 4 - 7.

Between the Dragon and the Eagle is a story of the Silk Road, a merchants' route that once linked China and Rome, the two greatest powers on earth in the year A.D. 100.

Han Tzu is a caravan leader who carries the finest silks and other treasures from his native China to Merv, in modern Turkmenistan. Among his own possessions, he carries a particularly beautiful bolt of sky blue silk, which he hopes to sell for a handsome profit. A Parthian trader named Vardanes continues the journey to Palmyra, in what is now Syria. Rabel Duoshara is hired to guide the next caravan which travels to Petra, in Jordan. Sandstorms, roving bands of robbers, and forbidding mountains are among the hazards which threaten the travelers.

Finally, the silk finds its way to Firmus, a young Egyptian spice trader who takes the silk to Alexandria, and then on to Rome, where the greatest profits are to be made. But the travels of the blue silk are far from over, for the young Roman woman who purchases the cloth will soon join her betrothed, who is based in far away Britannia.

Mical Schneider's story blends together a rich melange of culture, language, and religious belief. The narrative vehicle she has chosen, a series of brief vignettes, does not allow for in-depth character development, but plot and historical detail are more important to this text. The author's experience as a middle-school teacher is evident in her ability to relay facts in an entertaining, informative manner.

Each section of the journey is preceded by a detail map, showing the exact route followed. The reader comes away from the book with a sense of the incredible distances covered by these ancient traders. A trip that takes several hours by air today, took many months by camel, horse, and ship in A.D. 100.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Sylvia Stopforth
Librarian, Trinity Western University
Langley, British Columbia

H

***Byzantium*, by Stephen Lawhead. New York: HarperPrism, 1996. ISBN 0061092967, HBB, \$6.99.**

F. Byzantium--Fiction; Vikings--Fiction; Constantinople--History--Fiction; Saint Aiden--Fiction; Ireland--History--Fiction. 645 p.

Gr. 9 - Adult.

Aidan's quiet life as a scribe in Ireland is soon to be disrupted. He has been selected as part of a distinguished band of monks to deliver a treasured Holy manuscript to the emperor of

Byzantium. Aidan's personal quest for this coveted honor has been fulfilled...but at what cost? He soon learns he must leave behind his friends, his home, and the tranquillity of the monastery.

No sooner have they set off than disaster shakes this bold team of men. One of their number is hurt, the rest are attacked by Sea Wolves, and Aiden himself is taken as a slave to a faraway country. As Aiden weathers his enslavement, many internal changes begin to develop in his relationship to God. This young monk truly lives ten men's lives in the course of his one. Aiden eventually travels abroad and wins the favor of kings. The friendships he forms and the journey he makes all serve to forge him into the man God destines him to become.

Byzantium is a masterpiece of historical fiction. This beautifully bound 640 page book is not just one journey...it is many. Author Stephen Lawhead takes the reader from country to country and people to people. With each new destination, we are surrounded by native sights, sounds, and smells. With Aiden as our guide, we live out his experiences both externally and internally. Throughout the book, one lasting message reverberates... "He (God) knows our pain, He knows..."

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Michele Howe
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother
LaSalle, Michigan

***Cynthia*, by Leila Prince Golding. (SpringSong Books.) LCCN 94027174. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1987. ISBN 1556615248, PAP, \$4.99.**

F. Romance stories; Christian life--Fiction. 207 p.

Gr. 8 - 12.

Just the right amount of suspense keeps the reader turning pages in *Cynthia*. Written by Leila Golding, the work is successfully targeted for young adults. Cyndi Carlson becomes acquainted with members of a small community during a stay at her grandfather's house. She has agreed to take over the position of fire tower duty, while continuing college studies independently. Cyndi enjoys the company of two different young men, and eventually must choose between them.

Detailed descriptive narrative is well written, adding life to the story. This strength is also a weakness; there is so much description it slows the pace. Otherwise, action moves the story along well, and it is not too predictable.

The Christian message is well stated, although not overbearing. Main characters do not appear to have obvious flaws, yet seem realistic, if a bit innocent. Subplots of the fire-watching profession, and mysterious farming of marijuana, make this Springsong book more than just a romance.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Tracie Mabry
Freelance Writer, Parent Volunteer
Vancouver, Washington

***Dawn's Early Light*, by Elsie J. Larson. (Tides of War; 1.) LCCN 95024380. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996. ISBN 0785276882, PAP, \$10.99.**

F. World War, 1939-1945--California--Fiction; Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945--Fiction. 234 p.

Gr. 7 - 12.

Jean Thornton was planning to be married just before Christmas when she received word her fiancée was killed aboard the Arizona in Pearl Harbor. Her personal loss, coastal fears of more Japanese attacks, and the patriotic fervor of the time, combine to make Jean a prime candidate to serve as a spy for her uncle, Al Moore, a U. S. Senator. She is assigned to teach second graders at a Japanese internment camp in Tullake, California. In her fervor to revenge Dave's death, Jean reports every overheard tidbit and nuance she hears and sees in weekly notes to her uncle. As she begins to know the people connected to these reports, Jean begins to realize she has wronged innocent people and tries to rectify the situation belatedly. When arrests are made Jean pursues their freedom with the same zeal she applied to collecting data.

Although the trip to Washington D.C. and the instigated meeting with Eleanor Roosevelt lack an element of reality, and the true love relationship between Jean and Tom seems cardboard rather than truly developed, the historical fiction aspects of this novel are excellent. The plot flows smoothly if not predictably. Jean and her friends, Tom and Helen, seem stilted at times, which may be the result of the contrived insertion of some camp church activities and conversations with Pastor Ichiba. The depth of Christian ideal discussed is not necessarily reflected in previous behavior, but is revealed in the sudden plot jumps as a result of this spiritual input. Christian values such as moral ethics, loyalty, and honesty are then evident throughout the latter half of the book.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Patricia Braun
Librarian
Wilmette Junior High
Wilmette, Illinois

***The Drummer Boy's Battle*, by Dave & Neta Jackson; illustrated by Julian Jackson. (Trailblazer Books.) LCCN 96045855. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1556617402, PAP, \$5.99.**

F. Christian life--Fiction; Nightingale, Florence, 1820-1910--Fiction; Crimean War, 1853-1856--Fiction; Nurses--Fiction. 144 p.

Gr. 3 - 7.

Each book in the Trailblazer series presents a different historical figure. *The Drummer Boy's Battle* tells of Florence Nightingale, a pioneer in the field of nursing. Although fictionalized, the story of Robbie is based on a real character and other characters in the story are historical. Ten-year-old Robbie Robinson lives on the edge of the vast Nightingale estate. When his father becomes seriously ill, Robbie runs to Miss Nightingale for help. But help comes too late. His family must find a way to survive without his father's income.

Older brother, Peter, joins the peace-time British army and takes Robbie along to be a drummer boy. Then in 1854 the Crimea War breaks out and Peter, Robbie, and Florence Nightingale are plunged into the gruesome realities of war. "It was the waiting...and the mud...and the cold...and the gag-awful rations salt pork and dry biscuit day after day that was getting to Robbie."

The Jackson's do not gloss over the horror of war. Peter is killed, Robbie's hand is wounded and must be amputated without benefit of chloroform. He sees hundreds of soldiers die on the field and in the hospital.

Dedication and commitment is the theme of Florence Nightingale's struggle against military red tape, prejudice against women, filth, and ignorance in order to improve conditions for the wounded allied soldiers. When an official Sanitary Commission inspection finds a dead horse in the water supply, Florence gets some much needed help in speeding up her reforms.

An additional four pages at the end of the book give more facts concerning Florence Nightingale's life.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Myrtlemay Pittman Crane
Freelance Writer, Editor, Speaker
Alderwood Manor, Washington

***Foghorn Passage*, by Alison Lohans. Toronto, Ont.: Stoddart Publishing, 1997. ISBN 0773674519, PAP, \$4.95.**

F. Death--Fiction; Grief--Fiction. 215 p.

Gr. 6 - 10.

Life for sixteen-year-old Sammie Franklin has changed a lot in the year since her father died of cancer. She and her mother and sister have moved twice, and are now living in a cramped apartment in Port Salish, British Columbia, where she is not allowed to practice her French horn for the community orchestra. When a fellow musician, Matt Bruckner, becomes paralyzed due to a car accident, Sammie cannot face visiting the hospital that holds too many memories of her father, nor can she tell her friends about the pain and nightmares she still experiences from her father's long illness.

Despite her painful memories, Sammie visits Matt and is obsessed by the angry and depressed

young violinist who had a promising future before the accident. She struggles to find closure for her own grief, and to find a way to help Matt choose to live with his paraplegia. Sammie also befriends Julie, a lonely rich girl from the orchestra, while trying to keep her best friend from feeling left out. She learns to work out her own problems when the Maestro threatens to kick her out of orchestra if she fails to practice harder, and when her mother becomes hospitalized from overwork and excessive worry.

Author Alison Lohans weaves a stirring story of growth and of the discovery of one's inner strengths in *Foghorn Passage*. Various subplots, dealing with real life issues of sibling rivalry and conflicts at school and with relatives, are interlaced through the main plot of emotional healing after the tragedy of losing a loved one.

Though Sammie and Julie each use the Lord's name in vain, and Sammie briefly wonders about God's existence when her mother is hospitalized, *Foghorn Passage* is still a wonderful story of friendship and perseverance. Keep tissues nearby.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

Lisa A. Wroble
Freelance Writer and Librarian
Plymouth, Michigan

***Follow the Star*, by Robert Elmer. (The Young Underground; 7.) LCCN 96045836. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 1556616600, PAP, \$5.99.**

F. DenmarK - -History--1900- -Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Jews-- Elmer,

Gr. 58.

Henrik is Elise and Peter Andersen's Jewish friend, whose father died a short time before, near the end of World War II. Henrik is having a difficult time working through the loss of his father and his mother's seeming interest in an old friend of his father's. His mother and this Matthias take a flight to Sweden to take care of some business, and their plane evidently goes down on Christmas Eve. Uncle Morten takes Elise, Peter, and Henrik in his boat, the Anna Marie, to Bornholm, an island freed from the Nazis and taken over by the Russians for some time at the end of the war. With the help of a church full of believers and a miracle of God, they escape with Henrik's Mom and Matthias and make it home safely. *Follow the Star* by Robert Elmer is the seventh book in the Young Underground series, tracking the lives of some young Christians in post-war Denmark.

While the idea of taking twelve-year-olds on a rescue mission may seem highly illogical, the author actually makes this account seem believable. The reader feels the fears and frustrations of the kids and learns some Danish culture and history along the way. The author also, as in the earlier accounts, brings in God's care for Peter's cat, Tiger. The faith and witness

of the Christians involved is authentic and practical.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Judy Belcher, Teacher
Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington

***For His Sake*, 2nd ed, by Mildred Schrock. Harrisonburg, Va.: Christian Light Publications, 1973. ISBN 0878135065, PAP, \$4.95.**

F. Mennonites--Fiction; Germany--Fiction; Russia--Fiction; Religious freedom--Fiction; South Dakota--Fiction. 184 p.

Gr. 6 - Adult.

A knock at the door in the evening propels a Mennonite family on a journey of faith spanning four generations. Schrock's touching story of love and devotion to God's leading begins with great, great grandparents, and others who fled Germany due to mandatory military conscription. Catherine II offers to exempt Mennonites from bearing arms for one hundred years in Russia, and promises them materials for the building of homes in exchange for their teaching the Russians farming methods.

For three generations the families enjoy safety and prosperity. But when the government reconsiders its position, and persecution threatens, John Schrag, a Mennonite leader, travels to America to see first-hand the opportunities available. Others follow.

Centering on Barbara and Joseph Schrag, the author's own grandparents, Schrock relates their experiences in rearing a family while dealing with the difficulties of life in early America. After finally settling in Oregon, and even after losing seven children and a husband to illness, Barbara continues to believe in her God who never changes.

God's will is consistently woven into each episode, and in spite of heart-wrenching setbacks, the author renders her heritage in positive terms. These people understood the sovereignty of God and the importance of strong husband/wife relationships. They realized that God is "the same God their grandparents served".

For His Sake could serve as a family devotional book. Each chapter divulges God's care and provision for His own. It moves along quickly and the main characters never waver in their faith in God. It constantly teaches dependence upon God but is not preachy in tone.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Carolyn Hearing
Freelance Writer
Virginia, Minnesota

***Growing-Up Summer*, by Jeanette Gilge; illustrated by Carl Hauge. LCCN 96061552. Mukilteo, Wash.: WinePress Publishing,**

1996. ISBN 1883893739, PAP, \$5.95.

F. Christian life--Fiction; Farm life--Fiction. 159 p.
Gr. 4 - 7.

Thirteen-year-old Mark wishes he would hurry up and grow so he would look as mature as Kurt, the boy who lives on the neighboring farm. Even his eleven-year-old sister has already shot up past him. But this summer proves to be more than just a season of physical growth. Mark's adventures include getting drunk—and very sick—when he tries to be a part of the gang.

Mark learns that the outward appearance and gruff attitude of a neighboring widower are not a reliable barometer of the person on the inside. But his most difficult hurdles include trying to understand why God doesn't change Kurt's rotten attitude or answer his prayer for his family to be able to buy the nice big house down the road, instead of having to live in their dumpy old cabin.

Growing Up Summer is the sequel to *City-Kid Farmer* by Jeanette Gilge. Simple illustrations are sprinkled throughout. Facts of nature are blended within the plot, and Mark is gradually brought to the realization that God is in charge of changing people and it is his duty to be willing to allow God to use him as his instrument.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Eatonville, Washington

Heart Chaser, by Thomas Locke. (The Spectrum Chronicles; 4.) LCCN 96045837. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1556619219, PAP, \$5.99.

F. Science fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 155 p.
Gr. 7 - 11.

Thomas Locke completes the Spectrum Chronicles with *Heart Chaser*. Leaving on a strategic mission to the Yalla planetary system, Rick, Guns, Tucker, and Consuela pool resources to rescue the Talent Wander, a fellow trainee pilot. Their orders are to return both him and Scout Consuela to Avanti.

Their spaceship, equipped with a secret space-pirate-fighting weapon, is disguised to look like a bucket of bolts to other space contacts. Consuela uses her gift of extraordinary sensitivity in communication to locate Wander, and they hire themselves out to protect a caravan headed for Yalla, where they believe Wander may be held.

The caravan leader, a merchant named Mahmut, is leery of the team's intentions, and challenges Rick to a "flying" duel, not unlike snowboarding in space. When Rick passes the test with "flying colors," and the group successfully defends the caravan against space pirates, Mahmut softens and shares his knowledge of Yalla with them. Consuela discovers n-space and is instrumental in rescuing Wander.

This science fiction adventure pits technology and force against Consuela's and Wander's talents of sensitive communication ability. Locke spirals two stories simultaneously as he describes both the team's search for Wander and Wander's preparation for the rescue. Action takes place at mind-boggling speeds and space terminology is hard to sort out at times. Familiarity with previous books in the series may help the reader comprehend more quickly.

In spite of all the extravagant happenings in the science-fiction world, battles of pride, ego, good sense, and wisdom still plague the characters. Lip service is given to the spiritual struggle of giving one's life over to God, and confessing one's failings.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Carolyn Hearing
Freelance Writer
Virginia, Minnesota

Heartless Hero, by Judy Baer. (Cedar River Daydreams; 25.) LCCN 96045908. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1556618352, PAP, \$4.99.

F. Bullies--Fiction; Down syndrome--Fiction; Mentally handicapped--Fiction; High schools--Fiction; School--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 141 p.

Gr. 5 - 8.

Heartless Hero, by Judy Baer, is #25 in the Cedar River Daydreams series. Middle school age readers will identify with this story of learning how to cope with being bullied.

Two new students, Roger and Cindy, have arrived at Cedar River High this year. Lexi Leighton and her friends observe and learn about the relationships of bullies and victims as Roger continually taunts, teases, and beats up on Lexi's friend Egg. Meanwhile, two kids from the middle school bully Lexi's younger handicapped brother and his friend. Grownups and students alike are aware there is a problem but no one is quite sure what to do about it. In defense of her son, Lexi's mother does research on bullying, and campaigns in the community to increase awareness and inform people how to improve the situation.

True-to-life characters are not "perfect heroes;" they have faults as well as virtues. They are also placed in realistic situations. However, the main "villain" does not seem to have any redeemable qualities. When dialogue is used to move the story along, it is quite believable. At other times, the dialogue is often too "preachy." Research is thrown at the reader, which slows the tempo of the story.

Young teens that are familiar with the Cedar River Daydreams series will appreciate the topic of this latest work. Those new to the series may be put off by some overdone drama and preaching at the reader.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Tracie Mabry
Freelance Writer, Parent Volunteer
Vancouver, Washington

Hero, by S. L. Rottman. LCCN 97003139. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 1997. ISBN 1561451592, HBB, \$14.95.

F. Child abuse--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Horses--Fiction. 134 p.
Gr. 7 - 10.

Heroes can be defined, discussed, and observed. Some times they can be the right person in the right place at the right time. And heroes also care about other people.

Sean, at fifteen, is physically abused by his mother, abandoned by his father, and has managed to stay independent despite gang pressures. Yet he still accumulates a negative behavior record at school and with the police. He is considered by many to be a loser.

Dave Hessler, a decorated war hero who shares his WW II adventures reluctantly and only when asked, runs a farm outside town which provides community service work opportunities for young people who may yet be savable.

Michelle Walker is a first year teacher who notices Sean's potential in her English class. Her assignment on heroes provides the thread that runs throughout the two week interlude Sean spends at the farm.

Add a premature colt, Knickers, unwanted by its mother and the components fall into place for Sean to have a positive growing experience and for the first time in his life—a chance to make something of his life if he chooses.

Sean's class essay on heroes ends the book while he himself remains critical in intensive care—but anyone book-talking this title could read it as the book talk. The end essay sums up the theme of the book without giving plot details. It hits the nail on the head about how our current society may be interpreted by our young people. I highly recommend this title for its excellent character development and plot sequencing. This is a fine novel for the first effort of a young author. I hope this quality is maintained in Rottman's future titles.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Patricia Braun
Librarian, Wilmette Junior High
Wilmette, Illinois

Honus and Me : A Baseball Card Adventure, by Dan Gutman. LCCN 96031439. New York: Avon Books, 1997. ISBN 0380973502, HBB, \$14.00.

F. Baseball cards--Fiction; Time travel--Fiction; Wagner, Honus, 1874-1966--Fiction; Baseball--Fiction. 140 p.
Gr. 9 - Adult.

Joe Stoshack collects baseball cards and is an

avid baseball fan even though he isn't such a good baseball player himself. He does odd jobs on the side to help bring in money after his parents split up. Joe's mother works as a nurse at the Hazelwood Hospital. One night at supper, she tells him she has promised their elderly neighbor, Miss Young, that Joe will clean out her attic for her. Joe isn't exactly thrilled as he finds the attic stuffed with junk. He works diligently, however, as he wants to earn some money so he can buy some more baseball cards.

As he is working, he comes across an old Honus Wagner baseball card that has become a limited addition. Joe's first thought is to sell the card, but then he goes back in time and meets Honus in person. Talking with Honus, Joe begins to weigh his previously held ideas of what is right and wrong. A dealer wants to get his hands on Joe's valuable baseball card and nearly succeeds. Miss Young rescues the card and then destroys it. Joe sends Miss Young back in time to be reunited with Honus. With newly found confidence in himself, Joe becomes a real baseball player.

Dan Gutman skillfully mixes fact with fiction in *Honus and Me* and quickly captivates the reader's imagination. This American historical novel will hold the attention of any man or boy who loves baseball, or who collects baseball cards. Authentic pictures from the era of the 1900's are scattered throughout the book. *Honus and Me* will make a great collectable for any fellow.

Quality—3 Acceptability—4

Dorcas Walker
Freelance Writer
Jamestown, Tennessee

***The Inheritance*, by Louisa May Alcott; edited by Joel Myerson and Daniel Shealy. New York: Dutton Books, 1997. ISBN 0525457569, HBB, \$18.00.**

F. England--Fiction. 188 p.
Gr. 7 - Adult.

The Inheritance is Louisa May Alcott's first novel, written in 1849. But don't be surprised if the title is unfamiliar, for this book was never published. In fact, Myerson and Shealy stumbled across the manuscript quite by accident in 1988. Imagine their excitement upon seeing the following words, in Alcott's own unmistakable handwriting, attached to the manuscript: "My first novel written at seventeen." Newly published this year, Alcott's work will be enjoyed by many.

As the tale opens, the reader is introduced to Edith Adelon, a poor orphan apparently of Italian descent; she is taken in by the wealthy Hamilton family and serves as a loyal and loving companion to young Amy Hamilton. A visiting friend, Lord Percy, comes to love Edith for her pure-hearted and generous ways. He ignores completely the difference in their social standing, but others are not so egalitarian. Soon Edith

finds she must contend with the jealousy of Amy's cousin, who wants Lord Percy for her}self.

Unfairly accused of theft, Edith is faced with losing the only family she has ever known. But a friend steps in and the truth—about the theft and about her own mysterious past—is revealed. And, of course, they all live happily ever after.

Alcott's character development and control of pace are surprisingly mature. Granted, the protagonists are a shade too perfect, and the ladies are entirely too much given to weeping and fainting spells, but once the reader lays aside the skepticism of the late twentieth century, and the biases of our time, he will find this a thoroughly pleasing tale of nobility, love, and self-sacrifice. In fact, this novel proves a refreshing contrast to the gritty realism of much of today's fiction.

The Inheritance is not only an engaging story in its own right, but provides a fascinating study of the early development of a much-loved author.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Sylvia Stopforth
Librarian, Trinity Western University
Langley, British Columbia

***Ivan and the Dynamos*, by Crystal Bowman. LCCN 96051150. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997. ISBN 0802850871, HBB, \$15.00.**

F. Hockey--Fiction. 140 p.
Gr. 4 - 6.

Andy feels very awkward about being in a new school for sixth grade and then having to be on a different ice hockey team than he was on the year before. He has looked forward to being on a team where the coach lets everyone play. His new coach instructs the boys to choose a Russian name for themselves, because Russians are really good ice hockey players. Andy chooses the name Ivan, and his team is called the Dynamos. Throughout the season, the team learns to play, and to play together. Andy writes a rap for the team, with the support of his English teacher, who also helps with his team. He often takes the role of team encourager and motivator. At the end of the successful season, his coach communicates appreciation for Andy. Andy recognizes what his parents did for him in encouraging him to continue with his sport for this season.

The reader learns a lot about ice hockey, how it is played, and how players perceive the game. The story takes the reader through most of the games of the season and the post-season, so seem to go on and on, almost in a diary format. The main character's parents support him in his dreams. The family prays together and goes to church regularly. The author shows good perception of the thoughts, feelings, and frustrations of a boy beginning to understand himself.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Judy Belcher
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington

***Kasper in the Glitter*, by Philip Ridley; illustrated by Chris Riddell. LCCN 96052213. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997. ISBN 7525457992, HBB, \$15.99.**

F. Adventure and adventurers--Fiction; Humorous stories. 204 p.
Gr. 6 - 10.

Kasper Whisky, an out-of-the-ordinary ten-year-old, lives with his mother, named Pumpkin, in the Sparkle Plenty house. The boy must oversee his mother, who does nothing except sparkle. While trying to find out who stole their yellow roses, Kasper has an encounter with a thief, Heartthrob Mink. Their friendship begins.

After Heartthrob leaves, Kasper and Pumpkin discover that her favorite brooch has disappeared. Kasper sets out to find Heartthrob, certain that he has stolen it. On the way Kasper meets Jingo, Skinnybones, Poodlecut, Fingerpoppin, and Hushabbye. He also meets King Streetwise, who has the others under his control, administering severe punishment for disobedience.

After finding out about life in the dismal Gloom, where the Lost live, Kasper hurries back home. Heartthrob and Hushabbye follow him later. Suddenly, King Streetwise and his workers show up to cause havoc in the Sparkle Plenty house and kidnap Pumpkin. Kasper, Heartthrob and Hushabbye devise a plan to rescue her. Their unique plan works, and later Kasper unexpectedly finds the missing brooch. Pumpkin and Kasper change as a result of their strange experiences.

With creative repetition of words and appealing illustrations, Ridley and Riddell use their imaginations to good advantage. The book looks good inside and out.

Two old sayings, "All that glitters is not gold," and "A leopard cannot change his spots" fit *Kasper in the Glitter*. King Streetwise, cruel and self-centered, thinks nothing of blacking an eye or two of an offender, and ordering the destruction of the cardboard box shelters belonging to the Lost. He typifies the way real-life gangs entice young people. The story shows, however, that one who yields has nothing to gain and much to lose. Finally the King suffers for his actions, and it appears he will change his ways. But by book's end he reverts to deception and cruelty.

Quality—4 Acceptability—3

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

***Lucy Winchester*, by Christmas Carol Kauffman. Harrisonburg, Va.: Christian**

Light Publications, 1992. ISBN 0878135499, PAP, \$5.95.

F. Christian fiction. 490 p.
Adult.

The story of Lucy Winchester is a factual account of a young lady's desire to know God in the early part of this century. However, as hard as she tries to get the opportunity to hear the Gospel, circumstances keep her from finding the Truth. The tragedies that come into Lucy's life cause her yearning for a Savior to grow, while the same circumstances turn others in the story away from God. Lucy is the oldest child in a home run by a domineering father who has no need for God. Seeking love from another source, Lucy elopes with a young man who promises her a Bible. After his tragic death Lucy is left alone with a baby on the way, in need of a job, and still looking for someone who will explain salvation to her. Her second husband allows her to attend church, but does not go himself. Their lives are filled with one tragedy after another. Lucy stumbles upon a revival meeting and responds to the Gospel message at the end of this 490 page book.

Christmas Carol Kauffman states in her preface that the real Lucy Winchester read this manuscript and said it was 90% fact. She was willing to share her story if it would help one other person to avoid making the mistakes that she made. Lucy is seen as a sweet person who is easily swayed by others. This is a sad story of a sheep wandering among wolves seeking her shepherd.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Patricia Perry
Retired Librarian
Westerville, Ohio

***Mystery of Black Mesa*, by Carol Hamilton; Illustrated by John Roberts. LCCN 95014262. Greenville, S.C.: Bob Jones University Press, 1995. ISBN 0890848270, PAP, \$6.49.**

F. Mystery fiction. 121 p.
Gr. 7 - 9

Mystery of Black Mesa takes place in the desert of western Oklahoma. Scally, and his sister Doreen, live with their mother in a tent out in the Black Mesa where they are hiding. Scally has tried to help his mother ever since his father has left them. His mother works on a dinosaur dig during the day.

Then a puppy shows up. Scally can't refuse the puppy's trusting eyes even though he knows they barely have enough to survive. So he hides the pup in a cave and calls him Bouncer. Early one morning when Scally goes to check on Bouncer, he sees two rough-looking characters who have hidden something in the cave. After they leave, Scally goes to check on Bouncer and finds him nearly dead. Scally explores further back in the cave to see what the men have hidden and finds

buried treasure.

When a helicopter circles around their area, Scally's mom decides they need to find another place to stay. They quickly pack up the tent and go to a nearby camping area to avoid discovery. Then Scally spots the two men in town. He is worried that they will discover where their tent is.

Scally sneaks off and goes back to the cave once again, this time finding drugs hidden in boxes. He decides to confide in his mother and another fellow on the dig about the drugs hidden up in the cave, but soon discovers that the fellow he told was one of the men involved with the drugs. Can he leave to find help, yet be sure his mother and sister are safe?

Mystery of Black Mesa is a fast paced mystery set in the western desert of no man's land. A few black and white pictures are scattered throughout the book. The text is easy to read for a slower reader. With Scally as the main character, and the setting in the wild west, the story has special appeal for boys.

Quality—3 Acceptability—4

Dorcas Walker
Freelance Writer
Jamestown, Tennessee

***Olympic Dreams*, by Lauraine Snelling. (High Hurdles; 1.) LCCN 95000483. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1995. ISBN 1556615051, PAP, \$5.99.**

F. Horses--Fiction; Olympics--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 155 p.
Gr. 6 - 9.

D. J. Randall's dream is to buy her own horse and train for the Olympics. As a young girl, D. J. had set herself the goal of learning how to ride even though she had no money for lessons. She reached that goal by working part-time for the Briones Riding Academy, in exchange for lessons.

Now she teaches other young girls how to ride and care for their horses. But she still doesn't have a horse of her own. The thirteen-year-old believes that if she can just find a way to buy her own horse, everything else will work out all right.

But a series of troubles during the summer shows D. J. that a horse isn't the answer to everything. Her secure world begins to fall apart when the grandmother who raised her suddenly decides to remarry. And D. J.'s mother seems to be too preoccupied with her own work to understand or pay much attention to D. J.'s problems.

D. J. decides that running away is the only answer until she runs into a boy who has even more troubles at home than she does. God helps her to put the pieces of her life back into perspective and ask forgiveness of those she has hurt.

In *Olympic Dreams*, author Lauraine Snelling

writes a compelling and contemporary story of a teenager learning to handle disappointments and difficult relationships with God's help.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Donna Brown
Church Librarian
Portland, Oregon

***Picture Perfect*, by Yvonne Lehman. (White Dove Romances; 4.) LCCN 96045909. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1556617089, PAP, \$3.99.**

F. Love stories. 176 p.
Gr. 9 - Adult.

Cissy goes to New York to compete as a top-ten finalist in the Dream Teen Model Search with her mother, her Aunt Helen, her friend Natalie, and her cousin Scott. Cissy is confident that she will place, when a freak accident turns her world into a spin. Suddenly she is unsure of herself, even when Antonio, whose parents own the Top Ten Agency, keeps seeing her. Cissy learns to rely on God's perfect plan even when things turn out differently than she had planned.

Her best friend, Natalie, sees New York for the first time and realizes that all is not as glamorous as it first appears. Natalie has a crush on Scott and hopes that time together will bring them closer. She gets involved with a homeless woman between sightseeing tours and shopping excursions. Natalie is always willing to lend a hand in whatever task is needed, as well as to help Scott gain perspective on what is really important in life.

Told in the third person by author Yvonne Lehman, *Picture Perfect* is a delightful teen romance featuring two girls from different backgrounds visiting New York City. White Dove Romances feature clean romance stories that support purity until marriage. *Picture Perfect* has an attractive cover and is printed in a handy size format.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Dorcas Walker
Freelance Writer
Jamestown, Tennessee

***S'Gana the Black Whale*, by Sue Stauffacher. LCCN 92017573. Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Books, 1992. ISBN 0882403966, HBB, \$15.95.**

F. Killer whales--Fiction; Whales--Fiction; Haida Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--Fiction; Grandparents--Fiction. 221 p.
Gr. 5 - 8.

Don't judge this book by its cover only. With the beautiful illustration in ocean blues and greens you might miss the spiritual messages of the text. There are many.

Derek Simpson is an unusual boy. Born one-quarter Haida (Northwest Native American) he

has two selves, himself and the other, the 'fifth reincarnation of Ilyea the great fisherman and friend of the black whale...' Derek's divorced mother sends him away from the Pacific Northwest to live in the Midwest with her father and mother who is full-blooded Haida.

An orca at a marine theme park near his grandparents' home becomes Derek's obsession as he realizes the spirit of the whale S'Gana can materialize bodily as a young Haida spirit-girl. He meets regularly with this whale-girl, causing disruption at the park in his attempts to communicate with her and execute her liberation. If the whale died, she would no longer possess a body because she is at the end of her reincarnation cycle. The whale trainer, Theresa, is "converted" by Derek (with the help of a magical whale carving) to a belief in the spiritual life of S'Gana. This young woman has a bonding experience with the whale as she swims nude with her during a night visit to the whale tank.

Even though Derek, Theresa, and the grandparents work together to free the whale, their efforts fail and she dies in captivity. Subsequently Derek and his grandmother visit the Northwest island of S'Gana's origin where he has an out-of-body/into-whale experience and is saved from drowning by S'Gana's son. Derek is consoled in the knowledge that S'Gana's spirit is free and that she is watching over them.

The story is technically well written and the books is quite suspenseful at times. The overt pushing of contemporary issues, such as children's environmental activism, animal rights, and gender neutrality, distracts from the plot's flow to a great extent.

Quality—3 Acceptability—2

Arlene S. Neal
Teacher, Covenant School
Granite Falls, North Carolina

***Take It Easy*, by David Hill. LCCN 96037550.
New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997.
ISBN 0525457631, HBB, \$14.99.**

F. Survival--Fiction; Hiking--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; New Zealand--Fiction. 163 p.
Gr. 9 - 12.

Six teenagers, three girls and three boys, embark on a seemingly innocuous venture in the New Zealand mountains. Imagine their horror when their adult guide suddenly dies. Rob is the only knowledgeable hiker and recommends staying put and making signals for the rescue team. Carl fervently opposes the idea but is overruled.

When the teenagers hear shots, Carl demands they search for the hunters. Unwilling to exhibit weakness, Rob agrees; they hurry away from camp and end up lost. It rains all night, and by morning they are trapped in the hollow of a riverbed. During their escape, Lara almost drowns and Carl is injured. With the food supply gone, clothes soaked, no way to light a fire, and Lara suffering from hypothermia, Rob and

Shawn decide to go for help. While rock climbing, Shawn falls, and Rob presses on without him. Just as Rob is about to collapse, he is rescued, and consequently so are the other teenagers.

Take It Easy is a predictable story of survival. David Hill places his characters in a difficult situation that forces them to pull together. The only well-developed character is Rob, who is trying to cope with his father's behavior after his mother's recent death, and with the responsibility he feels for his companions' safety. By the end of the story, he has successfully dealt with both matters.

The book contains some questionable elements. A sprinkling of swear words is used, one teenager misses his cigarettes, another teenager says a Maori ritual after the guide's death, and the teenagers strip to their underwear in order to dry their clothes.

Quality—3 Acceptability—3

Dianne Woodman
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Parent
Milpitas, California

***Trouble Shooting*, by Marianne Hering.
(Lights, Camera, Action Mysteries; 1.)
LCCN 96050928. Colorado Springs:
ChariotVictor Publishing, 1997. ISBN
1564765636, PAP, \$4.99.**

F. Motion pictures--Production and direction--Fiction.
156 p.
Gr. 4 - 8.

McKenna and Jade James are twins attending a performing arts school in California. Because of some commercials they do for the paper products of the Swan Softie Company, they get a shared role in an action movie filmed on Catalina Island. Their mother had been a photographer before her death. Their dad is a plastic surgeon who accompanies them on their adventure.

The title, *Trouble Shooting*, is derived from the difficulties and danger they encounter while working on the movie. Someone obviously does not want them around, and the production company is failing financially because someone is using it as a cover for smuggling drugs.

Jade becomes a Christian and is baptized in the ocean. McKenna calls out to God in a life-threatening situation and is saved. She says that she doesn't feel alone any more, now that God is watching. This book is filled with action and excitement, from warning notes left for the girls, to their meeting celebrities. A definite love interest is developed and much attention is given to what the girls choose to wear and how they look, in and out of their work on the set of the movie.

Some aspects of the story may be hard to relate to, like the fact that money is not a problem at any time, but these factors may add to the appeal of the book for pre-teen girls. The author,

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Marianne Hering, writes in a straightforward manner, and makes much use of dialogue

Quality—3 Acceptability—4

Judy Belcher
Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington

Valley of the Broken Cherry Trees, by Lensey Namioka. Hillsboro, Ore.: Blue Heron Publishing, 1980. ISBN 0936085320, PAP, \$8.95.

F. Samurai--Fiction; Japan--History--1185-1868--Fiction. 156 p.

Village of the Vampire Cat, by Lensey Namioka. Hillsboro, Ore.: Blue Heron Publishing, 1981. ISBN 0936085290, PAP, \$8.95.

F. Samurai--Fiction; Japan--Fiction. 155 p.
Gr. 7 - 12.

Zenta and his student, friend, and traveling companion, Matsuzo, halt at the breathtaking view of frothy pink in the valley below them. The inn at the bottom of this valley famous for its cherry trees is their destination. The two young ronin (unemployed samurai warriors), gaunt and hungry after a hard, lean winter, are anxious for the feast and warm beds that they hope to find there. On their way, they notice that several of the beautiful older cherry trees have been mutilated.

To their chagrin, they find that the inn is already filled with a high ranking warlord family and its samurai warriors. But the owner of the inn recognizes Zenta as the man who had saved his family in the past from a band of looting soldiers and allows him and his companion to stay in the tea house not far from the inn.

Zenta and Matsuzo plan to enjoy this season of the cherry trees but soon find themselves embroiled in unlocking the mystery of who is ruining the trees.

Village of the Vampire Cat features Zenta and his fellow warrior Matsuzo in another action-packed adventure. They arrive at the village of the tea master, Ikken, who had taken a young Zenta under his wing many years before. But something strange has been happening; the village shows signs of decay, the people act fearful and distrusting, and even Ikken is not his usual self. After both men escape an attack by something dark and menacing, a story tumbles out about the Vampire Cat who is murdering young girls.

Lensey Namioka has skillfully created these unpredictable mysteries set in sixteenth century Japan, and has filled them with adventure and action. *Valley of the Broken Cherry Trees* gives a glimpse into the traditions, religion, and way of life of the Japanese warlords who were high in social status during this period of Japanese history.

Village of the Vampire Cat focuses on the peasant and merchant lifestyles and provides insight into the meaning of the tea ceremony and the use of hara-kiri. The training and hardships in the life of the samurai warrior are also a major thread in the fabric of these stories.

The descriptions of violence during clashes between the samurai are kept to a minimum and the few episodes of drinking sake are not glamorized.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Eatontville, Washington

Walks in Beauty, by Hazel Krantz. LCCN 96040477. Flagstaff: Rising Moon, 1997. ISBN 0873586670, HBB, \$12.95.

F. Navajo Indians--Fiction; Indians of North America--New Mexico--Fiction. 182 p.
Gr. 7 - Adult.

Anita Whiterock is a fifteen-year-old Navajo caught in the struggle between the progress of the white man and the traditional ways of the Navajo. *Walks in Beauty* is Anita's Navajo name as well as the name of the book. Anita is faced with many things young Navajo girls are faced with: living in a small home with no water or electricity, learning the traditional ways, dealing with boyfriends, a first kiss, parents who are divorced, and living thirty miles or more from town.

Throughout the book the reader learns about the traditional religion of the Navajo. Anita's sister, Lola, asks Anita to be her Ideal Woman during her Kinaalda' or coming-of-age ceremony. The reader is given a view of what happens during this traditional Navajo ceremony.

Lola makes her cousin Billy laugh for the first time. This means Lola must give a "first laugh party". At this first laugh party the practice of mixing Christianity with traditionalism is very evident. In the same celebration, the grandfather repeats traditional ceremony (including prayers to the spirits) and the baby's father prays, celebrating the Christian heritage of the family. *Walks in Beauty* is a book of contrasts between the spiritual world of the Navajo and the technological world of the Anglos.

Author Hazel Krantz has written a novel that accurately portrays life in some parts of the Navajo Nation. *Walks in Beauty* describes life for a fifteen-year-old much as you would find it in the smaller reservation communities. Mrs. Krantz spent several weeks on the reservation researching her book.

For those who want to learn more about life on the reservation, this is an informative and enjoyable book.

Quality—5 Acceptability—3

Jane Mouttet

Missionary Librarian
Hilltop Christian School
Window Rock, Arizona

Where the Red Fern Grows, based on the book by Wilson Rawls; directed by Norman Toker. (Family Classics.) Chandler, Ariz.: Bridgestone Productions, 1991. ISBN 1563710129, VID, \$12.95.

F. Dogs--Fiction; Oklahoma--Fiction. 1 videocassette; 108 min., color
Gr. 3 - 8.

Where the Red Fern Grows is a classic tale, originally written by Wilson Rawls and well-loved by children for many years. It is a story of a young boy, Billy, his family, and his consuming desire to own a coon hound. How Billy sets out to own not one, but two hunting dogs, and the resulting adventures is the gist of this story. It is heartwarming and a video that the whole family will enjoy.

The video cover gives the suggestion that a strong part of this story has to do with God and Billy's grandfather's relationship to him. This is misleading. Yes, the Lord is mentioned but the relationship is minimal and only when it is to his grandpa's benefit. When a purse of money is offered as a prize at a hunting competition and Billy reminds Grandpa that the Good Book doesn't hold with gambling, Billy's granddad goes ahead anyway and throws his two dollars in. This does not suggest that the movie is not worthwhile, just that the billing for it be correct.

This video tells a wonderful story and will be enjoyed by young as well as old. But it does also have some technical difficulties. The music seems to date the film and at one point, a fellow hunter evidently uses an expletive; it is cut out, but you can still see his mouth moving and there is a split second of silence in his dialogue.

Despite any shortcomings, this is a good story and will be particularly enjoyed by children in the primary grades.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Ceil Carey
Middle School Librarian
Plano, Illinois

Wings of Gold, by Lance Patterson. LCCN 97006856. Greenville, S.C.: Bob Jones University Press, 1997. ISBN 0890849331, PAP, \$6.49.

F. Christian life--Fiction; Courage--Fiction; United States. Marine Corps--Fiction. 105 p.
Gr. 6 - 9.

Sam wants more than anything in the world to be a fighter pilot for the U.S. Marines. He believes God has led him into the Marines, and he makes a tentative decision to keep his mouth shut about his personal relationship to God so he does not get any extra flack. The Holy Spirit prompts him to share his faith; and subsequently leads him

into a relationship with a wonderful, beautiful girl; and eventually to his dream of being a fighter pilot.

One might think that *Wings of Gold* was written as an autobiography, as the author obviously knows a great deal about the Marines and flying and is very familiar with the situations in which Sam finds himself. Realistically speaking, the author relates through the characters that many Marines are interested in only one thing when it comes to girls. The story is written in a fairly analytic, straightforward style and with a lot of dialogue. Those who want to know more about learning to fly and the training it takes, or about the Marines would especially enjoy this book.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Judy Belcher

Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington

Zane Grey's *The Arizona Raiders*, starring Buster Crabbe and Marsha Hunt. Based on the novel by Zane Grey. (Zane Grey Western Classics.) Carlsbad, Calif: Bridgestone Multimedia, . ISBN 1563711850, VID, \$19.95.

F. Western fiction. 1 videocassette, 60 min.; b & w.

Zane Grey's *The Mysterious Rider*, starring Douglass Drumbrille and Russell Hayden. Based on the novel by Zane Grey. (Zane Grey Western Classics.) Carlsbad, Calif.: Bridgestone Multimedia, . ISBN 1563711842, VID, \$19.95.

F. Western fiction. 1 videocassette, 75 min.; b & w.

Gr. 7 - Adult.

As *Arizona Raiders* begins with our hero, drifter, about to be hanged. He is rescued and he and his new sidekick end up in Wyoming where they eventually hire on as hands at a horse ranch with a beautiful female owner, our heroine. Assorted characters dot the landscape. Romance abounds (1) between the hero and heroine and (2) between an inept Easterner and the owner's younger sister. The villain is the town attorney trying to hustle off the horses and blame our hero. In the course of events there is a thrilling cattle stampede, comic relief in the form of the lovelorn inept Eastern suitor, a fight and shootout against all odds, and of course the romantic kiss when all ends well.

The Mysterious Rider begins with the routine bloodless stagecoach holdup by two horsemen thirty miles from town. Aboard is the hot-tempered son of the man who has taken over a cattle ranch after its former owner was run out of town twenty years earlier. The former owner's daughter left behind and raised at the ranch is the prime love interest of the returning ne'er-do-well. Add the new foreman with a white hat as third corner of the romantic triangle, two older drifters (one the returning father) newly hired on the ranch, some rustling, hard posse riding, and much flashing of six-shooters.

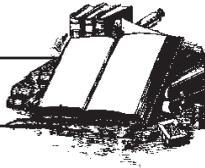
All the elements of a good old-fashioned formula 1930s-40s western are present in both films. Their 'hokiness' is delightfully nostalgic. No effort has been made to change or upgrade the quality of the original photography. Each is identified as being digitally mastered from a quality film print.. At times the light quality varies as does the sound. Transitions between scenes are sharp cuts at times requiring sharp attention from the viewer. Zane Grey continues to be a major name associated with 'good guys/bad guys' stories set in the Old West. These films would best be used for pleasure or as a discussion base for film evolution of westerns and their components.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Patricia Braum

Librarian
Wilmette Junior High
Wilmette, Illinois

BOOK REVIEWS



YOUNG ADULT NONFICTION

***Saints and Angels All Around*, by Gregory J. Wismar. LCCN 95009655. Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1995. ISBN 0570048168, PAP, \$8.99.**

270. Christian saints--Meditations; Christian saints--Biography; Angels--Meditations. 140 p.

Gr. 5 - Adult.

The book of Hebrews tells us that we are surrounded by a 'great cloud of witnesses'—those who have preceded us in the Christian life. The most notable of our predecessors are frequently called saints—some because the Church has given them an 'official' designation, others because the holiness of their lives commends them to us.

In *Saints and Angels All Around*, pastor Gregory Wismar presents vignettes of thirty-six saints and four angels. His selection ranges across the millennia of church history; the earliest is Clement of Rome, born c.35, and the most recent is Sergius (c.1315-c.1392).

To cover forty saints in a short book means little space is devoted to each one. The barest sketch of the saint's life is given, followed by a lesson drawn from the life, and a concluding prayer. The vignettes are charming and easily readable, and commend themselves to brief devotions; perhaps read aloud to children. Those interested in detailed information about a particular saint or deeper theological reflection, however, will not find them here. *Saints and Angels All Around* could be used as a springboard to further study by those unfamiliar with our Christian heritage.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Andrew M. Seddon
Physician, Author
Billings, Montana

***The Constitution of the United States*, by Karen Judson. (American Government in Action.) LCCN 95012522. Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1995. ISBN 0894905864, HBB, \$18.95.**

342.73. United States--Constitutional history. 104 p.

***The Congress of the United States*, by Michael Kronenwetter. (American Government in Action.) LCCN 96003848. Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1996. ISBN 089490745X, HBB, \$18.95.**

328.73. United States. Congress; United States--Politics and government. 104 p.

***The Supreme Court of the United States*, by Michael Kronenwetter. (American Government in Action.) LCCN 95013477. Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1995. ISBN 0894905368, HBB, \$18.95.**

347.73. United States. Supreme Court. 112 p.

***The FBI and Law Enforcement Agencies of the United States*, by Michael Kronenwetter. (American Government in Action.) LCCN 96030468. Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1997. ISBN 0894907468, HBB, \$18.95.**

353.0074. Law enforcement. 112 p.

***The Presidency of the United States*, by Karen Judson. (American Government in Action.) LCCN 95013476. Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1995. ISBN 0894905856, HBB, \$18.95.**

353.03. Presidents. 128 p.

Gr. 5 - 10.

Part of the American Government in Action Series, *The Constitution of the United States* explains the Constitution and gives background on the fifty-five men who attended the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia the summer of 1787. The first chapter and the notes about the signers flesh out these men and help readers see them as more than just signatures on a document.

Students of American history and social studies will find the reading easy, especially when explaining what has come to be called "the Great Compromise", the Virginia Proposal, and how slaves, a term not used in the Constitution itself, were to be counted. Teachers as well as students will find this readable and useful, but students will have to be led to it and walked through it because it is drab. Best used as a teacher resource in the classroom along with titles like *Sh! We're Writing the Constitution* and the Cobblestone issue about the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Each book in the series follows the same format: Short chapters; black and white illustrations, notes, glossary and index. Expect that students will have to be led to these in spite of the material found in each.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Leslie Greaves Radloff
Teacher/Librarian
Emanuel Lutheran School

W. St. Paul, Minnesota

***Thundering Earth*. (The Awesome Forces of God's Creation Series.) Chicago: Moody Video, 1995. ISBN 1575670585, VID, \$9.95.**

551.2. Earth; Tectonic plates; Volcanoes; Earthquakes. 1 video, 45 min.

***Roaring Waters*. (The Awesome Forces of God's Creation Series.) Chicago: Moody Video, 1995. ISBN 1575670577, VID, \$9.95.**

551.4. Water; Tides; Floods; Tidal waves. 1 video, 45 min.

***Whirling Winds*. (The Awesome Forces of God's Creation Series.) Chicago: Moody Video, 1995. ISBN 1575670593, VID, \$9.95.**

551.5. Winds; Hurricanes; Tornadoes; Thunderstorms. 1 video, 45 min.

Gr. 8 - Adult.

The three videos in this series present a look at the mystery of God's creation. Each video describes an aspect of the forces of the natural world in a format reminiscent of the National Geographic Society's popular science programs. Dramatic film footage and interviews with both scientists and survivors of natural disasters, are used to show the power of nature and the Creator God.

Thundering Earth looks at the dynamics of the earth's interior, focusing on the geological forces of volcanoes and earthquakes. The study of plate tectonics provides the theoretical basis for much of the discussion. Examples of the effects of large earthquakes are used to show the destructive force of these natural disasters. A basis explanation of the Richter scale, which measures the force of earthquakes, is also given.

Roaring Waters presents an overview of the destructive force of floods and tidal waves (tsunamis). The awesome forces of a thunderstorm are described in some detail. An overview of how modern science has attempted to predict and control weather events is undertaken in order to show what man can and can't predict or control when facing these events. Information is also provided on El Nino and its effects on the earth's weather. The second half of this program focuses primarily on the geological effects of water.

In *Whirling Winds* the sheer force of hurricanes and tornadoes is described. At any given time two thousand storms are occurring around the world. This program also provides an in-depth

look at lightning and the sheer amount of energy produced during a thunder storm. In the second part of the video there is a discussion of the science of weather forecasting, with an emphasis on newer methods of meteorological analysis. The use of Doppler radar and supercomputer weather modeling is also discussed.

Given the overlapping content of these three videos one wonders why they were not condensed into one ninety-minute presentation. The general meteorological and hydrological information is repeated in each of the three programs. In both *Roaring Waters* and *Thundering Winds*, geological information is given in a similar format. While each video can be viewed individually, to view all three together results in significant repetition. Despite the claim to present a look at the world's weather, the subject matter of these videos is almost exclusively American, as are the scientists and disaster victims interviewed. The Awesome Forces of God's Creation Series provides a good, basic introduction to the natural forces of God's creation. A plethora of facts, well-done graphics, and dramatic film footage enhance the aims of the programs.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Ted Goshulak

Librarian, Trinity Western University
Langley, British Columbia

Animals in Art, by Louisa Somerville. (Let's Investigate Art.) LCCN 96004414. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1996. ISBN 0761400125, HBB, \$15.50.

704.9. Art appreciation; Animals in art. 48 p.

Imagination in Art, by George Taylor. (Let's Investigate Art.) LCCN 96004413. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1996. ISBN 0761400109, HBB, \$15.50.

701. Art appreciation; Creation (Literary, artistic, etc.). 48 p.

Conflict in Art, by Clare Gogerty. (Let's Investigate Art.) LCCN 96004412. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1996. ISBN 0761400117, HBB, \$15.50.

704.9. Art appreciation; War in art. 48 p.

Journeys in Art, by J. D. Lewis. (Let's Investigate Art.) LCCN 96004415. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1996. ISBN 0761400095, HBB, \$15.50.

704.9. Art appreciation; Voyages and travels in art. 48 p.

People in Art, by Clare Gogerty; artwork by Anabel Spenceley. (Let's Investigate Art.) LCCN 94008956. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1994. ISBN 1854357670, HBB, \$15.50.

701. Portraits; Art appreciation. 48 p.

Gr. 4 - 8.

The format of each title in the series is the same:

seven short chapters, brief information about some of the artists, and an index on page 48. Each chapter contains limited text and specially marked boxes: (1) an activity box with ideas for personal projects designed to give insight into the techniques of the artist; (2) an information box giving additional explanation of text, or in-depth data on an artist or particular work; and (3) a look and see box with suggestions for close observation in the book or other sources of art including displays of art works. Art reproductions are as colorful and accurate to the original as the quality of the paper and ink allow. The series seems to be geared to involve the middle grade reader in art appreciation and to develop an awareness of technique combined with appropriate art form. While the format appears for middle grade students, many of the concepts presented require some artistic comprehension.

Animals in Art examines the relationship between humans and the rest of the animal kingdom throughout history. Animals are depicted in art as pets, workers, imaginary beasts, scientific firsts, religious icons, and illusive realistic likenesses.

Imagination in Art examines the relationship of creativity to personal expression and a reflection of culture. Illustrations describe seeing with the mind's eye, creation by dreams, the role of perspective, the ability to omit obstacles in a scene, the role of feeling in modern art, and the future depicted in art.

Conflict in Art depicts various types of battles that exist, whether political between countries, within ourselves, or in the sports arena. Illustrations include the glories as well as the protests.

Journeys in Art covers spiritual and physical trips in various cultures. Concentration focuses on setting out, the road, pioneers and explorers, legendary expeditions, arrival, and judgment day.

People in Art examines self portraits, other people's portraits, sculpture, family life, people in their daily lives at work and at play, and the depiction of hero vs. villain.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Patricia Braun
Junior High Librarian
Wilmette, Illinois

Joy in the Journey, by Michael Card; illustrated by Timothy R. Botts. LCCN 96006337. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996. ISBN 0785277897, HBB, \$24.99.

811. Christian poetry, American; Bible--History of Biblical events--Poetry. 104 p.

Gr. 10 - Adult.

"Long ago I realized that one purpose of the Bible was to turn an eye into an ear...Music provides a means toward this transformation."

(Forward, Card) Conversely, in *Joy in the Journey*, the lyrics of Card have been converted back into a visual delight by the calligraphy of Botts. Three sections, fifteen songs each. Love's Sacred Mystery: The story of Alpha and Omega from the Torah's promise to the Gospels' fulfillment. Those Who Belong to Eternity: Our personal response to the Hound of Heaven and our daily journey with Jesus. The Call Is to Community: Our relationship to family and the ever-expanding ranks of God's people. Three columns. They tell the story. The lyrics penned by Michael Card; the scripture that inspired the song plus a short narrative of the song's impetus, and Botts' interpretation. Balance. Satisfaction.

Anyone familiar with the art work of Botts ("Doorposts," "Messiah," "Proverbs," "Windsongs") will automatically reach for *Joy in the Journey*. And they will not be disappointed because the quality of craftsmanship merged with sensitivity is intact. The same is true with the scholarly, deeply spiritual lyrics of contemporary Christian music artist, Michael Card. *Joy in the Journey* is a treasure for the Christian, a witness to the unbeliever.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Su Hagerty

Director of Choral Music
Liberty High School
Issaquah, Washington

Diana Waring's Ancient Civilizations & the Bible, Vol. 1A, by Diana Waring; original illustrations by Isaac Waring. (A Digging Deeper Study Guide.) Spearfish, S.D.: Diana Waring—History Alive, 1997. ISBN , PAP, \$19.95.

909. History, Ancient; Bible. Old Testament. 116 p.

Gr. 5 - Adult.

Diane Waring presents a fascinating, creative, supplemental study guide to her cassette curriculum *What in the World's Going on Here? Ancient Civilizations & The Bible* uses individual learning styles to present many lesson options to use with the tape series, including music, creative writing, and science. The guide is divided into units that include objectives and people involved, as well as giving a seminar outline and vocabulary. Research ideas are suggested and a "Meet the People" section lists materials that should be available in local libraries. The twelve units presented use a multi-age approach which would work well for a homeschool or multi-grade classroom situation. This study guide focuses on history from Creation to Christ and helps tie the world's activities of the time to what is happening in the Bible. It is best used in conjunction with the tape series.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Paula Stewart Marks

Principal, Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

The Torn Veil : The Story of Sister Gulshan Esther, by Sister Gulshan Esther; as told to Thelma Sangster, with Noble Din interpreter. Fort Washington, Penn.: Christian Literature Crusade, 1989. ISBN 0875084737, PAP, \$5.95.

921 (248). Esther, Gulshan; Muslims--Controversial literature. 155 p.

Gr. 6 - Adult.

Gulshan Fatima was born into a prominent Muslim family. She was crippled from infancy, then lost her beloved father in her teens. When she cried out in desperation and was healed, Gulshan devoted herself whole-heartedly to Jesus. This turn from Islam to Christianity caused her many problems within her family—including rejection and threats of violence and even death. But Gulshan Esther, having taken on the Christian name and Christian faith wholeheartedly, was not to be dissuaded.

This book is a fascinating and rare opportunity to look at life from inside the eyes of a Muslim woman turned Christian. Though the writing style isn't polished, the subject is fascinating. A study of the 10/40 Window and/or the Muslim religion would benefit from this personal view of Muslim life. Miracles abound, Christians are seen as the true family of God, and Jesus is given all the credit in this autobiography.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Barbara Beyer
ACSI Missions Project Coordinator
Colorado Springs, Colorado

The Man with the Bird on His Head : The Amazing Fulfillment of a Mysterious Island Prophecy, by John Rush & Abbe Anderson. (International Adventurers.) Seattle: YWAM Publishing, 1997. ISBN 1576580059, PAP, \$8.99.

921 (266). Missionaries--Biography; Rush, John. 190 p.

Gr. 7 - Adult.

With the assistance of Abbe Anderson, John Rush tells the story of his role in the conversion to Christianity of a Pacific Island tribe of cargo cult followers. His life as a minister has led him aboard the Christian relief and medial ship, the Pacific Ruby, sponsored by Mercy Ships. In the Vanuatu Islands off the coast of Australia, they visit the island of Tanna. A group of islanders have been waiting fifty years for the return of an American they call John Frum—or John Frum (from) America.

Tanna was used during the Second World War as a naval and marine base. During this time an American named John told the islanders that the suppression enforced on them in the name of Christ by the missionaries was wrong, that God was right and so were their own customs. Before leaving the island he promised he would return bringing them help and education. Their lives centered around waiting for the return of John

Frum America. Hearing of John Rush's visit to the island, they believe he is their messiah. This makes Rush uncomfortable, but the other pastors believe it is the only opportunity to convert these people to Christianity. They will listen to no one but the man they believe to be their savior.

Rush and Anderson succeed in telling a compelling story of the events at Tanna island. When the second part of the book describes Rush's own journey from atheism to Christianity, the book is difficult to put down. Black and white photographs personalize the island events for the reader. Descriptions of island environment and native life are interesting. Reading this unusual personal experience is a faith-lifting reminder that God does indeed work in mysterious ways.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Lisa A. Wroble
Freelance Writer and Librarian
Plymouth, Michigan

Colin Powell : People's Hero, by Reggie Finlayson. LCCN 96016740. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Company, 1997. ISBN 0822528916, HBB, \$14.96.

921 (355). Powell, Colin L.; Generals; Afro-Americans--Biography. 64 p.

Gr. 4 - 6.

Colin Powell: People's Hero is a focused account of the life of General Colin Powell, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was the first black and the youngest person to hold this position and became well-known because of his work during the Persian Gulf War. The text emphasizes his training and preparation for his work and his strong family ties and their importance in his life. Enough details are given to help the reader understand what happened to him and how he made decisions. This biography gives a lot of information without talking down to the reader and in a way that makes Colin Powell real. It quotes from his autobiography several times in a way that authenticates this work.

Several photographs effectively illustrate various times in Colin Powell's life. Some are formal poses, some from news coverage, and some appear to come from a family album. The book concludes with a bibliography for further information, an index, and information about the author.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Judy Belcher
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington

Gregor Mendel : Father of Genetics, by Roger Klare. (Great Minds of Science.) LCCN 96035791. Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1997. ISBN 0894907891, HBB, \$18.95.

921 (575.1). Mendel, Gregor, 1822-1884; Geneticists. 128 p.

Louis Pasteur : Disease Fighter, by Linda Wasmer Smith. (Great Minds of Science.) LCCN 96038082. Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1997. ISBN 0894907905, HBB, \$18.95.

921 (509). Pasteur, Louis, 1822-1895; Scientists. 128 p.

Edwin Hubble : Discoverer of Galaxies, by Claire L. Datnow. (Great Minds of Science.) LCCN 96037095. Springfield, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1997. ISBN 0894909347, HBB, \$18.95.

921 (520). Hubble, Edwin Powell, 1889-1953; Astronomers. 128 p.

Gr. 4 - 8.

Gregor Mendel received an education because his parents saw this as important, and he had natural talent for learning. Later, Mendel used much of his early education in gardening to perform his comprehensive research. He became the Father of Genetics through his innovative study of heredity.

Edwin Hubble thrived on challenge. As a child, he set lofty goals for himself and easily achieved them. Later, he had to work much harder to attain his self-appointed goals. His ultimate goal to be an astronomer was delayed by his father's dreams for him to be an attorney. Although Hubble studied law in college, he also studied astronomy. He eventually entered the field of astronomy. Using the powerful Hale telescope, he took pictures repeatedly of a set of stars. Through comparison and analysis, he was able to use his pictures to prove that there are other galaxies within both the Milky Way and the universe as a whole.

Louis Pasteur was born to parents who encouraged his innate curiosity. This curiosity led him to develop love for and expertise in art and science. Through the latter, he made many significant discoveries which still affect our lives today. Some of his findings that we find useful are pasteurization, rabies vaccination, yeast's involvement in fermentation, dismissal of the spontaneous generation theory, disease identification and control. Pasteur's devotion to science has saved many lives and improved the quality of all our lives.

Each of these titles of the Great Minds of Science series are well written and interesting to read. They will keep the attention of readers. The stories of the dedication of the scientists are similar, but their individual differences in preparation and approach will provide point of connection for today's diverse youth. The titles are supported by photographs of the subjects and scientists discussed. The authors have conducted detailed research, and provide references. There are a glossary, chronology, index, chapter notes and further readings included at the end of each volume.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Carol M. Jones, MLIS
Children's Librarian
Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Ludwig Van Beethoven : Composer, by Dynise Balcavage. (Great Achievers : Lives of the Physically Challenged.) LCCN 96046395. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 0791020827, HBB, \$19.95.

921 (780). Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770-1827; Composers. 120 p.

Ernest Hemingway : Writer, by Melissa McDaniel. (Great Achievers : Lives of the Physically Challenged.) LCCN 95041554. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 0791024202, HBB, \$19.95.

921 (813). Hemingway, Ernest, 1899-1961; Authors, American. 120 p.

Gr. 6 - 8.

Beethoven was recognized as a genius early in his musical career by such contemporaries as Mozart and Haydn. His family had been acclaimed as musicians for several generations. Listeners to his works see the beauty of composition but miss the personality of the private composer. An unstable childhood and the frustrations in the loss of his hearing as a young adult contributed to his becoming a volatile person, constantly changing his mind and often assuming people knew his thinking. Whatever the reasons, this portrait is not positive about the man as a person, but it is the description of a strong man overcoming his handicaps. Previous biographies by Kaufmann, Sadie, and the editors of *Horizon Magazine* portray the same tormented life occurring when Europe was undergoing sweeping political change.

Balcavage tries to show Beethoven's reactions to his silent world when the music welled inside him and only others could enjoy the results. The text seems a bit choppy as Balcavage attempts to combine the great musical talent present with the suffering of the artist's hearing loss. The artistic temperament is evident throughout the book but more time seems to be spent focusing on the conflicts in the later part of Beethoven's life regarding custody of his nephew Karl and his behavior and his interactions with people after losing his hearing than is given to interpretation/evaluation of his musical works. Photographs of portraits, and music sheets are interspersed throughout the text.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Ernest Hemingway seems to have a smoother beginning with the opening chapters devoted to time spent on family life, and his strict and pious upbringing. The writing style is interpreted in terms of events in Hemingway's life. As much of his work was autobiographically based, the short stories and novels often take their titles from these events in his life (ex. *Movable Feast*), a quote about Paris and his life there. His training

at an early age developed a love of the outdoors and hunting, thus the macho man image.

Each chapter seems to discuss and interpret each literary step as it parallels Hemingway's life and is emphasized with personalized snapshots. McDaniel does not ignore Hemingway's depression or alcoholism, as this great author was commonly photographed with a cigarette in hand or drink on the table.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

There is a vast contrast between two family beginnings, yet both men experienced instability and brooding despair. Both overcame their torment to be leaders in their artistic field. The intent of the series is to provide stories of people who find strength and courage to succeed despite handicaps whatever that handicap may be. As a result the books appears to be focused on the handicap at the expense of the positive success factor. Photos are well labeled and appear near but not necessarily with the text. Good appendices, bibliographies, chronologies, and indices are part of each title in the series.

Patricia Braun
Junior High Librarian
Wilmette, Illinois

Robert Louis Stevenson : Finding Treasure Island, by Angelica Shirley Carpenter & Jean Shirley. LCCN 96048274. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1997. ISBN 0822549557, HBB, \$17.95.

921 (828). Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894; Authors, Scottish. 144 p.

Gr. 9 - Adult.

Robert Louis Stevenson : Finding Treasure Island chronicles the life story of Robert Louis Stevenson who was dubbed Louis. He was a sickly person from the age of two and an eccentric man. Angelica Shirley Carpenter and Jean Shirley write a fascinating history of Louis and the interweaving of his life and writings.

The book is excellently compiled, with a reinforced binding, superior quality paper, and black and white illustrations incorporating photographs of Louis's life and reproductions of artwork that correspond with his publications. Well-authenticated, the book includes a map of his journeys, a list of sources, a bibliography, an index, and photo acknowledgments. The book's hard cover and dust jacket is attractively illustrated with Louis's photo, a scene from one of his stories, and a picture of the Equator, a sailing ship.

Overall the book is fascinating, but parents and teachers should be aware that as a young man Louis squandered his stipend in pubs and brothels and repudiated his faith in God. Before marrying Fanny, they lived together, and Fanny was fond of cigarettes and guns.

Quality—5 Acceptability—3

Dianne Woodman
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Parent
Milpitas, California

The Mexican War of Independence. (World History Series.) LCCN 96014216. San Diego, Calif.: Lucent Books, 1997. ISBN 1560062975, HBB, \$16.95.

972. Mexico--History--Wars of Independence, 1810-1821. 112 p.

The California Gold Rush, by Tom Ito. (World History Series.) LCCN 96026354. San Diego, Calif.: Lucent Books, 1997. ISBN 1560062932, HBB, \$16.95.

979.4. California--Gold discoveries; Gold mines and mining--California--History--19th century. 112 p.

The Watts Riot, by Liza N. Burby. (World History Series.) LCCN 96054585. San Diego: Lucent Books, 1997. ISBN 1560063009, HBB, \$16.95.

979.4. Watts Riot, Los Angeles, Calif., 1965; Afro-Americans--Civil rights; Afro-Americans--Social conditions. 128 p.

The Black Death, by Phyllis Corzine. (World History Series.) LCCN 96019441. San Diego: Lucent Books, 1997. ISBN 1560062991, HBB, \$16.95.

614.5. Black death--History; Plague--History; Diseases--History. 112 p.

The Mexican Revolution, by Mary Pierce Frost and Susan Keegan. (World History Series.) LCCN 96002402. San Diego, Calif.: Lucent Books, 1997. ISBN 1560062924, HBB, \$16.95.

972.08. Mexico--History--Revolution, 1910-1920. 128 p.

The History of Slavery, by Norman L. Macht and Mary Hull. (World History Series.) LCCN 96045640. San Diego, Calif.: Lucent Books, 1997. ISBN 1560063025, HBB, \$16.95.

306.3. Slavery--History. 112 p.

Gr. 6 - 10.

The format of each title in this series includes a forward explaining the essential unique qualities of the various Lucent series, followed by a timeline of important dates relevant to the event under discussion. An introduction to the event provides a brief overview as well as interpreting the event's place in history as a whole. The central portion of the text is a chronological overview with several primary quotations and numerous illustrations. These break the text while providing perspective about the people involved. The strength of the series is its attempt to provide information by example. Quotations are cited and full footnotes follow the end of the text. Also found at the end of each title is a glossary, annotated further reading recommendations, and an annotated bibliography. A comprehensive index is provided along with full credits. The information is clear and reads quickly. Students wanting more depth may use this series as a good starting

point for further research.

The Mexican War of Independence traces the roots of rebellion throughout the history of Mexico from the time of conquest in the 1500s to its role in the world today with emphasis on the events leading to the actual revolution. Only one chapter details the revolution itself.

The California Gold Rush covers about ten years in the history of California. The book begins with the discovery of gold and the spreading of the news, but the emphasis focuses on the dream of gold, the reality of a mine, and the boom towns that developed.

The Watts Riot centers on the detailed events of a few days in August, 1965. These events are also discussed in terms of a 100 year timeline of Jim Crow laws, and civil rights issues.

The Black Death focuses on the spread of the disease in Europe from 1347-1351. Resulting changes in medieval Europe as a result of this plague are then examined.

The Mexican Revolution briefly reviews the election of Diaz in 1877 describing his beginning peaceful efforts to bring industrialization to Mexico. However, with his seventh election in 1910 the seeds of revolution grew more rapidly. The bulk of the text follows events from 1910 to 1927—the actual rebellion, each of the subsequent elections, the leaders, and the reigns of blood and terror that followed.

The History of Slavery covers the concept from earliest times, 4000 B.C. to present. One chapter is devoted to the American slavery issue, but the universality of slavery as a human condition throughout the history of mankind remains the focal point.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Patricia Braum
Librarian, Wilmette Junior High
Wilmette, Illinois

***The Ancient Maya*, by Irene Flum Galvin. (Cultures of the Past.) LCCN 95047478. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 1997. ISBN 0761400915, HBB, \$19.95.**

972.81. Mayas--History; Mayas--Antiquities; Central America--Antiquities. 80 p.

***The Ancient Romans*, by Kathryn Hinds. (Cultures of the Past.) LCCN 95044099. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 1997. ISBN 0761400907, HBB, \$19.95.**

937. Rome--Civilization. 80 p.

***The Celts of Northern Europe*, by Kathryn Hinds. (Cultures of the Past.) LCCN 95044101. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 1997. ISBN 0761400923, HBB, \$19.95.**

948. Celts. 80 p.

***The Kingdom of Benin in West Africa*, by Heather Millar. (Cultures of the Past.) LCCN 95044098. Tarrytown, N.Y.:**

Benchmark Books, 1997. ISBN 0761400885, HBB, \$19.95.

966.9. Bini (African people); Benin (Nigeria). 80 p.

***The Persian Empire*, by Karen Zeinert. (Cultures of the Past.) LCCN 95044123. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 1997. ISBN 0761400893, HBB, \$19.95.**

935. Iran--History--To 640. 80 p.

Gr. 4 - 9.

This series of books about the ancient world were written to a well-defined formula for presenting information. Each book has a section on the history of the people, the cultural history including the arts, a thorough account of their belief system and how these beliefs were demonstrated in their society, and the legacy the people left. Pronunciations of appropriate vocabulary follow those words in the text. At the end of each book is a time line, glossary, suggestions for further reading, a bibliography, an index, and information about the excellent qualifications of the author. Each book has a section titled "If you lived in..." that pulls the young adult reader into the culture in a more personal way. Each explains carefully how information was discovered that we know to be true. Numerous photographs of countryside and magnificent pieces of art illustrate each volume. Insets, of extra bits of information, are found here and there in the text. Instead of the traditional method of dating of B.C. and A.D., this series of books uses B.C.E. (Before Common Era) and C.E. (Common Era). All in all, these books are very interesting and compelling to read.

The Ancient Maya begins with a history of the knowledge we have of these people. Their history is divided into periods, and is known and studied because much was written. Much was also destroyed by the conquering Spanish, who wanted to eliminate the pagan influences of the culture. Every part of the Mayan life and achievement reflected their beliefs: incredible architecture, calendar, sculpture, numbers. Their wonderful art "gave face" to their religion.

The Ancient Romans saw themselves as talented in the art of government and patriotism was the guiding principle. The text details the many contributions of the Romans, such as the invention of concrete, the Latin language, and the work of the law. They saw themselves as talented in the art of government and patriotism was the guiding principle. The Romans tolerated all deities so long as they were not perceived as threatening to the state. This book takes a psychological development of religion perspective when it states that the people, as part of their ritual, believed in different kinds of personal saviors, and that the Christian Church fit into this mode of thinking.

The Celts of Northern Europe begins with an overview of conquests and defeats of the Celts (kelts) and a very helpful map. While these people did not have one mythology shared by all the tribes, they thought that gods and goddesses

lived side by side with them in a very real way, often mingling in animal form. While many of their practices were violent and a state of war was considered normal and even desirable, their culture was rich with the love of music, poetry, and storytelling.

The Persian Empire was obviously written with a clear view toward the historical importance of this great ancient people. After the summarizing the various empires, the author works through with clear understanding the lifestyle and contributions of these people. She saw the roots of the belief in personal salvation, that men and women could choose to do good or evil and thereby go to heaven or hell as a result, in the teachings of the Zoroaster.

The Kingdom of Benin in West Africa was written in a little more basic style than the others in the series and did not cover as much information. This is probably because the history of this people is remembered with an oral tradition and is described here in much the same way. Also, the population being described is not as large nor as ancient as some of the others. A simple map helps define who these people were.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Judy Belcher
Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School
Bremerton, Washington

***Arlington National Cemetery*, by R. Conrad Stein. (Cornerstones of Freedom.) LCCN 95006307. Chicago: Children's Press, 1995. ISBN 0516066250, HBB, \$16.40.**

975.5. Arlington National Cemetery (VA). 32 p.

Gr. 5 - 8.

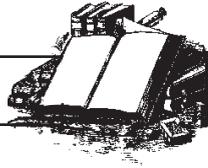
Arlington National Cemetery chronicles the history of the famous cemetery by that name. In 1778 Martha Washington's son, John Park Custis, purchased an estate along the Potomac River. During the Civil War it was chosen as a national cemetery. As Arlington's prestige grew, soldiers from previous wars were re-buried there. Now the cemetery holds veterans from all American wars.

R. Conrad Stein's narration of over twenty-five personal histories laces the facts of the cemetery together with the conflicts that united them all. Black and white, and colored photographs illustrate the text. The faces of the people add significance to the pictures of the simple white stones that mark their graves. A glossary, timeline chart, and index are included.

Arlington National Cemetery is a part of the Cornerstones of Freedom series that depicts American history for readers in grades five through eight.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Melinda Torgerson
Freelance Writer
Newport, Washington



Before Night Falls, by **MaryAnn Minatra**. (Legacy of Honor; 1.) LCCN 96010713. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1565074327, PAP, \$10.99.

F. Germany--History--1933-1945--Fiction; Married people--Germany--Fiction; Americans--Germany--Fiction. 461 p.
Gr. 11 - Adult.

MaryAnn Minatra begins the Legacy of Honor Series with Max Farber's twelfth birthday. In a family where might, power, military and financial success are important, Max favors truth and honor. Despite his older brother's persecution and example, Max chooses a different road. This excellent historical novel depicts Germany, the rise of Hitler, and the persecution of the Jews from 1916 to 1940.

Before Night Falls is not one person's story, but many. There is Wilhelm, a young Jew, and his parents; the Rabbi and his violinist daughter; Josef, the doctor, and his niece Emelie, an aspiring photographer, who wants to show the world what is happening. Each of these people is affected by the growing rise of Nazism. Woven

into their stories are glimpses of real people: Roosevelt, Churchill, Albert Lebrun, Jesse Owens, and their response to the growing Germany imperialism. The book ends with the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Paula Stewart Marks
Principal Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

Beyond the Wild Shores, by **Patricia Hickman**. (Land of the Far Horizon; 4.) LCCN 97021022. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 1556615442, PAP, \$9.99.

F. Australia--History--Fiction; Teachers--Fiction. 287 p.
Gr. 10 - Adult.

Beyond the Wild Shores is a novel set in New South Wales, in the year 1807. Bailey Templeton, a young independent woman, leaves England to teach school in the remote and dangerous town of Sydney Cove. Sydney Cove

is a settlement that is under English rule and is made up largely of convicts (and their families) who have been transported from England.

Bailey, upon her arrival, discovers that Captain Grant Hogan hired her believing she was a man. Captain Hogan attempts to persuade Bailey to return to England, telling her that an immediate male replacement will be sought for in England. However, Bailey feels that God has led her to Sydney Cove, and is determined to bring education to the children, despite their poor environment and lack of parental support. When Bailey proves herself capable of the task, Captain Hogan offers his support and protection, but Bailey remains suspicious of his character and motives.

Bailey is also befriended by the Farrell and Prentice families. They give support and protection to Bailey when Captain Hogan is abruptly transferred, when she is pressured to resign, and when attempts are made against her life. These circumstances lead Bailey to question the directions she is going. Is Sydney Cove where God wants her to be?

A Note from the Editor: by Mary McKinney



"There are three things that last forever; faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of them all is love."

1 Corinthians 13

Love is that great universal theme underlying almost every type of written piece, movie or video. Wherever one turns you come face to face with the reality of love's presence, or the lack of it. Unfortunately, in the 90's there is much less unselfish, giving love than the "do your own thing, whatever feels good," type of self indulgence. And so comes the flood of books covering every aspect of "love" imaginable.

Critics of such popularized "romance" fiction are as abundant as the reading material itself. I have even heard fair warning to women to beware of being "hooked" on romance novels, as they are as much an addiction as anything else. But as always, a general statement can never truly

represent the whole, and though it is good to consider our actions, I believe that with a little forethought and care we can find uplifting and encouraging tales. Such well-written, thoughtful stories can spur us on to desire a better relationship with our marriage partner and help us graciously to give preference to others.

"There is no fear in love; but love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18.) With such wisdom and admonition from the greatest source, God's Word, let us discover together some possibilities of fine reading, or at least good and wholesome entertainment that may leave the reader with fruitful inspiration!

Some notable authors in the "romance" field are Michael Phillips and Judith Pella. They have co-authored several series that are outstanding examples of fine entertainment mixed with a much appreciated godliness. The Stonewyck Series, and The Russians are excellent examples of all that is fine and wholesome in well-written romance novels. As well as an interesting read, the reader can expect to find spiritual insight into God's perspective on love and His divine leading and

purpose in relationships as well.

Other fine authors in the "romance" arena include Linda Chaikin with her Heart of India Series, as well as, The Royal Pavilions and The Great Northwest Series. In my opinion, Boede Thoene (pronounced Tay'nee) has an outstanding series, The Shiloh Legacy, mixing romance, adventure, and of course, historical accuracy in her presentation. Lori Wick has many popular books out as well, a favorite of mine being The Kensington Chronicles. Several of her novels have dominated the best seller list.

New books are being added daily to this popular genre. There's a lot to say about romance novels, but especially that they speak to that most moving emotion of all - love. A noted doctor listed several emotions which produced disease in human beings: fear, frustration, rage, resentment, hatred, envy, and jealousy. He then noted that the one and only antidote that can save people from being destroyed by these powerful forces is - you guessed it - love!

Beyond the Wild Shores is a novel that contains romance, suspense, and clearly defined spiritual truths. The author, Patricia Hickman, makes her characters come alive and draws the reader into their lives. The main characters' struggles are relevant and common to us all. As a title in a series, previous events are alluded to, but the novel contains enough detail so that it can stand alone.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Tammy Williams
Social Worker/Homemaker
Port Orchard, Washington

By My Hands : A Novel, by Alton Gansky.
LCCN 96004915. Minneapolis:
ChariotVictor Publishing, 1996. ISBN
1564765342, PAP, \$10.99.

F. Hospitals—Fiction. 320 p.
Gr. 7 - Adult.

Extraordinary events are occurring at Kingston Memorial Hospital in San Diego. Bill Langford is miraculously cured from kidney and liver cancer after a visit by a man in a white lab coat. Bill's immediate recovery is witnessed by his wife, sitting vigil by his bedside. Doctors and hospital administrators are puzzled and want to keep the event confidential since they can't explain it.

Adam Bridger, pastor of a community church, suddenly becomes ill and has to leave the pulpit one Sunday morning. Admitted to Kingston Memorial with an inflamed appendix, he is there when the next healing miracle occurs. Lisa Halley, a severe burn victim, recovers overnight and her scarred and charred body is replaced with soft, pink healthy skin.

An anonymous tip to a television news station about the miracles results in a top news anchor, Priscilla Simms, begging to be assigned to do an in-depth investigation. Hospital administrator, Dr. Evan Morgan, refuses to cooperate, insists on a news moratorium, and adamantly states the reports are highly exaggerated. The rumors of miracles cause crowds of the crippled and handicapped to camp in the hospital's lobby, begging to see the "Healer." For awhile, Pastor Bridges is suspected of being the Healer.

To add to the mystery, when the recovered victims leave the hospital to go home, they disappear, and soon police are investigating. Pastor Bridges is called to minister to families of the missing and to do some sleuthing of his own. He knows the healings are not hoaxes but he struggles with despair over the masses of the medically needy, praying for healing.

Author Alton Gansky maintains the suspense. Though the story stretches credibility, he keeps the tension high. There is a scene of sexual temptation of the pastor, but the incident is well handled.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Barbara Taenzler
Freelance Writer and Book Reviewer
Greenwood, Iowa

Caught in the Middle, by Gayle Roper. (An Amhearst Mystery; 1.) LCCN 96050279.
Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House,
1997. ISBN 0310209951, PAP, \$9.99.

F. Mystery fiction; Murder—Fiction. 238 p.
Gr. 9 - Adult.

Caught in the Middle is a modern day mystery set in the town of Amhearst. The main character, Merrileigh (Merry) Kramer, is a twenty-six year old newspaper reporter who has recently left the security of her Christian family and home town. She has also left behind Jack, her long-term boyfriend who doesn't have the word "commitment" in his vocabulary.

When Merry discovers a dead body of an unknown man in her car trunk, she finds herself deeply involved in a murder mystery. In spite of the fact that Merry finds herself in life-threatening situations, she is determined to discover who the murderer is and get the "scoop" for her newspaper. Merry meets Curt Carlyle, a local artist, who shows her all of the caring and selflessness that Jack lacked. She makes it clear that she does not wish or need Curt's "protection." Yet, Merry finds herself attracted to Curt, even while she continually pushes him away.

Caught in the Middle is a quick, sometimes humorous mystery, somewhat predictable. The heroine's actions and language depict a person in her early twenties to the point that a more mature reader might find it a bit dramatic. But, to the right audience, it is an enjoyable story with Christian morals and real life struggles. Underlining the mystery, is the theme of a young woman struggling to overcome loneliness, gain independence, and find a secure place in God. The author, Gayle Roper, ends the novel on such a note as to leave the reader in anticipation for the next in the series.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Tammy Williams
Social Worker/homemaker
Port Orchard, Washington

Circumstantial Evidence : A Novel, by James Scott Bell. LCCN 97003344. Nashville:
Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1997. ISBN
0805463593, PAP, \$13.99.

F. Christian fiction; Legal stories. 327 p.
Gr. 11 - Adult.

Sandy Joseph should have known, but he didn't, and we don't know why he is killed until well into the story line. *Circumstantial Evidence* is a modern day novel written about a deputy district attorney, Tracy Shepherd, working tough cases in the city of Los Angeles. Striving to keep her faith alive and her integrity strong in the midst of

corruption and power plays, even in the DA's office, Tracy wants justice. If it means prosecuting instead of a plea bargain when wrong has been done, or on the other hand not prosecuting when it seems someone is falsely accused. What's right is right. Endeavoring to get to the bottom of Sandy Joseph's murder, it seems Tracy has made an enemy. She begins to receive threats and strange things begin to happen. Tracy is no longer sure who the good guys are, or who can be trusted. How far is she willing to go in her stand, when it could mean life or death?

James Scott Bell states his goal is a book that you don't want to put down. He has succeeded. Bell writes in such a way to grab your attention at the very beginning, you MUST turn the page because he continues to add twists and turns to keep things suspenseful. Even when going back and forth to different scenes we are able to keep on track. Somewhat gory detail of killings, but not gratuitous. His characters are all real and unique, believable people, believable dialogue. A little light on the spiritual stuff, but it is there. A credible story line, a former trial lawyer, Bell knows of which he writes. You aren't left feeling the bad guys won. Retribution is meted out. Justice prevails.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Jannet Hoeffner
Freelance Writer
Prairie City, Oregon

Conquered Heart, by Lisa Samson. (The Abbey Series; 1.) LCCN 96006121. Eugene,
Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 1996. ISBN
1565074483, PAP, \$9.99.

F. England—Middle Ages—Fiction; Westminster
Abbey—Fiction. 391 p.
Gr. 10 - Adult.

It is the middle of the eleventh century and King Edward, ailing suddenly, is unable to officiate at the long awaited dedication of the completion of Westminster Abbey. Griffin, godson of the king, and son of the royal stone mason in charge of the abbey's construction, finds it difficult to understand why God has dealt such a keen disappointment to the faithful king. Griffin has been restless for some time, trying to ascertain what God's will for him is. Everyone, including the king, is expecting him to follow in the footsteps of his father. Spending several years living the life of a monk does not help to reveal what he is to do.

Life soon changes drastically for all of England shortly after the king's death. William the Conqueror invades the land to lay claim to the throne, and Griffin, with King Edward's sword in hand, soon finds himself a fugitive after killing the soldiers who permanently maimed his father's hands. Griffin runs from his father's home, seeking to fill the emptiness in his soul. In his quest he gains the faithful love of a woman, strength of character, direction in life, and the

realization of the great love that God has for him.

Lisa Samson has aimed for historical accuracy in the telling of *Conquered Heart*, the first book in The Abbey Series. She notes at the beginning any changes or fabrication that strays from historical accounts. This romance has a fresh approach in that the style of conversation is reminiscent of old English without being cumbersome to read. The rebel English refer to William the Conqueror as "The Bastard" because of his illegitimate birth. Included at the beginning of the book are several diagrams of a typical monastery and church during this time period.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Eatonville, Washington

***Distant Dreams*, by Judith Pella and Tracie Peterson. (Ribbons of Steel; 1.) LCCN 96045906. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 155661862X, PAP, \$9.99.**

F. Railroads--Fiction. 349 p.
Gr. 10 - Adult.

Distant Dreams is a romantic novel set in pre-civil war Virginia. The main characters in the story are the Adams family (Carolina in particular) and the Baldwin family (James in particular) and how their lives are interwoven in the development and expansion of the railroad.

Carolina Adams is an unusual young woman, more interested in railroads and in furthering her education than in the social world of Washington City and Virginia. Carolina's independent ideas, although appalling to her mother, are supported and encouraged by her "dreamer" father. In contrast, Carolina's older sister, Virginia, wants nothing more than social standing and to secure a husband to grant her every whim.

James Baldwin, son of a banker, is a college educated engineer whose interest in the railroad equals that of Carolina's. James' father pressures him to make an advantageous marriage to save the family from financial ruin. Virginia seems a likely candidate.

While recovering from an injury, James assumes the position of tutor for Carolina. As his courting of Virginia progresses, James cannot help but be drawn to Carolina, who shares his passion for the railroad. Will he ignore what his heart is telling him, or follow the expected path given him?

The characters of *Distant Dreams* come alive quickly and you are easily immersed in the happenings of each. The story is woven to capture your attention and anticipation for the next in the series. As for the spiritual content, it is lacking until the last chapter. Nevertheless, it is well written and entertaining.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Tammy Williams
Social Worker/Homemaker
Port Orchard, Washington

***Drastic Park*, by W. E. Davis. (A Gil Beckman Mystery; 4.) LCCN 97017231. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1997. ISBN 0891079629, PAP, \$8.99.**

F. Mystery fiction. 190 p.
Gr. 10 - Adult.

Gil Beckman, a fifteen year police detective is now a security officer at a large amusement park. It is not until a year after God gives him a job that he is finally able to admit his contentment. After all, he has been able to put his training to work many times, which has saved the company a lot of money, even if they don't show much appreciation for his having done so.

The mystery starts when Gil is summoned by the secretary at the administration office, only to find that she is not there when he arrives. Miffed that she didn't keep her appointment, but knowing the demands and personality of the park's president, Gil shrugs it off and goes home to his upcoming fishing vacation with the guys.

Upon his return to the park, Gil finds out that the secretary is still missing and that several mysterious personnel changes have been made. Not being able to pass up solving a mystery, Gil embarks upon a little detective work to put some puzzle pieces together.

Drastic Park is the third Gil Beckman mystery by W. E. Davis and reads well alone. It is a witty story in the first person that is a bit bumpy reading due to Gil's mix of jesting and serious statements. Davis' own experience as a police veteran brings credibility to the story as clues unfold and leads are followed to solve the mystery. The first five chapters are entertaining but slow, and then the plot finally takes off. God's guidance to help solve the mystery is an integral part of the story.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Debbie Lindsay
Homeschool Parent
Eatonville, Washington

***Drums of Change : The Story of Running Fawn*, by Janette Oke. (Women of the West.) LCCN 96004436. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1556618123, PAP, \$8.99.**

F. Indians of North America--Alberta--Fiction. 235 p.
Gr. 10 - Adult.

Drums of Change by Janette Oke shows the struggle of the Indians seeing the old way of life coming to an end, told from the perspective of an Indian girl, Running Fawn. From a very young age, Running Fawn feels deeply the customs and traditions of her people. She looks with distrust on the white missionary who comes to live with

her tribe and teach from his Black Book.

It is a devastating blow when she is chosen to go to the mission school with Silver Fox, the son of the chief, to learn from the white man. Her years at the school are lonely and miserable, and when the missionary brings word that her father is ill, she leaves in the night to return to her tribe. Silver Fox follows her and returns with her. He makes known his intention to seek her as his wife, but the wedge between them is Silver Fox's commitment to follow the white man's God and hers to the old ways of their people.

During a sudden prairie fire in which she almost dies, Running Fawn finally calls out to the God of the white man, to the joy of her father, who has left the old ways years before, and of Silver Fox, who is now free to marry her.

In a manner that is sensitive to the Indian perspective, but not condemning to the white man, Janette Oke writes a thought-provoking story which helps the reader truly feel the Indians' point of view.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Esther Knaupp
Librarian, Santiam Christian School
Corvallis, Oregon

***The Eagle Stirs Her Nest*, by Linda Rae Rao. (Eagle Wings Series; 4.) LCCN 97008774. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1997. ISBN 080075607X, PAP, \$10.99.**

F. Texas--History--Republic, 1836-1846--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Texas--Fiction; Texas Rangers--History--19th century--Fiction. 254 p.

Gr. 6 - Adult.

Bostonian Chad Macklin heads west to become a ranger hoping to help tame the wilds of Texas in the early 1800's. He meets up with his aging ranger uncle and together they meet the challenges facing them. Unexpectedly, both men's plans are abruptly changed when the elder man gets bitten by a snake and is forced to convalesce at a nearby farm. The Prestons, a family who traveled west three years earlier, take in both uncle and nephew. Chad learns more about just how dangerous that era of Texas history can be when he tangles with Indians, weathers out a Blue Norther, captures outlaws, and eventually loses his heart to young Sarah Preston.

The Eagle Stirs Her Nest is part four of the Eagle Wings Series. This 250 page book is full of colorful and historical dialogue. Author Linda Rao fills out the narrative with interesting historical references to a time long past. She intermingles humor and adventure in this medium-paced book for young people, where the main characters learn about trusting God in difficult circumstances.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Michele Howe
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother

LaSalle, Michigan

***Far from the Dream*, by Lance Wubbels. (The Gentle Hills; 1.) LCCN 94019920. Minneapolis, Minn.: Bethany House, 1994. ISBN 1556614187, PAP, \$17.98.**

F. World War, 1939-1945--Fiction. 303 p.

Gr. 11 - Adult.

For Jerry, it's a chance to serve his country and prove his manhood; a chance to avenge his best friend, who was injured in the bombing of Pearl Harbor. For Marjie, it's an agonizing separation from her new husband as she is both comforted and terrified by the baby growing within her. During their bittersweet honeymoon, neither expected the pain of the parting to come. But only two days after they take their vows, Jerry is off to join the Navy, leaving Marjie to deal with her abusive boss, overshadowing medical bills, and her unexpected pregnancy.

As he copes with the hardships of battle, Jerry befriends a man named Chester whose "religion" often wins out over logic. Chester tries to share his beliefs with his friend, but Jerry will have nothing to do with it. Marjie, on the other hand, is intrigued. After quitting her job (and simultaneously ruining her boss, whose lecherous advances she's turned down), Marjie moves in with Benjamin, Jerry's dad. From Benjamin, she begins to learn about Christ, and to accept the "surprise" baby as a gift from God. The plot used in *Far From the Dream* is hardly original; as World War II approached, thousands of young couples had to make the choice whether to marry right away, or to wait until after the war. But Jerry and Marjie are fascinating individuals whose various experiences make the story unique.

The story drew me in from the beginning, and Marjie's side keeps a good pace. However, it's easy to get buried in too many military details of Jerry's adventures in the Navy. While there's little description of the characters' physical appearance, their personalities jump right off the page. Even without a detailed sketch of her face, Lance Wubbels makes Marjie's impish grin appear instantly in the mind's eye.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Tara A. Sigler
Freelance Writer
Walker, Iowa

***A Hope Beyond*, by Judith Pella and Tracie Peterson. (Ribbons of Steel; 2.) LCCN 97021036. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 1556618638, PAP, \$9.99.**

F. Railroads--History--Fiction. 320 p.

Gr. 10 - Adult.

Written as Book 2 in the Ribbons of Steel series, *A Hope Beyond* nevertheless can stand alone. The reader is enabled to understand previous

happenings by a "what has gone before" section in the immediate front of the book. This is the story of Carolina Adams, a young woman ahead of her time because of her more "masculine" interests, particularly the railroad and its exploding future. Interwoven within is a rich cast of characters, including Carolina's mentally unbalanced mother, her bitter, vindictive sister, Virginia, and James Baldwin, her one-time suitor, who does not know of the great love she holds for him. A turning point in Carolina's life is her encounter with Christ and the resultant changes that occur. Surprisingly, she weds her employer, the father of the young child to whom she is nanny, in a loveless relationship for pragmatic reasons only.

A question does arise from *A Hope Beyond*. Is it appropriate for a Christian woman to marry a totally irreligious man, even if her main reasoning is to save his young child from placement in an orphanage? After this marriage, Mr. St. John is conveniently killed in an accident, leaving Carolina free to marry the man she truly loves. This is a rather pat solution for a difficult situation.

Putting these questions aside, the story line of *A Hope Beyond* catches and holds the interest of the reader. It will appeal mainly to women, high school to adult and would make a likely-to-be-checked-out addition to most libraries, church or public.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Cecil Carey
Middle School Librarian
Plato, Illinois

***In the Still of Night*, by Deborah Raney. LCCN 96045850. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1556616678, PAP, \$8.99.**

F. Rape--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Marriage--Fiction. 238 p.

Gr. 12 - Adult.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6. Trusting, waiting, obeying are the key issues in this novel by Deborah Raney. Do we trust God even when we don't understand?

Paul and Anna Marquette are at a point in their lives when most of the tough lessons and decisions are well behind them. However when tragedy strikes, it hits at the very core of their relationships, not only with each other and everyone else in their lives, but also with God. They must start over and reevaluate what they have always held to be true, whether or not God is worthy of their trust—even if it is worthwhile to trust God.

Raney lays bare the central issues of life and brings them up against the faithfulness of God. Is God who we think He is? What do we really

believe deep down? All pretense is torn away and we see the naked truth about who we are and the shallowness of our faith. Raney keeps the moral dilemmas coming right to the very end of the book—a unique love story in the arena of Christian novels. This book includes issues of rape, abortion, adoption, and racism.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

Jannet Hoeffner
Freelance Writer
Prairie City, Oregon

***Istanbul Express*, by T. Davis Bunn. (Rendezvous with Destiny; 5.) Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1995. ISBN 1556613830, PAP, \$8.99.**

F. Istanbul (Turkey)--Fiction. 205 p.

Gr. 10 - Adult.

"Her eyes were gray and direct as they turned toward Sally. 'My dear, your husband is in grave danger.'"

These disturbing words from a stranger fill Sally Burnes' heart with fear. Her husband, Jake, is all too familiar with danger—he works in the field of International Intelligence. Yet, this time is different, they are journeying into the unknown country of Turkey. Jake's supervisor, Harry, has been "unexpectedly delayed", and gave very little briefing to Jake before they departed. Sally feels trapped and scared, knowing Jake faces untold dangers in this perilous land.

Jake has been assigned to Istanbul to discover any covert plans Stalin may have to gain control of Turkey. He is given the task of overseeing the distribution of war relief funds, but finds his efforts thwarted from unexpected quarters. Everyone is suspect, no one can be trusted—does this include Mrs. Hollamby, the sweet, elderly British woman that has befriended Sally?

Istanbul Express is a fast paced spy mystery whose characters have warm hearts and true faith. T. Davis Bunn portrays Sally and Jake as persons "living on the edge", but with real emotions and a strong love for each other. Another character is introduced, a Jewish man named Daniel, and Jake's relationship with him and his father, Joseph, bring spiritual enlightenment and add a very special element to the story. Although *Istanbul Express* is number five in a series, the story stands alone; after finishing it, however, one will want to read the others.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Tammy Williams
Social Worker/Homemaker
Port Orchard, Washington

***Jewel in the Evening Sky*, by MaryAnn Minatra. (Legacy of Honor Series; 2.) LCCN 97009437. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 1565076680, PAP,**

\$9.99.

F. Germany--History--1933-1945--Fiction. 467 p.

Gr. 11 - Adult.

In *Jewel in the Evening Sky*, MaryAnn Minatra continues to probe the effect of Nazism on many different individuals. Returning to 1932, the author presents two families who live side-by-side on Blumenstrasse. They are best friends as well as business partners, but one family is Jewish, one is not. Rising anti-Semitism attempts to erode their relationship, but can not touch their love and devotion for one another. The thread of earlier relationships is also continued. Emilie, pregnant and caring for her invalid father, fends off the overtures of a S.S. officer and the suspicious designs of Max's older brother Otto. Wilhelm searches for the Rabbi's daughter. This is the final book of the series and offers many thought provoking insights into real life situations. The book stands alone, but reading the series will give a better overview of the entire Nazi/anti-Semitism problem.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Paula Stewart Marks

Principal Morning Star Christian School
Bend, Oregon

***A Land to Call Home*, by Lauraine Snelling. (Red River of the North; 3.) LCCN 97004652. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1556615787, PAP, \$9.99.**

F. Dakota Territory--Fiction; Frontier and pioneer life--Fiction. 317 p.

Gr. 9 - Adult

A Land to Call Home, the third book in the Red River of the North Series, gives readers an in depth view of homesteading in the Dakota Territory in the late 1880's. These hearty Norwegian pioneers endure painful hardship to sustain the discouragement of the prairie. Ingeborg Bjorkland loses her first husband and takes up the stressful walk of keeping alive her husband's dream of not only owning their property, but of seeing a town born on the prairie. Haaken, her second husband, guides Ingeborg through the valley of hardships as they watch their winter hay supply dissolve into ashes from a prairie fire. Day to day living is complicated as they travel to Chicago to bring Solveig, an injured sister, home to recuperate. Not only must they deal with Solveig's bitterness about her injuries, but maintain healthy family relationships with their children and those neighbors who depend on their help and spiritual walk.

Interwoven in Ingeborg and Haaken's lives is the struggle of doubts Penny, a neighbor girl, faces waiting for Hjelmner to return from his job on the railroad. The ever present push to the Pacific captures Hjelmner's dreams, and he also learns the importance of identifying with a people who need him. Family and neighbors feel one another's joys and pains deeply in this close knit

Norwegian community firmly founded on God's Word.

Lauraine Snelling conveys the essence of the pioneer's strength as she weaves God's sovereignty into every incident. Her believable characters embody the attributes of true heroes that believe God's direction will guide and mold them into able-bodied servants for Him. She's also adept at conveying the sense of community and need for interdependence as Christians experience growing pains. *A Land to Call Home* fashions everyday occurrences into ones that mold integrity.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Carolyn Hearing

Freelance Writer, Teacher
Virginia, Minnesota

***Sweetbriar Summer*, by Brenda Wilbee. (The Sweetbriar Series; 4.) LCCN 96043379. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1997. ISBN 0800756193, PAP, \$11.99.**

F. Denny, Louisa Boren--Fiction; Denny, David--Fiction; Seattle--History--Fiction. 288 p.

Gr. 10 - Adult.

Seattle, 1854...its beginnings...when the main attraction wasn't the Space Needle, but the sawmill. *Sweetbriar Summer* chronicles Seattle in the early stages of its birth, and follows some of the lives of the prominent people there—in particular Louisa and David Denny. Louisa and David were among the founders of Seattle and even though they were only in their early twenties, they played an important role in the development of that town. This story tells of some of the achievements, struggles and conflicts they face and how their faith in God sustains them.

Brenda Wilbee paints a beautiful picture of this historical event of establishing the city of Seattle. She has included an extensive bibliography and it is obvious she has done a great deal of research. Her dedication to truth and her love for the Pacific Northwest is evident. *Sweetbriar Summer* does read more like a biography than a novel in general and, while it does stand alone, is somewhat difficult to follow because of the numerous characters and detail given. Reading the entire series would help clarify the story.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Tammy Williams

Social worker/Homemaker
Port Orchard, Washington

***Tenderness and Fire*, by Robert Funderburk. (The Innocent Years; 5.) LCCN 97004644. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1556614640, PAP, \$8.99.**

F. Football--Fiction. 287 p.

Gr. 12 - Adult.

Dalton Temple was a man to be envied. He is a

member of a close knit Christian family, he has a relationship with Christ, he's a running back on the state college football team, he's good looking, and has a girlfriend named Cherry. His family consists of his parents, his older sister, Jessie, and younger brother, Cassidy. Cassidy, still in his teens, is rebellious and looking for a fight. He also abuses alcohol.

Then, in his junior year, Dalton receives a severe knee injury that ruins his chances for a professional football career. Dalton abruptly turns his back on God and like Cassidy, is ensnared by alcohol. Consequently, Cherry breaks off her relationship with him, telling him she wants a better life than what a "drunk" can offer. Devastated, Dalton packs his bags in the night and disappears. This modern day "Prodigal" ends up beaten and intoxicated in an alley, far from home.

Tenderness and Fire depicts the struggles of a young man whose life suddenly falls apart. Dalton questions if there is anything in life left living for. The moral and spiritual decline of the main character is very rapid, therefore, somewhat unbelievable. Also, the story lacks emotion and it is difficult to relate to the characters. This novel is part of a series by Robert Funderburk, yet, can stand alone. However, other past events are alluded to that make the story a bit confusing and difficult to follow.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Tammy Williams

Social Worker/Homemaker
Port Orchard, Washington

***A Time of War*, by Gilbert Morris. (The American Odyssey Series; 5.) LCCN 97009899. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1997. ISBN 080075610X, PAP, \$10.99.**

F. World War, 1939-1945--Fiction. 352 p.

Gr. 11 - Adult.

A Time of War continues the lineage of the Stuart family, who find themselves facing a world at war. Three cousins share the storyline in this intriguing tale. Adam Stuart, illegitimate son of Manfred Von Richthofen, (The Red Baron), and Lylah Stuart, is a rich, irresponsible, Hollywood playboy. When, early in the war, a friend's life is lost, Adam joins the Air Corps with a fierce determination to destroy the Germans.

Wendy Stuart is a musically talented woman with a strong commitment to Christ and a firm resolution to remain pure in spite of the love she has toward a fellow musician. When the war begins, she decides to join the USO and do her part for the war effort.

Clint Stuart, son of Logan, upon joining the service, finds doors opening for him to fulfill his dream of becoming an engineer. But, he must leave a lonely and dependent wife behind. Clint's witness and strength of character changes the lives of those he meets in Europe and puts

him in the position of saving the life of someone close to him.

Gilbert Morris once again weaves a tale that both captures your attention and conveys the power of God to the readers. He deals with themes of forgiveness to the unfaithful. *A Time of War* does present within its story line an extramarital affair, another affair outside of marriage that results in the birth of a child, and a young woman being pressured to give up her virginity. No graphic details are given, and in each case, repentance and forgiveness is sought.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Tammy Williams
Social Worker/Homemaker
Port Orchard, Washington

The Tower, the Mask, and the Grave. A mystery novel by Betty Smartt Carter. LCCN 96037643. Wheaton, Ill.: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1997. ISBN 0877885591, PAP, \$12.99.

F. Mystery fiction. 292 p.

Gr. 11 - Adult.

Fictitious Emmet College becomes the center of attention when a Theology Department secretary, Florence Treadwell, disappears. Virginia Falls, a co-worker, goes to look for her. She discovers the African mask missing from the display case, while a hammer lays nearby "in a puddle of red." Moments later a man in a flowing black robe attacks her. Virginia, her friend Stephen, and the police mount an intensive search for Florence.

Dr. Milton Katharde tells Virginia about Florence's long-gone husband, Raymond. Has he returned to kidnap or even kill Virginia? While in Chicago on a mercy mission, Virginia sees the missing mask. Later, the mask disappears again.

While the investigation centers on the Tower, records in the college archives lead to Florence and ultimately to her kidnapper. A surprise confession and an unexpected death finalize the case.

In the front, Carter lists the characters with clever descriptions. Drawings of Emmet College campus and details of the buildings help readers find their way about, although at times the action becomes confusing and disjointed. *The Tower, The Mask, and The Grave* includes vivid word pictures, but sometimes Carter overdoes them. Some scenes lack the emotion that readers would expect to see. Virginia tells Stephen early in the story that she no longer believes in God. She says as much again later. On the other hand, she also admits she does not believe in Satan. Carter does not leave the reader with a resolution to Virginia's spirituality. Other characters also express a spiritual hopelessness.

By story's end some of the characters find happiness, but others appear to continue on as always. An important change occurs in a

character Carter mentions but does not introduce to the reader face-to-face. Will Virginia at last return Stephen's love? The last page contains only a hint.

Quality—2 Acceptability—3

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

Under the Southern Moon, by Virginia Gaffney. (The Richmond Chronicles; 1.) LCCN 96016595. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1565075072, PAP, \$9.99.

F. Underground Railroad--Fiction; Slavery--Fiction. 427 p.

Gr. 8 - Adult.

Under the Southern Moon is set just before the outbreak of the Civil War. Carrie Cromwell is the daughter of a prosperous Virginia plantation owner. Her best friend is Rose, her personal maid and slave who was born on the plantation and is the same age as Carrie.

Recent national events have forced Carrie to reexamine some of the expectations and beliefs she's grown up with, particularly concerning the role of women and the institution of slavery. When she falls in love with Robert Borden and he asks her to marry him, she puts off making a decision until she can come to terms with these difficult issues.

Author Virginia Gaffney presents a balanced portrayal of slavery. She shows it at its most abusive extreme, but also shows the way it was practiced by the more "benevolent" slave owners, who provided for the needs of their slaves, and also celebrated the important events in their lives. She details some of the rationalizations for slavery, that the Negroes would revert to their previous "primitive" condition if set free, that it was the "destiny" of the superior white race to dominate the blacks. Slavery was and remains a complicated issue. Gaffney is to be commended for refraining from oversimplification, yet allowing Carrie to see beyond the arguments to the question of self-determination.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Andrea R. Huelsenbeck
Freelance Writer
Tempe, Arizona

Where the Wild Rose Blooms, by Lori Wick. (Rocky Mountain Memories Series; 1.) LCCN 96036086. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1565073916, PAP, \$10.99.

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Rocky Mountains Region--Fiction; Romance--Rocky Mountain Region--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 342 p.

Gr. 9 - Adult.

Whispers of Moonlight, by Lori Wick. (Rocky Mountain Memories Series; 2.) LCCN 96020622. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1565074831, PAP, \$10.99.

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Rocky Mountains Region--Fiction; Romance--Rocky Mountain Region--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 423 p.

To Know Her by Name, by Lori Wick. (Rocky Mountain Memories Series; 3.) LCCN 96051683. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 1565075749, PAP, \$10.99.

F. Frontier and pioneer life--Rocky Mountains Region--Fiction; Romance--Rocky Mountain Region--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 432 p.

Adult.

Clayton, nicknamed Tag, has come back home to Georgetown in the Colorado Mountains after a six week absence. While he is gone the storekeeper's brother from Boston moves in to help out with the store along with five daughters that he calls his "boys". Right from the start, Jackie catches Clayton's eye. She tries to ignore him, but is teased all the more. Jackie is self-conscious yet faces the world with a hard exterior to hide her fear. She tries to avoid seeing Clayton but finds it impossible in their small town. Clayton, when he realizes that Jackie takes his teasing seriously, tries to become friends with her. Unfortunately, any sign of friendship only antagonizes Jackie more.

Clayton leaves to go to college to become a teacher. Then Clayton's father has an accident that leaves him partially paralyzed. His dad decides to move to Denver so that Clayton can continue his education. Now Jackie is torn in two. She realizes that she loves Clayton, but doesn't think that he has any feelings for her. They exchange letters and their love blossoms. A freak accident at the store causes Jackie to go blind. Jackie grows inward and becomes selfish with her demands as an invalid. Only God and Clayton's love can set her free.

Where the Wild Rose Blooms is told in the third person. It is a delightful romance mixed with characters that you will quickly fall in love with as you see how each one faces what life sends their way. Told best in Lori Wick's style, the story quickly comes alive.

Written in the third person, *Whispers of Moonlight* continues with some of the same characters found in *Where the Wild Rose Blooms*. This story is not only a romance between Travis, the head foreman, and Rebecca, the rancher's daughter, but is a realistic picture of a divided home where one is saved while the other is not. Lori Wick ably shows how this difficult situation affects the unity of the entire family.

To Know Her By Name is a novel packed with suspense, romance, and fast paced action as we move from the lives of Travis and Rebecca to Callie, a special agent who goes by many names

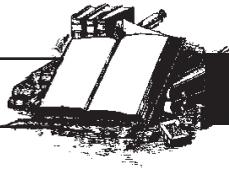
and McKay, a reluctant partner. Although the Mountain Memories Series continues on with the lives of the previous characters, it introduces new ones, too, and can be read as a complete story in itself.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Dorcas Walker

Freelance Writer

Jamestown, Tennessee



Flowers and Death, by Kenneth A. Bryson. New York, Ont.: Captus Press, 1995. ISBN 1895712556, PAP, \$21.00.

128.5. Death--Philosophy. 224 p.
Adult.

Flowers and Death, by Dr. Ken Bryson, examines the concept of death and dying from a philosophical perspective. As a philosopher, currently on faculty at the University College of Cape Breton, Bryson questions any and all assumptions regarding this topic, yet he presents ideas clearly and in a systematic manner.

The book is well-organized; the table of contents lists not only chapter titles, such as "Existentialism and Death," and "The Primacy of Faith," but subheadings within each chapter as well. Concise observations on the thinking of such philosophers as Kierkegaard, Sartre, and

Camus are made when pertinent. Each chapter ends with questions for discussion, a brief bibliography, and selections illustrating the portrayal of death through art and music. An index of names is provided, and is useful, but a more comprehensive index is called for.

Throughout his work, Bryson makes use of three symbols: fire, footprints, and flowers. He states that, "the fire symbolizes the resurrection, for we are beings towards the resurrection rather than beings towards death; the footprints symbolize the legacy of service as we share with others the responsibility of the human condition; the flower, which symbolizes the word of Scripture, is our guide on the journey towards eternity."

The quality of writing is very high, while many of the concepts discussed are positively ethereal. Some prior knowledge in the area of philosophy

is a pre-requisite. *Flowers and Death* is a thought-provoking, challenging text that would best serve the serious student of philosophy. There is some offensive language.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Sylvia Stopforth
Librarian, Trinity Western University
Langley, British Columbia

Ethics for a Brave New World, by John S. Feinberg & Paul D. Feinberg. LCCN 93004015. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1993. ISBN 0891077367, PAP, \$22.00.

170. Social ethics; Christian ethics. 479 p.
Adult.

Ethics for a Brave New World is a very complete catalog of information and arguments on

A Note from the Editor: by Ray Legg

Reading for Accuracy

Seldom has anything affected me as the Clint Eastwood film *The Outlaw Josey Wales*. I was so moved by the characters and much of its plot that upon going to bed the night after I had seen the film, I dreamed a sequel to it. When I awoke, I felt compelled to jot down my ideas in the hopes of writing the story one day. I even went so far as to venture to a local bookstore to purchase Forrest Carter's *Gone to Texas* from which the movie was adapted. I enjoyed reading the book and have not yet lost my fascination with the characters in it or the film.

Another of Carter's books is presently in the news. This time, controversy surrounds the release of the film adaptation of his story, *The Education of Little Tree*, directed by Kevin Costner. Some Native Americans claim the story is an accurate portrayal of the life and times of their people, while others see it as yet another erroneous presentation of their past by nonnatives with little cultural

sensitivity. Still others take offense at the story in general because of the questionable nature of Carter's past views on race and ethnicity.

After a hiatus of several years, Carter resurfaced in literary circles with a series of novels viewed as deliberate attempts to rectify some of the damage done by views expressed in his earlier work. Additional controversy surrounds the claim by certain critics that Carter plagiarized *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Readers and movie goers alike are thus being challenged on several levels as they consider Carter's work. Should they read the book, see the film, and make up their own minds about the accuracy of the story? Should they avoid both until the controversies are resolved? Or should they stay away from both to avoid being unfair to writer and producer alike?

It seems to me that resolution of the conflict may involve several aspects. First, we should read the story of Little Tree ourselves and

seek to understand both the artistic merit of the story and the underlying source or sources of the conflict it has generated. Second, following our reading of the story, we should read representative criticism from pertinent sources to gain as broad a perspective on the issues raised by the book as possible. Third, we should arm ourselves with the realization that no adaptation of a book will be flawless, and then head to the theater to make up our own minds as to whether or not the negative criticism of the film and of Carter and his novel is warranted. (That is, of course, only if we are so inclined. It is completely possible to judge this story on its literary merits alone without seeing the film at all.) Finally, regarding the similarities which exist between *The Education of Little Tree* and *Where the Red Fern Grows*, I am not sure I have ever read a story whose plot is 100% original. It seems to me that the more an author reads the more likely it becomes that parts of other stories may find their way into anything he or she produces. Does that make

contemporary ethical issues and concerns, such as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, genetic engineering, divorce, war, and others. The first chapter is a general discussion of moral theory and ethical decision-making from a Christian perspective. Following this, there are chapters devoted to each of the ethical problems in particular. In each chapter there are arguments and counterarguments given in great detail. The authors do not shy away from giving their own opinions on these controversial issues from a biblical perspective, and I think they are quite honest with the data and with their opponents' arguments.

This is not a book for bedtime reading. It is quite heavy going, polemical in style, and I think the authors try to cover too much in the way of topics and material. The book could have been made shorter and more interesting to the average reader. This is a book for specialists and those who are really interested in the arguments in some detail. However, the authors, in spite of the rather dull style of writing, are quite consistent throughout in their biblical conclusions, and they have done a valuable piece of work for serious students of ethics and morality.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Paul Boling
Asst. Prof. of Philosophy and Bible
Bryan College, Tennessee

That the World May Know, Vol. 4, hosted by Ray VanderLaan. Colorado Springs: Focus on the Family, 1995. ISBN 1561793841, KIT, \$80.00.

220.9. Bible--Geography; Bible--History; Israel--History. 2 videocassettes; 1 teacher's/leader's guide.
Gr. 6 - Adult.

his or her work any less valuable? I think not.

The discussion surrounding Carter's book should challenge those of us involved in reading on a somewhat professional level in at least two areas. First, we can use Carter's work and the issues it raises as a means to steer people toward reading in general. There is no better way to have an informed opinion about a book than to read it - that should go without saying. What better service could we provide for those who come to us with questions about what they are reading? Second, we can challenge those same readers to consider carefully the larger issues engendered by the present controversy - issues such as honesty, integrity, and racism, to name a few - and to decide upon appropriate Christian responses to these issues. Of course, that requires having the issues settled in our own minds. It requires that we, as professionals, be "ready to make a defense for the hope that is within us." And that requires being familiar with materials being printed at a record pace. As daunting as that task may seem it is not an impossible one. I trust *CLJ* can help.

By the way, on my outline for the sequel to *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, it would appear that Mr. Eastwood and I think somewhat alike. The story I envisioned was a Christian version of *The Unforgiven*, more or less. I will wait a while to try my story though so people will not level the same charges against me that they have against Carter. We wouldn't want that, would we?

That the World May Know is a series of four sets of video tapes which explores issues confronting Christians through an examination of the historical context of the Bible. Each set is divided into segments or "faith lessons." Set number four, which was the one reviewed, includes lessons nineteen through twenty-seven. Each lesson has a theme which is related to and focused on a particular geographic place such as, for example, the Sea of Galilee (When Storms come) or, Jerusalem (City of the Great King).

Each segment or "faith lesson" of this series could stand alone and follows a similar format. The heart of each lesson involves a lecture "in situ" by historian and teacher Ray Vander Laan. For example, in the "When Storms Come" segment Mr. Vander Laan talks to his audience from a boat in the Sea of Galilee; when he mentions the scriptures about fishing someone actually casts a net into the sea. The rocks and trees of the Bible become very real; the River Jordan, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, and many other places are visited.

Seeing an olive press (a Gethsemane) and learning about the use of olive oil in the Biblical context of anointing makes a vivid impact. We learn that Nazareth or Nazarene derives from the Hebrew word for branch as we see a young olive branch spring from an ancient tree: the metaphor is the new covenant grafted onto or springing up from the old.

Mr. Vander Laan's teaching is highlighted by gorgeous aerial photography of the holy land. Each segment incorporates several verses of scripture.

The dramatic aspects of each lesson are illustrated by artist's recreations—one such is a depiction of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm

Sunday. Another visual aid that is effectively used is a 1/50th scale model of the city of Jerusalem. The musical score seems appropriately middle eastern and there are two hymns used in set four. All these elements are well blended to give a really visceral impact.

The series is produced by Bob Garner; directed by Bob Garner; edited by Paul Varnum; and hosted by Ray Vander Laan. The copyright for set four is 1997; the first set is copyrighted 1995. An introduction is given by James Dobson, and the entire series was produced under the auspices of Focus on the Family Productions. The series is closed captioned.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

David W. Rash
Public Services Librarian
Everett Community College
Everett, Washington

The Trivialization of God : The Dangerous Illusion of a Manageable Deity, by Donald W. McCullough. LCCN 95014409. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1995. ISBN 0891099093, HBB, \$15.00.

231. God; Holy, The; Revelation; Word of God. 172 p.
Adult.

"The dangerous illusion of a manageable deity" is how Donald McCullough subtitles *The Trivialization of God*. He begins the book with these words: "Visit a church on Sunday morning—almost any will do—and you will likely find a congregation comfortably relating to a deity who fits nicely within precise doctrinal positions, or who lends almighty support to social crusades, or who conforms to individual spiritual positions. But you will not likely find much awe or sense of mystery." (p.13).

This is a both a book about God, and a book about us. It is a book of extremes—of the mystery and majesty of God on one hand, and the casual, trivial views of God which hold sway in modern religion. As science and naturalistic world views have banished mystery from creation, so have our views of God diminished—we have replaced the God of the Bible with the God of my cause, the God of my understanding, and the God of my experience. As a consequence, our country is awash with shallow spirituality and foolish religions.

McCullough calls Christians to a reappraisal of our concepts of God; he calls for us to recapture the sense of awe and mystery that come from worship of the God who is beyond our understanding. When we have a right view of God, we can have a correct view of ourselves and our relationships with others—which McCullough covers in chapters devoted to the Word, community, love, and worship.

The Trivialization of God also contains chapter notes and indexes of names and scriptures.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Andrew M. Seddon
Physician, Author
Billings, Montana

Doomsday Delusions, by C. Marvin Pate and Calvin B. Haines, Jr. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1995. ISBN 0830816216, PAP, \$9.99.

231.7. Bible--Prophecies. 156 p.
Adult.

Even though the year 2000 does not technically announce either the end of the last millennium or the beginning of the next, its approach has garnered widespread enthusiasm. Both Christian and non-Christian groups predict the end of the world; a crop of 'end-times' novels has sprung up in the Christian fiction market; books on prophecy abound. What is to be made of this outbreak of 'millennial fever' and claims that the end of the world is near?

Pate and Haines—both professors at Moody Bible Institute—address these issues in *Doomsday Delusions*. Although the authors hold to a premillennial perspective, their intent is not to expound any particular eschatology, but to delineate flaws in interpretation, theology, and mindset (particularly among evangelical groups) that lead to what they call a 'doomsday mentality.' This mentality focuses on end-times events to the exclusion of other aspects of Christian doctrine, and leads to sectarianism, and, at times, heresy.

Doomsday mentality is not a new phenomenon, but has occurred many times throughout history (at the last millennium, for example). The authors use as their primary example of doomsday mentality the mid-19th Century Millerites, an evangelical group who predicted the return of Christ in 1843; they explain how the same misconceptions could reoccur today among popular prophecy writers. They explore the phenomenon of 'cognitive dissonance' that occurs when failed date-setting is rationalized away; reality is ignored when prophecies prove false. The authors do not disparage biblical prophecy; rather they see prophecy as but one aspect of Christian belief. Problems arise when it becomes the primary doctrine. The concluding chapter presents thoughts on how to live in light of the Second Coming—whenever it occurs.

Doomsday Delusions offers a sober counter to the fervor of millennial fever, and should be of value to evangelicals interested in eschatology.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Andrew M. Seddon
Physician, Author
Billings, Montana

The Modern Creation Trilogy : Scripture and Creation, 1, by Dr. Henry M. Morris and Dr. John D. Morris. Green Forest, Ark.: Master Books, 1996. ISBN 0890512205, PAP.

231.7. Creationism. 228 p.

The Modern Creation Trilogy : Scripture and Creation, 2, by Dr. Henry M. Morris and Dr. John D. Morris. Green Forest, Ark.: Master Books, 1996. ISBN 0890512213, PAP.

231.7. Creationism. 343 p.

The Modern Creation Trilogy : Scripture and Creation, 3, by Dr. Henry M. Morris and Dr. John D. Morris. Green Forest, Ark.: Master Books, 1996. ISBN 0890512221, PAP.

231.7. Creationism. 203 p.

The Modern Creation Trilogy : Scripture and Creation, by Dr. Henry M. Morris and Dr. John D. Morris. Hiawatha, Iowa: Parsons Technology, 1996. ISBN , CDR.

Set of 3 books and 1 CD-Rom, \$34.95.

231.7. Creationism. 1 CD-ROM
Gr. 9 - Adult.

The Modern Creation Trilogy comes in an attractive boxed set of three volumes and a CD. This set is a good reference library for those seeking creation versus evolution information. The father and son team of authors are well known and have been publishing creation literature for years.

Volume one, Scripture & Creation, studies the contradiction between the geological ages proposed by evolutionists and the Biblical creation account. After dealing with the theories, made by evolutionists, to compromise the Biblical position, Morris states: "It has been seen that the geological ages cannot be placed before the six days of creation (gap theory), during the six days of creation day (day-age theory), or after the six days (which, since they antedate man, no one suggests at all). The only remaining possibility is that either the six days or the geological ages had no existence in the first place."

One of the main points of volume one is that there can be no fence sitting. Either Scripture is true or the evolutionists have the truth. There is no compromise. Since neither creation nor evolution can be proved, one's decision will finally be based on what he or she prefers to believe.

Volume two, Science & Creation, focuses especially on the evidences from science that relate to origins. The authors try to explain the relevant scientific evidences in terms understandable and meaningful even to non-scientists.

Volume three, Society & Creation, starts by saying, "Evolutionism is a false religion, designed to turn men and women away from belief in the true God of creation and from participation in His wonderful gift of salvation and eternal life." Beginning with chapter three in volume three, the authors show that practically all the harmful practices and deadly philosophies that plague mankind have their roots and pseudo-rationale in evolutionism.

The accompanying CD contains the complete text of all three volumes of *The Modern Creation Trilogy*. The CD is a product of Parsons Technology and can be used with their other products, *The PC Bible Atlas* and *Quick Verse*, if you purchase them. By itself, the only advantage to the CD is being able to print off portions of the books text.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Myrtle May Pittman Crane
Freelance Writer, Editor, Speaker
Alderwood Manor, Washington

The Letters of Pelagius, Celtic Soul Friend, edited by Robert Van de Weyer. Little Gidding, 1995. ISBN 0853053359, HBB, \$8.95.

233. Celtic Church. 84 p.
HS - Adult.

"It is unfortunate and profoundly unjust," writes Ian Bradley (*The Celtic Way*, Darton, Longman & Todd, 1993), "that [Pelagius'] name should have come down to us as the founder of a heresy which has always been particularly associated with the British Isles."

The monk Pelagius (c.354-c.418/420) was one of the first theologians produced by the British church. He came into conflict with Augustine of Hippo over the matter of free will—which Pelagius asserted and Augustine opposed. Pelagius, despite protestations of orthodoxy, was condemned as a heretic and his writings destroyed.

Opinion on Pelagius remains divided—John Wesley felt that Pelagius was wrongly condemned, while R.C. Sproul concurs with the judgment. In his award-winning book *Pelagius* (Heffer, 1956), John Ferguson concludes that "his fault was in exaggerated emphasis," and "it is not certain that any statement of his is totally irreconcilable with the Christian faith or indefensible in terms of the New Testament."

To hear Pelagius speak for himself means to turn to his surviving letters, which Robert Van de Weyer has extracted and translated in *The Letters of Pelagius, Celtic Soul Friend*. These, written to several Christians, show why Pelagius was admired for his holiness and humility, and appalled by the moral laxity, materialism, and self-indulgence of his time.

To Demetria he says, "If the world is to become truly civilized we need far more people with holiness as their aim." And to a new Christian he writes, "You do not need to involve yourself in great matters in order to serve God. you can serve him in small matters, in the mundane concerns of daily life. If you cherish your wife and your children you are serving God."

At times Pelagius' emphasis on willpower seems too intense, but this is outweighed by his other emphases—on love, wisdom, humility, and a life-style that mirrors that of Christ.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Andrew M. Seddon
Physician, Author
Billings, Montana

***What's So Amazing About Grace?* By Philip Yancey. LCCN 97021286. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997. ISBN 0310213274, HBB, \$19.99.**

234. Grace (Theology). 292 p.

Adult.

"You need not be a Christian to build houses, feed the hungry, or heal the sick. There is only one thing the world cannot do. It cannot offer grace." And according to Philip Yancey the church often fails at what it should be doing best.

A book full of stories illustrating grace and, what Yancey calls, ungrace. An excellent thought-provoker, *What's So Amazing About Grace?* shows how grace can be easy to accept from God on our own behalf and yet how difficult to understand when God grants it to others.

In chapter seven he begins dealing with forgiveness. "Like grace, forgiveness has about it the maddening quality of being undeserved, unmerited, unfair." Because it goes against human nature, forgiveness must be taught and practiced, as one would practice any difficult craft.

Yancey's stories show the consequences when grace is withheld. Individuals, communities, and nations all need to understand the dynamics of grace and forgiveness. There is no easy answer or quick fix to dispensing grace and offering forgiveness. But it will raise a question we all need to grapple with, How do I, as a member of Christ's church, treat sinners? Maybe the best answer is to consider, How does God treat me, a sinner?

A book dealing with grace and forgiveness must logically discuss the sins which grace covers. Yancey covers the full spectrum.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Myrtlemay Pittman Crane
Freelance Writer, Editor, Speaker
Alderwood Manor, Washington

***Embraced by the Darkness : Exposing New Age Theology from the Inside Out*, by Brad Scott. LCCN 96025599. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1996. ISBN 0891079009, PAP, \$10.99.**

239. New Age movement--Controversial literature; Apologetics. 216 p.

Adult.

Embraced By The Darkness is an excellent discussion of and refutation of New Age theology by someone who has been deeply involved in that movement and who has come to belief in Christianity. Scott's particular interest in this book is the theological belief system of the New Age movement; this is not a book on the

movement itself.

Scott begins with a chapter on his personal pilgrimage and clearly demonstrates that he is qualified to write on New Age beliefs, particularly those from the Eastern and Hindu perspective, which is the system in which Scott himself was most involved. Following this first chapter, he discusses the New Age view of God, the universe and nature, and man. In each chapter Scott not only presents the doctrine in question, but he also offers numerous very helpful direct quotations from New Age and Hindu literature to illustrate his points. Scott next presents a good chapter on the relativity of truth in New Age theology and a section on the doctrine of reincarnation, which is central to all Hindu teaching. Finally, the last part of the book is a warning and challenge to the Christian world to understand and to be prepared to refute the theology of the New Age devotees. Scott shows how damaging some of the basic assumptions of this theology are to Christianity and, in some cases, how cleverly New Age theology has counterfeited biblical ideas.

I found the chapters on the relativity of truth and reincarnation particularly helpful and well done. In fact, the chapter on reincarnation, which discusses this subject from the viewpoint of science, psychology, and ethics, is the best and, I think, the only such discussion I have seen anywhere. This chapter alone makes this book well worth reading. This would be a very valuable addition to any library interested in contemporary religion and its beliefs.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Paul Boling
Asst. Prof. of Philosophy and Bible
Bryan College, Tennessee

The Symbolic Garden : A XIIIth Century Greek Manuscript. Edited and translated by Margaret H. Thomson; edition based on the Laurentian Library manuscript, Plut. Gr. X, 3. Ff. 9c-34, and compared to the Bodleian Library manuscript, Clark 11. New York, Ont.: Captus Press, 1989. ISBN 0921801386, PAP, \$21.75.

241.4. Virtues; Manuscripts (Medieval and modern); Biblioteca medica laurenziana. Manuscript. Plut. Gr. X, 3. Ff. 9v-34; Bodleian Library. Manuscript. Clark 11.

Adult.

In the book of Genesis, we are told of two trees: the Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Since these words were first recorded, plants of all kinds have become associated with various symbolic meanings and qualities.

The Symbolic Garden, an English translation of a 12th century Greek manuscript, describes one particular garden in symbolic terms; "the name of garden or meadow, borrowed from the literal sense, has been given metaphorically to this book

which treats of various types of virtues." The text opens with a description of ideal gardening conditions. For example, it is necessary to provide fertile soil, which is likened to an orthodox, reverent faith in God. Many fruitful plants find a home in this garden. Among them are the lemon tree, which symbolizes purity and wisdom, and the vine, which corresponds to spiritual joy.

That the two original authors were men of learning is evidenced by their discussion of the medicinal properties associated with these plants. References to the Bible, and to earlier scholars, also abound.

The heavily annotated English translation is presented alongside the original Greek text. Dr. Margaret H. Thomson has taken pains to ensure that her translation retains an air of antiquity. The resulting language is elegant and precise.

Some knowledge of the Greek language would prove beneficial to a thorough study of this text. The introduction includes references to evolution and to the gods of Greek mythology.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Sylvia Stopforth
Librarian, Trinity Western University
Langley, British Columbia

***Do We Still Need the Ten Commandments? : A Fresh Look at God's Laws of Love*, by John H. Timmerman. Augsburg Fortress, 1997. ISBN 0806623497, PAP, \$11.99.**

241.5. Ten Commandments. 176 p.

Adult.

Provokingly titled, *Do We Still Need the Ten Commandments?* shows contemporary readers that they have not journeyed too far since Moses' day. Timmerman demonstrates that the Ten Commandments are as pertinent and relevant to our lives today as they were in ancient times. Adaptable as either a personal or group study guide, Timmerman's book examines each commandment in detail. Two exceptionally strong features of the books are the riveting human examples and the Reflections section following discussion of each commandment. The tales Timmerman draws from his life put blood, flesh and breath into each commandment. The people in the stories lived by the commandments with each fiber of their being.

The Reflections section includes about eight thought provoking, open-ended questions for group or personal study. Questions of this type make the reader blanch with conviction and renew the desire to put God first. An example from the eighth commandment is the idea that "if God has given us talents or gifts and we refuse to use them, we are ultimately robbing God" (p. 136).

An unfortunate weakness is that the book lacks a scripture index to organize the many excellent verses quoted.

Written in a easy-going style, this book serves as an important reminder that "each commandment emphasizes that God is to be our first choice. Everything else will fall into place if we make that choice" (p. 171).

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Anita Goldman Horning
Literary Analyst
Lawrenceville, Georgia

***The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like a Doctor and a Patient*, by Douglas Knighton. LCCN 96026101. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997. ISBN 080105379X, PAP, \$9.99.**

248.4. Christian life; Physician and patient. 96 p.

Gr. 9 - Adult.

Virtually everyone, at some point in their life, has an encounter with the medical profession. The concept of doctor-patient relationships is one with which we are familiar. So too is the idea of God as the Great Physician.

In *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...*, Douglas Knighton expounds upon the under-utilized analogy of our relationship to God as being like the doctor-patient relationship. He discusses why we need a spiritual doctor, God in the doctor's role, mutual responsibilities, and how this analogy can be used to 'refer' other people to Christ.

This is a short, easily readable volume; each chapter concludes with questions for further reflection. No analogy is perfect, and Knighton is careful not to press the comparisons too far. Although physicians might on occasion like to think of themselves in godlike terms, the reality is otherwise; our relationships on earth are flawed. Knighton thus uses an 'ideal' doctor-patient relationship as the basis of his analogy, although he does point out where breakdowns can occur.

Both physicians and anyone who has ever been a patient should be able to see themselves and relate to the concepts in this book. The analogy is a helpful one. While there are a few debatable points, my only real complaint is that I think Knighton could have expounded in more detail. The book's format would lend itself well to devotional or small group use.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Andrew M. Seddon
Physician, Author
Billings, Montana

***Common Sense Christian Living*, by Edith Schaeffer. LCCN 96053635. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997. ISBN 0801057671, PAP, \$12.99.**

248.4. Christian life. 249 p.

Adult.

If there is any uncertainty in being a closet

Christian, Edith Schaeffer rips the notion down. We must recognize temptations, evils, or issues ignored by Christians of all periods, and are especially in need of Christians that urge us to wake up and admit our blindness that allows us to rationalize that which is wrong. Being alert to the immediate moment and vigilant to examine dangers of tolerating things we are not to tolerate, should be the norm.

Schaeffer admonishes us not to live our lives in compartments labeled "spiritual" and "secular," but rather, all of life is to be our spiritual life. The importance of comprehending what is in danger of being left out of our understanding of what Christian living is meant to be, is important to her hypothesis.

Common Sense Christian Living, also available in film series, prompts us to examine our values and seeks to chart a course of accountable Christian living. Schaeffer includes question and answer chapters addressing current issues facing Christians. Responses are well thought out, scripturally based, and notably confronting! Included are numerous examples from years at L'Abri, the ministry she and her husband began in Switzerland.

Of particular interest is her analogy of Nehemiah and rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. Her insight comparing our struggle to walk sensible lives by building our Christian walk, yet being ready for battle, is her most profound strength. Work with a weapon in one hand, and a tool in the other! Not meant for quick and easy reading, this deeply profound volume belongs on every serious Christian's shelf.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Carolyn Hearing
Freelance Writer
Virginia, Minnesota

***Family Tales : Rewriting the Stories That Made You Who You Are*, by James Osterhaus. LCCN 96036846. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1997. ISBN 0830819967, PAP, \$20.00.**

248.4. Family. 206 p.

Adult.

Who am I, and why? How do I make sense of my personal world? Can I change it? Can I help the others who cohabit my world? These are some of the questions to which psychotherapist James Osterhaus seeks to give a workable answer. *Family Tales* presents our lives as stories growing out of the stories of our predecessors, impinged upon by our fellows', and blending into our children's. In this in-depth study of our individual stories, Osterhaus gives examples and pertinent exercises to help understand and, where needed, rewrite these stories.

Osterhaus aims to help readers find release from the scarred life stories that many of them have lived. God uses the mistakes and problems that

shaped us to mold us to his plan. Internalizing this, we can help our children to live to their fullest God given potential. Built around the story basics of characters, premise, plot, dialogue, and setting, some of *Family Tales'* ideas will be recognizable to readers of this genre. Other ideas, such as recognizing the personal name God has given you as opposed to the biased name given by your parents, may be less common. The exercises at the end of each chapter aim not only to help the reader understand himself, but also to involve the reader with his family. Written in layman's language, each idea grows recognizably out of the last. Scripture illuminates many of the examples and exercises. The chapter notes and bibliography contain a plethora of titles on relevant subjects.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Donna Eggett
CPC Volunteer Counselor
Maiden, North Carolina

***LifeKeys : Discovering Who You Are, Why You're Here, What You Do Your Best*, by Jane A.G. Kise and David Stark. : Bethany House Publishers, 1996. ISBN 1556618719, PAP, \$14.99.**

248.4. Spiritual gifts; Christian life. 272 p.

Adult.

These three dedicated Christians have teamed up to create a curriculum and book to help people ascertain their life and spiritual gifts. Their goal is to assist anyone in utilizing the talents they have been given to help the church and the body of Christ. Interpreting popular personality-type psychology for Christians, they give readers a framework which will help organize their thoughts, goals and gifts and the best situations to use them in.

Written in a positive and encouraging style, they repeat a theme throughout. "Picture yourself as a vital element in God's plan for the Church, because that is what you are. You are a special mix of spiritual gifts and life gifts that God has chosen uniquely for you" (p. 65). Humorous cartoons open each chapter and thoughtful and uplifting prayers close each chapter.

One of the book's greatest strengths is the extensive leader's guide in a shaded section in the back. This gives the book the flexibility of either individual study or a class format. Containing timed sessions for each class meeting, a separate leader's guide does not need to be purchased.

There are pages provided to complete reflection exercises, such as a personal mission statement. One of the exercises involves sorting and ranking personality traits, and perforated cards are provided. Unfortunately, the book lacks a bibliography and scripture index.

Warning that "separating parental interests from our own interests can be difficult" (p. 34), the

authors gently encourage the readers to find out what color is the parachute that God gave them.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Anita Goldman Horning
Literary Analyst
Lawrenceville, Georgia

***The Christian Mom's Idea Book : Hundreds of Ideas, Tips, and Activities to Help You Be a Great Mom*, by Ellen Banks Elwell. LCCN 96045358. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1997. ISBN 0891079300, PAP, \$11.99.**

248.8. Mothers--Life skills guides; Mothers--Religious life; Motherhood. 267 p.

Adult.

Firmly anchored in biblical principles relevant to today's needs, *The Christian Mom's Idea Book* opens with a helpful acrostic on "Motherhood" based on Proverbs 31:10-31. The greater part of this book is a "smorgasbord" of ideas for the myriad scenarios mothers face everyday. Ranging from laundry to music lessons, adoption to birthday parties, looking at many of the enigmas and joys motherhood brings, the 500 ideas, tips, and activities present encouraging and workable solutions.

Are you a less than perfect mother wanting to do the best for your family? Author Ellen Elwell identifies with your feelings. With the assistance of eighty-two Christian mothers and grandmothers, she offers you practical help. The grateful mom of three happy children, aged ten to eighteen, Elwell has hands on experience with her subject. *The Christian Mom's Idea Book*, will become a tattered, indispensable member of the family. The pertinent format is easy to follow. It addresses all age groups from infant to adult children and helps cope with worries such as: first pregnancy, making time for prayer, feelings of inadequacy, time alone, husband. It is an attractive book. Each page has a cream border, many having cream watermarks relevant to the subject. Pages 28 and 29 contain two lists based on grades 2-12: Things I Really Like About My Mom; Things I Wish My Mom Would Do Differently. The end notes list useful books. Hinting at a series of books, a query and return address for your suggestions close this book.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Donna Eggett
CPC Volunteer Counselor
Maiden, North Carolina

***The True Woman : The Beauty and Strength of a Godly Woman*, by Susan Hunt. LCCN 96036307. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1997. ISBN 0891079270, PAP, \$10.99.**

248.8. Women--Religious life; Women in the Bible. 237 p.

Adult.

Her fourth book on basically the same topic, Hunt waxes on the beauty and strength of godly

women. She selected four main virtues that exemplify the character of godly women. Using biblical through modern examples, she demonstrates the incredible power of devout women to influence their families, churches, and societies.

Although sometimes preachy and rambling, the book contains material convicting to any woman walking with the Lord. We all need to be more pious, pure, domestic, and submissive. Each chapter contains challenging reflections questions and heartfelt prayers. Despite some very old sources, some from 1860, the contents are well-researched and the book contains an adequate bibliography. Unfortunately, the book lacks a scripture index.

Seeking to help all women achieve their spiritual peak by being able to "...unleash her God-given femininity in expressing her love for Jesus with a holy abandon" (p. 161), this book provides thought-provoking material.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Anita Goldman Horning
Literary Analyst
Lawrenceville, Georgia

***Honey, They're Playing Our Song*, by Nancy Kennedy. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah Books, 1996. ISBN 1576730344, PAP, \$9.99.**

248.8. Marriage--Religious aspects--Christianity--Humor. 195 p.

Adult.

In her third humorous book, Nancy Kennedy shares poignant stories from her marriage meant to teach as well as entertain. A recurring theme is her search for a special "Our Song" to epitomize the focus of her marriage. Those who appreciate Erma Bombeck type humor will enjoy this book.

Of her marriage, Kennedy writes, "My husband Barry and I met, got married, and fell in love—in that order." After dating just three months before their wedding, the Kennedys' marriage was predicted to fail. Three years later, Nancy became a Christian; Barry did not. "The hardest thing I've had to deal with is being spiritually mismatched with a husband who doesn't share my same commitment to Christ (at least not at this time) and realizing he may never do so." Although they were strangers, singing "vastly different tunes," God helped them find harmony in their marriage. Kennedy emphasizes the key to a strong marriage lies in God's power, not our own. Her commitment to building a lasting marriage is refreshing; the spiritual insights she shares from everyday life are encouraging.

Many readers will identify with her transparent accounts dealing with in-laws, mid-life crisis, holidays, money matters, communication, and more. Laughing with her will also cause readers of the book opportunity to laugh at themselves. She relates fun-filled stories, like the escalating

disagreement they had over buying a new bed. She chose the Queen Beauty Napper. He preferred the UltraKing, MultiMega model. Before long twin beds sounded good! It is the kind of event with which many readers will be able to identify.

The short, comical chapters make it quick and easy to read. Humorous titles like, "A House Is Not a Home Until the Termites Move In," arouse your curiosity. Combining tenderness and comedy, this book will keep you reading and laughing to the end.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Lydia E. Harris
Freelance Writer, Former Teacher
Seattle, Washington

***Two Cities, Two Loves : Christian Responsibility in a Crumbling Culture*, by James Montgomery Boice. LCCN 96008115. InterVarsity Press, 1996. ISBN 0830819878, HBB, \$19.99.**

261. Christian life. 279 p.

College-Adult.

Two Cities, Two Loves is intended to be a modern version of Augustine's great work, *City of God*, in which Augustine developed probably the first philosophy of history based on the notion of two kingdoms, God's and the world's. These two kingdoms are in opposition to one another, and Boice sees much the same thing in our day as we are engaged on the so-called "culture wars" and values conflicts in our own culture. How should the Christian relate to his culture and how should the church relate and respond to its cultural setting? Boice begins with a brief summary of Augustine's life and writing as the barbarians were taking over North Africa where he lived, and then Boice compares the situation in our day with our modern barbarians in education, the media, and religion.

Following this synopsis of the current situation, Boice gives a historical survey from the biblical point of view of the origin of the two cities or two humanities. He begins with Adam and Eve and the serpent in the garden of Eden and traces the two humanities through Cain and Abel and their descendants, particularly Abraham, to the development of Babylon and Jerusalem as the two capital cities of the people of Satan and the people of God, respectively. This section of the book is probably the most interesting and helpful section of the book. Boice uses Daniel in captivity in Babylon as a positive example of a person who had to relate to both the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world.

Boice gives three important principles for Christians as they seek to make a difference in this world: participation, persuasion, and prayer. He gives specific examples of how Christians might engage the issues of our culture, such as abortion and the needs of our cities. Boice has been engaged in ministry in a large city for many

years, so he speaks from experience at this point. He is moderate in his approach to Christian involvement in politics and social issues; he neither discourages it nor encourages an activist model. Chapters 10 and 11 are a discussion of Nehemiah as a leader, and in these chapters Boice presents some leadership principles for Christians. While interesting, I am not sure that this section might not be better in a book on leadership, rather than in this particular context.

The last part of the book is a discussion of Christ's prayer in John 17 for his church in the world, and this section is very helpful. Overall, this book is very readable and interesting. It is not an in-depth presentation, but there are some good notes and bibliographical helps for each chapter.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Paul Boling
Assoc. Prof. of Philosophy and Bible
Bryan College
Dayton, Tennessee

***Quarks, Chaos & Christianity : Questions to Science and Religion*, by John Polkinghorne. LCCN 95030120. New York: Crossroad, 1996. ISBN 0824515218, PAP, \$9.95.**

261.5. Religion and science; Physics--Religious aspects--Christianity. 102 p.

Adult.

Until 1979, John Polkinghorne was Professor of Mathematical Physics at Cambridge University. When he felt that he had 'done his part' for physics, he pursued theological training and became an Anglican priest. He began writing, he says, to share the reasons for his faith with his scientific colleagues, who were puzzled by his acceptance of what, to them, were outmoded beliefs.

In a series of books, Polkinghorne has explored the interface between science and Christian belief. *Quarks, Chaos & Christianity* is written for the average non-scientist; that is, it avoids much of the technical argument found in his other books. He discusses God, the origin of the universe, and the issues of miracles, prayer, and the future. Readers should be aware that while Polkinghorne accepts all the major tenets of Christianity (all the points of the Nicene Creed, for example), he also accepts the findings of modern evolutionary science and incorporates the cosmological (Big Bang) viewpoint into his framework.

Quarks, Chaos & Christianity makes for interesting reading. It would be particularly appropriate for those confused by the seeming antagonism between science and theology; or for non-Christian seekers of a scientific bent. *Quarks, Chaos & Christianity* provides a useful and accessible introduction to Polkinghorne's other works.

Quality—4 Acceptability—4

Andrew M. Seddon
Physician, Author
Billings, Montana

***Beyond Imagination : A Simple Plan to Save the World*, by Dick Eastman. LCCN 96043777. Grand Rapids: Chosen Books, 1997. ISBN 0800792505, PAP, \$12.99.**

266. Great Commission (Bible); Evangelistic work. 318 p.

Gr. 7 - Adult.

Every Home for Christ is an amazing ministry that is chronicled in this book through interesting, thought provoking stories. The stories are real-life dramas of lives changed by the power of the Gospel and the simple plan of touching every home for Christ. Taking a logical, systematic approach to bringing the Gospel to each person by house-to-house evangelism, we see through reading the stories just how effective this plan can be.

Beyond Imagination is filled with inspiring accounts and testimonies of lives that have been set ablaze by the Gospel and, in turn, have started a great spiritual blaze in their homeland as a result. We travel to the mountains of Nepal, to African villages, to Far East Russia, to the islands of the Pacific; all over the world we see hearts transformed as Christians travel from village to village and bring the Gospel to a lost and dying world.

Adding a unique cohesion, each chapter begins with a piece of the puzzle—a story of one man who waited decades for someone to bring the Truth. By the end of the book, we see just how important it is to reach every home with the Good News of Christ.

Written in an easy-to-read style, Eastman brings a "where rubber meets the road" feeling to his grass-roots evangelistic approach on a truly international scale. Success is worldwide, and the reader's faith rises as each success story unfolds. *Beyond Imagination* personally became an inspiring and challenging text that brought house-to-house evangelism beyond the sometimes stagnant American stigma and into a context of effective evangelistic approaches. Anyone who wants their faith to rise, their eyes to look beyond our nation, and their heart to yearn for the lost should read this book.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

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

***Run with the Vision*, by Bob Sjogren, Bill Stearns, and Amy Stearns. LCCN 95007498. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1995. ISBN 1556613210, PAP, \$10.99.**

266. Missions. 287 p.

Gr. 10 - Adult.

As a practical manual for involving every Christian in God's plan for the world, *Run With a Vision* is a perfect Bible study, Sunday school text, or personal devotional. From high schoolers to adults, this book is relevant and inspiring. It's not just for those who feel called to full-time missions service. *Run With a Vision* can help each and every believer find their "niche" in today's missions' movement.

The authors begin with the "big picture" of God's global plan to bring the Gospel to all nations. Then, narrowing the focus on what practical steps each of us can take to help make God's plan work, the authors show how churches and individuals can take an active part in bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Taking a scholastic approach, *Run With a Vision* is a very readable text, providing practical steps and ideas for making missions real in your life. Charts, graphs, statistics and news clippings, provide solid information for the reader. An overview of the 10/40 Window, the unreached people groups, and the major religious forces today provide a well-rounded look at the realities of today's mission field.

With a vast array of missions knowledge behind them, the Stearns publish *World Christian* magazine and have written over a dozen books. Sjogren, a co-founder of the missions agency, Frontiers, that focuses on the Muslim world, brings his missions seminar expertise to this book. From making a personal commitment to missions to a step-by-step approach for involving your church, *Run With a Vision* is a must for anyone who has a heart for the world.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

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

***Women Who Changed the Heart of the City : The Untold Story of the City Rescue Mission Movement*, by Delores T. Burger. LCCN 96032054. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1997. ISBN 0825421462, PAP, \$9.99.**

267. Women missionaries--Biography; City Missions--History. 157 p.

Gr. 10 - Adult.

Delores T. Burger is the historian of the International Union of Gospel Missions. In *Women Who Changed the Heart of the City*, she details the contributions of nineteen women to the urban rescue mission movement.

Some of these women worked side by side with their husbands; others were widows or single women who dedicated their lives to the missions. Some had lived lives of degradation until they were saved at a mission themselves. Others lived pampered lives of wealth and self-sufficiency until a chance visit to a mission changed their lives forever. Whatever their background, they

touched the poor, the addicted, the sick, and the social outcasts of the city with the healing power of God's love.

Burger begins most chapters with a photograph of the woman featured in that chapter, an inspirational quote, and an anecdote from contemporary missions work. Then she relates the woman's story, drawn from books, magazine articles, annual reports, and transcripts of speeches. At the end of each chapter, Burger lists her sources.

The length of each chapter seems to be determined by how much material on the particular woman the author could find. Some stories contain much more information about the husband than the woman herself; she is portrayed as the helpmeet, the supporter of her spouse's efforts, the worker behind the scenes.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Andrea R. Huelsenbeck
Freelance Writer
Tempe, Arizona

***The Kingdom of God in Africa : A Short History of African Christianity*, by Mark R. Shaw. LCCN 96035523. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996. ISBN 0801020964, PAP, \$19.99.**

276. Africa--Church history; Evangelicalism--Africa--History. 328 p.

Gr. 11 - Adult.

Author Mark Shaw writes, "This is a book about the African church's long struggle to be an effective witness to the One they worship as risen from the dead." Covering the history of African Christianity is certainly a daunting task, but Shaw does a rather good job of covering nearly 2,000 years of the Gospel outreach to the continent through the perspective of Augustine's City of God.

Clearly chronicled throughout the pages of this text is the diversity of Christian perspectives and the fact that no one perspective has gained precedent on the continent. Indeed, religious concepts have pitted one against another, and bloodshed has unfortunately resulted. The stark reality of "Christian" movements gone astray also gives us a glimpse into the complexities of the African Christian world. As a result, a variety of religious movements and diverse churches make Africa a tapestry of Christianity that has a look all its own. The infiltration of Islam into the African continent and its ensuing conflicts with Christians is also addressed.

The book is well organized chronologically as well as geographically, so as to make a quick and easy reference text. Though containing an incredible amount of information that is well cited, it sometimes becomes too deep, too philosophical, and too intricate for the average reader to find a book to read by the fireside. Rather, it is more a historical text with valid

academic application. Thus, for the one who plans a career on the African mission field, *The Kingdom of God in Africa* should be considered a core reading assignment before attempting to live in Africa since understanding the people whom you will serve is vital to the success in such a ministry.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

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

***One Home at a Time : Restoring the Soul of America Through God's Plan for Your Marriage and Family*, by Dennis Rainey. LCCN 97010893. Colorado Springs: Focus on the Family Publishing, 1997. ISBN 1561795453, HBB, \$16.99.**

277.3. Marriage; Church renewal; United States--Social conditions--1980-; United States--Moral conditions. 267 p.

Adult.

It was an unassuming meeting of men gathered to discuss the concept of Family Reformation. Instead of a battle cry to the masses, the men were led to the haunting question: "Lord, what needs to change in my life for a Family Reformation to occur in my home?" It was this meeting that gave author Dennis Rainey, the glimpse into the personal investment that Family Reformation involves.

Family Reformation begins with a personal repentance. "God must work in us before He can work through us," writes Rainey, as he personally challenges Christian men and women to repent their sins and recommit to their families. Beginning with a lack of fear of God, Rainey condemns the current trends that permeate our society allowing the abandonment of children and readily acceptance of divorce. Holding their feet to the fire, Rainey challenges readers with his provocative questions geared to make the readers evaluate their spiritual health.

Instead of waiting in the sidelines for politicians, schools or others to activate change towards a morally upright and righteous walk with the Lord, Rainey gives the convincing argument that the social change begins within ourselves. As Christians place their houses in order, the ripple will flow outward. The author uses anecdotes from history and includes personal stories which draw the reader into further understanding. Not willing to leave the reader fumbling, Rainey offers concrete examples of how to begin taking back America, *One Home at a Time*.

Dennis Rainey is a husband and the father of six children. He is the executive director of FamilyLife, a division of Campus Crusade for Christ. The author of two other books, Rainey currently hosts the "FamilyLife Today" radio program and regularly speaks at FamilyLife conferences around the nation.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Joanne M. Haffly
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother
Gig Harbor, Washington

No Regrets : How I Found My Way out of Mormonism, by Judy Robertson. Indianapolis: Light & Life Communications, 1997. ISBN 089367222X, PAP, \$10.99.

289.3. Mormon Church--Controversial literature. 223 p.

Gr. 10 - Adult.

This autobiographical story gives insight into how Christians become vulnerable to the false religion of Mormonism. Judy Robertson was still stinging from the harsh verbal attack of a church co-worker when her husband, Jim, introduced her to "the finest people you'll ever meet." Judy felt drawn to these people of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Their kindness to her, their devotion to their families, and their enthusiastic commitment to their faith convinced her that they had something she did not.

For the next seven years, Judy and Jim wore themselves out trying to fulfill all the essential works and ordinances of their new faith. But the nagging suspicion that they were being deceived began to grow in their minds.

Independently and secretly, Jim and Judy began studying the Bible, using their concordances to look up passages dealing with Mormon principles—genealogies, the nature of godhood, prophets as mediators between God and man. They discovered the Bible didn't confirm any of the Mormon teachings. They were following a false religion.

In *No Regrets*, Robertson tells her story as though it were a novel. She lets us feel her conflicting emotions. She shares her bewilderment and unease during the Temple ceremony. She describes the stress and loneliness she felt as she went through the motions of being the perfect Mormon wife.

The back of the book contains helps to those who want to understand Mormonism thoroughly or to minister to Mormons or prospective Mormons. Four appendices deal with how one becomes vulnerable to Mormonism, how one gets out of Mormonism, and the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Also included is a glossary of Mormon terms and endnotes documenting Mormon history and doctrine.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Andrea R. Huelsenbeck
Freelance Writer
Tempe, Arizona

***The Spirituality of St. Patrick*, by Lesley Whiteside. Harrisburg, Penn.: Morehouse Publishing, 1996. ISBN 0819216933, PAP,**

\$7.95.291.092. Saint Patrick. 78 p.
Gr. 9 - Adult.

St. Patrick is probably more famous for what he is imagined to have done (driven snakes from Ireland, used the shamrock to illustrate the Trinity) than what he really did (evangelize). Patrick was neither a theologian nor a literary stylist; he freely admits his lack of education. But these deficiencies didn't prohibit God from using him.

We are fortunate to have two surviving documents from Patrick's hand—the Confession, and the Letter to Coroticus. It is the former document that Leslie Whiteside uses to tell us about the real Patrick, not the Patrick of legend.

The Spirituality of St. Patrick consists of fifteen brief meditations on aspects of Patrick's thought as disclosed in the Confessions. Topics include, for example, God's transforming work in us, the power of the Spirit, God with us, the peace of the Lord.

The book is clear and easily readable. If it has a fault, it lies in the brevity with which Whiteside addresses the issues—I would have appreciated more detail and depth. *The Spirituality of St. Patrick* would best be read alongside a copy of Patrick's Confession, of which several versions are available. Nevertheless, for those interested in the lives and teachings of the saints, Whiteside's book fills a gap in the available literature.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Andrew M. Seddon
Physician, Author
Billings, Montana

***The Celtic Way of Prayer*, by Esther De Wahl. LCCN 96019712. New York: Doubleday, 1997. ISBN 0385486634, HBB, \$19.95.**

299. Celtic Church; Celts--Religion; Prayer--Christianity; Spiritual life--Christianity. 234 p.
Adult.

In common with the ancient Hebrews, the early Celtic Christians in Britain made no distinction between the sacred and the secular areas of their lives. All of life was dedicated to God. Religion was not a tacked-on addition, but, rather, an integral part of life, and prayer was not an isolated, intermittent event, but an ongoing activity. It is within this context that Esther De Waal (a major figure in the worlds of Benedictine and Celtic spirituality) has written *The Celtic Way of Prayer*, subtitled the recovery of the religious imagination.

Prayer is more than mere verbalizing to-or-at-God; it is a constant communion, a way of life. And so *The Celtic Way of Prayer* is as much about the Celtic Christian worldview and lifestyle as it is what we would commonly consider prayer.

De Waal begins with the concept of peregrination-pilgrimage; a lifelong journey in pursuit of God; a journey which is both adventure and exile from the world. Subsequent chapters examine the Celtic manner of Christianity, with titles such as Image and Story, The Trinity, The Presence of God, The Cross, The Saints, Praise, and others.

De Waal dispels the contemporary myth of Celtic Christianity as a user-friendly corpus of beliefs viewed through a haze of romanticism. Celtic Christianity stressed both God's immanence and transcendence; the role of the individual and the wind of the spirit; self-sacrifice in the pursuit of a life committed to God. It celebrated creation as the good gift of its Creator.

The Celtic way was a hard way to follow. But it has much to commend it today, in an era of easy, please-yourself religion.

The revival of Celtic Christianity has seen its deepest influence in Anglican and Catholic circles. But for anyone interested in learning more of this ancient yet still relevant branch of Christianity, *The Celtic Way of Prayer* would provide an excellent introduction.

Quality—5 Acceptability—4

Andrew M. Seddon
Physician, Author
Billings, Montana

***The Family New Media Guide : A Parents' Guide to the Very Best Choices in Values-Oriented Media, Including Videos, CD-ROMs, Audiotapes, Computer Software, and On-line Services*, by William Kilpatrick, Gregory Wolfe, and Suzanne M. Wolfe. LCCN 97022910. New York: Touchstone, 1997. ISBN 068481322X, PAP, \$12.00.**

302.23. Mass media--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 268 p.
Adult

From the authors of *Books That Build Character*, comes another parental/educator handbook that escorts adults through the maze of movies, audio (books) tapes, computer games, CD-ROMs and Internet sites.

Kilpatrick and the Wolfes divide their presentation into two major parts. Part one addresses theory on media and morality, giving insight into Hollywood's abandonment of their Motion Picture Production Code (1930-66). While many recent movies are inclined to be R-rated, studies show G and PG movies outperform them two-to-one at the box office. Since stories are central to the moral development of children, the authors' hypothesis steers parents to the VCR and more control over the type of (movies) stories coming into the home. They (stories) "provide a common reference point, a source of shared ideals and hopes."

The authors discuss implications of our computer technology on children and admit the jury is still out on whether a child's imagination and conscience are challenged or strengthened. They

do admit that few games rise above the entertainment level.

Part two reviews numerous videos (according to age level), audio book tapes, (cross referenced), computer software, multimedia programs, Internet Web Sites and On-line Services. A brief summary of the plot, main characters, year produced and length are included for each offering. Baseline data guides a novice parent through Internet jargon and suggested guidelines are given for children's use of the Internet, both for safety and time.

Lists according to age level and subject matter at the books' end make for easy re-identification.

Readers should be aware that although the authors claim to include high quality selections, objectionable language is not identified in videos known to have swearing. If they are reviewing the edited versions, it is not mentioned.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Carolyn Hearing
Freelance Writer
Virginia, Minnesota

***Dated Jekyll, Married Hyde*, by Laura Jensen Walker. LCCN 97021030. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1997. ISBN 1556619952, PAP, \$8.99.**

306.81. Marriage; Marriage--Humor; Marriage--Religious aspects--Christianity; Husbands--Psychology; Wives--Psychology; Sex differences (Psychology). 191 p.
Adult.

Most men and women do not set out to deceive each other while dating, but once married, they often discover surprising differences between the sexes. Walker shares humorous examples from marriages—her own and others—to illustrate these distinctions. Readers will chuckle as they read this book, perhaps seeing themselves in the examples Walker provides. She also encourages readers to delight in their differences because, "It's hard to fight when you're laughing together."

Kennedy points out guy/girl differences in logic, food preferences, speech, goals, expectations, and communication, to name a few. In conversation, she's learning to give her husband the "Reader's Digest Condensed" version of events, saving the details for girlfriends. Besides the amusing discussion of the "nagging gene" and "chick logic," she openly shares her sobering experience of breast cancer and her husband's caring response. Their vows, "in sickness and in health," were tested shortly after their first anniversary.

This is not a heavy psychological book, but a "light-hearted romp" examining the ironies of male/female relationships. Readers are sure to come away from it with a greater understanding and acceptance of the differences between the sexes. The twenty-four brief chapters with

catchy titles can be read in snatches, providing nuggets of marital wisdom along with a good laugh.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Lydia E. Harris
Freelance Writer, Former Teacher
Seattle, Washington

***She Calls Me Daddy : Seven Things Every Man Needs to Know About Building a Complete Daughter*, by Robert Wolgemuth. LCCN 96002303. Colorado Springs: Focus on the Family Publishing, 1996. ISBN 1561794619, HBB, \$16.99.**

307.874. Fathers and daughters; Parenting; Fatherhood--Religious aspects--Christianity; Conduct of life. 219 p.

Adult.

Having raised two daughters successfully, Robert Wolgemuth presents his system for raising a "Complete Daughter" using a blend of his autobiography with tips gleaned from his experience as well as others associated with Focus on the Family. *She Calls Me Daddy* contains three sections: introductory material, including affidavits from Wolgemuth's grown daughters; seven principle chapters containing Wolgemuth's seven foundational elements, each ending in summaries called Builder's Checklists; and a section for self-appraisal based on Dad's commitment to Christ. The book ends with chapter by chapter questions designed for group study.

By turns humorous, serious, self-deprecating, victorious, *She Calls Me Daddy* offers advice starting before birth, reaching into the life of the grown daughter. Salesman, talent management agent, and author, Wolgemuth bases his book in prayer and trust in the Lord. Aiming at the contemporary American Christian Dad, Wolgemuth discusses and illustrates subjects such as: boundaries, the art of conversation, active affection, recognizing the emotional needs of daughters, discipline, passing on your faith. Throughout the text Wolgemuth mentions several books and authors for further reading.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Donna Eggett
Volunteer Counselor, Crisis Pregnancy Center
Maiden, North Carolina

***Shedding Life : Disease, Politics, and Other Human Conditions*, 1st ed, by Miroslav Holub; translated by David Young.[et al.]. LCCN 97010712. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 1997. ISBN 157131217X, HBB, \$22.95.**

570. Science--Popular works; Medicine--Popular works; Ecology--Popular works. 279 p.

Adult.

Holub is a Czech immunologist, essayist, and poet, and this is his first collection of short essays

on life, death, and science. It is a very diverse collection on many subjects. The quality of the writing is excellent, although the general tone of the book is quite dark and pessimistic. The book has three main sections, Angels of Disease, Trouble on Spaceship Earth, and No. A short poem precedes each section. Holub is fascinated by and very convinced of the truth of the scientific method and its conclusions. He is not friendly to religion or religious faith. Some of the pieces in the book are very entertaining and humorous, such as his essay on passing his medical exams by reflecting on a Czech king, Ladislaus, who died in the 15th century.

Holub's overall perspective is that life is a struggle for all living things, and survival is certainly not guaranteed. For example, he says, "We can describe human history equally well as a long development or as a long disease." Any hope Holub sees for progress in history will come about through the development and discoveries of science.

This is a very well written work for someone with a poetic, philosophical personality. It is a serious exercise in pursuing truth, and Holub remains open; the book ends with a description of an airplane flight he was on in which the plane caught fire, and there was havoc and panic. Holub says, "My first thought was, Yes, that's it. My second and final thought after a half-second was, No, that can't be it. A vigorous, silent no. And that no has been final, so far."

The language in this book is very direct and earthy in a few places. It is definitely for an adult audience.

Quality—5 Acceptability—3

Paul Boling
Assoc. Prof. of Philosophy and Bible
Bryan College
Dayton, Tennessee

***The Busy Mom's Guide to Simple Living*, by Jackie Wellwood. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1997. ISBN 0891079572, PAP, \$10.99.**

640. Mothers--Life skills guides; Mothers--Religious life. 214 p.

Adult.

Jackie Wellwood, a home schooling mother of six who runs a business out of her home, finds it essential to establish a simpler lifestyle. Simple living does not mean easy living. She admits it can be hard work. The Wellwoods prepare food from scratch, do much of the work themselves instead of hiring someone, and live on one salary. Realizing the drastic changes her family made won't suit everyone, in *The Busy Mom's Guide to Simple Living*, Jackie encourages small changes, one at a time.

This homemaking handbook is "a combination of practical skills and decision-making philosophy." Unlike other how-to-books, the author goes beyond practical suggestions and helps you

decide which ideas to use or ignore. Her choices are guided by biblical principles and emphasize people—not possessions. She includes personal struggles and practical tips on making the most of your time and resources. Moms are encouraged to unclutter and organize their homes, and then make a plan to keep them that way.

Chapters cover a wide range of topics: lifestyle simplification, healthy living, food management, saving money, holidays and gift giving, housework, getting organized, home schooling, running a home business, and more. She offers sensible advice on developing a routine that works, advocating flexible organization.

If you desire a simpler, more organized life, adapt these down-to-earth ideas to suit your needs. The scriptural insights and lengthy resource list on each topic are a valuable asset.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Lydia E. Harris
Freelance Writer, Former Teacher
Seattle, Washington

***In-Laws : Getting Along with Your Other Family*, by Ron & Jorie Kincaid. LCCN 96016812. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1996. ISBN 0830819541, PAP, \$9.99.**

646.7. Parents-in-law; Interpersonal relations. 179 p.

Adult.

God gives us His first piece of marital advice with Genesis 2:24, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." In the book, *In-Laws: Getting Along with Your Other Family*, Ron and Jorie Kincaid tackle the issue of in-law relationships.

Sprinkled with personal anecdotes and stories from families across the nation, the authors share their insight into relationship problems. Lack of love is given as the primary explanation for the relationship problems. Pulling from their experience of counseling hundreds of couples, the authors share the heartbreak of rejection and disagreement in families, yet lift the reader up with examples of devoted love between grown children and their in-laws.

The book is broken down into nine biblically sound principles for healthy in-law relationships. Beginning with Principle One: Adopt Your In-Laws into Your Family, the reader is drawn along with the basic questions that arise from what to call in-laws to how to deal with rejection. Sometimes the answers seemed simplistic, yet we are always called back to God's directive to love our brother. (1 Jn 4:20-21)

While the authors try to deal with irresponsible grown children overburdening their parents and the problems of over-controlling parents refusing to relinquish their power over their now grown children, I found some of the answers to be of cultural origin and not necessarily biblical, a fostering of "rugged individualism." And the

statement that "Grandparents have no obligation to their grandchildren," bothered me a great deal.

Ron Kincaid is the pastor of Sunset Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon. He is also the author of two other books. Jorie Kincaid is the president of Orphans Overseas and the author of *The Power of Modeling*. The Kincaids have six children.

Quality—4 Acceptability—5

Joanne M. Haffly
Freelance Writer and Homeschool Mother
Gig Harbor, Washington

***Should I Home School?* By Elizabeth and Dan Hamilton. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1997. ISBN 0830819762, PAP, \$9.99.**

649. Home schooling. 170 p.
Adult.

In their new release, *Should I Home School?*, Elizabeth and Dan Hamilton provide insightful information to help readers interested in home schooling decide what is right for them and their children. Combining their home school experiences with feedback from other home school parents, the Hamiltons have compiled a practical, easy-to-read book which will help parents choose the right education for their children. This is not a "how to home school" but "should you home school" book.

Each of the seventeen chapters asks pertinent questions related to home schooling and each provides information to help you find the best answers. The authors discuss home schooling costs, teacher qualifications, legal concerns, a typical day's schedule, parental fears, support groups, and much more. They also recognize home schooling is not for everyone, but offer reassurance to those who do.

Parents deciding to home school will find practical tips on getting started, cutting costs, finding suitable and affordable curricula, and telling others about their decision. The Hamiltons acknowledge home schooling requires commitment and time, but have found it rewarding for their family. "The price we have paid for home schooling has been worth the family unity we have developed, a way of life that honors the value system we espouse, and the spiritual and moral development of our children."

The quotes throughout the book from home school parents are honest and will help readers evaluate the pros and cons of home schooling. Another strength is the thirty-four page resource guide which includes further reading, curricula, textbooks, supplies, support groups and associations. This book is a valuable asset for parents who are considering home schooling.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Lydia E. Harris
Freelance Writer, Former Teacher

Seattle, Washington

***The Gift of Music : Great Composers and Their Influence*, 3rd ed, by Jane Stuart Smith and Betty Carlson. LCCN 95032685. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1995. ISBN 089107869X, PAP, \$15.99.**

780. Composers--Biography; Music--Religious aspects. 317 p.
Gr. 9 - Adult.

The expressed purpose of *The Gift of Music* by Jane Stuart Smith and Betty Carlson is "to encourage listening to the finest music with understanding and pleasure and to stretch one's imagination." In the prelude, the authors comment "Great music is one of God's gifts to help us through the snarls, noises and confusion of our world." And, with joys they approach the writing of this book. The body of the work is in answer to the question, "What do these composers think of the human race?" The subject is seen through the eyes of the Masters, ranging from Schutz (1585-1672) to Shostakovich (1906-1973). Not all of the biographies are bathed in sweetness and light. For instance, the reality of the situation was that Shostakovich was a political pawn of Joseph Stalin in communist Russia. Yet, Smith and Carlson point out the hand of God in every situation.

A bit of history, a smattering of quotations, a weaving together of facts and anecdotes, this book is a fascinating read for the musician, accessible information to the general public. Table of contents, recommended reading selections, recommended listening listings, "Music in the Flow of History and the Arts" chart, select bibliography, glossary, and index convert this collection of short stories into a reference book. In addition, chapters on "Psalms in Western Music History," "Shakespeare's Influence on Great Composers," and "Christmas Carols" broaden the scope of knowledge.

The Gift of Music is chockfull of facts, including the Christian worldview.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Su Hagerty
Director of Choirs, Liberty High School
Issaquah, Washington

***Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers : A Bio-bibliographical Critical Sourcebook*, by Denise D. Knight. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1997. ISBN 0313297134, HBB, \$99.50.**

808. American authors; Women authors--American. College - Adult.

As is the case with the other texts in the series of critical sourcebooks, *Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers* is a book that belongs in every library. Though it may seem at first glance to be somewhat limited in scope, dealing only with women writers as it does, this book

highlights what is often overlooked in literary study--namely, the role of women. In the case of the eighteenth century, for example, nearly every student knows the names of Sir Isaac Newton and Samuel Johnson, but how many of those same students ever get exposed to Fanny Birney or Aphra Behn? The present text sets about making sure that that does not happen with the women writers of the nineteenth century.

Set in the same encyclopedic format as similar volumes in the Greenwood series (although I do not know if it is officially a series) this book is as thorough and complete as the others. Divided into the same sections, biography, works and themes, critical reception, and bibliography, this issue does what the other did not. Included in the bibliography is a breakdown of each writers work in subcategories which is very helpful for in-depth literary analysis. In the case of Rebecca Harding Davis, for example, the author, Lisa A. Long, divides Davis' work by novels, short stories and novellas, nonfiction, and juvenile literature. Add to this a good list of studies on Davis's work and both teacher or student using this text has a wealth of information at his or her disposal in a small space.

Another thing that makes this text interesting is the way in which the editors to compile it. While some women wrote and published during the nineteenth century, others, like Edith Wharton did not. Though she live during this period, her work was not published until the twentieth century. While Wharton fans might be disappointed, the result is that many lesser known women got included in the book than might have otherwise.

Published in the fine Greenwood tradition, this book will be helpful for every student of literature, novice and scholar alike.

Quality--5 Acceptability--5

Raymond Legg
Asst. Prof. of English, Bryan College
Dayton, Tennessee

***Into the Darkness Peering : Race and Color in the Fantastic, Contributions. to the Study of Science Fiction and Fantasy*; 74, edited by Elisabeth Anne Leonard. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1997. ISBN 0313300429, HBB, \$57.95.**

809.3. Fantasy; Science fiction. 208 p.
College - Adult.

A friend of mine recently left his church in Chicago to join the staff of a nationally-known Christian organization. His responsibilities will revolve around the issue of racial reconciliation. Within the past year we have seen affirmative action come under fire on the west coast and people everywhere are rethinking their positions along racial lines.

Though it could be said that this text is another in the long list of books on popular topics trying to

get a reading by the general public, I would caution against such a criticism. It seems appropriate that Christians especially, take time to examine the kinds of reading materials they enjoy to see if there is a sense in which they could be interpreted as racist or offensive to any ethnic group. Reading articles like those in the present volume help illustrate how easily a writer can betray racist attitudes, whether national or individual, regardless of genre. Oftentimes those attitudes are so ingrained that we do not recognize them until they are pointed out by someone else. But there is a danger here as well. It is possible for a critic to find racist attitudes where none exist. The important point is that the discussion continues and the result can only be a heightened sensitivity to matters of race, ethnicity, and gender. It is extremely important that Christians engage these issues because we are often guilty of a lack of sensitivity in these areas supposing that God's grace will make up for our lack of tact or consideration for those different from ourselves.

The interest in race and ethnicity has not been kept out of the field of literary studies. *Into the Darkness Peering* is an anthology of articles devoted to the study of race and color issues primarily in the literature of the fantastic which grew out of Leonard's desire to get a hearing for fantasy in the discussion of these topics. But the articles are not limited to fantasy alone because some of them deal with materials outside the genre--most notable is Lisbeth Grant-Britton's article comparing LeGuin's *The Left Hand of Dark* with Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, as well as others on racism in cyberspace and colonialism as it appears in novels by Robert Silverberg.

As with all the Greenwood texts, this one is of highest quality and each of the articles has sufficient notation to keep readers busy for some time should they choose to check out the scholarship of any of the writers. This book would be a good addition for any library but it could also be a very helpful text in a college setting for literature classes of various types.

Quality--5 Acceptability--5

Raymond Legg
Asst. Prof. of English, Bryan College
Dayton, Tennessee

The Life Story of Lester Sumrall, by Lester Sumrall; as told to Tim Dudley. LCCN 92064449. Green Forest, Ark.: New Leaf Press, 1993. ISBN 0892212292, HBB, \$14.95.

921 (251). Sumrall, Lester; Clergy--Biography. 239 p.

Gr. 10 - Adult.

Dying of tuberculosis at the age of seventeen, God gave Lester Sumrall a choice: to die or be willing to preach the Gospel. Eighty some years later, the answer was obvious—he would obey the command to take the good news to all the world.

As Lester started his preaching career he found most people were reluctant to open their

Philippines for God, as the president exclaimed, "In this country Christ is the answer, and we all know it."

This is an exciting modern day story of faith, courage and obedience to the Lord's leading. Filled with adventure and mighty challenges, this story will easily hold one's attention and fill the reader with awe at the greatness of God. Easy to read, and touched with subtle humor, the story flows from one amazing encounter to the next. Personal photographs are included giving substance to the names and personalities spoken of within the book. Ending with a plea to be part of meeting the needs of the many hungry people throughout the world, Lester Sumrall used his

every fiber to serve the God he grew to love more than life itself. He died recently, leaving a legacy to those willing to share in his vision of care and service to others.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Mary McKinney
Freelance Writer, Editor
Port Orchard, Washington

Catherine Booth : A Biography of the Cofounder of The Salvation Army, by Roger J. Green. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996. ISBN 080105706X, PAP, \$14.99.

921 (287.9). Booth, Catherine; Salvation Army. 336 p.

Gr. 11 - Adult.

Catherine Mumford grew up in a Methodist home, mostly educated by her mother. The result was a heart that yearned after God, a thorough knowledge of scripture, and a wide acquaintance

with Christian literature. She married William Booth, a preacher of the Gospel, in 1855. Throughout their thirty-five-year marriage, they were best friends and partners in serving the Lord.

Evangelistic work was William's calling, and hundreds of people were converted during his campaigns. After a few years of turmoil as a pastor within Methodism, he and Catherine left the denomination to conduct an independent revivalist ministry in 1862. By this time, Catherine had begun a ministry to alcoholics and other down-and-outers, and had gained some experience in preaching while William was ill. They both became popular preachers of the gospel. In 1865, they began a Christian mission

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churches to this unknown young man. He would shrug his shoulders and state, "If you don't let me preach, I'll die and my blood will be on your head!" With such a statement, Lester found many open doors to his unpracticed and somewhat unorthodox style. But people did listen, and much to the surprise of Lester, people began to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

This unlikely beginning opened a fruitful ministry for Lester Sumrall and as he traveled the world, he began to find himself faced with unusual encounters of demonic possession. Always the gentle spirit, and always determined not to make a fuss, he quickly and efficiently dealt with the hardest cases, freeing many from years of oppression. This very ministry culminated in touching the entire nation of the

in London, then in 1878 founded The Salvation Army.

Roger Green includes a wealth of information about Catherine and those significant in her life, as well as many of her opinions and teachings. One is inspired to follow her example in serving the Lord wholeheartedly. Four pages of photographs of the Booths in the center of the book help satisfy the reader's curiosity about them.

Twenty-one pages of footnotes show the author has done extensive research. The book ends with an eight-page bibliographic essay which recommends books for further research on each member of the Booth family and some of their friends, as well as Methodism, The Salvation Army, and several other evangelists of the time. A useful index is also included.

Quality—5 Acceptability—5

Judith M. Gonzales
Freelance Writer
Moses Lake, Washington

***From DNA to Dean*, by Arthur Peacocke.
Norwich, Norfolk: Canterbury, 1996. ISBN
1853111325, PAP, \$23.95.**

921 (508.09). Religion and science; Peacocke, Arthur.
224 p.
Adult.

The relationship of science and Christian faith has commonly been viewed using the metaphor of conflict, where a chasm of irreconcilable differences divides the opponents. But such an assessment is hardly universal. An increasing number of scientists who have turned theologian seek to bridge the gap. One such is Arthur Peacocke, who after a career as a physical biochemist became an Anglican priest and Dean of Clare College, Cambridge.

From DNA To Dean commences with a brief biographical note, then continues with Peacocke's reflections on the relationship of science and theology.

Among current approaches to this subject are, at one pole, those who begin with revelation (the Bible) and seek to fit science within this framework; and, at the other pole, those who accept modern scientific theories of the universe and seek to understand Christian beliefs in this light. This second approach is the one followed by Peacocke.

Peacocke holds to an old age for the universe, and the emergence of life via evolutionary processes until it gains intelligence and the capacity to relate to God. Such a scenario is, of course, opposed to a 'creationist' point of view with a young earth and fixed species. Some doctrines—such as the divinity of Christ—are not expressed as forcefully as in, say, evangelical writings.

Readers from highly conservative and

evangelical backgrounds will find much with which to disagree in Peacocke's book. But Peacocke is well qualified to write about science (which he does with clarity), and *From DNA To Dean* provides a worthwhile look at how contemporary scientists are endeavoring to relate the findings of modern science with historical Christian thought.

Quality—4 Acceptability—3

Andrew M. Seddon
Physician, Author
Billings, Montana

***Welcome All Wonders: A Composer's Journey*,
by J. A. C. Redford. LCCN 97019487. Grand
Rapids: Baker Books, 1997. ISBN
0801011205, HBB, \$18.99.**

921 (780). Redford, J. A. C.; Composers--Biography;
Ex-church members--Mormon Church--Biography;
Evangelicalism; Mormon Church--Controversial
literature; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints--
Controversial literature. 341 p.

Adult.

From the opening *Jesu Juva!* ("Jesus, help!") to the final *Soli Deo Gloria* ("To God alone the glory") author J. A. C. Redford pulls no punches. His straight-forward autobiography tells the journey from generations-old Mormon heritage through an unanswered longing to the discovery of the truth, Jesus Christ. He unmasks the mystery of Mormonism, taking the reader into the Temple itself, on Mission, into the expectations of the man of faith, small "f." He intertwines this information with the influences of music, film, and literature in that juncture of his life. We meet his wife LeeAnn, helpmate in all his endeavors, and his growing family.

Redford, the musician, chronicles his struggles and successes as a Hollywood film and TV composer. There is an encounter with Bible Study Fellowship and Chuck Swindoll, familiar names in Christian circles. And what a difference those meetings make.

Welcome All Wonders began as a letter of explanation to Redford's family and friends, telling them why he and his immediate family were leaving Mormonism. The writings multiplied, almost taking on a life of their own. The result is a densely-written book, with few scraps of conversation and fewer adjectives. In spite of the almost pedantic vocabulary, the force of Redford's conviction stands forth: Is there something at the center of your life worth living for—worth dying for?

Welcome All Wonders is well-documented with acknowledgments, Overture, a table of contents, Coda, appendices (credits and discography, and texts of concert works) and footnotes.

Quality—3 Acceptability—5

Su Hagerty
Director of Choral Music, Liberty High School
Issaquah, Washington

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- Creation House, Order Dept., 600 Rinehart Rd., Lake Mary, FL 32746. 407-333-0600
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- Creative Editions See Harcourt Brace
- Creative Education, Order Dept., PO Box 227, Mankato, MN 56002. 800-445-6209
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- Crossway Books, Order Dept., 1300 Crescent St., Wheaton, IL 60187. 800-635-7993
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- Eakin Press, Order Dept., Drawer 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159. 512-288-1771
- EDC Publishing, Order Dept., 10302 E. 55th Pl., Tulsa, OK 74146. 800-611-1655
- Eerdman's Books for Young Readers See Wm. B. Eerdman's Publishing Co.
- Eisenbrauns, Order Dept., PO Box 275, Winona Lake, IN 46590-0275. 219-269-2011
- Emerald Books, Order Dept., P.O. Box 635, Lynnwood, WA 98046. 800-922-2143
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- Enslow Publishers, Inc., Order Dept., 44 Fadem Rd., Box 699, Springfield, NJ 07081-0699. 201-379-8890
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- Facts on File, Inc., Order Dept., 11 Penn Plz, New York, NY 10001-2006. 212-967-8800
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- Fawcett Crest, Order Dept., 201 East 50th Street, New York, NY 10022. 212-572-2389
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- Full Quart Press See Holly Hall Publications
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- Garden Way See Storey Communications
- Gareth Stevens Publishing, Order Dept., P.O. Box 93500, Milwaukee, WI 53202. 800-542-2595
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- Brace
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- Ideals Children's Books, Order Dept., 1501 County Hospital Road, Nashville, TN 37218. 615-254-2480
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- Seaside Press, Order Dept., 1506 Capitol Ave., Plano, TX 75074. 214-423-0090
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- 8673
- Story Press See F & W Publications
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- Teacher's Friend Publications, Order Dept., 3240 Trade Center Drive, Riverside, CA 92507. 800-343-9680
- Ten Speed Press/Celestial Arts, Order Dept., PO Box 7123, Berkeley, CA 94707.
- Theytus Books See Orca
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- Thomas Nelson Publishers, Order Dept., 506 Nelson Pl., P.O. Box 141000, Nashville, TN 37214. 615-889-9000
- Ticknor & Fields, Order Dept., Books for Young Readers, 215 Park Avenue S., New York, NY 10003.
- Tommy Nelson, Order Dept., 404 BNA Dr., Bldg. 200, Ste. 508, Nashville, TN 37217. 615-902-2314
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- Touchstone See Simon & Schuster
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- Tundra Books Inc., Order Dept., 481 University Avenue, Suite 802, Toronto, ON M5G 2E9 Canada. 416-598-4786
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